



Robert “Cochise” Watkins

Class of 1980

Robert ‘Cochise’ Watkins, a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania enrolled in Tuskegee (Institute) University on a four year football scholarship in 1975. As a running back, he lettered all four years and was the team MVP for the 1977 season. Watkins is one of a select few running backs in Tuskegee history to rush for over 1000 yards in a single season (1977). He was selected to play in the Freedom Bowl and is regarded by some as one of Tuskegee’s All-Time greatest football athletes. Watkins played under Hall of Fame Coach Haywood Scissum from 1975-78.

As a Business Administration major, Watkins was a stellar performer in the classroom. Highly active in campus life, he mentored younger student-athletes on the importance of working to earn their college degree and becoming future leaders on campus and on the football field. He consistently challenged his teammates and fellow students to give their very best at all times.

After graduating from Tuskegee in 1980, Watkins began his professional career in business management with the Wendy’s Corporation. He has been employed over the past 15 years with the Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Juvenile Detention Center and Transportation Services.

Watkins is actively involved with his Cross Road Church where he serves in the Meals on Wheels for the Elderly Ministry and Homeless Support Ministry. Watkins served as an Associate Pastor in 2005 and currently volunteers in his community providing support as a clergyman. He is a gifted motivational speaker that ministers throughout the United States. Watkins is a Mason (Silver Trout #10) and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Omicron Lambda Graduate Chapter.

Watkins supports Tuskegee University via contributions to Skegee Golden Tigers, Inc. (SGT) whose primary mission is to provide scholarships to Tuskegee student-athletes.

Watkins currently resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with his family.