

E HUNDRED YEARS OF GRIDIRON GREAT

Fletcher

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backfield with another member of the All-Century team, Leroy Harmon. The two were inducted in WU's Hall of Fame together in 1972.

"Harmon was a whale of a fullback and could throw the ball with the best of them," Fletcher said. "They never knew what we were going to do."

Fletcher, the son of a Buffalo Soldier stationed at Fort Riley, was born in Phoenix and graduated from Junction City High School. After a tour of duty in the Army, he was set to play football at Indiana, but the school didn't have living accommodation for his pregnant wife and two children. His high school coach, Bob Briggs, was then at Topeka High and steered Fletcher toward Washburn.

"Bob told me I'd do more than play football at Washburn, that I'd get an education," said Fletcher, who in 1988 was the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor in the state of Washington. "It was the best decision I ever made in my life. The education

got at Washburn was a jewel that has served me to this very day."

Fletcher and Harmon, who ranks No. 3 in rushing in WU history, are joined by two other running backs on the 11-man All-Century team: career rushing leader Dino DeLisa (2,794 yards), the only back to get 1,000 yards in one season, and Clarence "Curley" Edwinson, who played on the heralded 1930 squad and was a charter inductee in the WU Hall of Fame.

The quarterbacks chosen were Mike Grogan, who had a 25-15-1 record in four years as a starter with two appearances in the Boot Hill Bowl, and Mike Atkins, a Hall of Fame member who fit the mold of the classic dropback passer.

Two first-team All-America wide receivers, MIAA record-holder Michael Dritlein (170 receptions for 3,103 yards) and Troy Slusser (107 for 2,428), are included, along with Hall of Fame offensive lineman Darryl "Dode" Lesser and two NAIA All-America defensive linemen, Hall of Famer Bob Noblitt and Charlie Braden.

The specialist is place-kicker Nick Kresic, a second-team NAIA All-American in 1986 who holds the school record for field goals of 34 career and 17 in a season.