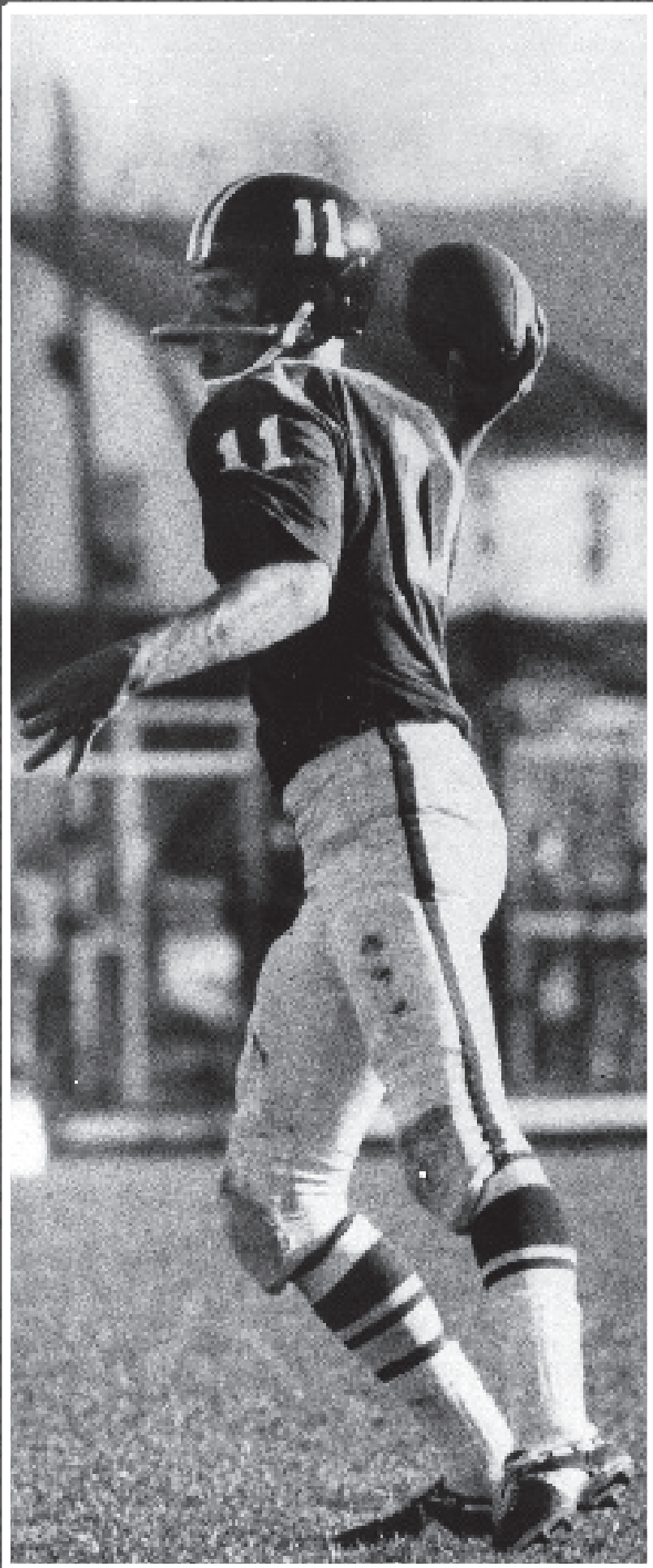


HISTORY



HUSKIE FOOTBALL: THE FIRST CENTURY

"...We feel safe in predicting that so long as foot-ball is conducted in the businesslike way that it was during the first year of our school, it will continue to be the principal game of the Northern Illinois State Normal School."

The Norther yearbook (1900)

The 104th Season. The Northern Illinois University Football Centennial. The First Century. The Way We Were. The New Millennium. The Second Century.

Such an amazing juxtaposition—the Huskie past and future. A linear timeline does not do justice to all the accomplishments, the many team and individual milestones, or the joy and despair connected with Northern Illinois football. Or the parallel development of a major-college athletics program from such humble origins that mirrored the phenomenal growth of a Normal School into a full-fledged state university.

Do you think pioneer Northern Illinois State Normal School player-coach-team manager John L. Keith or the Huskies' first team captain Victor Kays could envision the Cardinal and Black's current role as one of the 119 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1-A gridiron programs? If transported by a time machine from 1899 to 2005, how far would Kays' jaw drop upon seeing the modern 28,000-seat Huskie Stadium on West campus? Could Keith comprehend the monumental leap in competition from the early games against high schools, local town teams, or nearby academies to the Big Ten, the Big 12, the Southeastern Conference, the Atlantic Coast Conference, etc.? Could anyone from those early days visualize NIU's 37th season as a major-college and games against such national powers as Nebraska, Florida, Michigan, Iowa, Miami (FL), and Ohio State? Or high profile Huskie appearances on national television?

Football. Back then, no one could spell the

new word. In the quote from *The Norther* yearbook, it is hyphenated. On the flier reprinted on the opposite page, it's two words. At least author Mark Twain, after witnessing the Yale-Princeton game in 1900, said: "It beats croquet..."

Little did coach Keith know what he started. In the 103 memory-filled seasons since (except for 1917, 1918, and 1919 when Northern Illinois did not field a team due to World War I), the Cardinal and Black molded a rich tradition in football. Sixty-three of those Huskie campaigns wound up .500 or better. Since 1899, there have been 472 Northern Illinois victories to celebrate, 423 defeats to agonize, and 51 ties to frustrate.

There has been a National Championship (1963), seven bowl teams (1946, 1947, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1983, and 2004), four unbeaten-untied seasons (1904, 1944, 1951, and 1963), eight conference championships (1938, 1944, 1946, 1951, 1963, 1964, 1965, and 1983), and three division titles (2001, 2002, and 2004). There have been Huskies in pro football since the 1930s, All-Pro performers (six), Super Bowl champions (one), Heisman Trophy vote-getters (four), national individual statistical champions (16), All-America selections (76), and Academic All-America picks (12). Not bad as legacies go.

Northern Illinois took its first football steps in 1899. Keith, a professor of pedagogy (teaching), was exposed to the game on the East coast as a graduate student at Harvard and coached that sport and basketball at Il-

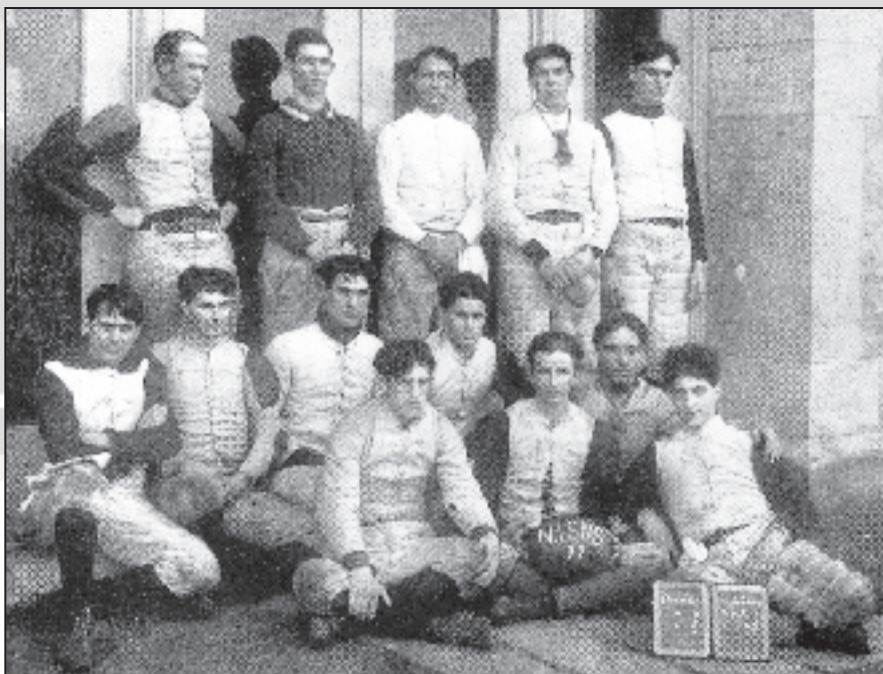
linois State Normal School prior to his arrival in DeKalb. Since NISNS enrolled only 25 male students "...football was the most difficult (sport to start)...and only with Professor Keith as one of the players were they able to field a team," wrote Earl W. Hayter in his book, *Education in Transition—The History of Northern Illinois University*.

"The football season was half gone when the idea occurred to that ingenious man, Mr. Keith, that the NISNS might get up and support a team," *The Norther* reported in the spring of 1900. With the 5-foot-9, 136-pound Keith at quarterback, Northern Illinois with a roster of 14 "men and boys" (the vintage team picture on this page only features 13 players) defeated DeKalb High School, 16-0, in its gridiron debut on November 10, 1899. Victory No. 1. The first of many.

Two years later, Keith's fledgling Huskies recorded their first intercollegiate success. On November 2, 1901, Northern Illinois blanked North Central College of Naperville, 10-0, in DeKalb. James I. Frederick—listed as the starting left tackle—ran for a 75-yard touchdown vs. NCC. Halfback Sanford Givens scored the other TD on a "smash through the line." In those days, TDs—when the point after kick was missed—were worth only five points. Season-wise, Northern Illinois would finish 6-1 overall and outscore the opposition, 108-18.

By 1902, championship fever struck in DeKalb. *The Norther* called it "...defending The Castle"—in reference to the original campus building, Altgeld Hall. Keith's Northern Illinois eleven produced a 5-1-1 record "...and Eastern (Illinois) Normal challenged his team for the championship," Hayter described. "With the largest crowd in three seasons on hand, Northern defeated Charleston (10-0 on November 15) and declared itself the 'champion Normal team of the State.'"

Circa 1903, another new chapter opened in the Northern Illinois football story. NISNS moved to its new home for the next 60 football seasons—the rustic 400-seat Glidden Field on East campus next to the Kishwaukee River where the Art and Music buildings are now located.



The first Northern Illinois football team (1899)



HUSKIE FOOTBALL: THE FIRST CENTURY

Obviously, hundreds of student-athletes and many coaches contributed to the Huskie success story. The fourth-winningest taskmaster in the Northern Illinois football legacy turned out to be the popular Willard W. Wirtz. Not only did Wirtz produce a 33-17-9 won-lost-tied record during 1910-16, his son (also Willard W.) would later succeed Arthur Goldberg as the Secretary of Labor in the John F. Kennedy administration in 1961.

In three seasons (1920-22), Paul Harrison coached Northern Illinois to 3-5-0, 3-5-0, and 5-4-1 campaigns.

His claim to Huskie fame? According to *The Norther*, Harrison beat all the National Football League teams currently training in Wisconsin by several decades. In 1922, he took the Cardinal and Black to Lake Geneva for a week of calisthenics, heavy work, practice, chalk talks, hikes, sunburn, swimming, letter writing, and newspaper reading.

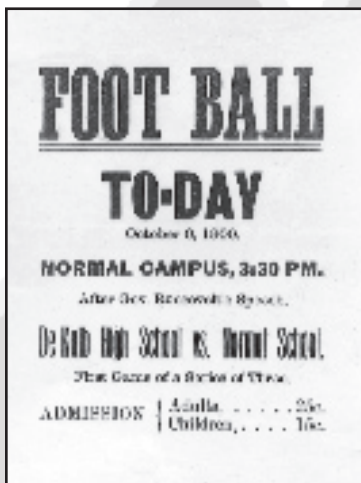
Ever heard the advertising slogan for M&Ms? "Melts in your mouth, not in your hands." Sound familiar? That Madison Avenue classic was created by ex-Huskie football captain, NIU Athletics Hall of Famer, and All-Little 19 Conference offensive guard John McNamara (1927-31). McNamara served as the president of M&M Mars, Inc., invented M&M peanut candies, and was also the chairman of the board for Uncle Ben's Rice.

During his upperclassman years, McNamara's coach was George "Chick" Evans—probably the chief architect of Northern Illinois football. Evans was synonymous with Huskie athletics during and after his 39-year stint as the school's athletics director and 26 of those as head football coach. Evans-coached elevens were known for their big play aerial attack and captured four undisputed Illinois Intercollegiate Athletic Association championships (1938, 1944, 1946, and 1951). "Chick" leads the Northern Illinois victory list with an all-time 132-70-20 mark.

