

TIGER-CAT Q&A

Name: Rufus Crawford

Birthday (M/D/YY):

May 21, 1955

School/ Jr. Football: Hunter Husk High School

Position(s): Running Back/ Defence of Back/ Quarterback

Years with Tiger-Cats: 7

CAREER

1. Tell us about how you got started in football and your amateur career.

I started playing football in my hometown of Gastonia North Carolina, with the Young Boys Men's Clubs (YMBC Little orange men)

2. How did you get started in the CFL? (draft, free agent, trade etc)

I was a free agent in the NFL, when I was released by Seattle Seahawks. Later that year I was called to the CFL. My first stop was with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers where I played the last three games of the season. Then I got sent to Hamilton to play for the Tiger Cats.

3. Do or did you hold any records?

Yes, I held the all-time total yards record which was set previously by Hal Patterson. I broke his record with a total of 2,896 yards, which I held for four years.

4. Do or did you have a nickname?

"Rufus Baby" I used to say baby all the time, and a sweet girl back in college bought me a red Jacket one day with the name "Rufus Baby" on the back and it stuck my whole carrier.



5. Who were some of the teammates and opponents you admired the most and why?

Grover Covington was one heck of a player, I have never met someone who could take such a vicious sport at times and be so peaceful on the field. Ben Zambiasi was the ultimate leader, you could just look into his eyes during game time and that's all you needed to know. Everything he expected of you in just one look.

7. Which coach did you respect or enjoy playing for the most and why?

Frank Kush was tough and hard but always expected the same out of everybody, it didn't matter if you were a player, coach, administrator etc. and he would never ask you to do anything that he wouldn't do himself.

Al Bruno was always calm, but expected great things from the people around him. He always said what he needed and nothing more, you understood what he expected.

8. Tell us about some of your favourite Grey Cup memories.

'1984 Grey Cup' we didn't win many games and nobody thought we would get there that year and we did. We lost but I played my heart out and set a new record, a very happy day for me! Walked away with MVP Eastern Conference and runner up that year for CFL MVP.

POST CFL CAREER

9. Tell us about your life and career after playing/working with the Tiger-Cats or CFL?

Author my first book called *Rufus Baby a Dream to Defeat the Odds*.

Work as a stand-up comedian

Became an Actor

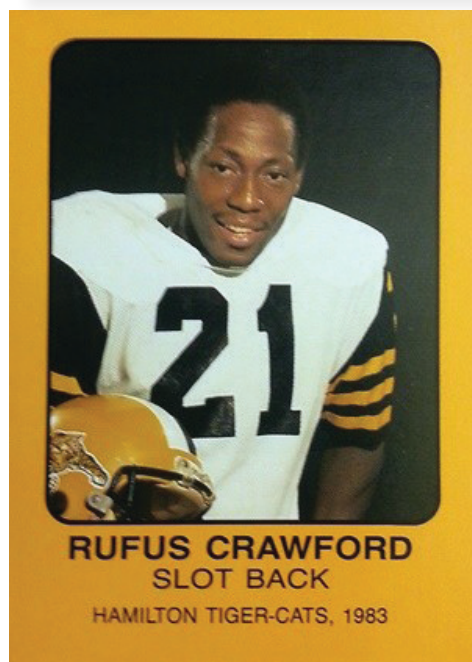
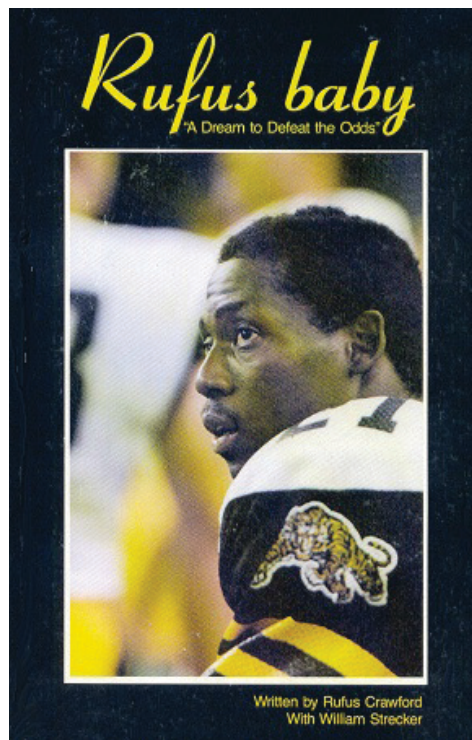
10. Tell us about your interests, hobbies, your passion or anything else you would like to share about yourself.

Music has always been a great passion throughout my whole life; I have a great collection of guitars.

THE GAME

11. What aspects of the Canadian game do you like the most?

The wide openness of the field and the motion that an offensive player has at his disposal.



FINAL THOUGHTS

12. What advice do you have to either young players or those just starting out in the CFL?

"Be there because you want to be there and love what you do!"

13. Is there anything else you would like to share? (thoughts, advice, stories, memories)

Respect the game, respect the history!