

Lem Barney almost part of San Bernardino High School dream team before going on to NFL's hall of fame

By Harvey M. Kahn

Those who knew Lem Barney at Sturgis Junior High in the early 1960's dismissed his comments last week about the demise of professional football. As a 12-year-old he was allegedly already flamboyant and a prankster who showed no early evidence of potential National Football League Hall of Fame attitude or ability. Barney moved from San Bernardino to Gulfport, Miss after the ninth grade. Acquaintances said that his father was stationed at Norton Air Force Base. "The coaches at San Bernardino High School were licking their chops about the possibility of Barney playing football at Cardinal City," said Harry Carson Frye, a historian from Redlands.

Frye said Barney moved to Gulfport where he played football at the 33rd Avenue High School, an all African American high school in the non integrated south. He went to Jackson State University after graduation and was drafted by the Detroit Lions in the second round of the 1967 NFL draft. He was the 34th overall pick. Frye said that if Barney would have stayed he would have been part of a high school dream team for coach Carl Schiller at SBHS, where he would have been a teammate from 1961-63 of Bobby Howard, Josh Carter, Walt Greenwood, Abe Sherman and Mike Lippitt. Howard was also picked in the 1967 draft by the AFL San Diego Chargers.

"Barney was a clown," said Larry Lopez, who had the same schedule at Sturgis as Barney. From 1960 to 1980, the San Bernardino Unified School District had a well organized middle school sports program. "I don't remember Lem



PHOTO COURTESY/NFL

Lem Barney at 1992 induction into Football Hall of Fame.

Barney ever playing football. He was a good athlete in gym and in the ninth grade was picked by the teachers as a junior coach," said Lopez. "He was just another good athlete at the time. I was shocked when I heard that he made the football hall of fame." Lopez said other excellent athletes at Sturgis were Nate Baker, Nate Dawson, and Gilbert Parra.

Barney was inducted into the hall of fame in 1992 along with Al Davis, John McKay, and Johnny Riggins. He was a 7-time all-pro

selection and was included as one of the top-100 to play, according to the Sporting News. Barney also received a 1971 gold record award for singing background vocals on "What's Going On" by Marvin Gaye.

Barney is currently getting national press exposure do to his comments about the dangers of playing football. He is one of 4,000 former pro's suing the NFL for not providing player's with information about concussions and there long term effects. Speaking

before a group of Michigan high school football players at a summer camp, Barney called football a great game for yester year's gladiators. That health dangers will increase due to its strength and tenacity. Barney told the young players that "it's only going to get worse."

Days after those statements caused an uproar in the national media, Barney made an apology saying that his statements were not appropriate for a young audience. Barney has been outspoken about the dangers of football. He testified before Congress about his football head injuries. On June 6, one week before his youth camp controversy, Barney told the

Toronto Sun that football head injuries caused the premature death of David "Deacon" Jones, Junior Seau, Alex Karras, and countless others.

Barney's football pro records are also well published. He was in the starting defensive secondary in Detroit with Rudy Redmond, another whose early development included a little known stop in the Inland Empire. Redmond went to Riverside City College where he did not make the football team but did play on the Tigers baseball team. Ron Lott is the only San Bernardino native in the football Hall-of-Fame. Attempts to reach Barney in Southfield, Michigan were unsuccessful.



PHOTO COURTESY/PHILADELPHIA ESGLES

The late great Bobby Howard would have formed one of nation's best backfields at SBHS in 1963 with Lem Barney.

MTC honors top Job Corps employees

Peggy Roberts-Powell Named Support Services Employee of the Year



COURTESY PHOTO

Peggy Roberts-Powell was recently honored as Support Services Employee of the Year by Management & Training Corporation. Powell is Inland Empire Job Corps Center Director's Executive Secretary.

Corps students, and community members are recognized for their achievements with awards, scholarships, and cash prizes.

Peggy Roberts-Powell was nominated by Center Director Linda Stull.

"Peggy is a critical member of our team. She provides a level of customer service that is unparalleled. Her door is always open and she immediately sets aside whatever project she is doing to meet the needs of employees, trainees,

and community members. The amount of reports Peggy generates is staggering. She is able to meet requirements even as her duties increase."

Dr. G announces plans to run for Colton City Council (Dist.4) 2014.

About 50 friends and neighbors gathered last Saturday at Denny's to celebrate the public announcement.



Management & Training Corporation (MTC) has named Peggy Roberts-Powell Support Services Employee of the Year for her commitment to excellence. Ms. Roberts-Powell is the Center Di-

rector's Executive Secretary at the Inland Empire Job Corps Center. She has been with the center for 25 years.

This top honor is part of MTC's Annual Celebrating Excellence program, where employees, Job