Evans' greatest eleven? You won't get too many arguments by going with the 9-0-0 IIAC kingpins in 1951, led by Little All-America quarterback Bob Heimerdinger and split end Fran Cahill—the school's first NFL draft pick (19th round by the New York Giants in 1952). This Huskie group featured seven First-Team All-IIAC picks and two more NFL free agents. Northern Illinois preserved the perfect regular-season record with an amazing 27-26 comeback victory at Nebraska-Omaha. The

downer came when NIU's governing body, the State Teachers College Board, turned down a bid to the Florida-based Tangerine Bowl since it would extend the season seven weeks.

Another lineman—an All-Little 19 tackle named Howard Fletcher—from Evans' 1938 league champs followed in "Chick's" footsteps 18 seasons later as Huskie head coach.



1900 Line-Up

Northern Illinois State Normal School

Pos.	Player (Hgt., Wgt.)
LE	Richard DeYoung (5-9, 138)
LT	David Madden (5-11, 165)
LG	Lloyd Stetzler (5-6, 140)
C	Eugene Phillips (6-2, 170)
RG	Edward Malone (5-4, 158)
RT	Ray Mofet (6-1, 170)
RE	Edgar Hipple (5-11, 168)
QB	John Keith (5-9, 136)
FB	Victor Kays (6-0, 140)
LHB	Sanford Givens (5-9, 155)
RHB	Henry Hausen (5-7, 170)

From 1956 until 1968, "Fletch" produced a 74-48-1 record and became Northern Illinois' second winningest coach. Fletcher lived by the pass and the Dutch Meyer Spread or "Shotgun" formation, won three IIAC crowns (1963, 1964, and 1965), and captured the College Division National Championship (1963).

"Fletch's" fabled Hall of Fame team finished 10-0-0 behind the phenomenal passing of Little All-America quarterback George Bork and a Hall of Fame retinue of sticky-fingered receivers—Hugh Rohrschneider, Gary Stearns, and Jack Dean. The Huskies won the school's first postseason game by defeating Southwest Missouri State, 21-14, in the Mineral Water Bowl and finished No. 1 in the final season Associated Press national ratings. Similar to future Mid-American Conference grid brethren which captured National College Division titles—Bowling Green State (1959) and Ohio (1960), Northern Illinois now had the needed impetus for new grid horizons late in The First Century—the MAC (1973), major-college status (1969), and a modern facility (1965)—The House That Bork Built, i.e., Huskie Stadium.

Northern Illinois—along with Idaho, Pacific, and San Diego State—would be elevated to University Division status (now known as Division 1-A) by the Classification Committee of the Football Writers Association of America on June 30, 1969. At the time, NIU became only the third Division 1-A institution in the

state and joined a (then) select group of 118 nationwide.

In major-college year No. 4, Northern Illinois posted a 7-4-0 season with four triumphs in its final five games—including a 28-7 triumph over defending MAC champion Kent State with superstar linebacker Jack Lambert and a 30-7 road victory at Toledo—for coach Jerry Ippoliti.

While the highlight of NIU's first tenure in the Mid-Am (1975-85) would be The Championship Season in 1983, one cannot ignore the individual brilliance of fullback Mark Kellar (NCAA 1-A rushing champ in 1973) and split end Dave Petzke (NCAA 1-A receiving champ in 1978), both future Huskie Hall of Famers and All-Century Team selections.

Under head coach Bill Mallory, Northern Illinois cracked the Top 40 in 1983—finishing No. 30 in the final AP poll, winning the MAC, and going 10-2-0—including a season-opening 37-34 triumph at Kansas, the school's first success against the Big 12.

Mallory's Huskies topped Cal State-Fullerton, 20-13, in California Bowl III, live on ESPN and the Mizlou networks. This Hall of Fame team would ultimately boast seven NFL draft choices and 19 professional players. During the final 15 games of the Mallory regime, the Huskies won 13 of them.

Later in the decade, Jerry Pettibone's Northern Illinois teams recorded four straight .500 or better seasons (5-5-1 in 1987, 7-4-0 in 1988, 9-2-0 in 1989, and 6-5-0 in 1990) as a major independent. Behind quarterback Stacey Robinson, the Huskies' triple option attack ranked No. 6 in NCAA team rushing (1989) and No. 1 a year later (1990). The high-powered NIU offense produced a school-record 806 yards total offense in a 73-18 win vs. 24th-rated Fresno State on October 6, 1990—representing the most points ever scored vs. an AP Top 25 football team.

In 1993, tailback LeShon Johnson single-handedly placed Northern Illinois into a national media frenzy by winning the NCAA Division 1-A rushing crown, making unanimous First-Team All-America, and finishing sixth in the Heisman Trophy race on a non-descript 4-7 team.

The First Century. John Keith, look what you started in 1899.



HUSKIE ALL-CENTURY TEAM

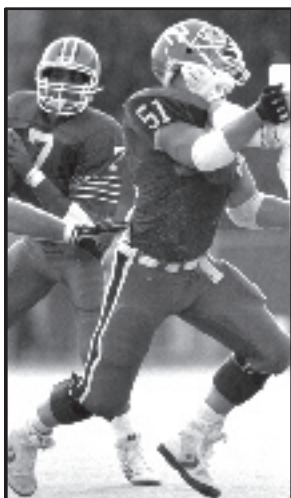
The Best of Northern Illinois University Football (1899-1998)

OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player	Years Lettered	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
WR	87	John Spilis •	1966-68	6-4	217	South Holland, IL
	6	Dave Petzke •	1977-78	6-1	180	Faribault, MN
WR	84	Hugh Rohrschneider •	1960-63	6-6	214	Burlington, IL
	42	Gary Stearns •	1960-63	6-0	180	Freeport, IL
TE	88	Jim Hannula	1977-80	6-6	235	Elgin, IL
	85	Ken Moore	1974-76	6-3	226	Chicago, IL
OL	54	Randy Clark •	1977-79	6-3	235	Mount Prospect, IL
	78	Dan Rosado	1977-79	6-3	252	Canton, GA
OL	71	Scott Bolzan	1980-83	6-5	269	South Holland, IL
	77	Dale Berman	1958-59	6-0	220	Grand Ridge, IL
OL	76	Todd Peat •	1983-86	6-2	294	Champaign, IL
	33	Tego Larsen •	1936-38	6-1	185	DeKalb, IL
OL	77	Ted Karamanos	1984-87	6-2	260	Oak Lawn, IL
	77	Rich Barrent	1979-82	6-4	243	Clinton, IA
C	50	Eric Wenckowski	1988-90	6-3	268	Franklin Park, IL
	50	Bob Evans	1960-63	5-10	190	DeKalb, IL
QB	11	George Bork •	1960-63	6-1	178	Mount Prospect, IL
	7	Stacey Robinson •	1988-90	6-1	189	Danville, IL
FB	31	Mark Kellar •	1971-73	6-0	232	Carpentersville, IL
	45	Adam Dach •	1988-91	6-0	206	Rockford, IL
HB	42	LeShon Johnson •	1992-93	6-0	201	Haskell, OK
	34	Reino Nori •	1932-35	5-6	155	DeKalb, IL
PK	1	Vince Scott •	1980-83	5-7	160	DeKalb, IL
	84	John Ivanic	1987-90	5-9	165	Moline, IL
All-Purp.	22	Fran Cahill •	1948-51	6-2	192	Utica, IL
	20	Jack Dean •	1961-64	5-8	166	DeKalb, IL



John Spilis (87)



Eric Wenckowski (51)



Gary Stearns (42)

• - NIU Hall of Famer

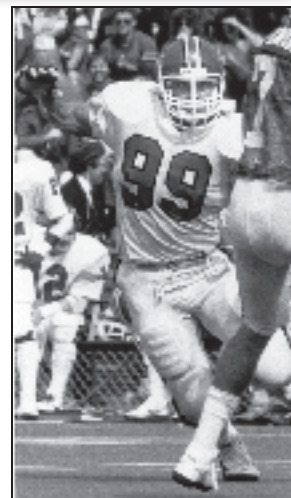


HUSKIE ALL-CENTURY TEAM

The Best of Northern Illinois University Football (1899-1998)

DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Player	Years Lettered	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
DL	63	Larry Brink •	1945-47	6-4	210	Foley, MN NFL free agent / NIU's first All-Pro / Three-time First-Team All-IIAC / Team captain
	86	Cary Caliendo	1987-90	6-4	242	Brookfield, WI Honorable Mention Football News All-America / Career tackle for loss leader (53)
DL	39	Doug Bartlett	1983-86	6-3	245	Springfield, IL NFL draft pick / Two-time Honorable Mention AP All-America / All-MAC
	79	Jerry Meyers	1973-75	6-5	265	Chicago, IL NFL draft pick / All-Time Huskie Stadium Team / Team Captain
DL	99	Scott Kellar •	1982-85	6-3	263	Roselle, IL NFL draft pick / Honorable Mention AP All-America / All-MAC / MAC Player of Week
	67	Max Gill	1979-82	6-2	248	Merrillville, IN NFL free agent / Honorable Mention AP All-America / All-MAC / Jefferson Trophy nominee
DL	78	Hollis Thomas	1993-95	6-1	319	St. Louis, MO NFL All-Rookie & free agent / First-Team All-Big West Conference
	78	Steve O'Malley	1982-85	6-3	257	Oak Forest, IL NFL & USFL draft pick / All-Time Huskie Stadium Team / MAC Player of Week
LB	50	Frank Lewandoski •	1976-79	6-2	220	Muskegon, MI NFL free agent / Honorable Mention AP All-America / All-MAC / NIU record 616 career tackles
	60	Mike Henigan	1960-63	5-10	210	DeKalb, IL Mineral Water Bowl Outstanding Lineman (1963) / All-IIAC / Team captain
LB	55	Larry Clark •	1970-72	6-1	220	Winnebago, IL NFL draft pick & free agent / School's No. 3 career tackler (446) / Team captain
	55	Mike Terna	1977-80	6-2	210	Wheaton, IL USFL free agent / Honorable Mention AP All-America / MAC Player of Year / All-MAC
LB	11	Bob Gregolunas	1973-75	6-1	208	Calumet City, IL NFL draft pick / School's initial First-Team All-MAC player / Team captain
	40	Clarence Vaughn	1983-84, 1986	6-0	202	Chicago, IL NFL draft pick / Only Northern Illinois player with two Super Bowl rings (XXII & XXVI)
DB	14	Tom Beck •	1959-61	5-10	167	Chicago, IL College FB Hall of Fame / NIU's best two-way player / Little All-America / All-IIAC
	27	Jeff Sanders	1982-83	5-6	165	Kansas City, KS CFL free agent / Honorable Mention AP All-America / All-MAC / MAC Player of Week
DB	36	Brett Tucker	1985, 1987-89	6-0	193	Sycamore, IL NFL draft pick / Honorable Mention AP All-America / All-Time Huskie Stadium Team
	43	Dan Meyer	1964-66	5-10	160	Arlington Heights, IL NIU's career (16) & game (4) interception leader / All-IIAC / Team MVP and captain
DB	12	Dave Petway	1977-80	6-2	206	Chicago, IL NFL free agent / Honorable Mention AP All-America / All-MAC / Longest TD in NIU history (100 yards)
	21	Lee Hicks	1981-84	5-9	190	Rockford, IL All-MAC / MAC Player of Week / All-Time Huskie Stadium Team / Team captain
DB	22	Rich Marks	1971-73	6-1	201	Chicago, IL NFL draft pick / All-Time Huskie Stadium Team / Team captain
	47	Al Eck •	1958-60	5-11	180	Palatine, IL Two-time Little All-America / All-IIAC / No. 2 in NIU career interception yards (221)
P	93	Tom Wittum •	1969-71	6-0	185	Round Lake, IL NFL draft pick & two-time All-Pro / All-Time Huskie Stadium Team
	9	Todd Van Keppel	1981-84	6-3	198	Valparaiso, IN NFL free agent / Honorable Mention AP All-America / All-MAC / MAC Punting champ
Ret-Spec.	38	Rodney Taylor	1985-88	5-7	163	Davenport, IA All-Time Huskie Stadium Team / No. 5 in career all-purpose yardage (3,654)
	3	Deon Mitchell	1995-98	5-10	179	Ft. Wayne, IN NFL free agent / No. 1 in career all-purpose yardage (4,732) / Set six NIU KO return marks



