A Hall of Fame Class for the AGES

Auburn's Ed Dyas and 17 Others Enter the College Football Hall of Fame Dec. 8 at the 52nd NFF Annual Awards Dinner in New York City

Dyas (pictured above) joins an elite group of only 21 people to earn the dual distinction of NFF National Scholar-Athlete and College Football Hall of Fame inductee.
Chairman's Message

For more than sixty years, the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) has represented everything right about our great sport.

From enshrining the greatest players and coaches in the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind., to our grassroots network of 121 chapters that stage more than 1,000 events and impact 400,000 student-athletes each year, the NFF mission is simply to build leaders through football. The parallels between winning on the field and success later in life are powerful, and we work hard to ensure that young people who play our game develop the skills to go on to be leaders in their chosen fields later in life.

Three of our preeminent honors, the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Awards, the Campbell Trophy, formerly known as the Draddy Trophy and presented by HealthSouth (See back page for details on the name change), and the MacArthur Bowl, are celebrating important milestones in 2009. The MacArthur Bowl and the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Program each celebrate their 50th anniversaries in 2009 while the Campbell Trophy will be presented for the 20th time this year.

The Campbell Trophy, which goes to the nation’s top scholar-athlete, and the National Scholar-Athlete Awards, totaling $277,000 in post-graduate scholarships, will be presented at the NFF Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 8 in New York City while the winner of the Citi BCS National Championship on Jan. 7 in Pasadena, Calif., will claim MacArthur Bowl the following day at a press conference.

These milestones provide us with an opportunity to look back and celebrate the rich history that they have helped us capture over the years. In the current issue of the Footballletter, we begin to secure the next chapter of our history with the profiles of the 2009 College Football Hall of Fame Class and the recipients of the 2009 Major Awards.

As you read the Footballletter, I encourage you to remember the valuable role football has played in your life, and I ask you to think about how you can give back to our sport. This organization is yours. Reach out to us with your ideas. Connect with your local chapter. Get involved. Become a member.

Thank you for your continued support, passion, creativity and interest.

Respectfully,

Archie Manning
NFF Chairman

Celebrating the 20th Presentation of the William V. Campbell Trophy

Chad Pennington of Marshall becomes the 10th recipient of the William V. Campbell Trophy (formerly the Draddy Trophy) as he accepts the award from then-NFF Chairman Jon F. Hanson at the 1999 NFF Annual Awards Dinner.

The 50th Anniversary of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Program

The first NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class in 1959 with then-NFF Chairman Chester J. LaRoche. Top Row (L-R): Maurice Doke of Texas and Paul J. Choquette of Brown University. Next Step Down: Pat Smyth of Wyoming and Neyle Selke of Tennessee, Donald P. Newell of California, Philip G. Roes of Ohio Wesleyan, Harry R. Tolly of Nebraska, and LaRoche. Gerhard Schwedes of Syracuse was not available when picture was taken.

The 50th Anniversary of the MacArthur Bowl

At the 1973 NFF Annual Awards Dinner, L-R: MacArthur Bowl Committee Chairman John Galbreath, Notre Dame coach Ara Parseghian, 1973 NFF Gold Medal recipient John Wayne, 1972 NFF Gold Medal recipient Gerald R. Ford, and NFF Chairman Vincent dePaul Draddy. Alabama coach Bear Bryant missed the photo, and Notre Dame would go on to beat Alabama, 24-23, in the 40th Annual Sugar Bowl in one of the most spectacular college games ever played, claiming the MacArthur Bowl and what was then a mythical national championship.
The Definitive Retroactive Heisman Memorial Trophy

by NFF Historian Dan Jenkins

A true legend in the field of sports journalism, Jenkins’ remarkable career spans more than 60 years, a record 500-plus articles in Sports Illustrated, an ongoing 25-year stint as a columnist for Golf Digest, and 20 books including 10 best-selling novels from “Semi-Tough” to “The Franchise Babe.” His most recent book, published in June and titled “Jenkins at the Majors,” covers a 50-year history of the game and exhibits Jenkins’ talent as the best golf writer ever, a reputation that is only surpassed by his genius and standing among those who have occupied the college football press box since the days of Grantland Rice.

I have always found that decision to be a curious one, to put it kindly. Was the DAC unaware that the Rose Bowl was in Pasadena, Calif., and the postseason contest had started in 1902 and had been played annually since 1916? Or that the East-West Shrine Game in San Francisco had been a fixture on the collegiate landscape since 1925? It wasn’t exactly a secret by 1935 that there was blocking and tackling going on all over the Midwest, Southwest, Northwest, Missouri Valley, and out on the Pacific Coast.

Someone must have got his hands on a Texaco road map and pointed this out because the Downtown Athletic Club of Lower New York City made the Heisman a national award a year later.

All of which has to do with why, without taking a statue away from Jay Berwanger, I’m awarding TCU’s Slingin’ Sam Baugh the Western Region Heisman for 1935. That season Baugh led the nation in passing and out on the Pacific Coast.

As your official historian I wanted to get you arguing, debating, cursing, and possibly kicking inanimate objects over some of the selections. Nothing like an exercise of this nature to get the heart started.

It was a fun-filled project, but not an easy one. Many crucial decisions had to be made, not only with the retro winners but in choosing the runners-up each year.

There could have been several double-winners, especially from the early days. Truth is, I nimbly ran around in circles to avoid them. But the overwhelming evidence dictated that at least one double winner could not be avoided.

This was Chic Harley, the game’s first true national hero. Harley was movie-star handsome, a do-it-all halfback at Ohio State, a lad whose unique ball-carrying style was once described by the literary giant James Thurber as a combination of “music and cannon fire.”

Harley gets my nod in 1917 and again in 1919 after returning to school from a year in military service during the First World War.

Since he put the Buckeyes on the map, it was tempting to make him a three-time recipient, for history insinuates that as a sophomore he was probably the nation’s most exciting player in 1916 as well.

It was none other than Red Grange, after galloping like a ghost into the national consciousness four years later at Illinois, who said that Chic Harley had been his idol and inspiration when he was a youngster.

A word about 1935. Most Heisman fans accept the fact that Jay Berwanger, the University of Chicago halfback, was the first winner. But I wonder how many of today’s generation know that the award was first known as the Downtown Athletic Club Trophy for “the outstanding college football player of the year?” Or, more importantly, that no player west of the Mississippi River was eligible to receive the award in 1935?

Enjoy the arguments.

Here’s breaking news for all you Heisman fans. The award now goes back to 1889, the first year All-Americans were selected by a familiar gentleman named Walter Camp. That particular year seems like a sensible stopping or starting point where Heismands are concerned. More so than, say, Creation.

There was a thought to go back only as far as 1906, when the forward pass was legalized. After all, this was the legislation that lifted the game out of mud and into the arena. Look around these days and you find trophies of all the individual awards, and the most respected.

Of course, many others have since entered the pantheon, too many famous pioneers, such as Pudge Heffelfinger, T. Truxton Hare, and Willie Heston.

The Heisman, as you know, is the granddaddy of all the individual awards, and the most respected. Of course, many others have since entered the arena. Look around these days and you find trophies available for…

• The Best Interior Lineman Who Didn’t Major in P. E.
• The Wide Receiver Most Likely to be Cut by the Dallas Cowboys
• The Top All-America Linebacker Who’s Not from Ohio State.
• The 300-pound Defensive Hulk Least Likely to Wind Up on Dancing With the Stars.
• The Most Talented Quarterback Not Related to the Manning Family.

...and many others named for the likes of John Outland, Doak Walker, Davey O’Brien, Jim Thorpe, Bronko Nagurski, Dick Butkus, Lou Groza, and on and on. It’s a growth industry.

How did this Retro Heisman Memorial Trophy thing come about, you may ask?

I did it.

As your official historian I wanted to get you arguing, debating, cursing, and possibly kicking inanimate objects over some of the selections. Nothing like an exercise of this nature to get the heart started.

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<th>RUNNERS UP</th>
</tr>
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| 1935 | Sam Baugh, TCU, QB            | Bobby Wilson, SMU, HB  
Bobby Grayson, Stanford, FB  
Ozzie Simmons, Iowa, HB  
Ed Goddard, Wash. State, QB  
Pug Lund, Minnesota, HB  
Dixie Howell, Alabama, HB  
Buzz Borries, Navy, HB  
Bill Wallace, Rice, HB |
| 1934 | Don Hutson, Alabama, E        | George Sauer, Nebraska, FB  
Cliff Montgomery, Columbia, QB  
Duane Purvis, Purdue, HB |
| 1933 | Beattie Feathers, Tenness, HB | Cotton Warburton, USC, HB  
Eugene Sauer, Nebraska, FB  
Cliff Montgomery, Columbia, QB  
Duane Purvis, Purdue, HB |
| 1932 | Harry Newman, Michigan, QB    | Warren Heller, Pitt, HB  
Jimmy Hitchcock, Auburn, HB  
John (Hurry) Cain, Alabama, HB  
Harrison Stafford, Texas, HB |
| 1931 | Gaius (Gus) Shaver, USC, QB   | Ermy Pinckert, USC, HB  
Marchy Schwartz, Notre Dame, HB  
Albie Booth, Yale, HB  
Speedy Mason, SMU, HB |
| 1930 | Frank Carideo, Notre Dame, QB | Marchy Schwartz, Notre Dame, HB  
Ermy Pinckert, USC, HB  
Wes Fesler, Ohio State, E  
Orv Mohler, USC, HB |
| 1929 | Bronko Nagurski, Minnesota, FB| Frank Carideo, Notre Dame, QB  
Gene McEver, Tennessee, HB  
Chris Cagle, Army, HB  
Cy Leland, TCU, HB |
| 1928 | Chris Cagle, Army, HB          | Ken Strong, NYU, HB  
Howard Harpster, Carnegie Tech, QB  
Dutch Clark, Colorado College, QB  
Warner Mizell, Georgia Tech, HB |
| 1927 | Morley Drury, USC, QB          | Gibby Welch, Pitt, HB  
Bruce Caldwell, Yale, QB  
Joel Hunt, Texas A&M, HB  
Bennie Oosterbaan, Michigan, E |
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| 1926 | **Benny Friedman, Michigan, QB** | Tom Hamilton, Navy, HB  
 Ralph (Moon) Baker, Northwestern, HB  
 Mort Kaer, USC, HB  
 Herb Joesting, Minnesota, FB  
 Red Grange, Illinois, HB |
| 1925 | **Ernie Nevers, Stanford, FB** | George Wilson, Washington, HB  
 Andy Oberlander, Dartmouth, HB  
 Johnny Mack Brown, Alabama, HB  
 Elmer Layden, Notre Dame, FB  
 Harry Stuhldreher, Notre Dame, QB  
 Jim Crowley, Notre Dame, HB  
 Don Miller, Notre Dame, HB  
 Red Grange, Illinois, HB |
| 1924 | **Red Grange, Illinois, HB** | “Memphis Bill” Mallory, Yale, FB  
 Eddie Tryon, Colgate, HB  
 Harry Kipke, Michigan, QB  
 Harry Kipke, Michigan, QB  
 Gordon Locke, Iowa, HB  
 Herb Treat, Princeton, T  
 John Thomas, Chicago, FB |
| 1923 | **George Pfann, Cornell, QB** | Bo McMillin, Centre, QB  
 Ben Lee Boynton, Williams, HB  
 Pete Stinchcomb, Ohio State, HB  
 Wally French, Army, FB  
 Eddie Casey, Harvard, FB  
 Ben Lee Boynton, Williams, HB  
 Bo McMillin, Centre, HB  
 George Gipp, Notre Dame, FB|
| 1922 | **Brick Muller, California, E** | Aubrey Devine, Iowa, QB  
 Eddie Kaw, Cornell, HB  
 Brick Muller, California, E  
 Glenn Killinger, Penn State, HB |
| 1921 | **Bo McMillin, Centre, HB** | Bo McMillin, Centre, QB  
 Ben Lee Boynton, Williams, HB  
 Pete Stinchcomb, Ohio State, HB  
 Wally French, Army, FB  
 Eddie Casey, Harvard, FB  
 Ben Lee Boynton, Williams, HB  
 Bo McMillin, Centre, HB  
 George Gipp, Notre Dame, FB |
| 1920 | **George Gipp, Notre Dame, FB** | Chic Harley, Ohio State, HB  
 Elmer Oliphant, Army, FB  
 Joe Guyon, Georgia Tech, T  
 Paul Robeson, Rutgers, E  
 Tank McLaren, Pitt, FB  
 Chic Harley, Ohio State, HB  
 Fats Henry, Washington & Jefferson, T |
| 1919 | **Fats Henry, Washington & Jefferson, T** | Tom Davies, Pitt, HB  
 Joe Guyon, Georgia Tech, T  
 Paul Robeson, Rutgers, E  
 Tank McLaren, Pitt, FB  
 Chic Harley, Ohio State, HB  
 Fats Henry, 1918 |
The Heisman Winners Before There Was a Heisman

