

Hometown Hero – Gates County native Thomas Smith graduated from Gates County High School and continued to play football at the University of North Carolina. He was drafted 28<sup>th</sup> overall in the first round of the 1993 NFL Draft. He played in Superbowl XVIII and became the starting cornerback for the Buffalo Bills in 1994. Thomas Smith finished his playing career with the Indianapolis Colts in 2001. Now more than 15 years after retirement, Smith's early preparation of earning his degree in Business Administration and Management is paying off as he currently co-manages a very successful business franchise in the Baltimore area.