Scott Kellar (99)



Larry Brink (13)



Jerry Meyers (74)

• - NIU Hall of Famer

MAG WEST 2001 2002 2004 2005 CHAMPIONS



ALL-CENTURY TEAM: THE NEXT 100

1899-1929 Era:

- Bill Anderson, HB (1910-12)
- Clarence "Boots" Cannon, HB (1916, 1920-21) •
- Wes Concidine, E (1924-27) •
- Navarre Edwards, HB (1909)
- Charles "Wix" Garner, QB (1920) •
- Sanford Givens, HB (1900-02)
- Victor Kays, FB (1899-1901)
- John McNamara, G (1927-30) •
- Jack Mustapha, QB (1929-30, 1933) •
- John "Red" Pace, E (1929-32) •
- James Sawyer, E (1910-11)
- Kennard Seyller, QB (1913-14)
- Leland Strombom, HB (1927-30) •

1930-39 Era:

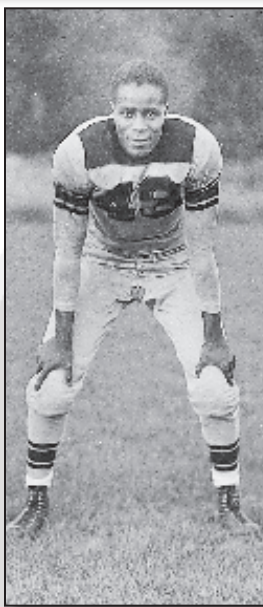
- Roy "Flip" Allen, E (1935-38) •
- Ed Behan, E (1938-41) •
- Elzie Cooper, E (1934-35) •
- Chet Davis, HB-QB (1935-38) •
- Lou DeRango, G (1935-37)
- Howard Fletcher, T (1938-39) •
- Karl Hein, T (1933-36)
- Bill Howard, T (1932-35)
- Ollie Krahenbuhl, FB (1937-40) •
- Robert Price, E (1938-40)
- Alex Saudargas, G (1934-37) •
- Leonard Skoglund, E (1932-34) •
- Sam Smith, QB (1938-41, 1946) •
- Frank Stegman, T-C (1937-40)
- John Young, E (1936-39)

1940-49 Era:

- Ed Arquilla, G (1941-42, 1946)
- Bob Brigham, FB (1947-49) •
- Duane Cunz, G (1941, 1946)
- Bob Duffield, FB-T (1940-42, 1946) •
- John Farney, HB (1940-42) •
- Don Fortunato, QB (1946-48) •
- Bob Fowlie, C (1947-49) •
- Harry Henigan, FB (1942, 1946-47, 1949) •
- Floyd Hunsberger, HB (1947-49) •
- Toimi Jarvi, QB (1938-41) •
- Ed Mascal, T (1940, 1946)
- Bill Minnihhan, LB (1946-49) •
- Jim Patterson, T (1939-41)
- Warren Reitzel, G (1946-47)
- Dick Williams, E (1944, 1948) •

1950-59 Era:

- George Acker, G (1949-51) •
- Julius Brasini, E (1948-51)
- Lew Flinn, QB (1957-59) •
- Bill Graham, HB (1951-54) •
- Alex Gulotta, G (1954-57)
- Bob Heimerdinger, QB (1948-51) •



Chet Davis
(1935-38)



Jim Patterson
(1939-41)



Toimi Jarvi
(1938-41)

- Al Jones, FB-HB (1949-51)
- Wes Luedeking, HB (1953-54, 1956)
- Jim McKinzie, E (1951-52) •
- Gil Memmen, C-T (1948-51)
- Dan Mojica, HB (1950-51)
- Jack Pheanis, FB (1950-52) •
- Bob Soltis, HB (1956, 1959-60) •
- Ernie Wickstrom, HB (1949-50) •

1960-69 Era:

- Ron Christian, QB (1963-65)
- Dan DeVito, DHB (1968-70)
- Jim Faggetti, LB (1966-68)
- Dave Herstedt, T (1962-64)
- John Lalonde, FB (1968-70) •
- Lynn McCann, DT (1961-64)
- Dave Mulderink, T (1960-62)
- Tom Rosenow, T (1965-67)
- Bob Stark, E (1964-65)
- Dave Weisendanger, OT (1968-70)

1970-79 Era:

- Mike Chelovich, OG (1978-81)
- Steve Claussen, TE-DE (1976-79)
- Jerry Golsteyn, QB (1973-75)
- Willie Hatter, SE (1970-72)
- Pete Kraker, QB (1976-78)
- Jerry Latin, TB (1972-73)
- John Nokes, DE (1970-72)
- Don Palochko, OG (1974-76)
- Allen Ross, TB (1977-80) •

1980-89 Era:

- Ron Delisi, LB (1986-89)
- Brian Glasgow, TE (1979-82)
- Tim Griffin, LB (1982-85)
- Ted Hennings, DT (1986-89)
- Jim Latanski, FB (1977-80)
- Curt Pardridge, SE (1982-85)
- Mike Pinckney, WR (1979-80)
- Darryl Richardson, TB (1982-85)
- Pete Roth, TB-FB (1981-82, 1984)
- Gary Schlinger, DE (1981-84)
- Marshall Taylor, QB (1985-88)
- Tim Tyrrell, QB (1982-83)-

1990-98 Era:

- Steve Henriksen, LB (1988, 1990-91)
- Mitch Jacoby, TE (1993-96)
- Gerald Nickelberry, LB (1991-94)
- Tim O'Brien, OG (1990-93)
- Chris O'Neal, C (1993-94)
- Raymond Roberts, TE (1990-93)
- C. J. Rose, DE (1992-95)
- Derek Sholdice, OT (1992-95)
- Mike Sutherland, C (1993-95)
- Charles Talley, TB (1993-96)
- Scott Van Bellinger, DE (1988-91)
- Larry Wynn, FLK (1989-92)

• - NIU Hall of Famer



ALL-TIME HUSKIE STADIUM TEAM

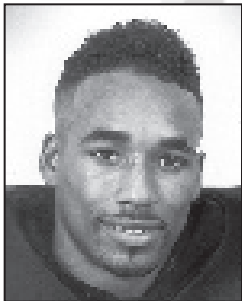
The Best of Northern Illinois University Football (1965-94)

OFFENSE

Pos.	Player (Years Lettered)
WR	Dave Petzke (1977, 1978) Willie Hatter (1970, 1971, 1972) Carl Aikens (1981, 1983, 1984)
WR	John Spilis (1966, 1967, 1968) Curt Pardridge (1982, 1983, 1984, 1985) Larry Wynn (1989, 1990, 1991, 1992)
TE	Brian Glasgow (1979, 1980, 1981, 1982) Reggie Sims (1981, 1982, 1983, 1984) Jim Latanski (1977, 1978, 1979, 1980)
OT	Scott Bolzan (1980, 1981, 1982, 1983) Dan Rosado (1977, 1978, 1979) Todd Peat (1983, 1984, 1985, 1986)
OT	Randy Clark (1977, 1978, 1979) Dave Weisendanger (1968, 1969, 1970) Jim Hannula (1977, 1978, 1979, 1980)
OG	Ted Karamanos (1984, 1985, 1986, 1987) Mike Chelovich (1978, 1979, 1980, 1981) Randy Shelton (1976, 1977)
OG	Todd Peat (1983, 1984, 1985, 1986) Rich Barrent (1979, 1980, 1981, 1982) Tim Holt (1971, 1972)
C	Eric Wenckowski (1988, 1989, 1990) Randy Clark (1977, 1978, 1979) Dan Graham (1984, 1985, 1986, 1987)
QB	Stacey Robinson (1989, 1990) Tim Tyrrell (1982, 1983) Jerry Golsteyn (1973, 1974, 1975)
FB	Mark Kellar (1971, 1972, 1973) Adam Dach (1988, 1989, 1990, 1991) John Lalonde (1968, 1969, 1970)
RB	LeShon Johnson (1992, 1993) Allen Ross (1977, 1978, 1979, 1980) Jerry Latin (1972, 1973)
PK	Vince Scott (1980, 1981, 1982, 1983) John Ivanic (1987, 1988, 1989, 1990) Tom Wittum (1969, 1970, 1971)
KORet	Byron Florence (1971, 1972, 1973) Mike Pinckney (1979, 1980) Rodney Taylor (1985, 1986, 1987, 1988)

DEFENSE

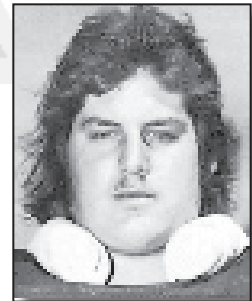
Pos.	Player (Years Lettered)
DL	Scott Kellar (1982, 1983, 1984, 1985) Steve O'Malley (1982, 1983, 1984, 1985) Ken Moore (1974, 1975, 1976)
DL	Doug Bartlett (1983, 1984, 1985, 1986) Ted Hennings (1986, 1987, 1988, 1989) Cary Caliendo (1987, 1988, 1989, 1990)
DL	Max Gill (1979, 1980, 1981, 1982) Scott Van Bellinger (1988, 1989, 1990, 1991) Reggie Harris (1984, 1985, 1986, 1987)
DL	Jerry Meyers (1973, 1974, 1975) Tom Rosenow (1965, 1966, 1967) Steve Claussen (1976, 1977, 1978, 1979)
LB	Frank Lewandoski (1976, 1977, 1978, 1979) Mike Terna (1977, 1978, 1979, 1980) Jim Faggetti (1966, 1967, 1968)
LB	Larry Clark (1970, 1971, 1972) Ron Delisi (1986, 1987, 1988, 1989) Tim Griffin (1982, 1983, 1984, 1985)
LB	Bob Gregolunas (1973, 1974, 1975) Larry Alleyne (1979, 1980, 1981, 1982) Gerald Nickelberry (1991, 1992, 1993, 1994)
DB	Dave Petway (1977, 1978, 1979, 1980) Kevin Cassidy (1987, 1988, 1989, 1990) Lee Hicks (1981, 1982, 1983, 1984)
DB	Brett Tucker (1985, 1987, 1988, 1989) Steve Hirsch (1980, 1981, 1982, 1983) Jeff Taylor (1990, 1991, 1992)
DB	Jeff Sanders (1982, 1983) Dan Meyer (1964, 1965, 1966) Dan DeVito (1968, 1969, 1970)
DB	Rich Marks (1971, 1972, 1973) Mark Stuart (1977, 1978) Mike Hollingshed (1984, 1985, 1986, 1988)
P	Tom Wittum (1969, 1970, 1971) Todd Van Keppel (1981, 1982, 1983, 1984) Jim Hannula (1977, 1978, 1979, 1980)
PRet	Rodney Taylor (1985, 1986, 1987, 1988) Chris Blake (1971, 1972, 1973) Jeff Sanders (1982, 1983)



LeShon Johnson, RB

The Best of Huskie Stadium's Best

Best Player	LeShon Johnson, RB
Best Athlete	LeShon Johnson, RB
Best Hitter	Frank Lewandoski, ILB
Best Blocker	Todd Peat, OG-OT
Smartest Player	Larry Clark, ILB
Strongest Player	Doug Bartlett, DL
Most Exciting Player	LeShon Johnson, RB
Best Opposition Player	Mercury Morris, RB (West Texas State)



Frank Lewandoski, ILB

MAG WEST 2001 2002 2004 2005 CHAMPIONS



RETIRED JERSEYS

Dave Petzke

6



In 1978, Dave Petzke made his No. 6 Northern Illinois University football jersey one of the most famous in the land.

At 6-foot-1, 180 pounds, Petzke was the master of the sideline curl pattern. His disciplined pass routes drew comparisons to National Football League great Raymond Berry.

