



PRESS RELEASE

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DOCUMENTARY SCREENING & POST-VIEWING CONVERSATION

Black and Blue

The Story of Gerald Ford, Willis Ward
and the 1934 Michigan–Georgia Tech Football Game



Ford (#48) and Ward (#61), University of Michigan



Ward and Ford, decades later

A POST-VIEWING CONVERSATION WITH



Dr. Rafik Mohamed
Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs,
CSUSB

A discussion of race and racism in sports with
the author of *Black Men on the Blacktop*.

Thursday, October 15
4:00 – 6:30 PM
Indian Wells Center (IW), Room 120
CSUSB Palm Desert Campus



LIMITED SEATING
RSVP by
October 12

Sponsored by
CSUSB Palm Desert Chapter of the Ford Leadership Forum / Gerald R.
Ford Presidential Fellows Program



CSUSB Palm Desert Campus to screen documentary about Gerald Ford, Willis Ward and race in college sports

PALM DESERT, Calif. – The CSUSB Palm Desert Campus Chapter of the Ford Leadership Forum / Gerald R. Ford Presidential Fellows Program will host a screening of “Black and Blue: The Story

of Gerald Ford, Willis Ward and the 1934 Michigan-Georgia Tech Football Game” on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 4-6:30 p.m. in the campus’s Indian Wells Center for Educational Excellence Building, Room 120.

The documentary explores the story of Willis Ward, the University of Michigan’s lone Black football player in 1934, and the pressure placed on the university to bench him before a game against Georgia Tech, which refused to play against a Black athlete. Ward’s teammate and close friend, Gerald Ford, future president of the United States, threatened to quit the team in protest.

Long before becoming president of the United States, Ford faced a defining choice about leadership, friendship and racial injustice. The documentary examines that moment and its lasting significance.

Following the screening, attendees are invited to participate in a candid conversation about race, racism and leadership in sports with Rafik Mohamed, CSUSB provost and vice president for academic affairs. Mohamed is the author of “Black Men on the Black Top: Basketball and the Politics of Race.”

Seating is limited, and attendees are asked to RSVP by Monday, Oct. 12, by completing the [online registration form](#). A [trailer for the documentary is available online](#).

The CSUSB Palm Desert Campus is located at 37500 Cook St., Palm Desert. The event is free, but visitors must purchase a parking permit through the parking dispenser located in the campus parking lot or through the ParkMobile service (signs are located throughout the parking lot.)

About the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus: The [CSUSB Palm Desert Campus](#) is dedicated to providing a transformative educational experience in the Coachella Valley. With a focus on academic excellence and community engagement, the campus offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs designed to meet the diverse needs of its students and the region.

For more information about the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus, contact Mike Singer in the Office of Marketing and Communications at msinger@csusb.edu or (760) 341-2883, ext. 78107, or visit the PDC website at www.csusb.edu/pdc.