

Former Jet Ends Long NFL Career

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Clark Gaines came a long way from Lees-McRae College and Wake Forest University. His NFL career as a Jets fullback last from 1976-82, and four years later he was hired as senior regional director of the NFLPA, where he began an illustrious career that culminated in his promotion in 2008 to assistant executive director.

Gaines retired Tuesday as one of the unsung heroes of his sport, having logged a long list of accomplishments, including: He organized the first NFLPA Collegiate Bowl in 2012; founded the Native Vision program in 1996; coordinated player strikes and organized players' political forums during the 1982 and 1987 strikes; helped galvanize and educate players during the 2011 player lockout; served on the player health and safety committee from 1994–2008; and he coordinated the first field turf survey for players to express their opinions on playing surfaces.