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<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>WINNER</th>
<th>RUNNERS UP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Charlie Brickley, Harvard, QB</td>
<td>Charlie Brickley, 1913, Eddie Mahan, 1914</td>
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<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Jim Thorpe, Carlisle, FB</td>
<td>Hobey Baker, 1912, Jim Thorpe, 1911</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>Johnny McGovern, Minnesota, QB</td>
<td>Johnny McGovern, 1910, Ted Coy, 1909</td>
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<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>Ted Coy, Yale, FB</td>
<td>Johnny McGovern, Minnesota, QB, Steve Philbin, Yale, HB, Dave Allerdice, Michigan, HB, Hamilton Fish, Harvard, T</td>
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<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Doc Fenton, LSU, QB</td>
<td>Doc Fenton, 1908, Johnny McGovern, 1910</td>
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<tr>
<td>YEAR</td>
<td>WINNER</td>
<td>RUNNERS UP</td>
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<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>Germany Schulz, Michigan, C</td>
<td>Dwight (Tad) Jones, Yale, QB, Ted Coy, Yale, FB, Wally Steffen, Chicago, QB, Al Exendine, Carlisle, E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>Walter Echtersall, Chicago, QB</td>
<td>Dwight (Tad) Jones, Yale, HB, Eddie Dillon, Princeton, HB, Bill Hollenbeck, Penn, HB, Billy Knox, Yale, HB</td>
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<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Tom Shevlin, Yale, E</td>
<td>Walter Eckersall, Chicago, QB, Tom Hammond, Michigan, HB, Hugo Bezdek, Chicago, FB, Frank Mt. Pleasant, Carlisle, HB, Tom Shevlin, Yale, E, Andy Smith, Penn, FB, Foster Rockwell, Yale, QB, Vince Stevenson, Penn, QB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>Willie Heston, Michigan, HB</td>
<td>Andy Smith, Penn, FB, Foster Rockwell, Yale, QB, Vince Stevenson, Penn, QB, Tom Graydon, Harvard, FB, Willie Heston, Michigan, HB, Dana Kafer, Princeton, HB, Henry Hooper, Dartmouth, C, Tom Shevlin, Yale, E, Andy Smith, Penn, FB, Foster Rockwell, Yale, QB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>T. Truxton Hare, Penn, G/FB</td>
<td>T. Truxton Hare, Penn, G, Charlie Daly, Harvard, QB, Pat O'Dea, Wisconsin, FB, John Outland, Penn, HB, Pat O'Dea, Wisconsin, FB, T. Truxton Hare, Penn, G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Clarence Hersberger, Chicago, FB</td>
<td>John Outland, Penn, HB, T. Truxton Hare, Penn, G, Charlie Daly, Harvard, QB, Pat O'Dea, Wisconsin, FB, T. Truxton Hare, Penn, G, Charles Daly, Harvard, QB, Pat O'Dea, Wisconsin, FB, T. Truxton Hare, Penn, G, Charles Daly, Harvard, QB, Pat O'Dea, Wisconsin, FB</td>
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</table>
### The Heisman Winners Before There Was a Heisman

**YEAR** | **WINNER** | **RUNNERS UP**
--- | --- | ---
1897 | John Outland, Penn, T | T. Truxtun Hare, Penn, G
|  |  | Eddie Bray, Lafayette, HB
|  |  | Addison (King) Kelly, Princeton, HB
|  |  | John Baird, Princeton, QB
1896 | Addison (King) Kelly, Princeton, HB | John Baird, Princeton, FB
|  |  | Charley Gelbert, Penn, E
|  |  | Clarence Fincke, Yale, QB
|  |  | Buck Warton, Penn, G
1895 | George Brooke, Penn, FB | Clint Wyckoff, Cornell, QB
|  |  | Charlie Brewer, Harvard, HB
|  |  | Brinck Thorne, Yale, HB
1894 | Frank Butterworth, Yale, FB | Frank Hinkey, Yale, E
|  |  | George Brooke, Penn, FB
|  |  | Biffy Lea, Princeton, T
1893 | Frank Hinkey, Yale, E | Frank Butterworth, Yale, FB
|  |  | Tom Trenchard, Princeton, E
|  |  | Charlie Brewer, Harvard, HB
|  |  | Ma Newell, Harvard, T
1892 | Marshall (Ma) Newell, Harvard, T | Frank Hinkey, Yale, E
|  |  | Phil King, Princeton, HB
|  |  | Vance McCormick, Yale, QB
|  |  | Art (Beef) Wheeler, Princeton, G
1891 | Lee (Bum) McClung, Yale, HB | Pudge Hefelfinger, Yale, G
|  |  | Ma Newell, Harvard, T
|  |  | Frank Hinkey, Yale, E
|  |  | Phil King, Princeton, QB
1890 | Pudge Hefelfinger, Yale, G | Shep Homans, Princeton, FB
|  |  | Lee McClung, Yale, HB
|  |  | Dudley Dean, Harvard, QB
|  |  | Ma Newell, Harvard, T
1889 | Amos Alonzo Stagg, Yale, E | Pudge Hefelfinger, Yale, G
|  |  | Knowlton Ames, Princeton, FB
|  |  | Edgar Allen Poe, Princeton, QB
|  |  | Hector Cowan, Princeton, T
On Dec. 8, 2009, at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City, 16 All-America players and two legendary coaches will take their place in the College Football Hall of Fame alongside the greatest of all time. Of the 4.72 million individuals who have played college football since Princeton first battled Rutgers on Nov. 6, 1869, only 1,052 champions of the gridiron (866 players and 186 coaches, including this year’s class) have earned the right to be immortalized in the sport’s ultimate shrine.

Two Heisman Trophy winners • Seven unanimous First Team All-Americans • One Maxwell Award winner
Five consensus first team All-Americans • Two Walter Camp Players of the Year • Two Lombardi Award winners
One Davey O’Brien Award winner • Two NFF National Scholar-Athletes • Five Academic All-Americans
Seven multiple-year first team All-America honorees • Four members of national championship teams
Eight members of conference championship teams • Six decades and two centuries represented
Pervis Atkins took a circuitous route to New Mexico State University and First-Team All-America status.

Born in Ruston, La., in 1935, he moved to Oakland, Calif., in the early 1940s. After attending Technical High School, Atkins enrolled at San Francisco State for a semester and a half and ran track before joining the Marines. After three years in the military, where he also logged time playing on a football team, he spent a semester at Santa Ana College.

Then came the ride of his life when he decided to take a buddy to Las Cruces, N.M. When he arrived, Atkins was introduced to New Mexico State head football coach Warren Woodson, who was just beginning his coaching tenure with the Aggies after stops at Central Arkansas, Hardin-Simmons (TX) and Arizona.

“Warren Woodson and I talked it up,” Atkins recalled. “And he asked me what I was going to do. And that evolved into a scholarship because I had a couple years to finish school.”

Three years later, Atkins, after being showcased in New Mexico State’s explosive offense, had transformed himself from an athletic nomad to a third-round NFL draft pick, and his epic runs began a trend that would help New Mexico State make major-college history with four straight years leading the nation in rushing from 1959-62.

“[Pervis] was an athletic nomad,” said Eric Smalley, an assistant coach with the Aggies during Atkins’ time there. Smalley later coached at LSU and with the NFL’s Chicago Bears and Arizona Cardinals. “He (Woodson) ran the wing-T, and he had the best quarterback in the country, Charlie Johnson,” Atkins said. “Johnson later would play for the St. Louis Cardinals and was traded to Denver and played for Houston. He was an amazing athlete. He is a scratch golfer now. He was a three-point basketball shooter. I don’t know how they (other schools) missed him.”

With Johnson at the helm, Atkins put his maturity, fast hands, speed and all those years in the military to use. He also caught a break when Bob Gaiters, who would lead the country in rushing in 1960, suffered an injury.

“And they gave me the ball,” said Atkins, who would also play flanker for the Aggies. “I wanted to be quarterback, but he (Johnson) was just too good of a quarterback. I was a class sprinter. That is pretty much the entire story. If Bob hadn’t gotten hurt he would have been running the ball, and I would have caught them.”

New Mexico State posted an 8-3 record in 1959 and beat North Texas, 28-8, in the Sun Bowl. A year later, when Atkins was a senior and Gaiters had returned, the team went 11-0 and toppled Utah State, 20-13, in the Sun Bowl again and finished among the top 20 teams in both major polls.

“The year we were 11-0, we had a 160-pound middle linebacker who would either hurt you or himself all day long,” Atkins said. “He didn’t hurt himself any of the time. He would stick it to you all day long. All of sudden professional scouts started watching our games. We had a lot of good football players. And Warren Woodson was quite an interesting man. He had a staff of four and that was it.”

After retiring from the NFL, Atkins worked in sports television, later joining the Ashley-Famous Talent Agency and ABC Television. He then founded his own talent agency, Atkins and Associates. He still resides in Los Angeles.