In two seasons after transferring from Waldorf (IA) College, No. 6 caught 148 career passes for 1,958 yards and 16 touchdowns.

As a junior, Petzke finished seventh in the nation with 57 catches for 743 yards in 1977. A year later, he led the major-college ranks with a school and then Mid-American Conference record 91 receptions for 1,215 yards and 11 TDs.

Petzke won the 1978 NCAA Division 1-A receiving title by 29 catches. At the time, only three other players in the game's history—Tulsa's Howard Twilley (134), Brigham Young's Jay Miller (100), and Idaho's Jerry Hendren (95)—had caught more passes in one season.

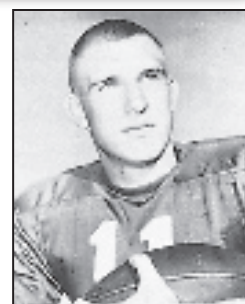
The Faribault, MN, product received the school's highest major-college gridiron accolade by making Third-Team Associated Press All-America as a senior—a feat bettered only by unanimous First-Team All-America tailback LeShon Johnson in 1993 and Second Team AP All-America tailback Michael Turner in 2003.

In 1987, he was inducted into the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame.



George Bork

11



George Bork is still synonymous with the forward pass. Back in 1963, Northern Illinois University's marching band spelled B-O-R-K and played the song "You Gotta Be a Football Hero" at halftime on old Glidden Field.

America's first collegiate passer at any level of football to throw for 3,000 yards in a season, No. 11 graduated with at least 16 national records. Thirty-eight years later, Bork ranked 36th in single-game completions (43), 36th in single-season passing efficiency (156.2), and 59th in career passing efficiency (141.8) on an all-division NCAA list that included Ty Detmer, Steve McNair, Neil Lomax, Doug Flutie, Jim McMahon, John Elway, David Klingler, etc.

The slender 6-foot-1, 178-pound crew cut quarterback put coach Howard Fletcher's Huskies on the map. The two-time First-Team Little All-America led Northern Illinois to its first 10-0-0 season, a Mineral Water Bowl triumph, and the College Division national title in 1963.

The Mount Prospect, IL, and Arlington High School product completed 244-of-374 passes for 3,077 yards and 32 touchdowns as a senior. Bork repeated as NCAA College Division passing and total offense leader (1962-63). He played in the North-South Shrine Game and the Challenge Bowl with teammate Hugh Rohrschneider.

Bork was inducted into the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1983. His No. 11 jersey was retired at halftime vs. Western Illinois (9-7-96).

Bork gained entry into the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame in 1999.

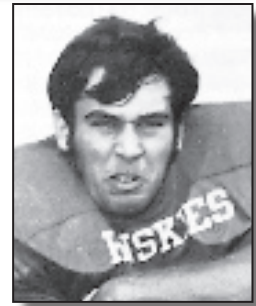


RETIRED JERSEYS

Bob Heimerdinger
12



Mark Kellar
31



When you talk about great Northern Illinois University Post World War II quarterbacks, Bob Heimerdinger ranks at the top of the list.

Don Fortunato. Lew Flinn. Tom Beck. George Bork. Ron Christian. Pete Kraker. Tim Tyrrell. Marshall Taylor. Stacey Robinson. Chris Finlen. Josh Haldi. And "Heimer."

The 5-foot-9, 160-pound Heimerdinger—better known as the "Huskie humdinger" in those days (1948-51)—authored a long list of Northern Illinois "firsts."

"Heimer" became the school's first national statistical champion—winning the College Division total offense crown in both 1950 (1,782 yards) and 1951 (1,775 yards). As a senior, he led the Huskies to a 9-0-0 record, the Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic Association title, and a bid to the then-Tangerine Bowl.

The Riverside-Brookfield High School product was Mr. Versatility. Throw the ball? No. 12 topped the nation in passing yardage (1,710) and touchdown strikes (16) in 1949. Run? His 78-yard TD rush vs. Nebraska-Omaha in 1949 still ranks among the 14 longest in school history. Punt? Who do you think rated ninth in the country at 38.3 yards per?

Inducted into the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1983, "Heimer" was the first player to have his jersey retired in 1951.

Northern Illinois University fullback Mark Kellar ran in the same circles as Tony Dorsett, Archie Griffin, John Cappelletti, etc.

His running style might be compared to a runaway, 100-car freight train. The only thing to defend Kellar was an appendectomy his sophomore year. He missed two games and still netted 710 ground yards in 1971.

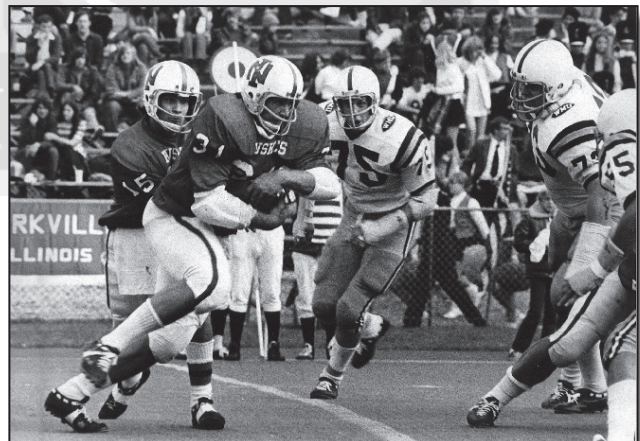
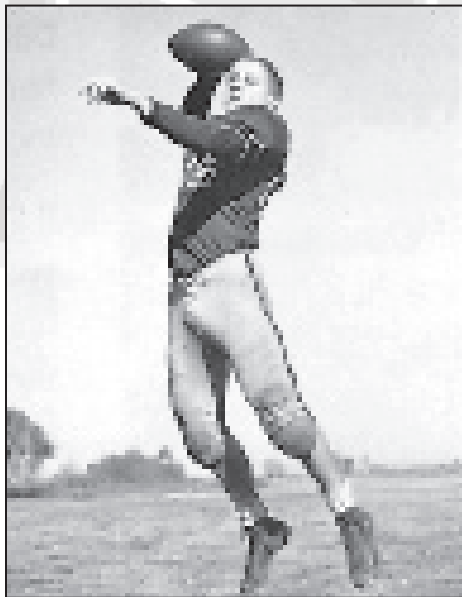
People nicknamed him the "Carpentersville Cruncher" or "Baby Bull" for good reason. As a junior, his 1,316 yards ranked him sixth in the U.S.A.

As a senior, the six-foot, 232-pounder bulldozed for 1,719 yards and 16 touchdowns on 291 carries to capture the 1973 NCAA Division I-A rushing championship. He beat national runner-up Dorsett by 133 yards and Griffin by 291 more that fall.

Kellar produced three 200-yard plus rushing games, made four Honorable Mention All-America squads, plus the United Press International National Backfield of the Week twice, and played in the North-South Shrine Game in 1973.

No. 31 concluded his Huskie career with 3,745 yards, 743 attempts, 33 TDs, and 20 100-yard rushing games. He was the 18th player in the history of major-college football to crack the 3,000-yard barrier.

Kellar's jersey was retired in ceremonies after his final home game vs. Western Illinois (11-3-73) and placed in a time capsule buried near Altgeld Hall. He was enshrined into the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1983.



THE CENTURY'S FIVE BEST PLAYERS

Reino Nori

34

There is no doubt. Not only was Reino Nori the best Northern Illinois University football player at the mid-point of the program's history, the diminutive 5-foot-6, 155-pounder was the Huskies' No. 1 athlete during the 1899-1949 era. Hands down.

Even with his passing in 1988, his exploits will exist in the perpetuity of memory and the record book on a scale with a Babe Ruth and Jim Thorpe.

The legacy of "The Phantom Finn"—the nickname used by local newspapers in his day—will always stand the test of time. Nori was the only athlete in Northern Illinois history to earn 17 varsity letters in five sports. He was the first Huskie product to perform in the National Football League and the Chicago Tribune's famed College All-Star Game at Soldier Field.



As the story goes, Detroit Lions head coach George "Potsy" Clark traveled to DeKalb in 1936 to see Nori for himself. The two met on the Glidden Field cinder track. "Son," asked Clark, "do you want to play professional football?"

Nori joined the NFL as a free agent, playing for the Lions (1936), Brooklyn Dodgers (1937), and Chicago Bears (1938). "I like Nori's aggressive spirit," Clark noted at the time. "He runs the team well, is greased lightning in the open field and he throws a soft, accurate pass." His final days playing football were spent at Camp Grant during World War II (1942-43).

A charter member of the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1978, Nori won Northern Illinois monograms in basketball (1932-33, 1933-34, 1934-35, 1935-36), football (1932, 1933, 1934, 1935), baseball (1933, 1934, 1935,

1936), track (1933, 1934, 1935, 1936), and wrestling (1932-33).

Nori was the school's first Little 19 Conference Player of the Year in football (1935). He won First-Team All-Little 19 honors in both football and basketball. He captained the NIU football, basketball, and track squads. He starred as a halfback on the gridiron, a forward in basketball, a third baseman in baseball, a sprinter and long jumper in track, and a 135-145-pound entry in wrestling.

"Nori was a :09.8 sprinter. He was built," said Northern Illinois Hall of Famer Tego Larsen who lettered in football during 1936-38. "It was speed. It was confidence. It was determination. Reino believed in himself. He had everything. He was always a threat inside or outside."

In a track dual meet against the University of Chicago, Nori tied for first place in the long jump with a fellow gridder named Jay Berwanger, the first recipient of the Heisman Trophy. On the hardwood, Nori performed on the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame 1933-34 quintet that scrimmaged Kansas and Pittsburgh in the National Association of Basketball Coaches convention exhibitions at Atlanta, GA.

In football, Nori still holds the school record for the longest run from scrimmage—a 99-yard touchdown vs. Wisconsin-Whitewater on November 17, 1934. The Northern Illinois legend still ranks No. 4 in career touchdowns (31 in 1932-35), No. 7 in single-season scoring (101 points in 1935), No. 5 in career scoring (204), and No. 8 in season TDs (15 in 1935). As a senior, he ranked second in the nation in scoring.

A three-sport star (football, basketball, and track) at DeKalb High School, Nori died at Kishwaukee Community Hospital on October 8, 1988, at age 75.

LeShon Johnson

42

LeShon-A-Mania was real. There was no more ballyhooed Northern Illinois University performer in The First Century. Reino Nori. Larry Brink. George Bork. Mark Kellar. John Spilis. Guys, take a backseat. LeShon Johnson was the standard-bearer around here and new NIU Athletics Hall of Famer (2003).

The "Cowboy" exploded onto the national scene. The biggest thing to hit DeKalb since supermodel Cindy Crawford. Or as prominent New York Times columnist Ira Berkow

acknowledged, LeShon "in most cases has been a one-man show."

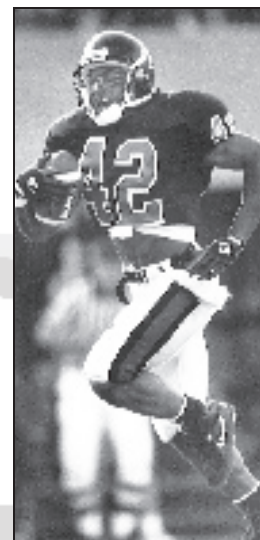
Prior to 1993, no Huskie football player had ever made major-college First-Team All-America. No. 42 made Northern Illinois history—making unanimous First-Team All-America that season. Eleven-fold with such marquee names as Florida State's Charlie Ward, San Diego State's Marshall Faulk, UCLA's J. J. Stokes, Notre Dame's Aaron Taylor, etc. Johnson was only the sixth player in the state of Illinois to make unanimous First-Team All-America. The other five? Red Grange, Dick Butkus, Jim Grabowski, David Williams, and Moe Gardner of Illinois.

More elite company? LeShon finished sixth in the Heisman Trophy race as a senior. The sleek, six-foot, 205-pounder received five first-place votes, 51 second-place, and 59 third-place votes in the Downtown Athletic Club balloting. He was also named UPI National Back of the Year. Top three Doak Walker National Runningback Award finalist. Football News Offensive Player of the Year finalist. Big West Conference Co-Offensive Player of the Year.

