

# Tuskegee University Athletic Hall of Fame

## Benjamin Stevenson

Class of 1931

Football, Track

### Memorials Which Endure

Honoring the outstanding men and women who nourished the Institute's goals and objectives and defended its principles throughout their lifetime, we are aware that while such honors are sometimes encouched in memoirs, in books, and etched on metal plaques, they can, at other times, be warm and informal. Let us assume, then, that the spirit of those we memorialize tonight are here with us, that their families and loved ones share with the alumni throughout the country a day of reminiscence on an unpayable public debt for generations to come.

### Some of Tuskegee's All-Time Athletic Greats

1. Mr. Edward H. Adams - Class of 1930: football, basketball, track, baseball
2. Mr. Marvin Fretwell - Class of 1941: track
3. Mr. Frank Jackson - Class of 1934: tennis
4. Mr. Willis Morris - Class of 1950: basketball, football, track
5. Mrs. Christine Evans Petty - Class of 1933: tennis, basketball, swimming, track
6. Mr. Willis Peeks - Class of 1912: basketball, baseball, football
7. Mr. Benjamin Stevenson - Class of 1931: football, track
8. Mr. Elliot Vanzant - Class of 1930: basketball, football, track
9. Mr. Fred Thomas - Class of 1947: track
10. Mr. Millard Wooten - Class of 1927: football

# Tuskegee University Athletic Hall of Fame

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Ben Stevenson (2003) - Hall of Fame - National Football Foundation



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## Hall of Fame

Stevenson, Ben



## BEN STEVENSON

**SCHOOL:** Tuskegee (AL)

**INDUCTION:** 2003

Position: Halfback

Years: 1923-1930

Place of Birth: Smith Mills, MO

Date of Birth: Mar 20, 1906

Place of Death: Houston, TX

Date of Death: Nov 14, 1969

Jersey Number: 48

Height: 6-2

Weight: 210

High School: Liberty, MO (Garrison HS), Tuskegee, AL (Tuskegee Normal Industrial Institute)

"Big Ben" was discovered one day while working on a Kansas farm. Coach Cleve Abbott persuaded Stevenson to join him at Tuskegee that fall. His first years at Tuskegee were spent as a prep-schooler. This allowed Stevenson to play eight seasons for the Golden Tigers, a span where he suffered only two defeats. Ben combined speed (9.8 100-yard dash), strength and durability. He had the ability to

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first of six national championships. The following year they again were undefeated. In 1926, title aspirations came down to a game against Lincoln, where Stevenson came back from an injury to score all of his team's points in a 20-16 victory. Over his seven-year career, he scored 42 touchdowns on runs of 50 yards or more, and was named to seven consecutive Black College All-America teams. He was named to numerous Negro all-time All-America teams and was voted as the game's greatest all-around player. While at Tuskegee he studied under George Washington Carver, earning a Bachelors and later a Masters degree before beginning a coaching career on the collegiate and high school levels.



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## **Tuskegee University Athletic Hall of Fame**

"Big Ben" was discovered one day while working on a Kansas farm. Coach Cleve Abbott persuaded Stevenson to join him at Tuskegee that fall. His first years at Tuskegee were spent as a prep-schooler. This allowed Stevenson to play eight seasons for the Golden Tigers, a span where he suffered only two defeats. Ben combined speed (9.8 100-yard dash), strength and durability. He had the ability to out-run, over-power or elude tacklers. In his first season he scored on a combination of long runs and drop kicks. He also played defensive back, earning a reputation as one of the top pass thieves in the conference. The Tigers went 9-0 and claimed the first of six national championships. The following year they again were undefeated. In 1926, title aspirations came down to a game against Lincoln, where Stevenson came back from an injury to score all of his team's points in a 20-16 victory. Over his seven-year career, he scored 42 touchdowns on runs of 50 yards or more, and was named to seven consecutive Black College All-America teams. He was named to numerous Negro all-time All-America teams and was voted as the game's greatest all-around player. While at Tuskegee he studied under George Washington Carver, earning a Bachelors and later a Masters degree before beginning a coaching career on the collegiate and high school levels.