

James Isaac "Preacher" Pilot Jr.

Born: January 22, 1941, Kieberg County, Texas

Died: January 2, 1991, Fort Wayne, Indiana

High School: Kingsville High School (Texas)

College: University of Kansas

New Mexico State University

High School

- 1958 Second team AAA All-State running back.
- 1958 Gained fame when he led Kingsville High School to the Texas State Championship game.
- 1959 Class AAA Region IV champion in the 100-yard dash
- He was besieged with football scholarship offers, fifty in all, and he finally chose Kansas. He played on the Kansas freshman team.

College

- First player since Tom Harmon to lead the country in rushing yardage in consecutive years.
- 1961 Held the NCAA record for 2-point conversions in a game with six. In that game he scored thirty points and rushed for 319 yards, which was a school record.
- 1961 First Team All Border Conference running back.
- Powerful running back and two-time NCAA major college rushing and scoring champion.
 - 1961 1278 yards rushing; 138 points.
 - 1962 1247 yards rushing; ninety-two points.
- School Records
 - First in rushing yards in a game with 319 yards vs. Hardin-Simmons on 11/16/1961
 - First in rushing carries in a game with 45 vs. Hardin-Simmons on 11/16/1961
 - First most touchdowns in a career with 37.
 - First longest rushing touchdown with 90 yards vs. Trinity 10/12/1963
 - Second in points scored in a season with 138 points in 1961.
 - Fifth in points scored in a season with 92 in 1962.
 - Fifth in career rushing attempts with 490.
 - Fourth in career rushing yards with 2971.
 - Fourth in career points scored with 242.
 - 5th& 6th for rushing yards in a season.
 - Ninth in career scoring touchdowns with 67.
 - Ninth in season scoring touchdowns with 21.
- 1962 Associated Press Honorable Mention All-American running back.
- 1962 Drafted in the 14th round as a junior by the Dallas Texas of the American Football League. Drafted in the 5th round by the San Francisco 49ers in the National Football League.
- 1963 Selected in the NFL Draft by the Kansas City Chiefs.

Professional

1964 Played for the Indianapolis Warriors of the United Football League, which advanced to the league championship in 1964.

1965 Team moved to Fort Wayne in January 1965, and became a charter member of the Continental Football League (CFL) when it was formed the next month.

1966 The Warriors were sold to the Montreal Beavers. He also played with the Norfolk Neptunes.

Honors

- 1995 Inducted into the US Bank/NM State Athletics Hall of Fame.
- 2019 NMSU Football Ring of Honor ... inaugural class of six NMSU great football players.