"LeShon for Heisman" T-shirts—priced at \$12.95 apiece—became collector's items on campus. A full video crew—including ESPN "College Game Day" anchor Chris Fowler—spent a full day on campus. Stuff like this didn't happen every day in DeKalb.

Not only did Johnson lead the country in individual rushing and all-purpose yardage, No. 42 out-rushed 65 of the nation's then 106 NCAA Division 1-A teams in 1993. With his 179.6-yards-per-game rushing average, No. 42 outgained such postseason bowl entries as Alabama, California, Indiana, Miami (FL), Texas, and Utah.

Johnson gained a school and Big West-record 1,976 yards and 12 touchdowns on 327 carries. At the time, the "Cowboy" produced the fourth-best single-season in NCAA 1-A rushing history behind previous Heisman winners Barry Sanders of Oklahoma (2,628 yards in 1988), Marcus Allen of Southern Cal (2,342 in 1981), and Mike Rozier of Nebraska (2,148 in 1983).



THE CENTURY'S FIVE BEST PLAYERS

The Haskell, OK, product completed his Northern Illinois days as the No. 4 all-time NCAA career rusher with a 150.6 ypg. average behind Cornell's Ed Marinaro (174.6 ypg. in 1969-71), O.J. Simpson of Southern Cal (164.4 ypg. in 1967-68), and Herschel Walker of Georgia (159.4 ypg. in 1980-82). A third-round pick of the Green Bay Packers in 1994, Johnson also played for the Arizona Cardinals before being sidelined in 1999 in his debut on the New York Giants with lymphoma. Johnson finished his pro career with the XFL Chicago Enforcers (2001).

John Spilis

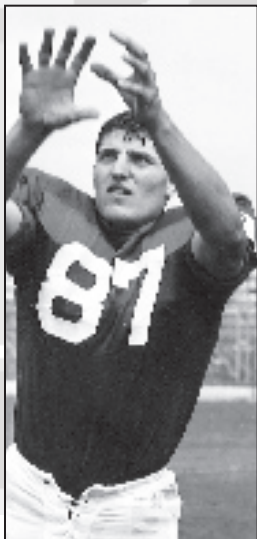
87

Back in 1968, you name the wide receiver and Northern Illinois University senior John Spilis ranked with any of them. Notre Dame's Jim Seymour. Florida State's Ron Sellers. SMU's Jerry Levias. Washington's Gene Washington. Oklahoma's Ed Hinton. Any of them.

Talent-wise, it was no problem. At 6-4, 217-pounds, No. 87 possessed great hands, an uncanny ability to catch passes in crowds similar to a basketball rebounder, and big-time speed for his size. Playing was never a problem for John Spilis.

Instead, his personal dilemma was NCAA limbo. His senior season was the year before the Huskie football program moved to major status. So, at the time, Northern Illinois was playing as an independent with no conference statistics, no all-league teams, and no players of the week.

On top of all that, Spilis suffered a broken leg in his final college game and missed playing in the postseason American Bowl. Still, No. 87 caught two touchdown passes on the broken leg vs. 16th-ranked Ohio that November afternoon—the second ending his college career and setting the school's career TD reception mark (22) then held by



Huskie Little All-Americans Al Eck and Hugh Rohrschneider.

Ironically, Spilis caught 46 passes for three consecutive seasons or 138 career receptions for 1,815 yards and 22 TDs (1966-68). The Thornridge High School product was even more dangerous on kickoff returns—going 90 yards vs. North Dakota State and then 97 on the opening play vs. Bowling Green State that led to a 7-6 Northern Illinois triumph in its first victory over a "major" in 1968.

"He's a definite pro prospect," said Huskie coach Howard Fletcher. "I can only quote the pro scouts that have talked to me and they rate Spilis as one of the best receivers in the country."

"Fletch" turned out to be a prophet on two counts—(1) Spilis became the highest Northern Illinois NFL selection in the 1969 draft (third round or 64th player chosen) by the Green Bay Packers and (2) would play for the legendary Otto Graham vs. the New York Jets in the College All-Star Game in Chicago.

In addition to the Packers, Spilis also played for the Washington Redskins and Chicago Bears. He was inducted into the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame (1984) and named to the All-Time Huskie Stadium Team (1995), plus the All-Century Team (1999).

George Bork

11

Some things never change. Thirty-six years after his final Northern Illinois University snap, quarterback George Bork still made national headlines for the Huskies.

One of the greatest and most recognizable names in the modern era of Northern Illinois football, Bork was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in August, 1999.

One of eight Divisional inductees—players and coaches from NCAA Division I-AA, II, III, and NAIA institutions—the former Little All-America was the first Huskie to be enshrined and one of only 12 national inductees with Mid-American Conference connections.

You may have heard of the others—Doyt Perry from Bowling Green State, Don James from Kent State, Bob Babich, Sid Gillman,

Woody Hayes, George Little, Ara Parseghian, and Bo Schembechler from Miami (OH), Frank Loria from Marshall, Merle Gulick and Mel Long from Toledo.

"This couldn't happen to a more deserving guy than George," said Northern Illinois Hall of Fame coach Howard Fletcher. "All the things he accomplished and all the publicity he generated for Northern Illinois, this is tremendous. Bork was the top quarterback I've ever had. George was the perfect guy for that system."

Mark Kellar

31

The testimony to greatness is recognition from your peers. And as a power runner, Northern Illinois University Hall of Fame fullback Mark Kellar had more than a few "props" from other performers.

It was 1995—the public unveiling of the All-Time Huskie Stadium Team and the first meeting of the school's two major-college rushing kingpins, Kellar and tailback LeShon Johnson. They shook hands, hugged, and exchanged mutual respect. "Sure I know who you are," LeShon told Kellar. "You're No. 31. You led the country in rushing. I saw your picture in the media guide."

Not only was Kellar an impact player for coach Jerry Ippoliti and Northern Illinois during 1971-73, he certainly was in his rookie year in the World Football League with the Chicago Fire. Kellar led the WFL in scoring and rushing and scored five touchdowns in one game before breaking his leg in the 11th contest of the season. He is one of four players to have his NIU jersey retired.

The Next Five:

- Stacey Robinson, QB (1988-90)
- Bob Heimerdinger, QB (1948-51)
- Dave Petzke, SE (1977-78)
- Hugh Rohrschneider, E (1960-63)
- Frank Lewandoski, LB (1976-79)

The All-Century Team Committee

- Mike Korcek, chair
- Bob Brigham, Fran Cahill, Pat Culpepper, John Farney, Howard Fletcher, Bob Heimerdinger, Jerry Ippoliti, Tego Larsen, Bud Nangle, Joe Novak



THE BEST OF THE FIRST CENTURY

The Greatest Games:

#1: NIU 73, Fresno State 18 (October 6, 1990) — The ultimate Fantasy Island Huskie triumph with (1) the most points scored vs. Associated Press Top 25 team, (2) the school-record 806 yards total offense, and (3) QB Stacey Robinson's NCAA record 308 yards and five touchdowns rushing. "I thought I was in Norman, OK," groaned FSU coach Jim Sweeney.

#2: NIU 19, Wisconsin 17 (September 17, 1988) — Finally, that first giddy victory over the Big Ten Conference, thanks to the in-step of PK John Ivanic and his four field goals (33, 44, 23, and 31 yards—including the winner with 1:24 left). Brent Musburger's on-air congratulations to coach Jerry Pettibone's Huskies on CBS-TV's "NFL Today" the next day didn't hurt either.

#3: NIU 21, Southwest Missouri State 14 (November 30, 1963) — The National Championship. No. 1 in the AP College Division and NAIA polls. QB George Bork's 40-yard fourth quarter pass to FB Dave Broderick appropriately culminated the school's first (1) bowl victory and (2) 10-0-0 season.

#4: NIU 26, Toledo 10 (November 12, 1983) — Possibly, the Huskies' Biggest Showdown Game during its 1-A years. The 9-0-0 Rockets arrived in DeKalb as one of nation's three remaining "major" unbeaten, plus with *Sports Illustrated* tagging along. After FB Joel Kinkade's 25-yard TD jaunt with a QB Tim Tyrrell screen pass in the first quarter and PK Vince Scott's 14 kick-scoring points, it was Northern Illinois in the Cal Bowl Driver's Seat. Why didn't ABC-TV carry this as a regional game?

#5: NIU 27, Nebraska-Omaha 26 (November 17, 1951) — Capped 9-0-0 campaign with winning TD on a six-yard QB Bob Heimerdinger-to-HB Dan Mojica pass and the biggest career PAT for PK Pat McKillen with 0:35 left in game. Northern Illinois rallied from 26-6 deficit in final 16 minutes and positioned self for possible Tangerine Bowl bid. One of most important comebacks in school history.

#6: NIU 37, Kansas 34 (September 3, 1983) — Another Bill Mallory Huskie milestone—the school's first triumph vs. the Big Eight—thanks to a clutch 26-yard field goal with 0:08 remaining by PK Vince Scott. Beating the Jayhawks set the tone for The Championship Season. The unsung hero would be senior FB Lou Wicks (game-high 86 yards and two TDs on 20 carries).

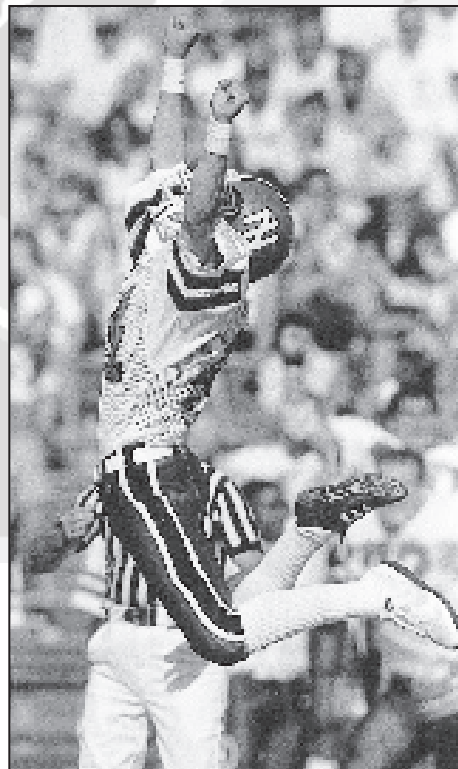
#7: NIU 20, Cal State-Fullerton 13 (December 17, 1983) — National television audience witnesses first Northern Illinois "major" post-season triumph at California Bowl III in Fresno. TB Darryl Richardson scored go-ahead

TD with 3:13 left in third period and PK Vince Scott added 42-yard fourth quarter field goal. Game MVP Lou Wicks topped all rushers with 117 yards on 14 attempts. "We might not be the fanciest team," understated Bill Mallory afterwards, "but most of the time we find something that will work."

#8: NIU 27, Central Michigan 22 (November 9, 1963) — IIAAC title clincher on the road, thanks to two of greatest single-game performances in Huskie Record Books—(1) QB George Bork hitting a school-record 43-of-68 passes for 416 yards and two TDs, plus (2) SE Gary Stearns catching 17 passes for 188 yards and one TD.

#9: NIU 24, Bowling Green State 23 (October 22, 1983) — Nerve-wracking Homecoming triumph. Trailing 20-0 at halftime, Northern Illinois outscored the Falcons, 24-3, in the final 30 minutes to remain unbeaten in the Mid-American Conference. QB Tim Tyrrell ignited the Huskie rally with key 43-yard TD run on keeper and 253 second-half total offense yards.

#10: NIU 28, Kent State 7 (October 28, 1972) — Important win in pre-MAC days vs. defending league champions, renown as the (Don) James Gang with all-time Golden Flash LB great Jack Lambert. Behind FB Mark Kellar (146 yards rushing), Northern Illinois produced 541 yards total offense.



