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(VILLAGER) - Chuck Ealey, among the first great Black quarterbacks in college football, has a familiar story to tell.

Allegedly under-sized at 6-1, 195, but in realty simply too BLACK to play so-called big time college football, Ealey was the starting quarterback at the University of Toledo, where he compiled an unblemished 35-0 record from 1969 to 1971. Incredibly, it's an NCAA record for starting quarterbacks that still stands.

A mobile QB in the mold of Russell Wilson and Deshaun Watson, as noted by no less of a football authority than Tony Dungy, Ealey, a recent inductee to the 2022 College Football Hall of Fame, guided Toledo to three straight Top 20 finishes and three straight Mid-American Conference titles. As a senior, he finished eighth in Heisman Trophy voting.

His reward? Not being selected in the 1972 NFL Draft because teams wanted him to play a position other than quarterback due to the color of his skin.

At Long Last, Chuck Ealey Enters College Football Hall Of Fame



CHUCK EALEY Quarterback, 1969-71

The signal caller for the best run in Toledo football history, Chuck Ealey never lost a game in his three seasons as the Rockets' starting quarterback. (Courtesy The University of Toledo)

Prior to the draft, Ealey and his agent sent letters informing every NFL team he would only agree to be drafted if given the opportunity to play quarterback.

In an unfortunate sign of the times, there were no takers.

This was three years after Marlin Briscoe became the first African-American to start at quarterback with Denver of the AFL. Despite earning rookie of the year honors, Briscoe wasn't allowed to compete for the job the following season and was later switched to wide receiver with the Buffalo Bills.

Ealey was determined not to join the succession of Black college quarterbacks who were switched to other positions and never allowed to play QB in the NFL.

"If you're gonna draft me, draft me as a quarterback," Ealey said. "I didn't want to play defensive back or wide receiver. All I wanted to do was play quarterback."

Ealey opted for the Canadian Football League, a popular destination for Black college quarterbacks rebuffed by the NFL. He earned rookie of the year honors and led the Hamilton

Tiger-Cats to the 1972 Grey Cup championship (the CFL's version of the Super Bowl), throwing for 293 yards and a touchdown and rushing for 63 more yards.

Fifteen years later, Doug Williams led Washington to a victory in Super Bowl XXII, but Ealey's career deserves an asterisk because he was the first Black quarterback to win a professional football championship.

Ealey played seven seasons in the CFL but never played a down in the NFL.

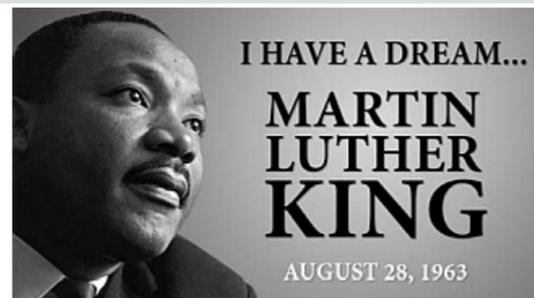
In 2018, Dungy tweeted that Ealey was "Russell Wilson and Deshaun Watson before we realized QBs like that could play in the NFL. I was in high school when he played for Toledo, and he inspired me."

Dungy was among a host of supporters who pushed for Ealey's entry into the 2022 College Football Hall of Fame after years of being overlooked.

With good reason.

Ealey's impact at Toledo was instantaneous. In the six seasons prior to his arrival, Toledo was 25-32-2. Ealey never lost a game at Toledo. In fact, Ealey's college and high school teams never lost a game with him at quarterback (he finished a perfect 65-0).

In Ealey's case regarding his long-awaited entry into the College Football Hall of Fame, good things come to those who wait.



I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

But 100 years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men — yes, black men as well as white men — would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check that has come back marked "insufficient funds."

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and security of justice. We have also come to his hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the

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Edited by
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Apple TV+ revealed the trailer for the highly anticipated reboot of the classic "Fraggle Rock" series, "Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock" on <https://tv.apple.com>. All 13 episodes of the new Apple Original series from The Jim Henson Company will debut on Friday, January 21, 2022 on Apple TV+, joining the celebrated collection of Apple Original shorts, "Fraggle Rock: Rock On!"

Jim Henson's fun-loving and musical Fraggles - Gobo, Red, Boober, Mokey, Wembley, Uncle Traveling Matt - alongside new Fraggles and Doozers voiced by special guest stars **Patti LaBelle, Cynthia Erivo, Daveed Diggs, Ed Helms, Kenan Thompson**, as well as an appearance by **Foo Fighters** - kick off the new year by embarking on

Silly Creatures From Outer Space - "Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock" Debuts January 21, 2022 on Apple TV+



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Apple

epic, hilarious adventures about the magic that happens when we celebrate and care for our interconnected world.

"Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock" is executive produced by The Jim Henson Company's **Lisa Henson and Halle Stanford**, and longtime Henson collaborator **John Tartaglia**. In addition, **Matt Fusfeld** and **Alex Cuthbertson**, who serve as showrunners, also executive produce, alongside

Regency's **Yariv Milchan** and **Michael Schaefer**. Co-executive producers are **Dave Goelz** and **Karen Prell**, and executive music producer is **Harvey Mason Jr.** The series is produced by **Ritamari Peruggi**.

In addition to "Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock," Apple's partnership with The Jim Henson Company includes "Harriet The Spy," the first animated adaptation of the iconic children's novel, and the popular "Fraggle Rock:

Rock On!" shorts. Apple TV+ is also the streaming destination for the original "Fraggle Rock" series, as well as recently added bonus specials, "Down at Fraggle Rock," "Doozer Music" and "Fraggle Songs," all of which are now streaming.

The expanding and award-winning lineup of original films and series for kids and families on Apple TV+ also includes the recently premiered "Hello, Jack! The Kindness Show" from **Jack**

McBrayer and **Angela C. Santomero**; "Wolfboy and the Everything Factory" from **Joseph Gordon-Levitt**, HITRECORD and Bento Box Entertainment; the recently-released "Get Rolling With Otis" and "Puppy Place;" Daytime Emmy Award-winning "Ghostwriter" and "Helpsters" from Sesame Workshop; Academy Award-nominated animated film "Wolfwalkers;" and the list goes on.

Apple TV+ is available to watch across all

your favorite screens. After its launch on November 1, 2019, Apple TV+ became the first all-original streaming service to launch around the world, and it has premiered more original hits and received more award recognitions faster than any other streaming service in its debut. To date, Apple Original films, documentaries and series have been honored with 702 awards nominations and 183 wins.