A member of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in Jackson as well as Mississippi State University’s Sports Hall of Fame, Tom Goode’s illustrious athletic career spanned some 50 years back to his playing days as an all-conference football and basketball performer at West Point High School. An All-SEC standout at Mississippi State, Goode capped his collegiate career in by garnering Kodak All-America honors as a senior in addition to playing in the Blue-Gray All-Star Classic, Coaches All-America Game and Senior Bowl following the 1960 season. Drafted in the second round by the Houston Oilers of the old American Football League and in the 17th round by the NFL’s Detroit Lions, Goode played four seasons (1962-65) at center and linebacker for the Oilers before moving to the NFL’s Miami Dolphins in 1966. His four-year (1966-69) playing career with the Dolphins was highlighted by his 1969 selection to the NFL’s All-Pro team.

Having played in 152 consecutive games during his nine-year professional career, Goode is probably most noted for his final pro appearance on the gridiron. As a member of the 1970 Baltimore Colts squad, the veteran center was the snapper for Jim O’Brien’s game-winning field goal against the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl V played in Miami’s Orange Bowl. Following retirement from pro football, Goode primarily spent the next 20 years serving as an assistant college coach at Southeastern Conference schools Mississippi State (1972-75 & 1984-89), Vanderbilt (1977 & 1990-91), Ole Miss (1978-82) and Alabama (1983). His first head coaching opportunity came during a 12-year stint (1992-2003) as head coach and athletic director at East Mississippi Community College. In 1996, Goode was tabbed Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Coach of the Year after leading the EMCC Lions to an 8-2 record. A recipient of both the Lifetime Achievement Award and Unsung Hero Award from the All-American Football Foundation, Goode closed out his coaching career as an assistant at Oak Hill Academy in his hometown of West Point. Goode has been married 19 years to the former Sonia Buffington Foster of Canton, and they are the parents of three boys, Tommy, Michael, and Brin Foster, and two girls, Lessie (Goode) Belk and Sandi (Foster) May. They also have seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.