Bonnie R. Sloan was born June 1, 1948, his native of Lebanon, Tennessee, profoundly deaf since birth. He was always dreaming of playing football. As young boy, he often played with neighborhood children much larger than himself.

His middle school coach recognized his ability and practiced with him, then introduced him to the coach at Isaac Litton High School in Nashville, TN. Sloan quickly proved that he was a player whose hearing impairment did nothing to hinder. He's rapidly became one of the team's leaders as well as star player. During Sloan's years as an end and tackle for the Litton Lions Football team, he was selected for the All-City teams by both Nashville newspapers and was included on the second all-State team.

After his graduation at the high school, Sloan attended Austin Peay State University (APSU) from 1969 through 1973. A superlative defensive tackle for the Governors, Sloan led the team during his senior year in 1972 with 89 individual tackles and 35 assists, and received honorable mention All-America honors. Named to the All-OVC glitter team in 1971 and 1972, he had career totals of 204 solo tackles and 119 assists.

Sloan, his jersey shirt #79, was a 10th round selection (242th overall pick) of the 1973 NFL Draft to the professional ranks by the St. Louis Cardinals. He was the first deaf football player in NFL history, he had a brief, successful defensive tackle football career which was cut short by a knee injury. He left the Cardinals in 1975 to play for the New Orleans Saints. While an injury during his first game in the NFL cut his career short, his impact was tremendous.

As a rookie he was named the 1973 Better Hearing Honorary Chairman by the St. Louis Hearing and Speech Center, and Sloan will be among those featured in the upcoming videotapes and captioned slides the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and Rochester Institute of Technology are doing on “Great Deaf Americans.” Bonnie, who academic emphasis was in health and physical education, he employed by the Odum Sausage Co. in Madison, Wisconsin. Sloan,
Kenny Walker was the second deaf football player in NFL history, a defensive lineman with Denver Broncos in 1991 and 1992. After two years with Broncos, Kenny joined the Calgary Stampeders, becoming the first deaf player in history of the Canadian Football League (CFL).

Recently, Kenny has started working with the Iowa School for the Deaf as a counselor and a football coach. He is also in the book called, “Roar of Silence” written by Bob Schaller.

Kenny has joined the 2010 coaching staff to help with the defensive linemen at Gallaudet University.