John Ivanic vs. Wisconsin (1988)

The Greatest Plays:

#1: HB Reino Nori — Dashed for 99-yard TD on longest rush in Northern Illinois history vs. Wisconsin-Whitewater (November 17, 1934). "A punt went dead on our one," Nori said. "We planned to try to get the ball out to about the four or five or so we could get off a kick. Well, a hole opened up in the middle and before I knew it I was out to the 30 and I look around and that was all there was to it." The good guys won, 14-0.

#2: TB LeShon Johnson — Best run in traffic and longest by a Huskie on Homecoming. Momentum-changing 85-yard TD run vs. Southern Mississippi (October 10, 1992). The "Cowboy" took a pitchout, swept outside, cut back on a dime, and broke an ankle tackle, accelerated through a group of would-be USM tacklers, and finished The Run with a 30-yard sprint down the west sideline. Vintage LeShon (188 yards) in a 23-10 Huskie upset.

#3: QB Bob Heimerdinger — Facing a crucial fourth down and 10-yards-to-go situation in winning, fourth quarter TD march vs. Nebraska-Omaha (November 17, 1951), "Heimer" faded back to pass and finding no one open, scrambled up the middle, dodged three tacklers for a 24-yard gain. "If there was a big play that season, that was it," said Hall of Fame teammate Fran Cahill. "I can still remember being downfield trying to get free and watching 'Heimer' duck everybody in the backfield. It seems like it took forever, like one of those slow-motion films."

#4: LB Larry Clark — Returned pass interception for (then) school-record 88 yards with 4:00 left in game for insurance TD in 22-13 triumph at Long Beach State (November 17, 1972) that guaranteed 7-4-0 year for enthusiastic, second-year head coach Jerry Ippoliti who followed Clark down the sidelines for all 88 yards.

#5: QB Tim Tyrrell — Started Comeback of Year in Cal Bowl season with 43-yard keeper down Huskie Stadium east sidelines for third period TD vs. Bowling Green State (October 22, 1983). "We needed something to get life back in the team," said Bill Mallory. "That first score was like giving someone who hasn't eaten in awhile something to eat. I knew we were on our way."

#6: SE John Spilis — Took opening kickoff 97 yards in driving rain for TD during historic 7-6 Northern Illinois triumph vs. Bowling Green State (November 16, 1968). The Spilis TD—the longest KO return in school history at the time—and HB Wayne Fiedler's PAT kick stood up for the school's first win vs. a "major" school in coach Howard Fletcher's final Huskie Stadium game and the facility's last contest on natural turf.



THE BEST OF THE FIRST CENTURY

#7: OG Todd Peat — With 5:25 left in the California Bowl, here's the situation: Northern Illinois ball on its own 20 yard line on fourth down and one-yard to go in a 20-13 contest. Coach Bill Mallory sent Tim Tyrrell on a QB sneak over freshman Peat's OG spot for a first down and milked almost four more minutes off the clock vs. Cal State-Fullerton (December 17, 1983).

#8: FLK Mike Pinckney — Kicked off the Mallory Era in style by returning the opening KO 97 yards for a TD in a 16-9 triumph vs. Long Beach State (September 5, 1980) in Anaheim Stadium.

#9: QB Stacey Robinson — Ran perfectly executed sprint draw for untouched nine-yard TD with 0:49 left in game to finish a 21-point fourth period Huskie rally and clinch a 42-35 triumph over Kansas State (September 22, 1990).

#10: FB Ollie Krahenbuhl — Booted second-longest punt in Northern Illinois history, a 90-yarder vs. Illinois State (November 12, 1938). "I got lucky. There must have been a 50 mile-per-hour wind," Krahenbuhl said. "What happened? On the next play, ISU centered the ball out of their end zone for a safety. We won, 2-0. Look it up." Ollie, you were right. Final score: NIU 2, ISU 0.

The Greatest Performances:

#1: TB LeShon Johnson vs. Iowa (November 6, 1993) — From a national standpoint, how do you refute 306 yards rushing vs. a Big Ten bowl team with a Kinnick Stadium record at the time? Ex-Iowa standout Ed Podolak who held the mark (286 yards) worked the game as the color analyst for WHO-AM radio in Des Moines. "He's (Johnson) one of the three best runningbacks in the nation, but (Michigan's) Tyrone Wheatley is better," Podolak said on the air at halftime. Two hours later, Podolak and most of the 64,129 spectators became converts. "Wheatley can't carry this kid's jock."

#2: QB Stacey Robinson vs. Fresno State (October 6, 1990) — "The Wiz"—short for "Wishbone Wizard II"—made (1) ESPN, (2) Football News, (3) Sports Illustrated, and (4) Chicago Tribune National Player of the Week. This Wishbone clinic was the No. 2 college football story that night on ESPN's "SportsCenter." Robinson (308 yards on 22 carries) scored five first-half TDs (39, 9, 41, 67, and 11 yards) without being touched vs. a Top 25 opponent. His halftime rushing total (287 yards) still ranks as the most by any QB in the history of the game (TCU RB LaDainian Tomlinson tied the record versus UTEP in 1999). "That was an All-America performance," said Northern Illinois coach Jerry

Pettibone. "Unbelievable. I saw Mike Rozier and Roger Craig at Nebraska and Billy Sims at Oklahoma. I've seen a lot of great individual games. I thought that was the best." In the interest of gridiron diplomacy, Pettibone pulled "The Wiz" early in the third quarter. Otherwise, the Huskie Stadium stats crew would be still counting yardage.

#3: QB George Bork vs. Central Michigan (November 9, 1963) — This is classic Bork. Forget about his pre-Brigham Young 43-of-68 passes for 416 yards and two touchdowns in the IAC title-clincher. The College Football Hall of Famer marched coach Howard Fletcher's Huskies on a crucial 72-yard TD march by hitting 10-of-15 aeri-als in the final 93 seconds of the opening half. "That's the best scoring drive I've ever seen in person, on film, or on TV," "Fletch" said.

#4: SE Gary Stearns vs. Central Michigan (November 9, 1963) — Three Northern Illinois players caught 10 or more passes in this game, topped by Stearn's school-record 17 for 188 yards. At a school with a great throwing heritage—Cahill, Eck, Rohrschneider, Spilis, Petzke, etc., it's even more amazing.

#5: HB Bill Anderson vs. Wheaton College (October 19, 1912) — In 2003, seven touchdowns would definitely get your face on ESPN. Anderson must settle for the school's single-game TD and scoring record (42 points) from the Huskies' all-time scoring performance (114 points).



Tim Tyrrell vs. Toledo (1983)

#6: LB Frank Lewandoski vs. Western Michigan (September 16, 1978) — Ornerly. Durable. You pick the cliché for No. 50. "Lew" set the school and MAC single-game tackle record with 33 vs. the Broncos and their TB Jerome Persell (39 carries for 205 yards) that evening. But 33 tackles in one game? "Frank Lewandoski is the single most relentless competitor it has ever been my pleasure to coach," said NIU boss Pat Culpepper, who might know something about relentless in his days as an All-America LB at Texas.

#7: FB Bob Brigham vs. Washburn (KS) (September 24, 1948) — Better known as the best blocking back in coach "Chick" Evans' fabled "Pony Backfield" in the late 1940s, Brigham produced the Huskies' first post World War II mega-yardage game with a school-record 242—a mark that stood until FB Mark Kellar in 1973.

#8: FB Mark Kellar vs. Illinois State (October 27, 1973) — For the second straight week, the "Carpentersville Cruncher" won UPI National Backfield of the Week honors during his run for the NCAA 1-A rushing title with 246 yards—a record that lasted until TB Allen Ross in 1977.

#9: TB Allen Ross vs. Ohio (November 19, 1977) — Earned (1) MAC Player of the Week, (2) AP National Back of the Week, and (3) UPI National Backfield of the Week honors for school-record 254 yards in final game of freshman year. His performance vs. OU gave No. 13 1,043 yards for the season—marking only the sixth frosh in NCAA 1-A history to surpass 1,000-yards.

#10: TB LeShon Johnson vs. Southern Illinois (October 2, 1993) — The "Cowboy" ripped for a school-record 322 yards and three TDs (92, 60, 60 yards) on only 20 attempts and made Chicago Tribune National Player of the Week. With only nine carries in the second half, LeShon might have gained in the 400s. Trend? Yes, LeShon took a pitch and ripped those 92 yards on the Huskies' first play from scrimmage.

The Greatest Intangibles:

#1: QB Tim Tyrrell (1982-83) — Best all-purpose QBs sometimes get lost in the shuffle. His knock-that-chip-off-my-shoulder attitude, the second-half vs. Bowling Green State, and those years in the NFL as an All-Pro special teams performer attest to his leadership.

#2: QB-DB Tom Beck (1959-61) — No. 14 ranks among Northern Illinois' finest all-time QBs on his own terms as a Little All-America and NIU Hall of Famer. What most people forget over the years is that Tom Beck was probably the best two-way player in The First Century.



MAC FLASHBACKS

First Triumph vs. MAC Champ:

October 28, 1972—Northern Illinois earned a milestone “W”—its first vs. a Mid-Am grid champ—and corralled Kent State University’s famous “James Gang” by a 28-7 margin at Huskie Stadium. Coach Jerry Ippoliti’s squad rolled up a (then) school-record 475 yards rushing and 78 team carries vs. the 1972 MAC kingpin and Tangerine Bowl-bound Golden Flashes. QB Mark Carlson led the way for Northern Illinois with 224 yards total offense (158 rushing and two touchdowns) and junior FB Mark Kellar piled up 146 more ground yards. All-MAC LB Jack Lambert posted a game-high 22 tackles for KSU boss Don James.

Joining the Mid-Am:

March 7, 1973—In a major press conference in downtown Chicago at the Bismarck Hotel, Northern Illinois became the ninth member of the Mid-Am. “Northern’s program has come on strong,” MAC commissioner Fred Jacoby told the *Chicago Tribune*. “Our presidents expressed a desire to become more of a sectional conference than an Ohio-Michigan conference. We feel the entrance of Northern adds an extra dimension to our league with its geographical location. It gives us a truly midwestern flavor.”

First MAC Player of the Week:

October 20, 1973—Northern Illinois senior FB Mark Kellar—who would win the NCAA rushing title that fall—garnered the first of back-to-back MAC Player of the Week honors with his 199-yard effort in a 45-17 triumph over Ball State University in Huskie Stadium. Kellar repeated as MAC Player of the Week with a career-high 246 yards and three TDs the next week vs. Illinois State.

First MAC Victory:

September 27, 1975—On a sunny afternoon at Waldo Stadium, Northern Illinois made its official MAC football debut under head coach Jerry Ippoliti with a 20-0 victory over Western Michigan University. RB Vince Smith (two touchdowns) and PK Pete Miskov (two field goals and two PAT kicks) provided all the Huskie points. NIU posted its first shutout in 55 games (since 1970) and limited the hosts to 221 yards total offense behind LB Bob Gregolunas (22 tackles) and DT Jerry Meyers (20 stops).

First Home MAC Game:

October 4, 1975—Tangerine Bowl, anyone? Northern Illinois took advantage of five turnovers—scoring on four—and moved to 2-0 in the MAC by winning its first league contest in DeKalb with a 38-15 triumph over Kent State University. The hosts broke open a 10-7 game with 21 unanswered points in the third period—capped by senior LB Bob Gregolunas’ 14-yard interception return TD with 8:50 to play in the final quarter and his game-best 19 tackles.

First All-MAC Griddier:

November 26, 1975—What a break-out senior year for Northern Illinois QB-turned-LB Bob Gregolunas. Switched to defense the previous spring, the six-foot, 205-pound quad-captain became the Huskies’ initial First-Team All-MAC griddier. No. 11 notched eight double-digit hit outings and led the team with 127 tackles in nine games that fall.



Bob Gregolunas, LB

First Frosh 1,000-Yard Rusher:

November 19, 1977—By rushing for a (then) school-record 254 yards in the season finale vs. Ohio University, Northern Illinois freshman TB Allen Ross really made a name for himself. Not only did the 5-foot-10, 193-pounder make Mid-Am Player of the Week, AP National Back of the Week, and the UPI National Backfield of the Week, Ross became the school’s and league’s first frosh 1,000-yard single-season runner (1,043 in 273 attempts). At the time, Ross was only the sixth NCAA Division 1-A frosh to reach 1,000 yards.

