



GLOVER QUIN

written by Ken Sickenger

Playing defense has always been part of Glover Quin's DNA. Blowing up opposing game plans came naturally, even back in his days as a two-sport standout at North Pike High School in Summit, Mississippi.

Yes, Glover did his part on offense as a football running back (2,552 career rushing yards) and as a guard (assists leader and top offensive player) for the North Pike boys basketball team. But even then, his true calling was defense.

It proved to be a productive mindset. After racking up 224 tackles and 13 interceptions for North Pike's football team and leading the basketball team in steals, Glover went on to outstanding careers at both the collegiate and professional levels.

Football was ultimately Glover's game and he made his mark as a standout defensive back. He earned All-Mountain West status at the University of New Mexico and went on to play 10 outstanding seasons in the National Football League with the Houston Texans and Detroit Lions.

Glover's decorated career came with numerous awards and honors, but he smiled when asked about being inducted into the New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame in 2024. It was not on his bingo card.

"I can't say it's a dream come true because I never really dreamed about anything like this," Glover said. "I was just a small-town kid who wanted to keep playing ball. I never knew anything about New Mexico, but I knew UNM wanted me and I'm so glad I ended up coming here. I was proud to represent the state of New Mexico in professional football and I'm very excited to be able to get to this point."

Other than perhaps defensive-minded former University of New Mexico head coach Rocky Long, few could have seen Glover's

remarkable rise through the football ranks coming. After graduating high school, Glover spent two years at Southwest Mississippi Community College. He played in just six games, taking an injury redshirt year for one season after breaking his arm.

Still, Glover did enough to earn honorable mention for the All-Region 23 team and secure a spot in the conference's all-star game. More important, he caught the eye of Long and UNM's coaching staff and was recruited to become a Lobo for the 2006 season.

In three seasons at UNM, Glover established himself as one of the best defensive players in program history. He was All-Mountain West and named team MVP in 2008, joining Brian Urlacher as the only defensive players to earn the latter distinction at UNM. Glover's 31 career pass breakups were a program record and helped the Lobos advance to back-to-back bowl games.

His success continued at the NFL level after the Texans signed him as a fourth-round pick in 2009. Glover played four seasons in Houston and six with the Detroit Lions, racking up outstanding numbers along the way: 760 tackles, four sacks, 85 pass deflections, 24 interceptions, 10 forced fumbles and two defensive touchdowns.

Glover was a Pro-Bowler, a second-team NFL All-Pro and consistently ranked among the league leaders in pass breakups and interceptions. More impressive, he started 162 of 165 games over his career, including the final 148, which was the third-longest active streak when he retired in 2019.

"I tried to approach the NFL the same way I did my career here in the 505," Glover said. "I think my time in New Mexico was great preparation and I'm truly honored to be recognized by the Hall of Fame. This ties me to the state forever and that's a great feeling."