Tim Brown was a wide receiver for the Notre Dame Fighting Irish from 1984 to 1987. He is known for his exceptional ability to catch and return kicks.

“Jim Brown was certainly relate to how a coaching change can affect a player’s production on the field and ultimately a career,” said Brown. Arriving in South Bend, Ind., in 1984, Brown played his first two seasons for Irish head coach Gerry Faust before Lou Holtz arrived.

“I was just excited to play football at the highest level. I loved football,” Brown said. “And I wanted to play hard, and I wanted to represent myself well. But when Lou Holtz came there things sort of changed. My focus was still on academics, but athletically I knew I could maybe do something that was a little special.”

A good receiver his first two seasons, he set a freshman record of 28 receptions in 1984 and added 25 as a sophomore in 1985. But Notre Dame’s program was going nowhere. Then Holtz arrived, launching Brown to All-America status twice and the team to the 1988 Cotton Bowl.

As a junior, he set a Notre Dame record for all-purpose yards with 1,937 yards, which still stands, and during his senior campaign Brown won the Heisman Trophy and the Walter Camp Award.

“Gerry was a great guy and we loved him dearly,” Brown added. “But the system he had wasn’t going to work in college football. All of a sudden after the option, we have a wide-open passing attack and defensively the guys liked what they were doing on that side also. My first two years were sort of ho-hum, and my last two years were the best you could possibly have as a college football athlete.”

Listed as a flanker at Notre Dame, Brown electrified fans in the final game of his junior season when he led a 38-37 come-from-behind victory at USC. Brown had 254 all-purpose yards in the upset of the Trojans, adding a 56-yard punt return that set up the winning field goal as time ran out.

“I can’t imagine that there’s anyone else who can have such a major effect on a football game in as many ways as Tim Brown can,” Holtz once said.

Although Notre Dame finished only 5-6 Holtz’ first season as the Irish head coach, the stage was set for Brown’s senior season. In the second game of the 1987 season against Michigan State, Brown’s back-to-back punt returns of 66 and 71 yards for touchdowns keyed a 31-8 rout of Rose Bowl-bound Michigan State and set up Brown as the Heisman Trophy favorite.

Brown, nicknamed “Touchdown Timmy,” led Notre Dame as the all-time leader in career pass receiving yards (2,493) and all-purpose yardage (5,024 yards) and had six returns (three kickoff and three punts) for touchdowns during his career.

His NFL career included nine Pro Bowls during 15 seasons (1988-2003) with the Raiders, catching at least 75 passes in 10 straight seasons and a final 16th season with Tampa Bay in 2004. He currently lives in DeSoto, Texas, a Dallas suburb, serving as the national chairman of Athletes & Entertainers for Kids.

“When you picked up a helmet and a football when you were 8 or 9 years old, the last thing you thought about was ending up in College Football Hall of Fame,” said Brown, the 43rd Notre Dame player to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.
Chuck Cecil • Defensive Back • 1984-87 • Arizona

Chuck Cecil is a testimonial to the fact size doesn’t matter. At 6-foot, 150 pounds, he was lightly recruited out of Helix High school in La Mesa, Calif., yet he became Arizona’s all-time interception leader and later a ferocious hitter in the NFL as well.

“Chuck walked on at Arizona and was a player that I can’t imagine anybody being tougher,” said Dick Tomey, who was Cecil’s college coach his senior season at Arizona. “He was just a tough hombre and a great leader. He was a tremendous student. He was the outstanding student-athlete of his senior year in addition to being an NFL Draft choice. He led by example and related to all the players.”

Cecil played four seasons at Arizona, three under the late Larry Smith and his final season under Tomey. The Wildcats’ best season during that era was probably Cecil’s junior season in 1986, with Arizona posting a 9-3 record (losing three conference games by a total of 19 points). His 100-yard interception return (106 in total return yardage), which helped beat a Rose Bowl-bound Arizona State, 34-17, that year remains a fan favorite. The season concluded with 30-21 victory against North Carolina in the Aloha Bowl with Cecil as the MVP. Then Coach Tomey arrived.

“It took us awhile to gain his trust,” Tomey said. “We were new coaches and the other coaches had done a great job. And there was some rebellion trying to get things related to all the players.”

While Arizona was only 4-4-3 in 1987, Cecil was sensational, with nine interceptions during the season, including four in a 23-13 victory over Stanford. “And he could have had eight,” Tomey said. “He had such a nose for the ball. And because of the story — he was a walk-on, undersized and such a hitter and all of those things — I think that made him so popular in Tucson. He was very well thought of at Arizona.”

Cecil spent seven seasons in the NFL with the Green Bay Packers, Arizona Cardinals and Houston Oilers. Following the NFL, he went on the Celebrity Golf Tour and worked as a television analyst for Wildcat football.

- Consensus All-America in 1987 and the Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year.
- Two-time first-team Academic All-America and named NCAA Top Six Award recipient and a Pacific-10 Conference Medal winner.
- Set Arizona records for career interceptions (21), interceptions in a game (four) and passes defended (38).

Since 2001, he has worked the sidelines as an assistant coach for the Tennessee Titans, earning a promotion to defensive coordinator in February 2009.

“Chuck was a marvelous, tremendous football player in the NFL and has become one of the outstanding coaches,” Tomey added. “He loves golf. The only one thing he loves more than football is golf. And he is a heck of a player.”

Cecil started the Chuck Cecil Scholarship Golf Classic, benefitting University of Arizona student-athletes, and he has served as served as co-chair of a medical center campaign to build a trauma center at Arizona with his wife.

Ed Dyas • Fullback • 1958-60 • Auburn

Dr. Ed Dyas made his mark on both sides of the ball at Auburn during a time when the kicking game and defense were winning games in the Southeastern Conference. A hard-nosed runner who finished as Auburn’s sixth leading career rusher at the time, Dyas had added responsibilities as a straight-ahead kicking specialist who also played linebacker.

“I played both ways,” said Dyas. “When I kicked, I didn’t get off the bench with a clean uniform. I was in the flow of the game, and I think that helped me because there was not as much pressure on me. When I kicked before 85,000 fans, I wasn’t kicking without any dirt on my britches.

“The first team would usually stay in the game the first nine minutes,” he added. “And the second team would be in the next six minutes. The coach would leave the first team in the whole game if it was tight. But it worked out better if he played two teams.”

Dyas, who learned to kick extra points in high school, was Auburn’s kicker all four seasons and was a member of the Tigers’ 1958 undefeated team as a sophomore. But he began to blossom as a kicker his final two seasons when the NCAA widened the goal posts by a foot and a half. By the time he was a senior, he kicked a then-NCAA record 13 field goals and won four games for Auburn: 10-7 (Kentucky), 9-7 (Georgia Tech), 10-7 (Florida) and 9-6 (Georgia).

“The Georgia game was a grudge game,” Dyas remembers. “We had lost by one point the year before when Fran Tarkenton threw a pass to beat us. I had kicked two field goals in that game. My senior year when we won, I had three field goals. That shows you how we played — defense and the kicking game. I was a straight-ahead kicker. The soccer style came in a couple of years later and they broke all the records.”

Dyas finished fourth in the 1960 Heisman Trophy voting as a senior behind Navy halfback Joe Bellino, Minnesota guard Tom Brown and Mississippi quarterback Jake Gibbs. Auburn finished ranked No. 13 in the Associated Press poll, but had lost to Alabama, 3-0, in the final game of the season and did not go to a bowl.

Dyas could have played professional football. He played in the Senior Bowl and the East-West Shrine Game after his senior season. And he was drafted by Baltimore in the NFL and San Diego in the AFL. But he had always wanted to be a doctor.

“I was going to get a $5,000 signing bonus and $10,000 a year to play or go to med school,” Dyas said. “I wasn’t going to get my head beat in for that kind of money. My entire life would have been different. I wouldn’t have had my wife and four children. I might have been as successful, but I like where I am.”

After medical school Dyas became an orthopedic surgeon and opened his own sports medicine practice in Mobile. He recently retired. In 1994, he received the Walter Gilbert Award, which recognizes achievements of Tiger student-athletes after graduation.
While redefining the quarterback position with his dual running and passing abilities, Major Harris led the Mountaineers to three straight bowl games from 1987-89, including one national title game.

“I never thought about it,” said Harris of setting a standard and style of play for future quarterbacks. “I wasn’t thinking about how I was the first one to do this or that. I was just having fun and then something like that came up. It was different because I never thought that I was the first one because there were other running quarterbacks before me.”

He started as a freshman after winning the quarterback job. By his sophomore season in 1988, Harris was a real star, accumulating 1,915 yards passing, 610 yards rushing and 20 touchdowns. West Virginia tallied 11-1 to win the team’s only loss coming against Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl for the national title.

The near flawless season included a 51-30 triumph over Penn State in which Harris made a remarkable 936 yards rushing and 23 total touchdowns.

Nehlen said he knew what to do with such a talent when he first laid eyes on Harris: play option football and throw play-action passes and the long bomb off the option play. The University of Pittsburgh was looking at him as a defensive back.

“We had Major in our football camp,” Nehlen said. “People didn’t recruit Major as a quarterback, but we did. I watched him play touch football. I thought if no one touched him, then they are going to have a heck of a time tackling him. We wanted him as a quarterback right away.”

A folk hero in West Virginia, he received seven write-in votes for governor in 1988. Harris came out a year early after his junior season and was selected by the Los Angeles Raiders in the 12th round of the 1990 Draft. He spent most of his time in Canadian, Arena and semi-pro football leagues.

“To be honest, when you don’t play a lot in the NFL, you don’t expect something like this,” said Harris, who now resides in Pittsburgh and coaches high school kids. “Most of the names on the ballot and some of the guys who get elected, other than the coaches, probably had a pretty good NFL career. Sometimes the NFL career can be icing on the cake on whether you get in or not. From a career standpoint, this is the icing on the cake.”

GORDON HUDSON • Tight End • 1980-83 • Brigham Young

Playing at Brigham Young, University under coach LaVell Edwards was a tight end’s dream in the early 1980s. In Edwards’ system, the tight end was a receiver, not a blocker or decoy, and the ball was passed around like a water sprinkler on a hot summer’s day.

Gordon Hudson was a good athlete, had sure hands and was catching balls from first Jim McMahon and then Steve Young, both eventual Hall of Famers. Assistants with keen offensive minds such as Norm Chow, Mike Holmgren and Ted Tollner added to Edwards’ passing game mystique and domination of the Western Athletic Conference. There’s little wonder why the combination produced success and Hall of Fame stats for Hudson.

In those days, BYU was the passing king in college football. During the decade of 1976-1985, BYU led the country in passing offense eight times, with two of those seasons (1981 and 1983) including contributions from Hudson. A former Brighton High School (in Salt Lake City) basketball and baseball star, Hudson was originally slotted to play linebacker by the BYU coaches until they realized how well he could catch the ball.

“Gordon was tremendous,” Edwards said. “No one played tight end like he did at that time.”

