

2001 Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame Class of Inductees

Earl "Dutch" Clark

A multi-sport athlete who excelled in football, basketball, baseball and track at Colorado College, Earl "Dutch" Clark became the first CC athlete in any sport to earn All-America honors. The versatile Clark played offense (tailback), defense (linebacker and safety) and special teams (kicker) for the Tigers' football team. During his junior season in 1928, he rushed for 1,359 yards on 135 carries - an average of 10 yards per carry - and was named to the Associated Press All-America Team. He led the Rocky Mountain Conference in scoring during each of his three seasons (1927, 1928 and 1929) and was a three-time All-Conference honoree.

Following his decorated career at Colorado College, Clark moved on to the National Football League and became one of pro football's most prolific players during the 1930s. He played two seasons (1931-32) for the NFL's Portsmouth (Ohio) Spartans before signing with the Detroit Lions, where he played from 1934-38. Having switched from tailback to quarterback, Clark led the NFL in scoring in 1932, 1935 and 1936, and guided the Lions to the NFL Championship in 1935. He was a six-time All-Pro who rushed for 2,772 yards, passed for 1,507 and scored 47 touchdowns (36 rushing, 11 passing) during his remarkable career.

During his final two seasons with the Lions, Clark held the dual role of player-coach. He retired as a player following the 1938 season and was named head coach of the NFL's Cleveland Rams, where he remained for four seasons (1939-42).

A charter member of the Professional Football Hall of Fame, Clark has also been honored by the College Football Hall of Fame, the Colorado College Hall of Fame, the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. He was tabbed by legendary sportswriter Grantland Rice as an All-Time All-America.

Born in Fowler, Colorado, Clark is the only Colorado native in the Professional Football Hall of Fame. He graduated from Pueblo Central High School in 1926, where he earned All-State honors in football and basketball.

Clark passed away on August 5, 1978 at the age of 71.