MAC Tackle Record:

September 16, 1978—One of the most durable linebackers in MAC history, Northern Illinois junior Frank Lewandoski set the school and league single-game tackle record with an amazing 33 stops during a 44-30 setback vs. Western Michigan University in Huskie Stadium. “Lew” shadowed Bronco great Jerome Persell (39 carries for 205 yards) and posted 16 solos and 17 assists. Lewandoski finished with 616 career tackles, which ranks among the MAC’s all-time top five.

First NCAA Catch King:

December 6, 1978—Few players could latch onto passes like Northern Illinois senior SE Dave Petzke who not only established school and Mid-Am single-season records with 91 catches, 1,215 reception yards, and 11 TDs but also won the league’s first NCAA 1-A receiving title that fall. In fact—at the time—among the NCAA’s major individual offensive stats categories (rushing, receiving, total offense, and scoring), Petzke’s was only the second national title won by a MAC player (Toledo QB Gene Swick led the nation in total offense in 1975).

First MAC Player of the Year:

December 12, 1978—“Wow!” That was the reaction of Northern Illinois SE Dave Petzke upon hearing the news that he shared the MAC Offensive Player of the Year award with Western Michigan TB Jerome Persell. Petzke, NIU’s first Mid-Am Player of the Year, started a string of three straight Huskie loop Player of the Year recipients—LB Frank Lewandoski (1979) and LB Mike Terna (1980).

First Vern Smith Award Winner:

December 1, 1983—“I never expected to be the MVP of our team, now this.” Northern Illinois senior QB Tim Tyrrell was always modest to extremes. This time the spiritual guru of the Huskies’ 9-2-0 league champs and soon-to-be Cal Bowl victors had been voted the recipient of the Jefferson Trophy (now the Vern Smith Award) as the MAC’s “Most Outstanding Football Player.” Tyrrell, the league’s top all-around QB that season, produced 1,799 yards total offense in 1983.



Tim Tyrrell, QB

MAC Coach of the Year:

November 21, 1983—Since 1965 and the inception of the award, only one person—Bill Mallory—had won MAC Coach of the Year honors in football at two league schools. The 48-year-old Northern Illinois taskmaster received his first at Miami ten years earlier.



ANOTHER GEORGE BORK CLASSIC

It was akin to one of his many spiral passes. Another George Bork classic. For the icon Northern Illinois University quarterback of the 1960s, a dream came true in August, 1999.

Bork was one of 22 greats enshrined in the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, IN.

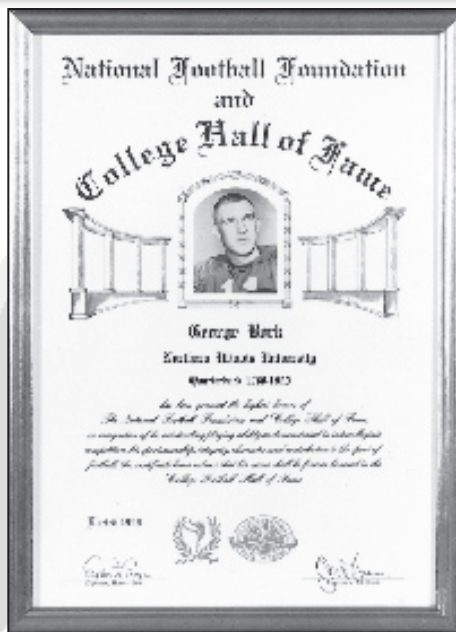
The 1999 roll call of other inductees included Al Brosky (Illinois), Teel Bruner (Centre College), Brad Budde (Southern California), Don Coryell (Whittier, San Diego State), George Floyd (Eastern Kentucky), Bill Fralic (Pittsburgh), Willie Galimore (Florida A&M), Randy Gradishar (Ohio State), Bo Jackson (Auburn), Jim LeClair (North Dakota), Mel Long (Toledo), Jim McMahon (Brigham Young), Billy Nicks (Morris Brown, Prairie View A&M), Tom Osborne (Nebraska), Jerry Rhome (Southern Methodist, Tulsa), Jim Ritcher (North Carolina State), Johnny Roland (Missouri), Alex Sarkisian (Northwestern), James Sochor (California-Davis), Bill Stanfill (Georgia), and Randy Trautman (Boise State).

For Bork, his family and friends, and legendary Huskie head coach Howard Fletcher, the weekend pageantry—called the "Enshrinement Festival" by College Football Hall of Fame officials—turned into a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"It was super, just great," said Bork, a little sore after the Hall of Fame's touch football game. "Just an unforgettable, humbling experience. Those are some really big names. There's times I feel I really belong there. Then there are times when I'm like, 'What am I doing here?' You never really think it's going to be a reality. But I suppose you could say it's something you dream about."

Bork, of course, was the first Northern Illinois player inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. His name still dominates the passing section in the Huskie Record Book. Forty years after his last collegiate pass, Bork still ranks among the all-time NCAA leaders in several aerial categories.

America's first collegiate passer at any level to throw for 3,000 yards in a single season, Bork and "Fletch's" Huskies made national headlines. With the fabled Blitz-T formation, NIU was the gridiron version of high-scoring Loyola Marymount in basketball. A two-time unanimous Little All-America pick, Bork received votes on the Associated Press and United Press International major-college All-America units and garnered support in the Heisman



Trophy balloting as a senior when Northern Illinois went 10-0-0, won the Mineral Water Bowl, and captured the AP and NAIA College Division National Championship in 1963. That success led to "The House That Bork Built"—the new Huskie Stadium in 1965—and NCAA Division 1-A status in 1969.

The Mount Prospect, IL, native and product of Arlington High School graduated with at least 16 national records and hit 244-of-374 passes for 3,077 yards and 32 touchdowns during his mind-boggling senior year (1963). Bork repeated as the NCAA College Division passing and total offense statistical champion in 1962 and 1963. The same right wrist that accounted for 6,782 career air yards and 60 TDs (1960-63) also produced 1,114 career points in basketball at Northern Illinois where he also earned NAIA Honorable Mention All-America honors as a junior.

"We were on the cutting edge. We were one of the first teams that went almost exclusively to passing. 'Fletch' was way ahead of his time. We had a very innovative coach. After our years of throwing the ball, it became in vogue to do it. Jerry Rhome (of Tulsa), who went into the Hall of Fame with me, broke a lot of my records the very next year (1964). It became trendy to throw the ball. It started a trend in college and pro football until the defenses became dominant, but now it looks like the pendulum's swinging back the other way with some terrific young quarterbacks.

"I wouldn't have liked to have been a

defensive coordinator on the teams we played," Bork added. "Teams would prepare for us in a lot of different ways. Some would try to put pressure on us with a big rush. I don't particularly care for those teams. Some of them just stayed back and tried to cover the receivers. It made it like a glorified touch football game. I had a lot of time to throw the ball. I would just run around until somebody got open. Those are the teams I liked best.

"In one game, I think we threw the ball 64 times (a school-record 68 in a 27-22 conference championship-clinching victory vs Central Michigan in 1963). At that time, that was pretty much unheard of, because of the uniqueness of what we were doing and the fact that we were winning all the time. It just really made for an exciting time.

"'Fletch' just made that decision that we were going to live and die with the pass," Bork said. "That's where we went. We ran just enough to keep them honest. Basically we just threw it all the time."

Bork recalled the time the Huskies were about to take the field against Nebraska-Omaha in a driving rainstorm. "What are we supposed to do? It's pouring down rain," Bork asked Fletcher. "Fletch's" response: "We came here to throw the ball. Let's do that." And Northern Illinois won, 13-7.

In those pre-ESPN days, Bork and the Huskies became media darlings. The crew-cut quarterback was profiled nationally in *Sports Illustrated*, *Time*, the *New York Times*, the *New York Post*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*.

"You know, all that attention back then was flattering, but it made me a little uncomfortable. It wasn't like I was the only fish in the pond," Bork said. "What happened was the combined effort of a lot of talented people."

Including Bork, that 1963 Northern Illinois outfit produced nine professional players—seven National Football League free agents and two in the Canadian Football League.

As a prep, Bork's best sport was basketball. He turned down a scholarship at Michigan in order to play both sports at Northern Illinois.

"It's kind of funny the path your life takes," Bork said. "Football wasn't even an option at Michigan."

It was a Hall of Fame option for the Huskies.



TOM BECK: HALL OF FAMER

The man known as the last and probably the finest 60-minute, two-way player in Northern Illinois University history became the school's second alum to be enshrined into the College Football Hall of Fame.

The versatile Tom Beck was one of 23 greats to be inducted into the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame during the enshrinement ceremonies August 13-14, 2004, in South Bend, IN.

"I'm thrilled, I'm humbled, and I'm surprised," Beck said about the honor. "It's exciting. It's a great feeling. I'm really grateful for everybody along the way who helped me. Over the years, that is so many good people. When you go into coaching you don't even think about things such as this. You just try to go out and do as good a job as possible."

The 64-year-old Beck—a double Northern Illinois graduate (1962 and 1967)—was one of nine Divisional inductees from the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-AA, II, III, and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics ranks and one of five individuals enshrined as a coach. The other coaches in the Class of 2004 include LaVell Edwards of Brigham Young (1972-2000), George Welsh of Navy and Virginia (1973-2000), Charlie Richard of Baker (1980-90, 1992-94), and Dick Strahm of Findlay (1975-97).

Interesting enough, Beck joined former Huskie teammate and fellow Little All-America selection George Bork who was enshrined into the College Football Hall of Fame as a player in August, 1999.

"I feel honored to be alongside George," Beck said. "When he came to campus in 1960, I knew he threw the ball better than I did. And that's when 'Fletch' (Northern Illinois head football coach Howard Fletcher) asked me to play halfback. George was an outstanding passer, a great punter, and a super athlete. Believe me, I was just happy to be playing."

A three-year Huskie football letterman (1959-61), Beck made the school's All-Century Team (1999) and was inducted into the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame (1987). As a Northern Illinois senior, he was named Second-Team NAIA All-America at halfback, Second-Team Academic All-America, First-Team NAIA All-District 20, First-Team All-Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic Conference on both offense and defense, and Peoria Journal Star All-State, plus team MVP and tri-captain. As part of the

Huskies' fabled "Beck-to-(Al) Eck" passing combination, Beck later moved to HB, DB, and special teams. Fletcher called him the "... finest all-around player" in his 13-year NIU head coaching tenure.

"Tom was our best two-way player. An excellent quarterback and halfback," said former Huskie assistant coach John Wrenn who served nine seasons in the Fletcher regime (1960-68). "He was real sharp. Oh yes, he was coaching material back then. As a player, he was the proverbial coach on the field for us. If you wanted something done, Tom would do it."

Beck demonstrated that same versatility during his coaching career at every level—prep through professional. During his sideline tenure,

Beck posted a 137-52-1 won-lost-tied record and a .724 winning percentage as the head coach at Illinois Benedictine (37-12-1 in 1970-74), Elmhurst College (50-22 in 1976-83), and Grand Valley State (50-18 in 1985-90). He entered the profession as head coach at West Leyden (1962-64) and Lake Zurich (1965-66) high schools. Beck also served as offensive coordinator at Northern Illinois (1975), Notre Dame (1991), and Illinois (1992). In the pros, he coached a year for Marv Levy and the Chicago Blitz of the United States Football League (1984) and scouted two years for both the National Football League Chicago Bears and Buffalo Bills.

At Illinois Benedictine, Beck took a grid program that had endured 18 straight losing seasons and led the Eagles to 6-3, 8-2, 9-2, 7-3, and 7-2-1 marks, plus national Top 10 rankings and team statistical championships. In 1971 and 1972, he was named NAIA District 20 Coach of the Year. Beck resurrected the Elmhurst grid fortunes in the same manner. Prior to his arrival, the Bluejays had only two winning years in 23 seasons. The Chicago product did similar magic at Grand Valley State. He inherited an 0-10 GVSU team that would do a "180-degree" turn and finish 11-1 (1989) and 10-2 (1990). Beck was named Kodak NCAA College Division Region Coach of the Year in both those seasons for the Lakers.