Oddly enough, Hudson is the first BYU non-quarterback to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame, following Cougar signal callers Gifford Nielsen (1994), Marc Wilson (1996), McMahon (1998) and Young (2001). Edwards was inducted in 2004.

“The tight end position (at BYU) has always been as important to that offensive scheme, almost as much as the quarterback,” Hudson told the Deseret News. “To be the first one (tight end) to go to the Hall of Fame — and I am sure there will be many more after me like Chad Lewis and Dennis Pitta (a current BYU player) — I guess the Foundation is starting to recognize what great tight ends BYU continues to put out.”

Although he suited up for some varsity games as a freshman, he basically starred over his final three seasons, producing career totals of 178 receptions for 2,484 yards and 22 touchdowns.

In his 1981 sophomore season, Hudson posted the first of two straight 67-reception seasons. Included in that total was a 259-yard receiving performance in a 56-28 victory over Utah. That still stands as the single highest reception yardage total in a game by a major-college tight end in NCAA history.

His other marks that were still NCAA tight end standards entering the 2009 season included most passes caught per game (5.4) in a career, most reception yards per game in a career (75.3), and his 2,484 career receiving yards. And he basically piled up all his numbers in less than three seasons because he suffered a season-ending injury in the eighth game of the 1983 season against Utah State.

He was drafted by the Seattle Seahawks in the first round of the 1984 National Football League Supplemental Draft, but he elected to play two seasons for the Los Angeles Express of the United States Football League. His only NFL season was in 1986 with the Seahawks. Hudson currently works in the real estate business in the Utah-Idaho area.
WILLIAM LEWIS • Center • 1892-93 • Harvard

William Lewis, a son of former slaves, was a child prodigy who grew up during the post-Civil War era as African-Americans made their earliest struggles for opportunities in this country. The fact he became a symbolic figure on the football field eventually afforded Lewis an entry into the political arena.

According to Harvard University archives, Lewis was born in Virginia and entered Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute (now Virginia State) at the age of 15. He later transferred to Amherst College (Mass.) where students were required to choose a physical activity. Although he had never participated in sports, Lewis chose football, playing three seasons at Amherst.

According to Amherst archives, Lewis said: “I didn’t have any uniform, and I wore my street clothes. The first day I got my clothes all torn off and my face stepped on. The next day they gave me a uniform.”

Lewis, one of two African-Americans on the Amherst team, eventually became captain and the first African-American to lead a predominantly white football team. That meant, under the rules of that era, he called the plays because the coach couldn’t during the game.

Amherst, during his senior year of 1891, played Williams College (Mass.) for the league championship. Although the game ended in 0-0 tie on a frosty field, Lewis was cited for his gritty play by historians.

Paralleling his athletic achievements, Lewis won election to the Amherst Student Senate as a vice-president. At age 23, he attended Harvard Law School, and under the rules of the era he was eligible for varsity football, playing center from 1892-93. At 5-foot-11, 173 pounds, he was not big for a lineman, but according to Harvard archives, “his intelligence, quickness and maturity gave him a substantial advantage.”

He was named first team All-America in 1892 and 1893 by noted sportswriter Casper Whitney in Harper’s Weekly, becoming the first African-American in history to achieve the honor. Whitney wrote: “There can be no two opinions as to the choice of center: Lewis has proven himself to not only be the best center of this year, but the best center that has ever put on a football jacket.”

Lewis stayed at Harvard as defensive line coach for 12 years, writing two football books to supplement his income and beginning a career in local and state politics. His Crimson football connections led to a fortuitous friendship and stay at the Long Island home of Harvard graduate Teddy Roosevelt shortly before his vice presidential nomination in August of 1900.

In 1903, Roosevelt, then U.S. President, appointed Lewis assistant U.S. attorney for Boston. Roosevelt promoted him to assistant U.S. attorney in charge of immigration and naturalization for the New England states in 1907, and Lewis left football. He subsequently became a U.S. assistant attorney general under President William Howard Taft, later heading of one of the most successful Boston criminal defense practices. He died in 1949.

During his coaching days, Lewis proposed the establishment of a neutral zone rule. Adopted in 1906, it required teams to be separated by the width of the football before each play, and the rule was credited for making the game safer, diffusing calls for the abolishment of the sport.

WOODROW LOWE • Linebacker • 1972-75 • Alabama

It didn’t take hard-hitting tackle machine Woodrow Lowe from Phenix City, Ala., long to make an impression on Alabama’s coaching staff.

As a true freshman in the season opener against Duke in 1972, he starred on special teams, eventually landing a starring spot on the Tide’s Cotton Bowl-bound Southeastern Conference champions. By his sophomore season, he was playing like an All-American and making tackles at a record rate in Tuscaloosa under legendary coach Bear Bryant.

“He put together a career that set a standard that carries on to this day,” said current-day Alabama athletics director Mal Moore.

Lowe has become the 21st Alabama player to join the College Football Hall of Fame, along with such greats as John Hannah, Cornelius Bennett, Lee Roy Jordan, Johnny Musso and Ozzie Newsome.

Recruited by few schools, Lowe considered attending rival Auburn, which is only 30 minutes from his hometown of Phenix, but a flat tire during a recruiting trip prevented him and a teammate from making it in time to see the game and visit with the coaches. The event thwarted any future he might have had with the War Eagles.

Once at Alabama, Lowe rapidly became a star, and the Crimson Tide flourished with a 43-5 record during that four-year span, including three victories over Auburn in the Iron Bowl.

“I was very thankful for having the opportunity to attend the University of Alabama,” Lowe said. “I am so humbled and grateful to be in the system that Coach Bryant produced. I am just kind of speechless (about making the Hall of Fame) because it has never been about me at the University. It has always been about the team. There are a lot of other people that I owe credit to. It is truly an honor to be inducted, but there are a lot of people that had a lot to do with me being successful.”

Lowe’s 1973 season ended with a United Press International (UPI) national championship for the Crimson Tide after an undefeated regular season. But Alabama lost to Notre Dame, 24-23, in the Sugar Bowl with the Fighting Irish named consensus national champions, including taking the National Football Foundation’s MacArthur Bowl.

As a junior in 1974, Lowe earned consensus All-America status, and Alabama won another SEC title but fell to the Fighting Irish, 13-11, in the Orange Bowl. Heading into Lowe’s senior season, Alabama was on an 0-7-1 bowl streak; and personally Lowe was 0-3. That was why being by Penn State in the first Sugar Bowl game to be played in the new Louisiana Superdome on Dec. 31, 1975, was so important to him, as well as being his final game at Alabama.

In what may have been his best game, Lowe, the team captain, led the defensive charge in a 13-6 defeat of the Nittany Lions. Penn State was limited to two field goals by the fired-up Alabama defenders.

Lowe followed his collegiate days with the Chargers, racking up 11 interceptions and four touchdowns during his 11 seasons in the NFL. He has been an assistant coach with the Kansas City Chiefs and Oakland Raiders and with the University of Alabama-Birmingham. He earned induction into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 2001, and he currently serves on the athletics staff at Alabama State University.
Known as a rugged, acrobatic, sure-handed receiver, Ken Margerum usually came down with the catch, and he remains one of the best receivers to play on the West Coast. He built his reputation under three head coaches at Stanford from 1977-80: Bill Walsh (two seasons), Rod Dowhower (one season) and Paul Wiggin (one season), and no matter who was the Cardinal coach, Margerum adapted, utilizing his hurdling skills to evade opponents.

"It was a rollover from Walsh to Dowhower because he was on Walsh's staff," Margerum said. "We ran the same offense. And John Elway came in and I focused on catching the ball. I really didn't notice that much difference. Years later I realized what a gift it was to be coached by Bill Walsh."

In becoming the most prolific touchdown pass catcher in Pac-10 history at the time and also the leading career receiver in Stanford history in terms of yards (2,430), Margerum obviously benefited from playing alongside a young Elway.

"When he came in as a freshman, three Stanford quarterbacks transferred, so I knew this guy was going to be special," Margerum said. "We became fast friends and lived together. I learned how to catch it and how his ball came out (of his hand). It was an honor to be with him."

Margerum was the Cardinal coach, Margerum adapted, utilizing the line guys who can shot put and throw the discus. He ran the same offense. And John Elway came in and I focused on Elway.

"He was a great player," San Jose State head coach Dick Tomey said. "And he is a terrific coach, and we are very lucky to have him."

Tomey remembered recruiting Margerum and Arizona defensive back Chuck Cecil, a fellow 2009 HOF inductee. "They were atypical," Tomey added. "They grew up in California and were California kids, and they loved the laid-back lifestyle of California. But they were both physical and tough and competitive."

Margerum's Pac-10 career touchdown reception mark (32) was recently broken by USC's Dwayne Jarrett in 2006. "I didn't realize it all," he said. "A few years ago Jarrett broke the Pac-10 touchdown record. I never dreamed that record would last nearly 30 years. They would throw it over top and in the corner. And I would go get it. Years and years would go by and it was still there. That was kind of cool."

Steve McMichael grew up in Freer, Texas, a ranch town of little more than 3,000 people in south Texas. Standing just 6-foot-2, but weighing 270-280 pounds, he had the attitude to play several positions on the field, but he wound up as a tackle in Texas' scheme.

He would turn into an All-America for the Longhorns before going on to a long NFL career in Chicago, where he played in a record 191 games for the Bears.

"Steve never thought anybody could beat him at anything," his Texas coach Fred Akers said a few years ago. "He was a handful. He was a warrior, a battler, like Brad Shearer (1977 Texas Outland Trophy winner). Steve was an All-America, but the NFL was a little reluctant because of his height. They thought if you weren't 6-4 or 6-5 as a defensive lineman, you couldn't play in the NFL. He was drafted by the Patriots (New England), who didn't think he could do it. He was a real battler, and he never thought 6-2 was a handicap."

Long before he ventured into the NFL, McMichael's life was defined by tragedy. He made his first start at Texas as a freshman in 1976 at Texas Tech on Oct. 30, 1976. Texas lost the game, 31-28, but McMichael found out later he had suffered a much bigger loss. His father, E.V. McMichael, was murdered outside their home back in Freer that evening.

"I will never be able to thank the University of Texas enough for what they did for me during that time," said McMichael, who will turn 52 in October. "My "old man" put me on the road, but if it hadn't been for Texas, I have no idea where I would be right now."

During his four years at Texas, the Longhorns were 34-12-1, and his career crossed paths with Earl Campbell and Campbell's brothers, Steve and Tim, the latter two who nicknamed McMichael "Bam Bam."

McMichael finished his career at Texas with 133 tackles as a senior when Texas allowed just 8.2 points per game in 1979. His best game that season was during a 16-7 Texas triumph over Oklahoma and Billy Sims in Dallas. Sims was limited to 73 yards on 20 carries. McMichael registered 13 tackles, mostly against the running game. Later, McMichael delivered a Hula Bowl Defensive MVP performance before being selected by the Patriots in the third round of the 1980 NFL Draft.

