NEWS RELEASE

Zales Welcomes Latest Black College Football Hall of Fame Inductees in Iconic Style

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Fans of the National Football League and Super Bowls past have certainly heard the names Jerry Rice, Walter Payton, Michael Strahan, Ed “Too Tall” Jones and Doug Williams. These football greats have each won Super Bowls, etching their place in football lore. Yet there is another tie that binds these men: they are members of the Black College Football Hall of Fame (BCFHOF). Founded in 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia, the BCFHOF honors Black athletes and coaches who made an indelible mark during their college careers at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Grambling State, Florida A&M, Morgan State, Southern, Winston-Salem State, these are just some of schools that comprise HBCUs and are renown for developing elite-caliber football players, many of whom go on to become legends in the NFL and role models in their communities.

In June, the newest group of greats will be welcomed into the Black College Football Hall of Famer during a ceremony in Atlanta. Each will receive not only the honor of induction, but they will be presented for the first time with an adornment as brilliant as their individual careers.

Zales, part of Signet Jewelers, recently announced its sponsorship of the Black College Football Hall of Fame, becoming the official jeweler of the BCFHOF. As part of the partnership, Zales will also create the first-of-its-kind induction ring which will presented to the Class of 2023.

The bejeweled ring is made in 14k gold and features a stunning vanette-shaped black onyx, chosen to represent a football. Black onyx stones are said to provide protection, stamina and determination -- all traits of these greats. The bespoke rings, which are inscribed with the player’s name and years he was active, also feature 60 sparkling diamonds weighing one and a half carats in total.

“Zales is extremely proud to be a part of the Black College Football Hall of Fame and to honor these players and coaches for their abilities and character on and off the football field,” said Kecia Caffie, President of Zales. She added, “Our partnership also demonstrates our continued support for all historically Black colleges and universities, giving not just athletes but all students an opportunity for greatness.”

The Black College Football Hall of Fame is located within the the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. The official Induction Ceremony will take place in Atlanta, Georgia (where the BCFHOF was originally founded) on June 10, 2023. Inductees who will receive their official ring from Zales include HBCU greats Leslie Frazier, Henry “Killer” Lawrence, Albert Lewis, Jim Marsalis, Tyrone McGriff, Elijah Pitts, Johnnie Walton and Pete Richardson.

Learn more

- **Identifying talent, both on and off the field, at the HBCU Legacy Bowl**