Doug Williams
Grambling State University
Quarterback

In 1998, the new coach of the Grambling State University Tigers walked on to field. The very idea of a new coach for this school, perhaps more than any other, would have been blasphemy just a handful of years back. After all, who could ever attempt to fill the large and respected shoes of the most prolific and beloved college coach in the history of football?

Doug Lee Williams was born August 9, 1955 in Zachary, Louisiana. His standout performance at Chaneyville High School led him to the 1973 practice field of the Grambling Tigers where none other than Coach Eddie Robinson was already more than 30 years into his legendary career. Little did either man know that this eager, red-shirted, and initially a third string quarterback would use the wisdom and guidance imparted to him to form a groundbreaking career. Doug stepped up as starter of that Tiger offense in only the fifth game of his freshman season and never once looked back.

Williams and Coach “Rob” led the Tigers to an 11-1 record and the first of three Southwestern Athletic Conference championships. The Tigers had an overall record of 35-5. In ’77, he led the nation in passing yards, 3,286, and touchdown passes, 38. He was named All-America quarterback by the Associated Press and the Black College Player of the Year twice. He’s held NCAA records in passing yards, 8,411, total offense yards, 8,354, and touchdown passes, 93.

In the 1978 NFL Draft, Williams was chosen in the first round by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He led the Bucs to three playoff appearances and one NFC title game from 1979 to 1982. Then, after a short stint in the USFL, Williams returned to the NFL, joining the Washington Redskins in 1986. Here, Williams progressed from backup to starter, ultimately taking the Redskins to Super Bowl XXII in which they defeated the Denver Broncos, 42-10. Williams led the Redskins to an NFL record by scoring five touchdowns in the second quarter. Williams passed for 340 yards, with four touchdown passes, and was named Super Bowl MVP. It was a major win for Williams and his team, but an even larger victory for the sport and the country as Doug Williams became the first black quarterback to play in a Super Bowl, and, as of Super Bowl XLII, the only black quarterback to win one. It was quite a game and even more amazing considering Williams had undergone a six hour root canal just the day before -- a true display of toughness and determination. He attributes these impressive feats in large part to his mentor and teacher, Coach Eddie Robinson.

So, in 1998, when the Grambling Tigers were looking for a new head coach, who better to take the reins than this Grambling-forged legend? Williams led the Tigers to three consecutive SWAC titles from 2000-2002. Doug Williams currently works at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers personnel department. Williams carried the Vince Lombardi trophy on to the field at Super Bowl XXII, marking the 20th anniversary of being named MVP of Super Bowl XXII.