



### **Gale Sayers Biography**

Pride, poise, leadership, dedication and loyalty are all traits exhibited by NFL Hall of Famer Gale Sayers. Following an incredible football career with the Chicago Bears, Sayers began another successful career in business following the same principals he used on the field.

After completing his professional football career, Sayers returned to his alma mater, the University of Kansas and received a bachelor's degree in Physical Education, while also handling duties as the Assistant Athletic Director. Sayers accepted the assignment as Assistant Director of the Williams Education Fund for three years and picked up his master's degree in Educational Administration. Sayers was chosen as the Director of Athletics at Southern Illinois University from 1976 through 1981. Following a very successful career at SIU, Gale became an entrepreneur and moved back to Chicago to launch a computer business. Today that company is known as Sayers40. Gale has built that business into a world-class provider of technology products and services, and a premier minority-owned business enterprise (MBE).

In 1999, Gale was inducted into another Hall of Fame - the Chicago Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Recently, the University of Kansas established the Gale Sayers Microcomputer Center, in recognition of Gale's commitment to both education and technology.

Gale serves on the Board of Directors at American Century Mutual Funds, located in Kansas City, MO.

Sayers personally and professionally devotes a great deal of time supporting and fundraising for a variety of charitable organizations, and speaks on behalf of many organizations. His commitment to the community includes the Better Boys Foundation, the Cradle Adoption Agency, Grid Iron Greats, Junior Achievement, Wesley House, and the Gale Sayers Center.

In addition to his business and personal endeavors, Sayers has authored an instructional publication on the fundamentals of football's offensive strategies called *Offensive Football*. In addition, his autobiography, *I Am Third*, was produced into an award-winning television movie, *Brian's Song*. The movie featured the personal and professional relationship between Sayers and his cancer-stricken teammate, Brian Piccolo. In October, 2007 a new book was released called, *Gale Sayers, My Life and Times*. Although his technology business is his first priority, Sayers finds time to do motivational speaking engagements for worthy causes.

His professional football accolades include: NFL Rookie of the Year Award in 1965, named MVP of the 1967, 1968 and 1970 All Star Games, named to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary All Time NFL Team, the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame in 1980, and the Blacks Sports Hall of Fame in 1975. In 1977, he became the youngest inductee ever in to the NFL Hall of Fame. In July 2000, he was named to the NFL All-Time Millennium Team.