

Former Ohio State Cornerback William White Dies Following Battle With ALS



Former Ohio State cornerback William White died Thursday at the age of 56 following a six-year battle with ALS.

Born in Lima, Ohio, White played for the Buckeyes from 1984-87, starting all four seasons at cornerback, and was taken by the Detroit Lions in the 1988 NFL Draft with the 85th overall pick. He ultimately played 11 seasons in the NFL, spending six seasons with the Lions and three with the Kansas City Chiefs before spending his final two seasons in Atlanta, where he played in Super Bowl XXXIII with the Falcons.

The Lions released a statement on Thursday evening that included a statement from White's former Ohio State and Lions teammate Chris Spielman.

We share in the sadness felt today throughout the NFL community following the news of William White's passing. Drafted by the Lions in the 4th round of the 1988 Draft out of Ohio State, White played 6 seasons in Detroit (1988-1993) & appeared in 95 games (79 starts) for the club. pic.twitter.com/v42P1KnbmA

— Detroit Lions (@Lions) July 29, 2022

"I loved William," said Spielman, who works in Detroit's front office. "We shared experiences of joy and sorrow on and off the field. He was and always will be my brother. I am grateful to share a special moment last year when he was able to share the ring of honor moment with me. I can't wait to see him again when he will be free from ALS. May God's Peace rest upon his family."

White was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, in 2016, which is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that impacts nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord.

RIP to a great man. William had an infectious personality. Prayers to the family ☐☐
<https://t.co/mpr10sVNKV>

— Mark Pantoni (@markpantoni) July 29, 2022

White's son, Brendon, played for three seasons at Ohio State from 2017-19 before transferring to Rutgers prior to the 2020 season.

I love you Dad! Keep watching down on us I know you gonna watch over and protect us. I promise with all my heart you'll see me in a NFL jersey as we promised each other! We love and miss you! I promise to make you proud. U always taught me no one or thing determines my success <https://t.co/pZrilfRGbv>

— Brendon White (@therealestbw0) July 29, 2022