2014 EMCC SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

LeGARRETTE BLOUNT

Current NFL standout LeGarrette Blount of the Pittsburgh Steelers is the most recent of a trio of talented East Mississippi Community College running backs to make their way to the National Football League in the past 20 years. Following in the footsteps of former EMCC feature backs Antowain Smith and James “J.J.” Johnson from the 1990s, Blount was highly recruited on the heels of three consecutive seasons with 1,000 or more yards rushing at Taylor County High School in Perry, Fla. Ending up at EMCC under the guidance of head coach Roger Carr, Blount made an immediate impact on the national junior college scene by rushing for an NJCAA-best 1,250 yards on 189 carries with 12 touchdowns as a freshman in 2006. He followed with 1,042 yards rushing and six scores on 178 attempts during his sophomore campaign. As a two-time JC Grid-Wire All-American and twice selected NJCAA All-Region 23 and MACJC All-North Division First Team for the Lions, Blount rushed for 2,292 career yards and 18 touchdowns on 367 carries in 17 EMCC appearances. Following another heated recruiting battle, Blount transferred to the University of Oregon, where he tacked on yet another 1,000-yard season (1,002) in 2008 to finish sixth in the Pac-10 Conference. Along with averaging 7.3 yards per carry as a junior, he established a single-season school record with 17 rushing touchdowns while leading the league with 104 points scored. Blount then gained instant credibility among the professional ranks by becoming only the second undrafted rookie running back in league history to have a 1,000-yard season. Making seven starts as a rookie for the 2010 Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the 6-foot, 250-pound back rushed for 1,007 yards and six touchdowns on 201 attempts in being named to The Sporting News and PFW/PFWA All-Rookie teams. Blount again led the Bucs in rushing the next year with 781 yards and five touchdowns on 184 carries. Traded to the New England Patriots in the spring of 2013, Blount enjoyed a successful one-year stopover by rushing for 772 yards and seven touchdowns on 153 carries. Now in his fifth season in the NFL, Blount has rushed for 2,711 career yards and 20 touchdowns on 579 attempts for a career average of 4.7 yards per carry.