



Black History Month All-Star: Julius Whittier



Julius Whittier was a star football player attending Highlands High School in San Antonio, Texas. Knowing his potential and being highly recruited, his family hid his letters from college football programs until after his last high school game. After that, they would surprise him with two grocery bags of mail, including one from Darrell Royal at the University of Texas. Later, assistant coach Mike Campbell would visit him at home and offer a scholarship.

Whittier would become one of the first football players to receive a football scholarship at Texas and play on the team. He played on the team from 1970-72, winning a National Championship his first year. The Longhorns would win all

three Southwest Conference championships with Whittier. He played offensive lineman his first two seasons for the Longhorns before his last season switching to tight end. Texas went 10-1 after defeating Alabama in the Cotton Bowl in his final season with the Longhorns. They would finish #3 in the AP Poll and #5 in the UPI poll.

Julius Whittier Hall of Honor induction speech [Nov....

Whittier would earn a philosophy degree at Texas and be encouraged to pursue a Public Affairs degree at the LBJ School by Lyndon B Johnson himself. He would receive that degree in 1976 and complete a law degree. He would work as a senior prosecutor in Dallas County District Attorney's office before retiring in 2012 after being diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease.

In 2014 his family would file a class-action lawsuit of \$50 million against the NCAA. The case included all past players who didn't play professionally but did play NCAA football from 1960 through 2014 who have suffered brain-related diseases or injuries.

Remembering Julius Whittier [Sept. 29, 2018]

On September 25, 2018, Whittier passed away and didn’t immediately reveal his cause of death. A Boston University postmortem exam revealed that he was suffering from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a degenerative disease linked to head trauma. Whittier’s family then filed another lawsuit in Dallas County against the NCAA for negligence and wrongful death, and it is scheduled to come to trial spring this year.



Whittier was a game-changer and opened the path for African Americans at Texas, including names like Ricky Williams, Donnie Little, James Brown, Vince Young and more. In 2013 he was inducted into the University of Texas Hall of Honor. In 2020 a 12 ½-foot statue was reviled of Whittier located outside the north end of Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium.

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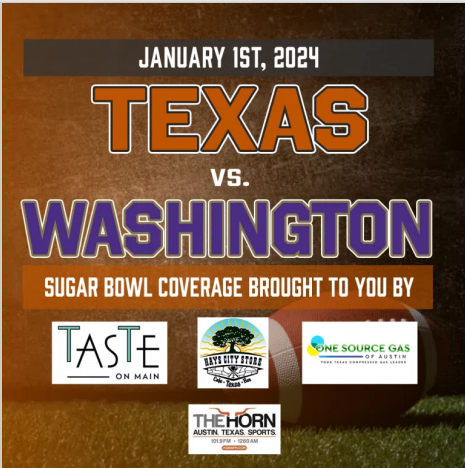
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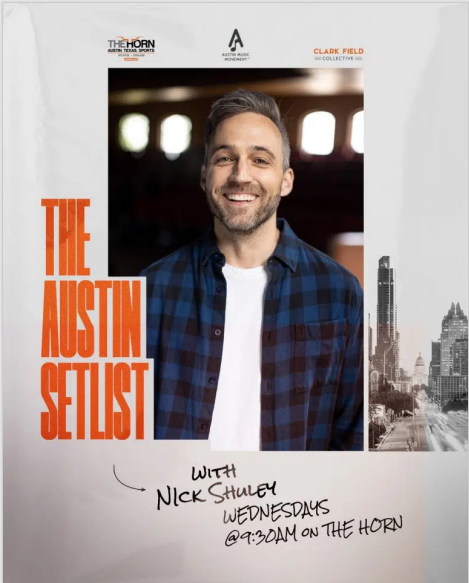
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- 1
- 2
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