

Tuskegee University Athletic Hall of Fame

Louis 'Red' Slade

Class of 1941

LOUIS "RED" SLADE, Class of 1941. In 1939 the Golden Tigers captured the Southern Conference Championship in track as a result of a brilliant performance on the part of Louis "Red" Slade. Clocking in an 800 yard run at 1:57.9, thereby beating the old record of 1:58.9 and :47 in the 440 yard run, the runner has yet to pause long enough to gather dust.

Not wanting to sit around all year to wait for Spring, "Red" played left end on the football team and starred. He completed his year of sports by playing guard on the basketball team.

Here was a boy that had lots of guts and an undying love for the sports world. Hailing from Mandeville, Louisiana, "Red" completed his high school education at Tuskegee Institute High School and remained to attend Tuskegee Institute, despite offers from Xavier, Florida A & M, North Carolina College and Michigan State. "Tuskegee offered more vocational subjects than the other schools of higher learning", stated Slade, and "Tuskegee is already home."

Tuskegee's all time track hero made a respectable name for himself in three major sports, earned the B. S. degree in commercial industry with a heavy concentration in motor mechanics, and embarked upon a career that few have duplicated.

After a discharge from the Army in 1946, "Red" accepted a position of acting head of the Department of Trades and head track coach at Alcorn A & M College.

In 1947, he returned to New Orleans to direct the G.I. Veteran Programs at Champion Vocational Center and Tri-State G.I. School. His peers regard him as being the pillar of strength for those two schools of vocational learning.

In June 1955, Slade opened an Esso Service Station in New Orleans, and after 20 years of business he is regarded as one of the most progressive businessmen around.

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He has not forgotten the cinders. In 1957 he sponsored the first Dillard Physical Education Majors High School Track Meet. Later the name was changed to the Dillard-Esso (Exxon) Track Meet. Each year track star hopefuls flock to the track to participate.

As business manager of the Tuskegee-New Orleans Alumni Club, "Red" continues to serve Tuskegee Institute and bring to it honor and glory.

No, he has yet to come to a halt, he is only pausing before the next venture.