

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with John B. Wooten

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Wooten, John B., 1936-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with John B. Wooten,
<b>Dates:</b>	September 13, 2017
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2017
<b>Physical Description:</b>	11 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:15:03).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Football player John B. Wooten (1936 - ) was a defensive lineman for the Cleveland Browns, winning the 1964 NFL Championship, and served as chairman of the Fritz-Pollard Alliance. Wooten was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 13, 2017, in Dallas, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2017_162
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Football player John B. Wooten was born on December 5, 1936 in Riverview, Texas to Elmo Wooten and Henrietta Young. As a child, Wooten moved with his mother and siblings to Carlsbad, New Mexico. He graduated from Carlsbad High School in Carlsbad, New Mexico, and received his B.S. degree in education from the University of Colorado at Boulder in Boulder, Colorado in 1959. There, he became the second African American varsity football player in the university's history, and as a senior, Wooten earned American Football Coaches Association All-America honors and was selected to play in the Chicago College All-Star Game.

After graduation, Wooten was selected in the fifth round in the 1959 National Football League Draft (NFL) as a defensive lineman by the Cleveland Browns. He played a total of 136 games for the Browns, and helped lead the team to their 1964 NFL Championship win against the Baltimore Colts. After nine seasons with the Cleveland Browns, Wooten played a single season with the Washington Redskins before he retired from professional football. In 1975, he became the director of professional scouting for the Dallas Cowboys, where he worked to make higher level coaching and staffing opportunities more equitable and accessible to African Americans. Wooten then joined the Philadelphia Eagles in 1992 as vice president of player personnel. He resigned from the Eagles organization and was hired by the Baltimore Ravens in 1998 as the team's assistant director of pro and college scouting. Wooten was then appointed as chairman of the Fritz Pollard Alliance in 2003, where he worked to prevent racial discrimination in the NFL's coach and personnel hiring processes. He also used his position as chairman of the Alliance to encourage harsher penalties and stricter guidelines against the use of offensive language on the field. As of 2017, Wooten was the president of Wooten Printing in Coppell, Texas.

Wooten was awarded and honored numerous times for his successful football career. He was named as the NFL's Most Valuable Player in 1965; and, in 1979, was named as part of the Cleveland Browns All-Time All-Star Team. Wooten was also selected as a member of the University of Colorado's All-Century Team. In 2010, he was inducted into the Cleveland Browns Ring of Honor, as well as the Browns' Legends Program. Wooten was

inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2012.

Wooten has five children and five grandchildren.

John B. Wooten was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 13, 2017.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with John B. Wooten was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 13, 2017, in Dallas, Texas, and was recorded on 11 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Football player John B. Wooten (1936 - ) was a defensive lineman for the Cleveland Browns, winning the 1964 NFL Championship, and served as chairman of the Fritz-Pollard Alliance.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Wooten, John B., 1936-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Wooten, John B., 1936- --Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Football Player

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

SportsMakers

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with John B. Wooten, September 13, 2017. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with John B. Wooten, Section A2017\_162\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John B. Wooten, Section A2017\_162\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:28 ?

Video Oral History Interview with John B. Wooten, Section A2017\_162\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:22 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with John B. Wooten, Section A2017\_162\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:06 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with John B. Wooten, Section A2017\_162\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:05 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with John B. Wooten, Section A2017\_162\_001\_006, TRT: 6:30:31 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with John B. Wooten, Section A2017\_162\_001\_007, TRT: 7:28:33 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with John B. Wooten, Section A2017\_162\_001\_008, TRT: 8:32:09 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with John B. Wooten, Section A2017\_162\_001\_009, TRT: 9:29:52 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with John B. Wooten, Section A2017\_162\_001\_010, TRT: 10:29:03 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with John B. Wooten, Section A2017\_162\_001\_011, TRT: 11:16:41 ?