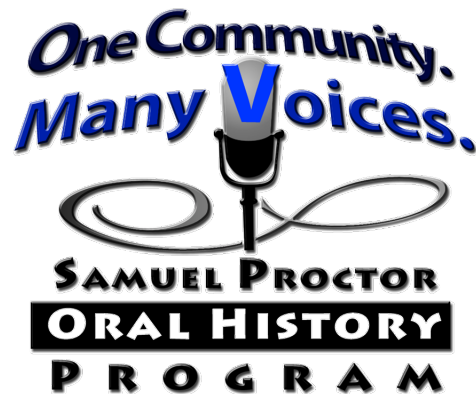


Walter Wilson

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project
MISS CHOC-058**

Interview by:

**Howard Dixon and Carl Isaac
October 11, 1978**



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MISS CHOC 058 Walter Wilson
Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
Interviewed by Staff of Nanih Waiya on October 11, 1978
11 minutes | 5 pages

Abstract: Walter Wilson is a coach at Choctaw Central in Mississippi. He is head coach of the basketball and baseball teams, the assistant coach for the football team, and a PE teacher for the junior high school. He states that he's enjoyed his time at Choctaw Central and likes the people and environment that he works with. In his youth, Wilson was also very involved in sports, playing football in college for Southeastern State University, and winning the Oklahoma Collegiate Conference championship in his second year at Southeastern. The last 30 minutes of this interview are accidentally-recorded dead noise.

Keywords: [Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; Larry Robinson; Mississippi--Choctaw; Sports; Residential schools]

SAMUEL PROCTOR
ORAL HISTORY
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University of Florida

MISS CHOC 058

Interviewee: Walter Wilson

Interviewer: Staff of Nanih Waiya

Date of Interview: October 11, 1978

U: Today is October 11, 1978. We are interviewing Walter Wilson. Coach, can you tell us when you were born and how was your life in your early childhood?

W: Yes, I was born in Broken Bow, Oklahoma and my childhood wasn't any different from probably any other normal child. Other than that, I was the only boy in the family with five sisters, which was—

[Break in recording].

W: I spent all of my childhood days in Broken Bow within the city limits up until the age of probably around thirteen, I do believe, and then we moved out into the country. Went to the Broken Bow public school system the whole twelve years and—

[Break in recording]

U: Could you tell us what college did you go—what'd you major in?

W: After high school—I attended high school. Then, it was still a vocational school, I spent a year there. And after—well, I really didn't know what I wanted to get into at that time. I spent one year there taking vocational courses and after that, the year I went—the following fall I went to a junior college and then I made up my mind. Decided on my major toward a PE degree and spent a year at junior college and went to Southeastern State University there the following year and spent the rest of my college days there getting my BS degree, which brings us up to this next question.

U: [Laughter] What made you decide to come to Choctaw Central?

W: I really don't remember, Richard. I know—I remember the job was very attractive. Everything went with the job. I had a visit with the school prior to accepting the

job. Along with the guy that hired me, Mr. Jimmy Gibson, was pretty persuasive and made his job offer, and—

[Break in recording]

W: Also this gave me an opportunity to step into a secondary school. I had several junior high offers, and I was thinking about starting off with a junior high program. But when this offer came along, it was just—it seemed at the time, and which has been proven correct today—that it was just an offer that was too good to refuse.

U: How do you like it down here?

W: Well, I have enjoyed my stay after the first week. The first week I was ready to go home, pack up and go home. But now, I enjoy working with the kids here and couldn't—

[Break in recording]

W: About the situations they was offering. You couldn't ask for better people to work with than I have working with—I work with in the athletic department—which is a big plus, the environment and everything.

[Break in recording]

W: And to sum it up, Oklahoma will always have a special place in my heart, but Choctaw Central has been good to me. The Choctaw people here, and I consider myself very fortunate in that respect.

U: What are you coaching?

W: Well, George, I'm kept pretty busy during the day. I have PE classes up until the junior high program. I helped coach the middle school program, and then I'm assistant football coach, which takes up a great deal of my time. Then after

football season, I'm the head basketball coach and after basketball, go right into baseball. I'm the head baseball coach.

U: [Laughter] How do you like the coaches who work with you?

W: As I stated earlier, there's not a better group, group to work with. I want to mention the three I do work with that is in the coaching department. Well, actually four. We've got a young lady that contributes to our department a great deal. The athletic director, Larry Robinson. The other two coaches I work with, Wes Tillis and Barry Jim, and the young lady I was taking about is Ms. **Marleen Brown**. And as I said, they're just super. I'm very fortunate to be associated with such a group.

U: Could you tell us about your special moment as a coach at Choctaw Central?

W: Yes, I would consider three events to be—that I've been associated with here at Central—to be the highlights of my career here. I was associated with the conference championship in track a couple of years back, last year's **Mauvine Line Bowl** championship, and the baseball conference championship of last spring.

U: Could you tell us about your hobbies?

W: I enjoy hunting and fishing. I haven't done as much as I'd like to here in Mississippi. But as a youngster I spent a great deal of my time out in the woods. Also, being associated with athletics, I enjoy playing a great deal. Even now, I'm over the hill and everything. And I spend a great deal of my time playing independent softball and basketball. And after a hard day's work, I like nothing better than just to curl up on the couch.

U: Were you involved in athletics in your high school and college days?

W: Yes, George, in high school I participated in sports. Played football, basketball, ran track, and played baseball a lot in a summer youth program. And after I went to high school, I played football there, basketball, ran track and at Southeastern I played nothing but football. Yes, I was—

[Break in recording]

U: Were there any special moments at Southeastern while you were playing football?

W: Yeah, the second year I was at Southeastern, we won the state conference, or the state—yeah, conference, Oklahoma Collegiate Conference Championship—which I have to consider a highlight in my playing career and being chosen to the Collegiate Conference Defensive Team also was a highlight of my career.

U: What position did you play?

W: I played the defensive end.

U: How was it like playing defensive end?

W: In our defensive set-up, we were running, what we called Oklahoma 50 defense. We're almost like another linebacker, had a lot of various responsibilities, and you had to be a well-rounded athlete to play it. At the time, I just weighed 190 pounds, so—which enabled me to play it.

U: What kind of student were you in high school and in college?

W: I guess I would consider myself an above average student. I graduated from high school with a B-plus average. And after I got into college, I didn't have the study habits and everything that I should have, which hindered me some, along with

spending a lot of my time with athletics. I graduated with a two-point—I believe about a 2.8 out of a four-point scale. So, I think I was a pretty good student.

[End of interview]

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