

## **Willie Banks III**

Born: March 21, 1970, Albuquerque, New Mexico

High School: Albuquerque High School (1988)

College: University of New Mexico

### **High School**

- One of the best basketball players ever for Albuquerque High School
- Varsity Team for 4 years ... one of three freshmen to play varsity for four years for Coach Jim Hulsman, who is a 1989 NMSHOF inductee.
- 1985-1986 member of the AAAA third place team in the state basketball championship tournament.
- Team Captain
- 1986-1987 Led the Bulldogs to AAAA third place team in the state basketball championship tournament.
- 1986-1987 Albuquerque Tribune All-City First team ... only junior on the First Team.
- 1986-1987 Albuquerque Journal's All State First Team ... only junior on the First Team. Averaged 14.9 points per game and 7.7 rebounds per game.
- 1987-1988 Gatorade New Mexico Basketball Player of the Year
- 1987-1988 Naismith New Mexico Basketball Player of the Year ... named by the Atlanta Tip Off Club.
- 1987-1988 Albuquerque Tribune City Player of the Year
- 1987-1988 AAAA Player of the Year
- 1987-1988 Led the Bulldogs to the Final Four in Class AAAA.
- 1987-1988 Albuquerque Tribune All-City First team ... only player to receive all coaches and players' votes.
- 1987-1988 2AAA All-District First Team
- 1987-1988 Albuquerque Journal's All State First Team
- 1987-1988 One of five players from New Mexico to be nominated to the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Converse All-American team.
- Led the AAAA Class in the State and Albuquerque Metro basketball in scoring with 573 points.
- Third in Class AAAA in rebounding (10.2 rebounds per game).
- MVP
- One of three AHS Bulldogs to score more than 1000 points in a career with 1081.
- At the time he graduated, he held the score record for points in a game (43); most consecutive free throws made (22); high season scoring average (23.9 points per game); most field goals made in a game (16); second in career points with 1081; and third in points in a season (573).
- NMHSCA Nominee for Sportsmanship Award (Honorable Mention)
- 1988 North South All Star ... led the North team with 37 points and 14 rebounds in a 127-125 OT win over the South.
- 1988 Nominated to the McDonald's All-American Team ... one of the finalists to make the team for the McDonald's All-Star game held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- One of the few AHS Bulldogs ever to earn a basketball scholarship to the University of New Mexico.

## College

- 4-year starter UNM Lobo Basketball Team
- Career: 126 games; 11.1 pts per game; 3.1 rebounds per game; 3.3 assists per game; 1.4 steals per game
- NCAA Tournament 1991
- NIT Tournament 1988,1989,1990
- Two Year Captain
- Led WAC in steals - 1990-91 Willie Banks 26 games 61 steals 2.4 average.
- Led WAC in steals - 1991-92 Willie Banks 26 games 62 steals 1.9 average.
- 1st in Games played 1988-89
- 2nd in assists (WAC) and team leader 1991-92
- 1st in steals (WAC) and team leader 1990-91
- 3rd in steals (WAC) 61 and team leader 1991-92
- 5th in points scored 1991-92
- 3rd in assists 4.9per game 1991-92
- 3rd in field goals (WAC) 1990-91
- Career scoring high of 28 points came during his freshman year against George Washington on Dec. 27, 1988...had 13 rebounds against Idaho State on Nov. 22, 1991.
- UNM
  - 9 steals in a game against Tennessee State in 1991 - ranks #2
  - Team leader if FT percentage - 1991-92 - 114-145 .786
  - Team leader in Assists - 1991-92 – 33 games 162 assists 4.91 average per game.
  - Ranks #8 in steals for a season – 62.
  - Ranks #6 in Most minutes played in a season - 1991-92 – 33 games 1,234 minutes 37.4 per game.
  - Ranks #10 in most minutes played in a career -3835 minutes.
  - Ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in Career Assists 419
  - Ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in Career Steals 182
  - Ranks #15 Career points 1,394.
- Career (WAC)
  - 16th in steals 2.3 per game
  - 3rd in assists 4.9 per game
  - 3rd in steals 1.9 per game
  - 22nd career shooting

## Professionally

- New Zealand (NBL)
  - Drafted to New Zealand and played 3 seasons with BP Bears in New Plymouth New Zealand
  - Played for Division 2 team Stormers 2001 National Champions
  - MVP
  - 2003 played for New Zealand Mountainair's
  - 2004 Player of the Week
  - 2004 Selected to try out for the New Zealand Olympic Basketball Team
  - Named to (All Star 5) Best Players Team
- New Zealand
  - Head Coach of Taranaki Girls Basketball Team (under 17)
  - Head Coach of Inglewood Girls' Varsity Basketball Team
  - Head Coach for Boys' Varsity Basketball Team 2 year (National Champs)
  - Head Coach for NBL Men's Basketball Mountainair's 2020
- Ethicon (Johnson and Johnson) Albuquerque, NM
- City of Albuquerque Park and Recreation
- Intel Corporation Rio Rancho, NM
- Currently CEO and President of Bankshot Academy 2020

A comprehensive seven-year start-up strategy that progresses youth from year 7 to year 13. To encourage participation, improve skills, and promote basketball across the community as the activity of choice.

## Honors

- 1991 WAC All-Defensive Team First Team
- 1992 WAC All Conference First Team
- 1992 WAC All-Defensive Team First Team
- Received Citizen Award through Boys and Girls Club of Albuquerque
- Student of the week numerous times at Washington Middle School and Albuquerque High School
- Honor Society 1985 and 1986 Albuquerque High School
- Homecoming King 1988 Albuquerque High School
- (All Star 5) Best Players Team New Zealand NBL
- Named Player of the week in all levels of play.
- Trialist for NZ 2004 Olympic Team

## Community

- Active Church Member 1977-current
- Usher (God's House Church)
- Choir Member
- Heaven Bound Scouts
- Bible Study Leader
- 1985-1988 Youth Leader Thomas Bell Community Center (Albuquerque)
- 1989-1991 Mentored at numerous Middle Schools (Youth Motivation)
- 2003-current Mentors' youth in New Zealand
- Mentored Juvenile Detention Center (Albuquerque)

## Family

- Lee Banks (married 26 Years) CFO
- Katherine (Daughter), Elementary School Teacher
- Tyler (Son)
- Parents: Willie Lee Banks, Jr (Father) (deceased) All-City, All-District, and All-State Basketball Player for Albuquerque High School, (1966-1969) New Mexico Junior College (1969-1971) and Eastern NM University 1972, 1973; Played for US Army Men's Basketball in Frankfurt, Germany 1974-1976 Cheryl Burden (Mother) Semi-Retired Senior Vice-President of Operations Kirtland Federal Credit Union, Church Administrator New Covenant Worship Center
- Siblings
  - Allen Banks (Brother) Former Albuquerque PD Chief of Police, Current Chief of Police for Round Rock, Texas
  - Kevin Banks (Brother) Founder/CEO of Dream Big, Inc (Non-Profit) Founder/Owner of Duke City Basketball Academy, LLC
  - Dr. Janiece Taylor (Sister) Professor at Johns Hopkins Medical University
  - Bryceson Burden (Brother) Police Aide with Albuquerque Police Department
  - Uncle: Allen Smith, Sr (Uncle) All-star Basketball player for Albuquerque High School Basketball Team 1961-1964, Trinidad Junior College, NM Highlands University, player for the Harlem Majestics/Globetrotters