

= Chris Howard ( American football ) =

Christopher L. " Chris " Howard ( born May 5 , 1975 ) is a retired professional American football running back who played in the National Football League ( NFL ) for the Jacksonville Jaguars . Howard had been drafted by the Denver Broncos in the fifth round of the 1998 NFL Draft . His professional football career was haunted by fumble troubles , which caused the Broncos to release him before he played a regular season game for them . Howard began to have fumble problems again when the Jaguars acquired and promoted him to a role as a regular player .

He had previously played for the Michigan Wolverines football team where in the 1997 NCAA Division I @-@ A football season , his final year at Michigan , they won a National Championship . Howard led the National Champion 1997 Michigan Wolverines football team in rushing and was a Hula Bowl MVP in 1998 . Chris attended Louisiana high school football powerhouse , John Curtis Christian High School in River Ridge , Louisiana . He was formerly married to Gabrielle Union .

= = Early years = =

Howard was born in Kenner , Louisiana . He enrolled at Michigan after playing for Louisiana High School football powerhouse John Curtis Christian High School .

= = College career = =

In four years at Michigan from 1994 to 1997 , he totaled 1876 yards rushing on 418 carries and added 429 yards receiving on 60 receptions . He totaled nine 100 @-@ yard rushing efforts for Michigan including four during the 1997 championship season . In college , his biggest rushing effort was 127 yards against the Minnesota Golden Gophers in 1996 . However , he once rushed for 109 yards and 4 touchdowns against the UCLA Bruins . In addition , Howard also posted the fourth longest rush in school history , an 86 @-@ yard rush .

In 1996 , he had five 100 @-@ yard games despite only playing in ten games as a junior . He totaled 725 yards rushing and ten touchdowns in the ten games . However , he was second on the team in rushing to sophomore Clarence Williams who tallied 837 yards in 12 games .

In the 1997 championship season , he was the rushing leader for a fundamentally sound undefeated 12 ? 0 Michigan team that did not have a 1000 @-@ yard rusher or 500 @-@ yard receiver . The team emphasized defense behind 1997 Heisman Trophy winning defensive back Charles Woodson . Howard totaled 938 yards rushing on 199 carries and 276 yards receiving on 37 receptions . He was second on the team in scoring to placekicker Craig Baker with 7 rushing touchdowns and 1 receiving touchdown . He was complemented in the backfield by freshman Anthony Thomas who added 549 yards and 5 rushing touchdowns .

One of the key games in Michigan 's 1997 National Championship season was the game against the unbeaten Penn State Nittany Lions , then ranked Number 2 in the nation . Howard rushed for 120 yards and a touchdown in the win over the Nittany Lions , prompting Coach Lloyd Carr to comment : " I think that Chris Howard is a very underrated back . He proved that today . " Michigan controlled the game and led 34 ? 0 after 3 quarters behind Howard ? s best collegiate performance in terms of yards from scrimmage with 120 yards rushing and 41 yards receiving .

The 1997 season concluded with a 21 ? 16 win over Washington State in the January 1 , 1998 Rose Bowl . Howard led all rushers in the game with 70 yards rushing on 19 carries .

He was also the North MVP for the 1998 edition of the Hula Bowl , an invitational college football all @-@ star game . He rushed for 116 yards on 14 carries and was involved in the culminating score in the North ? s second half comeback . He handed off to Joe Jurevicius on a reverse play which ended with Jurevicius passing to Brian Griese for a five @-@ yard touchdown pass . The North would lose , however , when the missed extra point left the door open for a game winning field goal .

= = Professional career = =

Howard was selected by the Denver Broncos in the fifth round of the 1998 NFL Draft , but he had a difficult pre @-@ season with the Broncos in 1998 , fumbling five times in two games . The Broncos released him from their practice squad in September 1998 , and he was signed by the Jacksonville Jaguars . At the time , Jacksonville Coach Tom Coughlin said : " Chris Howard is a young man and he certainly still is developmental . A couple weeks into our system and I think he 'll be a guy who can be counted on . But I 'm not going to say we 're done with our evaluations just yet . " Coughlin said of Howard 's fumbles with Denver : " It was carelessness . Basically , we 'll start from scratch with him fundamentally here . " Howard had professional totals of 123 yards rushing on 41 carries and 37 yards receiving on five receptions . In 2000 , his final year , he fumbled twice on only 21 carries in the first two games . These were his final two career NFL games .

= = Personal life = =

Chris Howard married actress Gabrielle Union on May 5 , 2001 . They separated in 2005 and their divorce was made final in April 2006 .