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## Hackett, Wilbur, Jr.

(born: 1949 - died: ) Wilbur Hackett, Jr. is a 1999 Hall of Fame inductee at Manual High School in Louisville, KY, where he was a linebacker and running back on defense. He was considered the best all around football player in the city; in 1966 Hackett was All-State, All-Southern, and Parade Magazine All-American. The 5' 9", 185 pound Hackett went on to become a three year starting linebacker at the [University of Kentucky](#) (UK). He was the first African American to start in any sport at UK and in 1969 was the first to be named a team captain. Hackett was also one of the first African American football players in the Southeastern Conference (SEC). He received death threats, and in a game at Ole Miss, armed guards were on hand to protect him and teammate and roommate, Houston Hogg, who was from Owensboro, KY. Hackett was influenced to attend UK by [Nat Northington](#) and, [Greg Page](#) who would die from a neck injury he received during practice. Cecil New, a white football player at UK, also had a neck injury the same year as Page. Hackett left UK in 1970. Wilbur Hackett, Jr. was born in Winchester, KY. For more see [Wilbur Hackett, Jr. Inducted: 1999](#), at the Manual High School website; "Negro to captain Kentucky football," [Washington Post](#), 08/30/1969, p. D5; "Recalling the death of racial segregation in Southern college football," [The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education](#), issue 21, (Autumn 1988), pp. 64-65; M. Story, "They were our Jackie Robinsons - Hackett recalls days as trailblazer at UK of 1960s, a story for every county," [Lexington Herald-Leader](#), 01/28/2007, Sports section, p. C2; and L. Austin, "Courage to play," [Kentucky Kernel](#), 10/04/2010.