Known for some of his crazy antics, McMichael earned the nickname "Mongo" during his days with the Bears after a character in Blazing Saddles. Following his successful NFL career, which included five trips to the Pro Bowl and ended with the Green Bay Packers in 1994, McMichael went into professional wrestling for several years and took the nickname "Mongo" with him.

He is currently head coach of the 2009 champion Chicago Slaughter of the Continental Indoor Football League. He is a member of the Longhorns Hall of Honor, the Texas High School Sports Hall of Fame and the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame. He is involved with several charities, including the Fisher Home Foundation, which supports wounded soldiers and their families.
named the top linebacker in the country by Parade magazine for his exploits at Massillon Washington High School and with his image already on the front of the Wheaties cereal box, Chris Spielman had already earned legendary status in the Buckeye State before his fabled linebacker career in Columbus began.

The son of Ohio high school coaching legend Sonny Spielman, he was one the most highly coveted players to ever come out of Ohio, and he did not disappoint, becoming perhaps the best linebacker to don the scarlet and grey.

“He was physical, he was tough, he hit you,” his former Ohio State coach, Earle Bruce, told the Canton Repository. “My God, the first time I saw him was his senior year at Massillon, and he kicked off, returned kicks, he was the punter and punt returned. He carried the ball 25 times and he made most of the tackles. Damn, that’s pretty good. Then I saw him the second week, and he was better.”

During a four-year period from 1984-87 at Ohio State, highlighted by a 34-13-1 record and Big Ten championships in 1984 and 1986, Spielman registered 546 tackles and eight sacks and made 11 interceptions. He still ranks third in career total tackles with the Buckeyes.

In a 1986 loss to Michigan (26-24), Spielman put on a legendary performance when he recorded 29 tackles, tying Tom Cousineau’s Ohio State record 29-tackle performance against Penn State in 1978. But with the loss, Ohio State wound up tying Michigan for the Big Ten title. And the Wolverines’ victory sent them to the Rose Bowl. Ohio State headed to Dallas to play Southwest Conference champion Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl.

Instead of letting disappointment prevail, Spielman spearheaded a spirited Ohio State defense that rocked the host Aggies, 28-12. He intercepted two passes and returned one for a touchdown and was named the game’s MVP for the Buckeyes.

His 105 unassisted tackles in 1986 still stands as a Buckeye single-season record. In his junior and senior seasons, Spielman led the Buckeyes in tackles.

Selected in the second round of the NFL Draft, the six-time Pro Bowler became an iron man in professional football with the Detroit Lions, not missing a game in eight seasons and leading them in tackles each season. In 1996 he went to Buffalo and played two seasons there, although a neck injury limited his playing time. He took off the 1998 season to be with his wife Stefanie when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. The following year another neck injury ended his NFL career.

Although he planned to coach, because of his wife’s health, he elected to go into broadcasting to be close to her and his four children. A top-rated ESPN college football analyst, he also co-hosts a radio sports show in the Columbus area. He and his wife are both active in solicitation of funds to fight breast cancer.

“With Stefanie’s illness, battling that for the past years, football (coaching) was not an ideal way for me to live up to my obligations as a husband a father,” said Spielman, who also is a much sought-after speaker.

Larry Station, Linebacker, 1982-85, Iowa

The Cornhuskers don’t soon forget when one of their favorite-son high school football players snubs them for another college. Omaha native Larry Station, who opted to be an Iowa linebacker, knows that all too well.

“They still give me problems,” said Station, now in private business in Omaha. “I was trying to get a loan from an Omaha bank several years ago. He looked on my application and said, ‘Larry Station … hmm … you went to Iowa. I bet you wish you had gone to Nebraska.’ I got a loan at a different bank. I was devastated, though. It’s rough here in Cornhusker country.”

It was really rough, when, as a freshman in 1982, Station had to line up against the Nebraska juggernaut at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln during a 42-7 Iowa loss.

“They were a top 10 team when we played them and Iowa had lost 20 starters from the previous year,” Station recalled. “Everybody was green. I didn’t start, but I played a little bit. I got schooled a few times by Rozier (Mike), Gill (Turner) and Fryar (Irving), not to mention Dave Rimington and Dean Steinkuhler, both Outland winners. That was a baptism by fire.”

Eventually, Station became a two time All-America as a force on Iowa teams that went to four straight bowl, including the 1986 Rose Bowl. He finished as the school’s all-time leading career tackler (492 total) and paced the Hawkeyes in tackles all four of his seasons. Three times during his Iowa career, Station made 20 or more tackles in games and registered double-digit tackles in 23 games.

“Larry is truly a special person,” said Hayden Fry, Station’s head coach at Iowa. “He was probably the best defensive player I had the privilege to work with. He could anticipate where the ball was going better than any linebacker I was ever associated with.”

“I basically always reacted,” Station said. “Basically I had told a lot of people I was a tennis player in my junior years, 9-14. And that helped in my reactions. When you are waiting for somebody to serve 100 miles-an-hour, you have to react very quickly or you will not get to the ball.”

Before deciding on Iowa, Station had considered going to Air Force and had several letters of recommendation sent to the Academy on his behalf. But coaches at Air Force lost his application and didn’t get back to him until late in recruiting. And by that time, then-Iowa assistant Bill Snyder had sold Station on the Hawkeyes, who would give him an opportunity to play as a freshman.

“I went to a game (in Iowa City), but Iowa lost,” Station said. “But the defense played with such tenacity. Andre Tippett and Bobby Swoopes were hanging people all over the field. I thought that was the way you are supposed to play defense. They (Iowa coaches) said the best player as a freshman would start. (Nebraska coach) Tom Osborne said even if I was the best player as a freshman, I would not start. They had more of a seniority process there.”

Station spent part of only one season with the Pittsburgh Steelers in professional football but retired because of a back injury. He later received a master’s degree in business administration from Washington University in St. Louis, and he has thrived in private business in the Omaha area.
When Pat Swilling was recruited out of Toccoa, Ga., by Georgia Tech coach Bill Curry, the Yellow Jackets had a chance to wipe out years of mediocre and sometimes miserable college football in Atlanta. And by his senior season, Swilling had made a difference on the defensive side of the ball.

The year before Swilling arrived, Georgia Tech was 1-10. During his four-year stay in Atlanta, Georgia Tech had three winning seasons and broke a six-game losing streak against Georgia, beating the Bulldogs his junior and senior seasons.

"The biggest selling point was academics, to get a great education," Swilling said of choosing Georgia Tech. "I wanted to start my own business. Bill Curry's integrity and academics sold me. It just meant so much to me. A lot of people were surprised I chose them, but it turned out well. It was the best move I had made my entire career."

In 1985, with Swilling achieving All-America status as a senior, the Yellow Jackets won nine games for the first time since 1970 and claimed their first bowl victory since 1972. The 6-foot-3, 242-pound Swilling produced a season to remember, paving the way for a stellar NFL career.

In a memorable 1985 season-opener, Swilling had a record seven sacks against North Carolina State quarterback Erik Kramer. And Georgia Tech won the game, 28-18, a springboard to a 9-2-1 season and bowl berth.

"The game kept evolving," Swilling said. "I got a sack or two in the first quarter. I was playing against a left tackle on North Carolina State who would later play in the pros. I didn't realize the magnitude of what had happened until a reporter came up to me and said I had seven sacks and that was an NCAA record. I just kept getting by the guy, and it kept happening."

Swilling and his teammates were so good on defense that season they were nicknamed the "Black Watch." The big hitters, including Swilling, stood out with heavy black stripes down the middle of their all-gold helmets.

Swilling, a four-year letterman, had a Georgia Tech season record of 15 sacks in that 1985 season and left the school with 285 career tackles, the second-most by a lineman in school history. In his senior season, the "Black Watch" defense allowed only 10.7 points per game, with five opponents scoring seven points or less. Georgia Tech finished among the top 20 teams in all the major polls.

Swilling played in the Senior Bowl and caught the eye of the New Orleans Saints as their third round pick. He made the Pro Bowl five times, four times as a Saint. He had 17 sacks in 1991, and was named Associated Press NFL Defensive Player of the Year. During his days with the New Orleans Saints, he was known to be part of a defense known as the "Dome Patrol." He later played for Detroit, where he went to one Pro Bowl, and then the Oakland Raiders.

Swilling is a real estate developer in the New Orleans area and builds shopping centers. He is a member of the Georgia Tech, New Orleans Saints and State of Georgia Halls of Fame. He also served one two-year term in the Louisiana State House of Representatives.

Quarterback Gino Torretta got his chance as a freshman at the University of Miami, tasted some success, and then was relegated back to the bench. He eventually landed the starting position again, but had second thoughts about continuing his career with the Hurricanes, which ultimately claimed two national titles in Torretta's four seasons.

In 1989, Craig Erickson, the Miami starter at quarterback, suffered a fractured finger on his throwing hand during the fourth game of the season at Michigan State. Miami head coach Dennis Erickson inserted Torretta, a redshirt freshman, who led the Hurricanes to a 26-20 victory over the Spartans.

"I think I had the benefit of all the brothers, and I was backing up Erickson at the beginning of the year and one of my brothers had been a backup," Torretta said of Geoff, who also backed up Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Vinny Testa Verdine at Miami. "So you are always getting prepared and getting ready to play. You get there and you are in the middle of the game, and you don't have a lot of time to get nervous."

In his brief four-game stint as a freshman before Erickson returned, Torretta compiled a 3-1 record, including a 468-yard passing performance against San Jose State. Torretta's only loss that season was to Florida State.

After Erickson returned in the eighth game of the 1989 season against East Carolina, Torretta still had the hunger to play as a freshman. But Erickson was just a junior. So Torretta, a Californian prep star, had to wait.

"You start four games and you set three or four school records, and then, oh by the way, you sit the remainder of the season and all of the next year," Torretta remembers. "I thought about transferring. I knew I was good enough to play. As we prepared for my junior season, they didn't name me the starting quarterback. I thought I had done enough to prove myself. It was basically a tryout camp for another quarterback and me. He wound up transferring to Rutgers the day after I was announced the starting quarterback."

Torretta said before his junior season of 1991, he worked as hard as he has ever worked. And it paid off. He won the job, was named the Big East Offensive Player of the Year and led the Hurricanes to the Big East title and then national title with a 22-0 victory over Nebraska in the Orange Bowl.

"As we prepared in the summer, I had blisters on my hand," Torretta said. "We were throwing the ball 400 times a day. Blood was coming off my fingers from the lacrosse. But that is what we went through. The coaching staff was testing me."

As a senior, Torretta claimed the Heisman Trophy as Miami notched a perfect regular season. The Hurricanes ended up losing the national title to Alabama, 34-13, in the Sugar Bowl, but Torretta left with 11 school passing records. He holds an NCAA record for a 99-yard touchdown pass against Arkansas in 1991.

