

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Mel Blount

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Blount, Mel, 1948-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Mel Blount,
Dates:	July 18, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:32:01).
Abstract:	Football player Mel Blount (1948 -) Blount was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 18, 2018, in Claysville, Pennsylvania. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_144
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Football player Mel Blount was born on April 10, 1948 in Vidalia, Georgia to Alice Sharpe Blount and James Blount. A natural athlete, Blount excelled in football, baseball and track at Lyons High School. He graduated in 1966, and received an athletic scholarship to attend Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. During his college years, Blount was named a Pro Scouts All-American as both a safety and cornerback. In the spring of 1970, Blount was drafted in the third round by the Pittsburgh Steelers just months prior to earning his B.S. degree in physical education.

By his third year in the NFL, Blount was a starting cornerback for the Steelers. Known for utilizing the bump and run technique, Blount's dominance as a player inspired the NFL to impose a rule that prohibited contact between defensive backs and receivers until the five yard line. The rule, which was later known as the Mel Blount Rule, was meant to slow Blount on the field and make gameplay more competitive. However, Blount made three Pro Bowls and earned first-team All Pro in 1981. He had 57 career interceptions for 736 yards, more than any player in Steelers history, with thirteen fumble recoveries. After retiring in 1983, Blount became the director of player relations for the NFL, serving until 1990. He also established The Mel Blount Youth Home in 1983, opening the first home in his hometown of Vidalia. Blount wrote the book *The Cross Burns Brightly* about the adversity and racism he faced in opening the second youth home in Washington County, Pennsylvania.

Blount is a four time Super Bowl champion, a four-time All-AFC selection, and was named All-Pro from 1975 to 1979 and in 1981. He was also named the NFL's most valuable defensive player in 1975 by the Associated Press. In 1989, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame as well as the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 1990 and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.

Blount has two daughters and five sons.

Blount was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 18, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Mel Blount was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 18, 2018, in Claysville, Pennsylvania, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Football player Mel Blount (1948 -)

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Blount, Mel, 1948-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Blount, Mel, 1948- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Football Player

HistoryMakers® Category:

SportsMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Mel Blount, July 18, 2018. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

- Video Oral History Interview with Mel Blount, Section A2018_144_001_001, TRT: 1:29:11 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Mel Blount, Section A2018_144_001_002, TRT: 2:30:48 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Mel Blount, Section A2018_144_001_003, TRT: 3:30:04 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Mel Blount, Section A2018_144_001_004, TRT: 4:28:39 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Mel Blount, Section A2018_144_001_005, TRT: 5:29:24 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Mel Blount, Section A2018_144_001_006, TRT: 6:29:33 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Mel Blount, Section A2018_144_001_007, TRT: 7:29:42 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Mel Blount, Section A2018_144_001_008, TRT: 8:29:31 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Mel Blount, Section A2018_144_001_009, TRT: 9:29:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Mel Blount, Section A2018_144_001_010, TRT: 10:05:29 ?