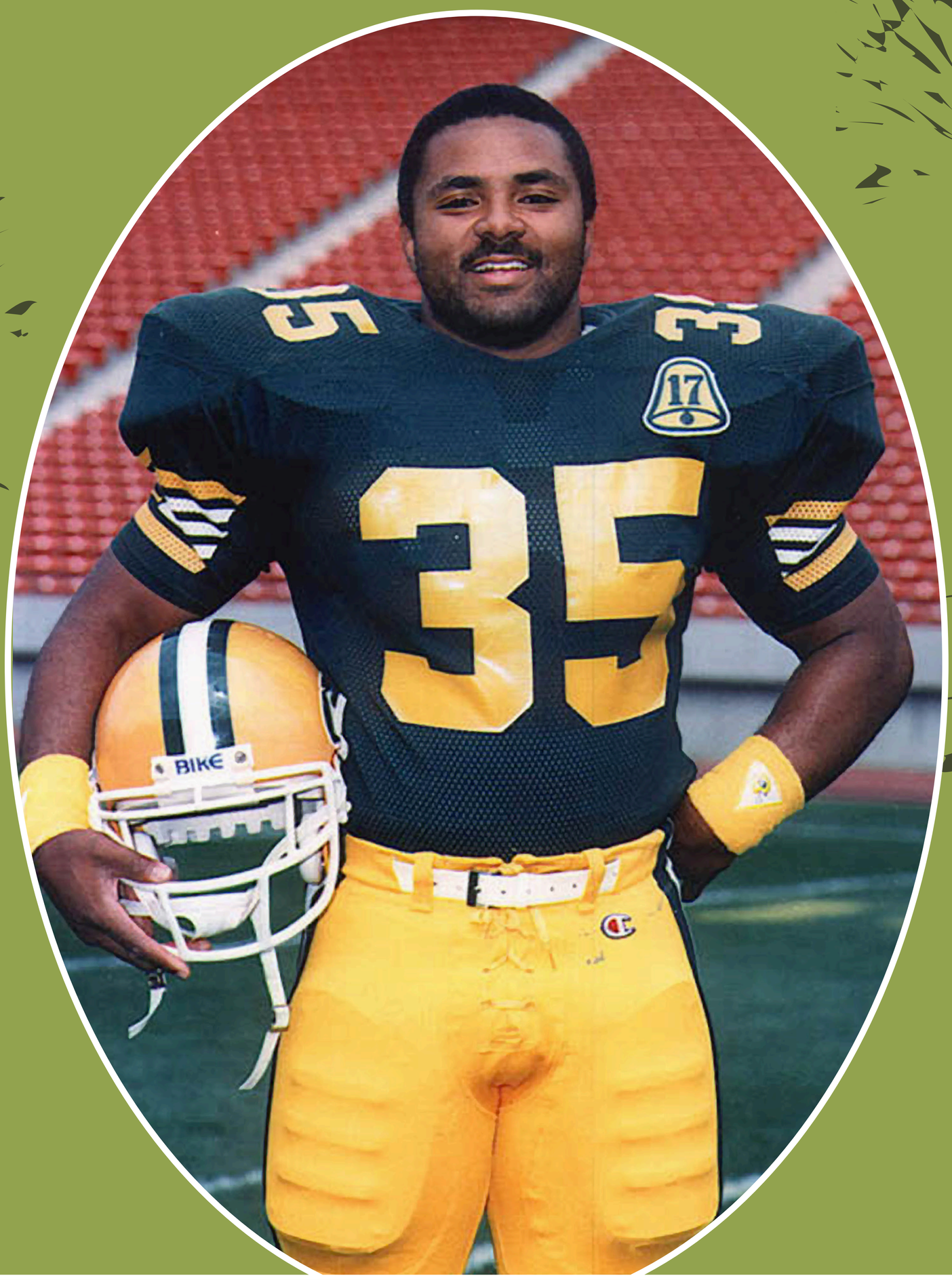
CHRIS SKINNER

1961, Saint John, New Brunswick



PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE

Chris Skinner is a retired professional football player. Born in Saint John, New Brunswick, he is the son of community activist and educator, Clifford 'Nick' Skinner. Chris Skinner was a star running back and receiver and played football for Simonds High School in Saint John. He had a standout varsity career at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Quebec, winning All-Star and MVP honours. The Edmonton Eskimos selected Skinner during the first round of the 1984 Canadian Football League (CFL) Draft. After an exceptional season in 1986, Skinner was nominated for the annual CFL Schenley Award, recognizing the most outstanding player in the league. He and the Eskimos went on to win the Grey Cup CFL Championship in 1987. He had a CFL career spanning eight seasons and three teams, also playing for the Ottawa Rough Riders and British Columbia Lions. Skinner was inducted into the Saint John Sports Hall of Fame in 1997, and the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame in 2003. Known for his tenacity and hard work, in the words of one reporter, Skinner is "the best football player ever developed in New Brunswick."

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