After a five-year NFL career, Torretta went into private business. Currently living in North Carolina, he is president and CEO of Touchdown Radio Productions and also vice president for Institutional Sales with Gabelli Asset Management.
Grant Wistrom was Nebraska's defensive mainstay during one of the great runs in college football history. Over a period of four seasons from 1994-97, while Wistrom starred at end for the Blackshirts, Nebraska compiled a 49-2 record and won three national titles.

“Our teams posted the best four-year record (most victories) in the history of college football,” Wistrom said. “And I know there are other deserving candidates from those teams. I would like to especially thank Coach (Tom) Osborne, Charlie McBride and Tony Samuel for helping me develop as a player on the field and a man off the field.”

Shunning his home-state Missouri Tigers, Wistrom, a native of Webb City, Mo., elected to become a Cornhusker and immediately was an impact player when he was named Big Eight Newcomer of the Year in 1994. He was one of two true freshmen to see playing time as Nebraska won its first national title since 1971 with a 13-0 record.

“You knew when you watched Grant in high school that he was special,” said Charlie McBride, Nebraska’s defensive coordinator and line coach from 1977-99. “He has worked so hard to be the best over the years he has played.”

Over the course of his four seasons in Lincoln, Wistrom set a Cornhusker record for tackles-for-loss with 58.5 for 260 yards in losses. He still ranks second with 26.5 career sacks at Nebraska.

“When I put my hand in the dirt and looked to my right and saw Grant, I knew I had nothing to worry about,” said Jason Peter, a defensive tackle on those teams. “He was the type of guy you dream about playing next to. He doesn’t understand the word half-speed. When you look up the word ‘Blackshirt’ in the dictionary, chances are you’ll see a picture of Grant Wistrom next to it.”

Nebraska won the second of two straight national titles in 1995 when Wistrom was a sophomore. He led the Cornhuskers (12-0) with 15 tackles-for-loss. And in his senior year, Wistrom also out-dueled 1982 Heisman Trophy winner Herschel Walker in a 27-23 victory over Georgia in the Sugar Bowl.

“We had to battle the entire game to beat Georgia,” Warner said of the Sugar Bowl after the 1982 season. “That game epitomized what we were about and culminated all the hard work we put in during our careers.”

Warner had a stellar professional career with the Seattle Seahawks (1983-89) and Los Angeles Rams (1990). He was All-Pro four times in Seattle and wound up setting there. He has owned a Chevrolet dealership in Vancouver, Wash., since 1994. That same year he was inducted into the Seattle Seahawks Ring of Honor.

Warner has a wife and four children and even coaches the running backs of his 16-year-old son's Camas High School team. Warner, founder of the Curt Warner Autism Foundation, has 14-year-old twin sons who suffer from the affliction. Playing for Paterno, “prepares you for life,” he said.

“I really don’t think his players fully appreciate Joe Paterno until they leave ... Then you begin to understand the things he talked about and taught us.”
Before the 1981 season, Dick MacPherson was hired away from the Cleveland Browns defensive staff by Syracuse athletics director Jake Crouthamel, and MacPherson began the mission of turning around a floundering Orange program, which had made only one bowl trip in 14 seasons.

The former Springfield College (Mass.) football captain instilled a hard-nosed defensive approach to Syracuse's program. But it failed to produce much in the way of results during his first three seasons. Then, in season No. 4 came a shocking 17-9 upset at the Carrier Dome of top-ranked Nebraska, which had just demolished UCLA, 42-3.

"It started building the week before they came to play us," MacPherson said. "Nebraska had just beaten UCLA, and they were on the cover of Sports Illustrated. And they asked: 'Are they the best college football team of all-time?' We were able to beat them. And that's when people started to take notice. That gave us some breathing room."

During that 1984 season, Syracuse's defense, anchored by standout tackle Tim Green, allowed just 151 points. The following season, Syracuse posted three shutouts and went to the first of five bowls under MacPherson, who posted a 66-46-4 record at the school.

"I think when you are coaching football, if you don't have a good defense, you don't have anything," MacPherson said. "One of the things you can teach is for them to know what they have to do and where they have to be. That's half the battle on defense. We improved tremendously. And the Dome intimidated people. It was a loud house. I just think the thing we did was make the most of who we were."

MacPherson eventually had Syracuse rolling offensively in the mid- to late-1980s. And 1987 turned out to be a very special year with quarterback Don McPherson starring as a senior. Syracuse beat Penn State, 48-21, at a packed Carrier Dome in midseason.

"If ever there was a game that made us, that was it," MacPherson said. "After the game in the locker room Donnie (McPherson) said, 'There is no doubt in mind I should be a strong candidate for the Heisman.'"

Syracuse's star quarterback finished second to Notre Dame's Tim Brown in the Heisman voting. And the 1987 Orange (11-0-1) tied Auburn, 16-16, in the Sugar Bowl and finished No. 4 nationally in both major polls. MacPherson's final five seasons as coach at Syracuse all resulted in bowl trips. And even after he left for the NFL and coached the New England Patriots, Syracuse posted 15 straight winning seasons through 2001. During his tenure, he coached two College Football Hall of Fame inductees, McPherson (2008) and Green (2001), and produced 36 NFL Draft picks.

His NFL coaching experience included two years as the head coach of the Patriots (1991-92) and stints as an assistant for the Denver Broncos (1967-70) and the Cleveland Browns (1978-80).

In recent years, MacPherson has served as a color commentator for Syracuse football radio broadcasts. He also spends time in Maine and Florida.

John Robinson was one of the country's most respected coaches. He was a special teamer at Oregon from 1955-57, where he was part of the 1956 Rose Bowl team that defeated USC, 20-6, and the 1957 Rose Bowl team that lost to USC, 17-16. Robinson played at Tailback U, with such backs as Ricky Bell, and he learned about the value of blocking and tackling from his father, a former college football coach.

"John and I met in the third grade," Robinson said. "And we were both kind of like-sounding boards and mentors to each other. I think our appreciation of the game and just the knowledge we got from each other over the years was a significant thing."

Robinson played end at Oregon from 1955-57, where future USC head coach John McKay was an assistant coach. After becoming an Oregon assistant himself, Robinson followed McKay to USC as an offensive coordinator from 1972-74. He left USC for the 1975 season to join Madden as an assistant with the Raiders, and when McKay left to become head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1976, Robinson landed the head USC job.

"McKay was my idol as a coach," Robinson said. "When I played there (at Oregon) I knew I wanted to be a coach. He is a guy I watched and wanted to be. In the offseason I would go into his office, and he taught me football."

In Robinson's first game as Trojan head coach, Missouri walloped USC, 46-25, handing USC its worst opening-season home loss ever. But USC won its next 11 games, claiming the Pac-Eight title and beating Michigan, 14-6, in the Rose Bowl.

In all, Robinson's first USC stint was a glorious period at Tailback U, with such backs as Ricky Bell, and Heisman Trophy winners Charles White and Marcus Allen. His teams posted a 4-1 bowl record, and USC won the UPI national title in 1978, beating Michigan again in the Rose Bowl. The Trojans claimed three Pac-10 titles and finished second in both the Associated Press and UPI polls in 1976 and 1979.

A gaudy 67-14-2 USC record opened the NFL door with the Rams, and his NFL teams made six playoff appearances, advancing to two NFC title games but never making a Super Bowl. In 1993, Robinson returned to USC. Robinson's second tenure produced three bowl victories and two Pac-10 titles. The highlight of his second USC tour of duty was a 41-32 victory over Northwestern in the 1996 Rose Bowl, giving him a 4-0 record in that game.

"Once I was finished with the Rams I took a year off and the USC job was there," Robinson said. "My affection for USC never changed. When the opportunity came back, I was ready for it. I understood the area and dynamics of coaching at USC. I probably shouldn't have left the first time. But that's hindsight."

Robinson finished his 27-year head coaching career with a turnaround job at UNLV compiling a 28-42 record in six seasons. In 2000, the Rebels finished 8-5 and beat Arkansas in the Las Vegas Bowl, earning him Mountain West Conference Coach of the Year honors.

Robinson is currently a football analyst for Sports USA Radio Network and lives in Carlsbad, Calif.
From a track coach's waffle iron to the most famous company in sports, the story of Nike is interwoven through the lives of Bill Bowerman and his former athlete-turned-entrepreneur, Phil Knight.

It was during his time as a Stanford graduate student that Knight took a class called "Small Business Management" and became intrigued with the idea of starting his own shoe company. He wrote a paper for the class suggesting that low-priced, high-quality exports from Japan could replace German manufacturers as the dominant U.S. athletics shoe supplier. Following graduation, Knight traveled to Japan and contacted the Onitsuka Company, the manufacturer of Tiger shoes. He convinced the company to give him a distribution deal and exclusive rights in the western United States that eventually led him to call on an old friend — his former track coach at the University of Oregon, Bill Bowerman.

In a partnership that began in 1964 with an investment of $500 each in a start-up company called Blue Ribbon Sports (BRS), Knight began selling shoes out of his car at track events across the west. Realizing the success of the company hinged on a brand that conveyed speed and motion, the duo enlisted a graphic design student who ultimately came up with the famous "swoosh." With a new logo and a football cleat they purchased on a prototype Bowerman had designed using his wife's waffle maker during his time as Oregon's head track coach, Bowerman also designed a shoe specifically for artificial turf, called the Astro-Grabber, which was worn by NFL players, including Bob Newland and Dan Fouts. The success of the Waffle Trainer and Astro Grabber prompted the company to sign an agreement in 1977 with aerospace engineer Frank Rudy, who led a design team to invent the "Nike Air" technology that was first utilized in the "Tailwind" running shoe in 1978. Only two years later, the company went public and began trading on the NASDAQ at $22 a share.

In 1984, the company banked its future on an NBA rookie named Michael Jordan in an effort to align the brand with the greatest athletes in the world. The strategy worked, and today Nike holds sponsorship deals with most of the world's most recognizable athletes, including Jordan, NFL and MLB star Bo Jackson, Tiger Woods and former Oklahoma star Bo Jackson, Tiger Woods and former Oklahoma standout and current Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson. The "Just Do It" campaign, launched in 1988, has become one of the world's most iconic marketing campaigns, and is still used today.

Presently, Nike is the world's leading supplier of athletic shoes and apparel with annual revenue in excess of $19.5 billion. Nike has invested more than $1 billion in colleges and universities through sports marketing, brand marketing, advertising and licensing royalties. The last 10 BCS champions wore Nike brand and 70 percent of the teams that qualified for bowls were Nike-sponsored programs.

**Bill Bowerman**

Born in Portland, Ore., Bill Bowerman played football at Medford High and led his team to the state title in 1928. After graduating, he attended the University of Oregon with the ambition of attending medical school. Bowerman played football for Oregon, leading the Ducks in an upset of NYU that cost the Violets a shot at the 1931 national championship. Upon graduation from Oregon, Bowerman lacked the financial resources to attend medical school. Instead, he embarked on his career as a coach, starting with eight-year stint back at Medford High School until enlisting to serve in World War II as a member of the 10th Mountain Division. In 1948, he landed the head track coach job at Oregon, a position he would hold until 1973. During his tenure at Oregon, Bowerman's athletes won 24 individual NCAA championships, and his team finished in the top 10 during 13 of his 24 seasons as head coach.

