



#45: Humble's Professional Athletes

There are a lot of professional athletes from Humble. People always give me a quizzical look when I say that. Most people can name 1 or 2 from Humble...and don't see how that means "many." Well, there are lots, and just about all of them came through the Humble schools.

Most of them are football players; not surprising since this is Texas. But there are also a lot of baseball players, basketball players, plus track & field, soccer, etc. Some are in the major leagues, some are in the minor leagues, and others are world renowned athletes. They all started as players, but the long-term physical demands of a professional athlete can be brutal. So, many have transitioned into coaches, others in trainers, and some have left athletics to move on to other fields. These people worked hard to attain their successes, and there were lots of parents, teachers, and coaches helping them along the way.

Some of our local professional football players include Humble High School graduates **Jackie Battle, Bertand Berry, David Givens, Sammy Davis, David Boston, Jerrod Johnson, Will Peoples** and **Mike Mosley**; Kingwood High School graduate **Travis Swanson**, Atascocita High School graduate **Patrick Taylor** and Summer Creek High School graduate **Dakota Allen**. The teams they have played on include Dallas Cowboys, Kansas City Chiefs, San Diego Chargers, Tennessee Titans, Arizona Cardinals, Denver Broncos, Indianapolis Colts, Los Angeles Rams, Oakland Raiders, New England Patriots, San Francisco 49ers, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and more.

Baseball is big in this area, so no surprise that we have several professional baseball players including Kingwood High School graduates **Mark Mangum, Lance Pendelton, Jeff Austin, Kyle Finnegan, Micah Bowie, Mike Ojada, Greg Perkin, Johnny Whittleman, Andy Yount** and **Ryan Jorgensen**; Atascocita High School graduates **Jonathan Dziedzic, Clay Schrader** and **Daniel Stumpf**, and Humble High School graduate **A. J. Morris**. The teams these gentlemen have played on include Oakland Athletics, Washington Nationals, Minnesota Twins, Houston Astros, Chicago Cubs, Greensboro Grasshoppers, West Michigan Whitecaps, Aberdeen Ironbirds and more.

Professional Basketball players include Atascocita High School graduate **Carsen Edwards** (who has played for the Boston Celtics), and Kingwood High School graduate **Nic Wise** (who has played professionally for international teams). *Did you know Women's Professional Basketball player **Plenette Pierson** has won 3 WBNA Championships and is a Kingwood High School graduate?!*

Other local pros include Humble High School's **Claude Bracey** (1928 Track Olympian), Kingwood Park High School's **Shawn Barber** (Pole Vaulter), and Atascocita High School's **Alex Dixon** (Soccer). AND... this isn't all of them...there are more!

If you know some more that I didn't list here, and are concerned that we don't know about them, please feel free to email me and let me know who to include next time.