

PRESTON DENNARD

"Magic" that's Dennard's nickname and it's appropriate - record setting Professional Athlete, Broadcaster, Speaker, Entertainer - Preston has done it all!

Preston is a natural athlete. He was an All-American at Marcos de Niza High in Tempe, Arizona. A 4.5 man in the 40 yard dash, a state record setter in baseball with a .667 average, MVP in baseball and basketball, finished 3rd in state in hurdles, was Athlete of the Year, made Who's Who in National Athletics, and was on "Coaches" Magazine All-American first team. His goals in high school were to play pro ball, and his interests were writing, poetry, reading and singing.

Dennard exploded into the public-eye as a freshman in 1974. He was the first freshman Lobo ever to garner first team All-WAC honors. In 1975, he finished the season as the fourth-leading pass receiver in the United States and was the second ranked returning pass catcher in the country. By his senior year at UNM, Preston held every receiving record at UNM. He caught 142 passes for 2,257 yards in his career at UNM. Those numbers are still good for third on the all-time New Mexico receptions and career yardage lists.

Dennard then spent nine years in the National Football League (NFL) playing for the Los Angeles Rams (1978-83), the Buffalo Bills (1984) and the Green Bay Packers (1985-86). During his tenure in the NFL, Dennard caught 232 passes for 3,665 yards and scored 30 touchdowns. As a Ram, he was a starter in the 1980 Super Bowl against the Pittsburg Steelers. He was named "Most Outstanding Receiver" and twice nominated for the NFL "Man of the Year."

After his professional playing days ended, Dennard engaged in private enterprises. He attended and graduated from Columbia School of Broadcasting and managed his own public speaking career. For a short time he coached at Cal State Fullerton and UNM.

Preston is known throughout the Albuquerque community not only as a sports celebrity but also for his generous contributions to youth leadership programs, sports camps and clinics, celebrity tournaments, coaching camps, and drug prevention. His volunteer affiliations include Special Olympics, Cystic Fibrosis, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Muscular Dystrophy, Sickle Cell Council, and the Young America Football League. He also volunteered countless hours and served on a variety of Board of Directors including N.M. Governor's Council of Health and Physical Fitness, Y.M.C.A. Jaycees, Special Olympics, and World Games for the Deaf.

Currently, Preston is employed with the Public Service Company of New Mexico.