Bowerman passed away in December 1999 at the age of 88. Apart from his work with Nike, he became a distinguished philanthropist, supporting grass roots track and field programs across the United States through the Bill Bowerman Foundation. He is survived by his wife Barbara, and sons Jon H. Bowerman, Jay W. Bowerman and Tom Bowerman, and four grandchildren.

**Phil Knight**

A native of Portland as well, Knight ran track in high school and joined the cross country and track teams after enrolling at Oregon in 1955. Coached by Bowerman, he lettered three years for the Ducks. Knight graduated in 1959 with a degree in business and joined the U.S. Army as a 2nd Lieutenant. Following one year of active duty, he enrolled in Stanford University and received his M.B.A. in 1962. After co-founding Nike with Bowerman, Knight served as CEO of the company until he stepped down in 2004, retaining the title of chairman of the board.

Extremely active with both his alma maters, he has donated more than $250 million to Oregon and Stanford. Knight's donations to Oregon have led to the expansion of Autzen Stadium, which included the addition of 12,000 seats, 52 luxury suites, new artificial turf and a VIP club that holds 3,200 people. In return Knight has a personalized locker in the team locker room, complete with a name plate that includes his hometown, just like the players.

Apart from his work with Nike, Knight owns an animation studio in Portland called Laika, which released its first major film in February 2009. Knight and his wife Penny have three children: sons Travis and Matthew (deceased) and daughter Kristina. They also have seven grandchildren.
University of Georgia football star Billy Payne embodies a true college football success story. An NFF National Scholar-Athlete and an NCAA postgraduate scholarship recipient in 1968, Payne went on to succeed in business and eventually give back to the sport, the school, the state and the country that helped produce him.

Today, Payne, who turns 62 in October, is the chairman of the prestigious Augusta National Golf Club, home of the Masters. He has real estate and business interests in Atlanta and has served on the boards of several nationally known companies, including Anheuser-Busch, Lincoln Financial and Cousins Properties. But he may be best known inside and outside of college football circles for landing Atlanta’s 1996 Olympics in one of the biggest upsets in sports history. It was the first city to win a bid on its first attempt and the first privately funded Olympics.

Payne received his law degree from Georgia in 1973 and was a real estate lawyer until 1988 when he began Atlanta’s quest for the Olympic Games with the help of several of his University of Georgia football teammates and then-mayor Andrew Young.

“The Olympics reminded me of the importance of teamwork as we educated ourselves about many facets about putting on the Games — from marketing to promotion to television,” said Payne, who was the CEO for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) throughout the event. “Many times during the Olympics I called on the same leadership skills we learned while playing college football.

“It taught me if you assemble a group with team concepts and they pull together as a team, that anything is possible — like-minded people with the same goals and unified effort, selflessly dedicated to realizing the overall objective.”

Starring as a receiver and defensive end at Georgia from 1966-68, Payne helped the Bulldogs to a 25-6-2 record over three years. During that period, Georgia won two Southeastern Conference championships in 1966 and 1968 and went to three bowls, including the Cotton and Sugar. Payne, who switched to defensive end after playing receiver his first two varsity years, earned All-SEC honors his senior season for a Bulldog team that went 8-1-2.

Payne’s father, Porter, a guard and captain of Georgia’s 1949 team, gave young Billy some simple advice: “Do the best you can. Achieve the maximum out of the skills you have;” and Payne did just that, excelling in academics and athletics.

“I developed the attitude that you do both as well as you can,” Payne said. “Make the maximum effort to succeed in each area. I was determined to make the necessary effort to be the best football player I could be and the best student I could be. I always felt that each was of equal importance and that you should apply the same weight of importance to each.”

Payne was the kind of player who could dish it out and take it. He balances memories of intercepting a pass from Ole Miss quarterback Archie Manning during a Georgia victory in 1968 and a wicked hit from Mississippi State linebacker D.D. Lewis in a 1966 Georgia victory.

“We were playing in Jackson, Miss.,” Payne recalled. “And he (Lewis) knocked me off the playing field and across a cinder track to the wall of the stadium. Football is a game of hard knocks. That is the way it should be.”

Over the years, Payne has developed a lasting friendship with his Hall of Fame coach and later the school’s athletics director, Vince Dooley. Payne said one of his greatest thrills was when Dooley flew to Tokyo, Japan, for the announcement that Atlanta had landed the 1996 Olympics.

“That meant a lot to me, but I should not have been surprised,” Payne said. “He is that kind of person who is loyal to his friends, loyal to his school and to those who have been a part of his life and career. He not only has been a valuable influence and contributor to the success of college football in the last half century, he has worked to improve the game.”

Payne still has close ties with his teammates and Dooley. He is a season-ticket holder at Georgia football games. And he remains a huge college football fan.

“You have to understand I am a Southerner,” Payne said. “College football, that is what we do, and I should say, we do it quite well.

“I am deeply grateful that I had an opportunity to play college football. Football has brought so much pleasure to our nation, and its magnetism is universal. Any success I have had in life is due in large part to the University of Georgia and college football.”

Payne is also a chief fund raiser for a civil and human rights center that will be built in Atlanta. He is a member of the State of Georgia Hall of Fame. Twice he has been named Georgian of the Year. In 1997, he received the NCAA’s Theodore Roosevelt Award, the most prestigious honor bestowed on an individual by that organization.

And his current challenge is nurturing and expanding the Augusta National Golf Club’s reputation and reach through its major golf tournament. He already has negotiated a new contract with ESPN to show a par-3 tournament and early rounds of the Masters.

“The Masters is steeped in great tradition,” Payne said. “Its history is secure in the legacy of its founders … I am deeply grateful to be the point person to preserve and maintain those traditions.”
Outstanding Contributor to Amateur Football

Dan Jenkins

Hall of Fame Sportswriter, Bestselling Novelist, NFF Historian

For more than 35 years, Fort Worth's Dan Jenkins has wowed us with a series of novels whose characters often twist uncontrollably outrageous, like a tornado through the Southwestern countryside. Best-selling novels such as “Semi-Tough,” “Dead Solid Perfect” and “Baja Oklahoma” have focused on Jenkins' roots: Texas life, football and golf.

The result is that the American reading public has benefited greatly from the writing efforts of this 1953 TCU graduate who became a Texas-based newspaper star and later jumped to New York City for a 25-year career with Sports Illustrated covering college and pro football. He has since landed back on his native Texas soil.

Nearing the age of 80 and living full-time in Fort Worth, Jenkins is still going strong on the writing front. He pens a monthly column for Golf Digest and this year attended his 200th major (golf tournament). His most recent book, published in June 2009 and titled “Jenkins at the Majors,” covers a 50-year history of golf, and he continues to churn out articles for NFF publications and other freelance projects.

“My life has been wound around football and golf,” Jenkins said. “Growing up in Texas, if you don’t like those two things, they drown you at an early age. I cherish all the associations I’ve had in sports, but obviously knowing Ben Hogan and having him know me, and playing many rounds of golf with him — at his peak — ranks high among my many memories.”

That and a TCU-SMU football game, won by SMU, 20-14, in Fort Worth.

“At the age of 7, I was a college football junkie,” Jenkins mused. “All it took was to be at the famous TCU-SMU game in 1935, taken by my dad to the biggest sports event (at the time) in the history of Texas and the western world. I watched Sam Baugh versus Bobby Wilson for the national championship. Naturally, I would become a sportswriter. All I ever wanted to be.”

Jenkins, who has served as the NFF’s official historian since 2005, also provides counsel to the NFF’s Honors Court during the College Football Hall of Fame selection process. After all, who knows the college football scene better over, say, the last 70 years or so since his first game?

“Of course, I prefer the old days,” Jenkins said, recalling associations with big-name coaches during a less-harried time. “Coaches and players were more accessible, more trustworthy (once you’ve earned it.) I wouldn’t mind being a beat writer or columnist today because I wouldn’t take it from the coaches. Just like the battle cry of old: ‘You don’t want to talk? Fine, I’d rather make it up anyhow.’ ”

In his early days at the Fort Worth Press, he built a foundation for journalist integrity. Then when he was hired away to cover college football on a national basis for Sports Illustrated in the 1960s, he used it to his advantage to cultivate relationships ... with Texas’ Darrell Royal, Alabama’s Bear Bryant, USC’s John McKay, Ohio State’s Woody Hayes and others.

“They knew I wasn’t looking for scandal, just information,” Jenkins said. “I became really close friends with Darrell and McKay, and later with Barry Switzer (Oklahoma), and formed decent working relationships with Bear and Woody and Paterno (Joe, Penn State) and Broyles (Frank, Arkansas) and Devaney (Bob, Nebraska).

“But today I don’t think writers have the stroke they used to,” Jenkins added. “They haven’t seized it, for one thing. They’ve allowed themselves to become unimportant and not as useful as the TV people. Television has eaten sports alive. We all watch it, but we’ve given it too much power. Way of the world. (That’s) another reason why I choose to live in the past. When I was a kid, radio was huge, just as TV is today, but it didn’t dictate schedules, out-grew magazines and newspapers.”

He graduated from Fort Worth's R.L. Paschal High School and jumped directly into the newspaper business, no questions asked, no looking back.

“When Blackie Sherrod hired me at the Fort Worth Press right out of high school, I would have paid them to have the job,” Jenkins said. “Blackie taught me more journalism in one week than I learned in four years at TCU. First, accuracy trumped everything else. If you can entertain while you inform without surrendering the truth, swell. Speed, taste, confidence. ‘You were there, the reader wasn’t; tell them about it.’ ”

By the time he was done at the Fort Worth Press, Bud Shrake and Gary Cartwright were both hired. Those writers went on to their own distinguished careers, along with Sherrod, an iconic Dallas columnist. “That was some staff, boy,” Jenkins said. “We wrote for each other. It was great fun and great training. And we all worshiped and stole from John Lardner, the best there ever was. I like to think I’ve never written a sentence, funny or not, I didn’t believe.”

In 1972, “Semi-Tough” made Jenkins a national name, a decent financial gain and moved him into coverage of professional football at Sports Illustrated. The characters in that novel — Billy Clyde, Shale, T. J., Big Ed and Barbara Jane — have endured for nearly four decades.

“My favorite book is always the last one I’ve written,” Jenkins said. “ ‘Semi-Tough’ did the most for the family, financially, but I’m not sure I knew what I was doing when I wrote it. I just wanted to write a novel, like most newspaper guys do, and I had to write about what I knew, where I’d been. Not to war, but to press boxes, locker rooms, bars and games.

“It sort of came natural, and quite frankly, stunned me with its success. And now that I know more about what I’m doing, my books don’t sell as well. Go figure. Personally, I think my last novel, “The Franchise Babe,” is perfectly hilarious, and a better constructed novel than “Semi,” but the book-buying public doesn’t agree with me.”

