

Jethro Pugh Athletics

Jethro Pugh is a native of Windsor, North Carolina. After graduating from Southwestern High School, Jethro attended Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina at the age of 16, where he was an All-CIAA defensive end in 1963 and 1964. In 1979, he was inducted into the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Hall of Fame. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans.

In 1965 the Dallas Cowboys selected Jethro in the 11th Round of the NFL Draft. Pugh started his professional career as a defensive end at the age of 20, but at the end of the 1966 season, he was moved to left defensive tackle replacing Jim Colvin in the starting lineup. He played with the Cowboys for his entire career, from 1965 through 1978. His 14 seasons represent the fourth-longest career in Cowboys history, only Ed “Too Tall” Jones, Bill Bates, and Mark Tuinei played more years.

While quarterback sacks were not an official NFL statistic during Pugh’s career, he is unofficially credited with a career total of 95.5. He led the Cowboys in sacks each season from 1968-1973 with a high mark of 15.5 in 1968. During one amazing stretch of his Cowboys career (1968-1973), Pugh averaged 12 ½ sacks. In 1968 he was a Second Team All Pro. He ranks fifth on the Cowboys all-time sacks list. Pugh helped the Cowboys win four NFC Championships, two Super Bowls, and qualify for the NFL post-season for 13 straight seasons. Jethro played a total of 23 play-off games. He is also listed in the Cowboys top 50 players.

In 1980, he was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame. Elizabeth City State University, at its 2010 Founders Day Scholarship Gala, presented Jethro with the Chancellor’s Legacy Award for his support and ambassadorship on behalf of the university.

Pugh owns a number of western-themed gift shops at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport in Texas. He has hosted an annual Jethro Pugh Celebrity Golf Tournament in Dallas for 13 years to raise funds for the United Negro College Fund. Pugh has raised more than \$400,000 for the United Negro College Fund.

Jethro Pugh has remained in Dallas since retiring after the 1978 season. Among his passions are son Trey and grandson Jacob and talking Cowboys football.