"Tom surely had a great career as a player and as a coach," Bork said. "At Northern, he was a terrific athlete. I'm really super excited for him. It (the induction) will be the weekend of his life. The College Football Hall of Fame people are so hospitable. It's a well-deserved honor for Tom. And I wasn't a good enough of

an athlete to be moved to halfback. Tom was good enough to make that switch for us."

The 2004 College Football Hall of Fame induction classes were announced by Jon F. Hanson, chair of the National Football Foundation.

"I really enjoyed my playing days at Northern," Beck recalled. "I had the great fortune to play with some great guys. I always tell people that I was B. B.—before Bork. There's so many good people. The late Al Eck. Lew Flinn. Butch Moloney. Dale Berman. Derril Corbett. Cliff Eade. Butch Hansen. All great guys.

"No doubt that both 'Fletch' and my high school coach (Ray Jacobson at Lake View) were instrumental in my coaching career," Beck said. "'Fletch' made the game fun for us and let the players make many of the (play-calling) decisions. We worked hard, but it wasn't drudgery. You enjoyed playing for him. 'Fletch' was way ahead of his time."



Tom Beck, QB

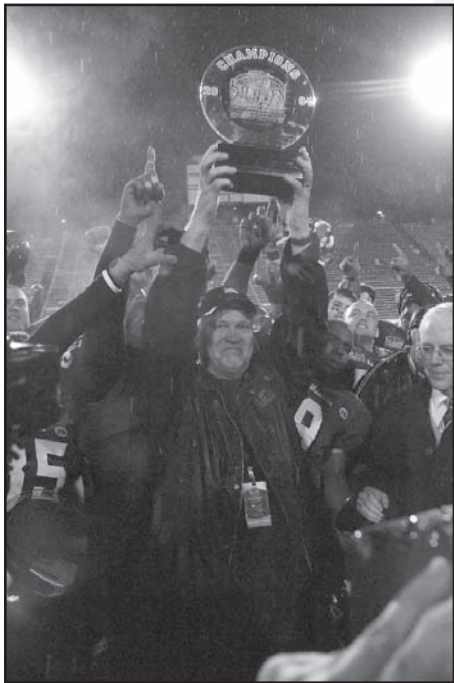


2004 SILICON VALLEY BOWL TEAM

Steady Ground Attack Lifts NIU To Silicon Valley Football Classic Crown

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) —

Quarterback Josh Haldi passed for 146 yards and rushed for two touchdowns to lead Northern Illinois through mud and rain to its first bowl victory in 21 years, 34-21 over Troy on Thursday (Dec. 30) night in the Silicon Valley Football Classic.



ell threw a touchdown pass and rushed for two more scores for the Trojans, but they got stuck in the mud at Spartan Stadium and were unable to move the ball effectively or stop the Huskies' rushing attack.

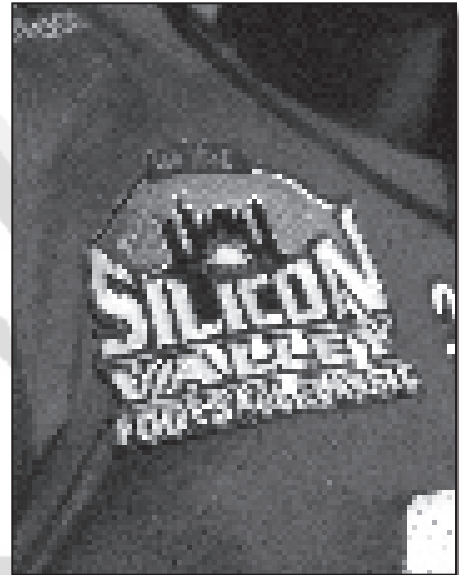
The victory is a high point in coach Joe Novak's impressive rebuilding job at Northern Illinois, which didn't get a bowl invitation last year despite going 10-2 and beating Maryland. But when the Pac-10 and WAC didn't produce enough bowl-eligible teams to fill their Silicon Valley slots, Northern Illinois and Troy took advantage.

Haldi and the Huskies overcame more than Troy's vaunted defense, which was among the national leaders in several statistical categories.

In addition, an electrical transformer outside the stadium malfunctioned shortly before kickoff, affecting the television crew and two stanchions of lights. The game began 23 minutes late under the remaining banks of lights while crews tried unsuccessfully to fix things.

Yet both teams insisted on throwing long passes despite the miserable conditions and two offenses unfamiliar with such fireworks. Mc-

Dowell threw 10 straight incompletions at one point, and Haldi was scarcely better—but Northern Illinois mixed in enough runs to keep moving consistently.



Troy curiously cast aside its usual offensive caution and opened with aggressive downfield throws — and for a little while, it worked. On the game's seventh play, McDowell hit Jason Samples with a 45-yard pass to the Northern Illinois one for the

The Huskies (9-3) overcame a steady downpour, lighting problems and a delayed kickoff by scoring 34 consecutive points in this unlikely postseason matchup between two schools with one previous bowl appearance between them.

Tailback Garrett Wolfe, the NCAA's scoring co-leader, rushed for his 21st touchdown of the season for Northern Illinois before leaving with a hip injury. But A.J. Harris filled in with 120 yards rushing and another score as the Huskies methodically erased a quick start by the Trojans (7-5), who scored two touchdowns in the first nine minutes of Troy's first bowl game in just its fourth season in Division I-A.

Quarterback D.T. McDow-



2004 SILICON VALLEY BOWL TEAM

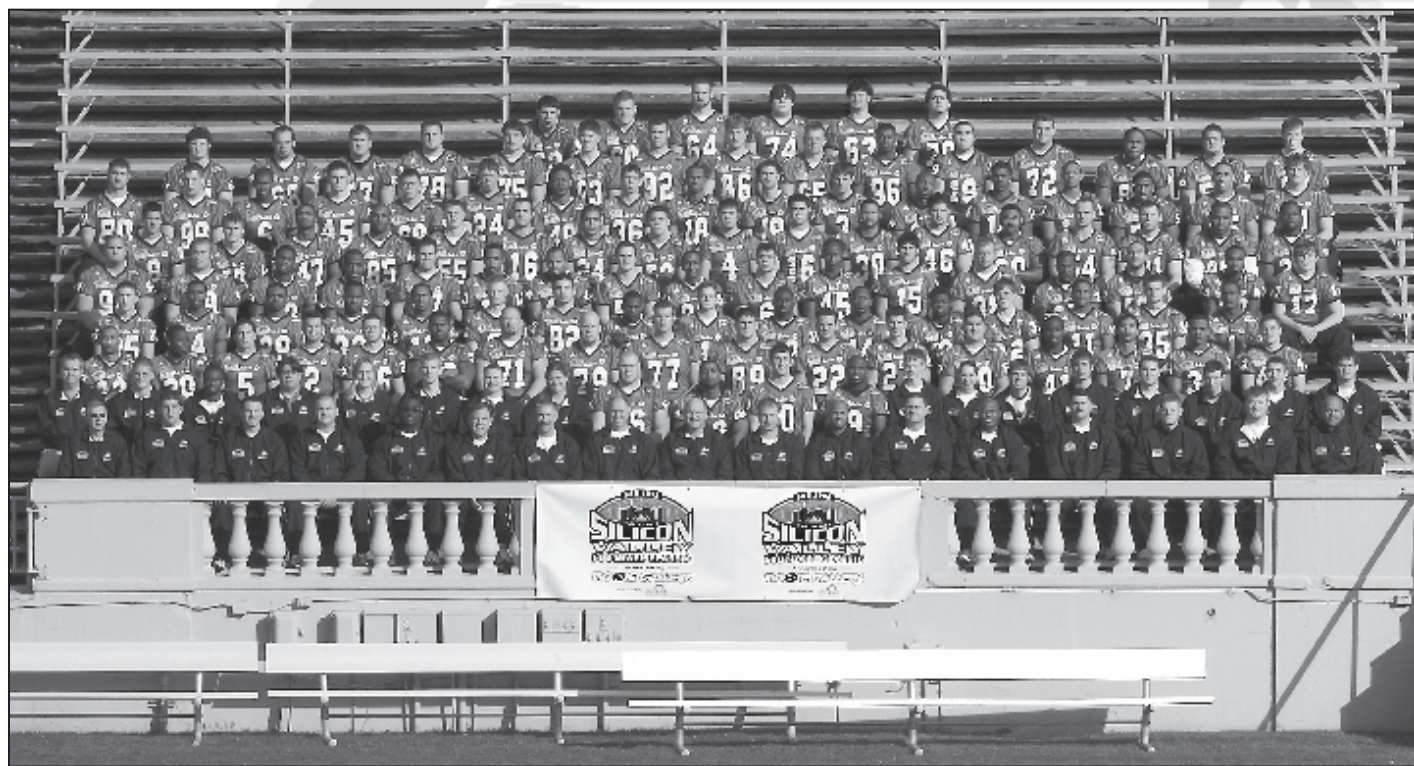
Trojans' longest pass of the season.

McDowell scored on a keeper and then led another scoring drive, hitting Richardson with a 23-yard screen pass. But Northern Illinois responded with a 50-yard TD run by Wolfe, who set the school record for touchdowns (21) with the score.

After Haldi scored on the next drive, the rain limited both teams' offenses until Haldi scored again on a 1-yard keeper 34 seconds before halftime. The slick grass and mud obviously affected both teams' defenders, who couldn't pursue and change direction with much speed.

Harris scored on a 3-yard run early in the fourth quarter, and Chris Nendick kicked two field goals.

The Silicon Valley Classic victory marked the first Northern Illinois bowl appearance and win since 1983, capping a season that saw the Huskies win eight of their last nine contests to finish 9-3 and record the program's fifth consecutive winning campaign of its Division I-A tenure. NIU shared the MAC-West Division title and wound up ranked No. 29 in both of the final major polls. In all, the Huskies totaled 12 All-MAC performers, 10 MAC Players of the Week, eight seniors who signed as NFL free agents, and five MAC All-Academic selections during the 2004 season.



2004 Silicon Valley Football Classic Champions

Front Row (from left): D. Townsend, Coy, Hauser, Mangum, Belin, Bernstein, Sabock, Doornbos, Novak, Bond, Mosely, Pittman, De. Smith, G. Bower, Harmon, Ghilani, Collins. **Second Row:** Voorhis, C. Bower, T. Pugh, Guzman, Powell, Vorwerk, Schultz, Hockenberger, VerStraete, Atkinson, Haldi, Hickenbottom, Hill, Jenkins, Jankowski, Gregolunas, Pitz, Keener, Flury, Markelz. **Third Row:** Francis, Wallace, Sheldon, Lothson, Gallagher, Moore, McGhghy, Lueck, Orszula, Cieslak, Hawkins, R. Lee, Strothman, Watson, McDermott, Woods, J. Hilby. **Fourth Row:** Nendick, Jennings, D. Smith, Blalark, Ad. Hansbro, Erickson, Rodriquez, Morris, Ballard, A. Davis, Johnson, Clanton, D. Hilby, Al. Hansbro, Utschig, Wolfe. **Fifth Row:** Holicek, Benson, Griffin, Dokes, Holzapfel, Adonis, Tribble, Blaschka, Perez, Ibarra, Matthew, Pomaranski, Hedges, Ikegwuonwu, Bassett, Powers, Reiter. **Sixth Row:** Kwasigroch, Schlamp, J. Lee, Hutton, Benz, Mossman, Harris, McCarthy, Ullrich, King, Prime, Labus, Wilson, McLearn, J. Pugh, Pittman, West. **Seventh Row:** Raleigh, Rusch, Beal, Athans, Krutsch, Kelly, R. Smith, Simon, Bri. Davis, Nicholson, Horvath, Hurd, Carter, Spencer, English, Oruche, Koronkiewicz. **Eighth Row:** Rogers, Ebenhoch, Serfort, Keller, Tuggle, Osburn, Schroeder, Nordin, Van Acker, Holman, Cogdill, Bagheri, Bra. Davis, Daglas, Dungan. **Ninth Row:** Free, Brost, Ellison, M. Biondi, Holycross, Acevedo.