A member of several halls of fame as a writer, including Texas’, Jenkins is a season ticket holder at TCU football games along with his wife, June. He has two sons, Marty and Dan Jr., and a daughter, Sally, a columnist for the Washington Post. Like dad, Sally is a bestselling author. It must be in the genes.

“I am greatly flattered to receive this award from the National Football Foundation, a little embarrassed, even,” Jenkins said. “Guy gets an award for getting paid to do something he loves?”
Virginia Tech athletics director Jim Weaver played linebacker and center at Penn State in the mid-1960s. Once Weaver finished playing for the Nittany Lions, Joe Paterno made him an assistant coaching, providing some valuable lessons.

“I happened to be the right guy, at the right place, at the right time,” Weaver said. “He needed some young people to go recruit. The thing that I remember about my experience was the preparation to the ‘ninth’ degree on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. Coach was a stickler for details. He said, ‘If you take care of little things, the big things will take of themselves.’”

Weaver, 63, has taken that theory with him the last four decades during athletics administration stops in the East, Midwest, West and South. He has received high marks at each stop and paved the way for schools such as Florida and UNLV to recover from NCAA probations.

At Virginia Tech, he has guided the Hokies through conference membership changes twice, a school-wide tragedy, and formulated a blueprint for one of the best-run athletics departments in the country. His leadership, planning and foresight keep the Hokies’ 21 sports humming in the Atlantic Coast Conference despite tough economic times. He has trimmed the current budget, and as a result Virginia Tech has not had to drop any sports or furlough any employees.

“The downturn economy affects every institution and athletics department differently,” Weaver said. “Each institution has had to do what it deems necessary to remain solvent. We are doing that to prepare in case revenues streams decline.”

He has been a tireless worker, despite the fact that according to news reports he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in 2004. But doctors saw no reason he could not continue as athletics director. He has overseen $162 million in athletic construction projects since his arrival, including several expansions and improvements at Virginia Tech’s Lane Stadium, an academic center, a new basketball practice facility and several upgrades of the football facilities. And Virginia Tech student-athletes are enjoying some of the best academic success in their history.

“If you take care of the student, the chances are the athletes will take care of the programs,” Weaver said. “You give them support systems to be successful … the best academic support, strength and conditioning and sports medicine and so on.”

His background certainly has qualified him for his current job.

In the 1970s, Weaver had one-year stints as head football coach at Villanova and as offensive coordinator at Iowa State; five years as a professor at Clarion State, and three years as director of franchise sales at Athletic Attic. But his nine years at Florida (1983-91) may have established his career.

“I became one of the first compliance officers in the country in conjunction with the Charlie Pell issue,” Weaver said of the former Gators head football coach who landed them on NCAA probation. “I was hired by Bill Carr, who was the athletics director, to be one of the real early compliance guys in the country. Ultimately, working through the whole issue (there) got me the UNLV job.”

From 1991-94, Weaver then helped UNLV recover from the coach Jerry Tarkanian era, which had landed the school on a NCAA basketball probation. He put together a staff, which included current Central Florida athletics director Keith Tribble, FedEx Orange Bowl executive director Eric Poms and Central Florida associate athletics director Dave Chambers.

“There were any number of people (from there) who advanced their careers at other institutions, including the NCAA,” Weaver said. “If you do what is right, you don’t go wrong. That is what I learned from my experience at UNLV.”

After a two-year stint as Western Michigan’s athletics director, Weaver was named athletics director at Virginia Tech in 1997, and he knew that his biggest challenge might lie ahead — finding one conference for all the Hokie’s sports that was a geographic fit.

“At that time (1997) we were in the Atlantic 10, and we only played football in the Big East,” Weaver said. “In 2000, we went into the Big East in all sports. In order to get into an all-sports conference we needed to keep football momentum going and in place. It is the engine that drives athletics.”

The Hokies became a football powerhouse in the Big East, playing Florida State for the national title in the 2000 Sugar Bowl, where they lost, 46-29. But the closest schools to Virginia Tech in the Big East were West Virginia and Pitt. The ACC would provide less travel and thus a surplus of money for other sports. Eventually, Weaver got the call from the ACC. In 2004-05, Virginia Tech, along with Miami (Fla.) switched to the ACC. A year later, Boston College followed.

Then, in April 2007, Weaver faced something entirely different when a Virginia Tech student opened fire on his classmates, killing 32 of them in two separate incidents before committing suicide.

“The athletics department played an integral role after the tragedy occurred,” Weaver said of the healing process. “The first competition after the tragedy was a weekend baseball series with the University of Miami (Fla.) … We opened up football season in 2007 against East Carolina with ESPN’s GameDay here. And the New York Yankees came (for an exhibition game in March, 2008 after making a $1 million contribution to the school’s Spirit Fund). It was an unbelievable experience.”
Larry Zimmer grew up in the shadows of Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, La., dreaming about some day getting into the press box. He not only fulfilled that goal, he has become one of the country’s top announcers, broadcasting games for more than four decades.

Zimmer, a 1957 graduate from the University of Missouri School of Journalism, is most closely associated with the University of Colorado Buffaloes football program. In 2009, he will finish his 25th consecutive year doing play-by-play of CU football games and 36th overall. His first game as a Colorado announcer was a 31-21 Colorado upset victory over No. 9 LSU in the 1971 season opener in Baton Rouge with Zimmer sitting in the very press box at Tiger Stadium that he coveted as a youngster.

Zimmer, who turns 74 in November, got his broadcasting start at KFRU Radio in Columbia, and after a brief stint in the Army, he returned in 1960 to KFRU broadcasting high school games and Mizzou baseball play-by-play. Zimmer spent five seasons broadcasting Michigan football from 1966-70, three seasons while Bump Elliott was head coach and Bo Schembechler’s first two seasons in 1969 and 1970.

“Even when you reach the summit of the mountain, you still have to go down the other side,” Zimmer said. “There is no such thing as a top game. Every game is a big game.”

As you go down the tunnel you finally realize all those pee wee games at 8 on Saturday morning were worthwhile,” Mills said of the Super Bowl. “It is not that they weren’t worthwhile in the first place. But it finally has reached the pinnacle.

It is a very emotional feeling before the game, even the week leading up to it. But it quickly vanishes at the opening kickoff. It is like a regular football game.”

Millis is only three years removed from a decade-long stint as the Big 12 Conference officiating czar, a job for several years he juggled with officiating NFL games.

He helped the Big Eight Conference merge its officials with those from the Southwest Conference schools Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Baylor in 1996. And much later, he also helped the Big 12 when college football instituted instant replay to review certain officials’ calls.

“We were faced from a coaching and officiating standpoint, bringing two very different but respected leagues together, and we did not want to cause divisiveness,” Mills said. “We united it. I was delighted when they said this was how we did it in Big Eight or in the SWC. This was a unique situation. We were starting a whole new conference.”

Millis, a former linebacker and fullback at Millsaps College (Miss.) in the mid 1960s, is currently the fourth executive director of the National Football League Referees Association. He retired in 2001, after a 13-year career as a field judge in the NFL, including officiating assignments in Super Bowl XXIX and XXXIII and three conference title games.

During his nine-year career as a college official, he was chosen as an official for numerous bowl games, including the Sugar Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, All-American Bowl and the Coca-Cola Bowl in Tokyo, Japan.

Millis, who currently serves on the board of the NFL’s Gridiron Club in Dallas, was an accounting major in college. He worked for the Internal Revenue Service for 17 years before embarking on a 22-year career as a self-employed financial investigative consultant. He has even served as a sky marshal.

So he can keep officiating games in perspective, stating that no ball game comes close to the pressure of flying undercover as a sky marshal.

A native of Union Point, Ga., Barnhart is a 1976 graduate of the Henry Grady School of Journalism at the University of Georgia and is the author of four books.

“All of us who cover college football are very lucky,” Barnhart said. “We get to spend time in great venues watching the greatest athletes of our time. I have been extremely lucky in my career and now, after 32 years in the newspaper business I get to turn the page and keep on going. How good is that?”

The 2009 Award Winners

Chris Schenkel Award
For excellence in college football broadcasting

Larry Zimmer

Outstanding Football Official

Tim Millis

Chris Schenkel Award
For excellence in college football broadcasting

Larry Zimmer

Outstanding Football Official

Tim Millis

Bert McGrane Award
Presented to a member of the Football Writers Association of America who has performed great service to the organization and/or the writing profession.

Tony Barnhart

Bert McGrane Award
Presented to a member of the Football Writers Association of America who has performed great service to the organization and/or the writing profession.

Tony Barnhart

www.footballfoundation.org
To elevate the stature of all its awards, The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) recently announced that it has relaunched and renamed its top $25,000 collegiate scholar-athlete award, the Draddy Trophy, in honor of William V. Campbell, the chairman of Intuit, former player and head coach at Columbia University and the 2004 recipient of the NFF’s Gold Medal.

“Bill Campbell is the living embodiment of the NFF’s mission to build leaders through football,” said NFF Chairman Archie Manning. “The National Football Foundation exists to not just perpetuate a game. It exists to ensure that the youngsters who play our game develop the skills to go on to be leaders in their chosen fields. The Campbell name sends that message in the strongest of possible terms.”

Known as “The Coach of Silicon Valley,” Bill Campbell has become one of our nation’s most influential business leaders, playing critical roles in the success of Apple, Google, Intuit and countless other high tech companies. The captain of the 1961 Columbia Ivy League championship team, he found his true calling after an unlikely career change at age 39 from football coach to advertising executive. Today, Campbell is driven by a heartfelt desire to give back, and he has quietly given away tens of millions of dollars while also finding time to coach an eighth-grade boys and girls flag-football team.

“By utilizing Bill’s name and all that he has accomplished because of the great game of football, we elevate the meaning of everything that we do,” said NFF President & CEO Steven J. Hatchell. “Vin Draddy had the foresight to recognize Bill’s talents 30 years ago with an invitation to serve on the NFF Board, and it’s that type of vision from great leaders that enables us to take all of our efforts to a higher level.”

Launched in 1959, the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Awards Program became the first initiative in history to recognize a student-athlete for their combined academic, athletic and leadership abilities. With more than $8.9 million distributed, 15 of the gridiron’s best and the brightest are annually selected to accept these coveted $18,000 post-graduate scholarships during the NFF Annual Awards Dinner in New York City at the Waldorf-Astoria.

In 1990, the NFF added the Draddy Trophy, selecting one member of the class as the absolute best in honor of the late NFF Chairman Vincent dePaul Draddy. A quarterback at Manhattan College who went on to develop the Izod clothing brand, Draddy served as NFF chairman for 19 years, and he recruited a young Bill Campbell to serve on the board in 1978. With the start of the 2009 season, which will determine the 20th recipient, the NFF is relaunching the award by renaming it The William V. Campbell Trophy.

To honor Draddy’s contributions, the Draddy Educational Fund is being established as the fundraising arm for all of the NFF scholar-athlete initiatives.