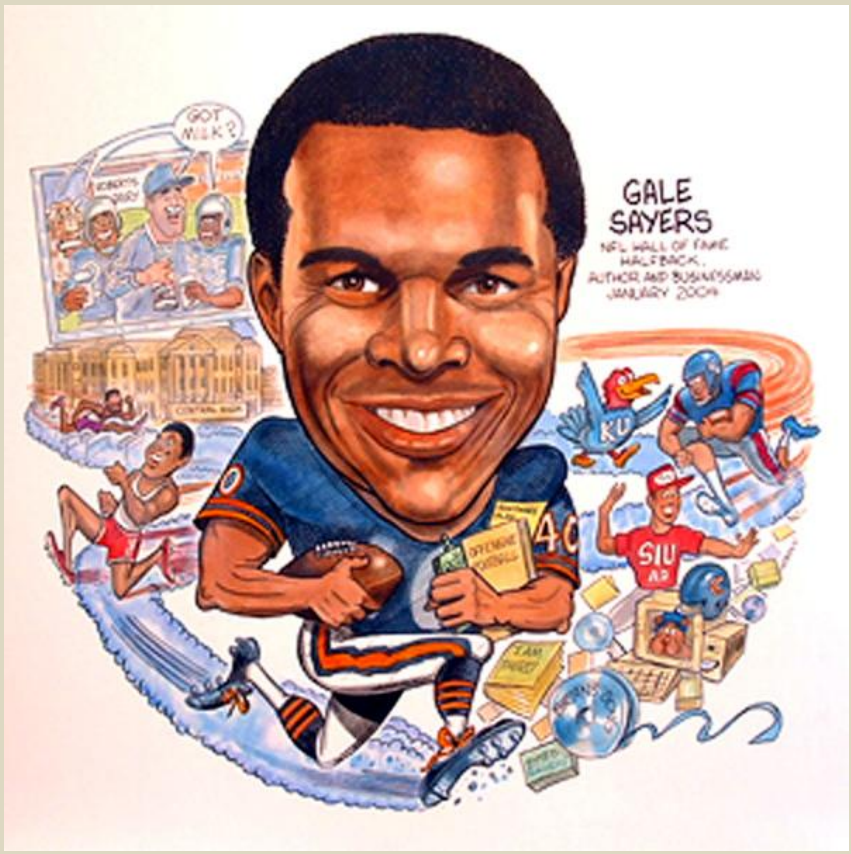

Gale Sayers
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Some guests lined up hours early to get their photograph taken with NFL great Gale Sayers before his induction into the OPC Face on the Barroom Floor. One guest asked Sayers to autograph the back of a Chicago Bears football jersey he wore with No. 40 in honor of Sayers, who played for the team from 1965 through 1971. Among roasters was Congressman Tom Osborne, a former Nebraska football coach, along with Omaha attorney Don Fiedler, the honoree's brother Roger Sayers, and Fred Abboud. Abboud was the coach of a 1955 Midget Football team sponsored by Roberts Dairy that included both Gale and Roger Sayers. The brothers were then ages 12 and 13. A touching moment at the Face event was the reunion of about a dozen members of the team that won the Nebraska State Midget Football League State Championship in 1955 and 1956. The teammates were almost 50 years older and grayer, but still proud of their achievement. Abboud says the Sayers brothers were spectacular: "You could see how great and how fast both of them were. It didn't take a whole lot of coaching on my part." Sayers went on from Midget Football and an athletic career at Omaha Central High School to play for the University of Kansas Jayhawks, 1961-1965. The "Kansas Comet" was a two-time All-American tailback whose 99-yard touchdown run as a sophomore against Nebraska is still an NCAA record today. Gale Sayers was selected in the 1965 NFL draft by the Chicago Bears.