

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Charles Brown

PERSON

**Brown, Charles, 1936-**

**Alternative Names:** Charles Brown;

**Life Dates:** February 24, 1936-August 26, 2022

**Place of Birth:** Canton, Mississippi, USA

**Residence:** Chicago, IL

**Occupations:** Basketball Player; Basketball Official

## Biographical Note

Charles “Sweet Charlie” Brown was born in Canton, Mississippi, on February 24, 1936. Brown's parents, Ruby McClure Brown and Reginald Brown, Sr., moved to Chicago when Brown was still young, and playing basketball in Washington Park became the center of his activity. After attending grade school at Betsey Ross, Brown went on to attend DuSable High School.

In 1954, along with teammates Karl Dennis, Bobby Jackson, Paxton Lumpkin, and Shellie McMillon, Brown was part of the DuSable Panthers basketball team, which became the first all-black team to reach the finals of the Illinois state high school basketball championship. The Panthers finished second that season, with their only loss coming in the final game. Following high school, Brown briefly attended Indiana University before transferring to Seattle University; there, he joined basketball legend Elgin Baylor on the court, and Brown’s game winning shot against UCLA in the Elite Eight propelled Seattle to the Final Four in the 1958 NCAA tournament. The following year, Brown was named as an All-American.

Following his graduation from college, Brown played in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) on teams in Seattle and Chicago. Following his retirement from basketball, Brown worked as a community relations executive for the Jewel Grocery Corporation. After retiring from Jewel, he continued to harness his passion for basketball. In 1994, Brown officiated over the Class AA Illinois state championship game, and the assignment director of referees for the Chicago Public League. In 1995, Lettuce Entertain You and Rich Melman began funding a senior basketball tournament, later known as the Windy City Shootout; Brown was the first president of the tournament, which was aimed at players fifty and older from around North America.

"Sweet" Charlie Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 31, 2004.

Brown passed away on August 26, 2022 at the age of 86.

## Related Entries

**Betsy Ross Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Indiana University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Seattle University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Du Sable Leadership Academy** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Jewel Food** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1976 to 1983]

**Community Relations Executive**

**YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Detached Workers**

**Chicago Jamaco Saints** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Buchan Bakers** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Windy City Shootout** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1995 to ?]

**President**