



A native Nashvillian, Cecil Beard was an exceptional athlete at Cameron High School playing football, basketball and running track where he lettered in all three sports. Cecil was recognized by his classmates as Most Athletic because of his talents and energy he brought to Cameron. His greatest athletic accomplishments in high school came as a member and Co-Captain of the 1970 and 1971 TSSAA State Championship Basketball teams.

Cecil received many honors being named All-Nashville Interscholastic League (NIL), All-State, All-Region, All-Metro, All-City and placed on the All-Tournament team in 1971.

Cecil was offered many athletic scholarships from colleges but settled on Fisk University where he was offered a basketball and football scholarship---choosing the football program. The Fisk University football team won the SIAC 1973 and SIAC 1976 championships. As a member of those teams Cecil was named SIAC Division II All-Conference Receiver for 1972 and 1975 and named to the SIAC All-Region for 4 consecutive years. At Fisk University, his achievements as a receiver resulted in Cecil holding all university receiving records. During his junior year at Fisk, he was offered a contract with the Philadelphia Bell of the USFL but declined to stay in college. He was later drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in the 1976 NFL football draft but injuries halted his NFL career.

In 2010 Cecil was inducted into the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools' Sports Hall of Fame.

Cecil has been employed with BeckArnley as a Competitor Analyst, participating on employer-sponsored bowling, baseball and basketball teams. He also coached Little League Baseball and Basketball teams in the community. He recently held a coaching position with the La Vergne Wolverines Youth Football program.

Cecil and his wife Jackie have been married for 36 years and reside in Antioch. Together they have two married daughters, and a son. Cecil is a member of Lake Providence Missionary Baptist Church. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, watching football or basketball, old classic movies and spending time with his 5 grandchildren. He also keeps in constant contact with both his high school and college alma maters.