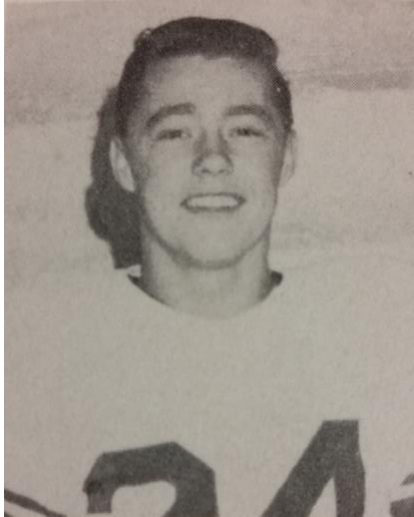


Richard (Dick) James

Class of 1952

Inducted in 2018



Dick James was born in 1934 and was raised, along with his four brothers, here in Grants Pass, Oregon. At Grants Pass High School, Dick excelled in football, basketball, and baseball. In 1951, during his senior season as running back and defensive back, Dick led the Caveman Football team to the State Championship. In basketball, Dick was named the “Basketball King” because of his ability to spark the offense and score throughout the season. Dick was also an excellent outfielder on the Caveman baseball team.

Dick attended the University of Oregon, where he excelled in football, basketball, track, and baseball. Dick was inducted into the inaugural Hall of Fame class at University of Oregon for Football in 1992, and is also in the State of Oregon Hall of Fame as well as on the Grants Pass Sports Park Wall of Fame.

Dick was recruited by both professional baseball and football teams ultimately deciding on a career with the Washington Redskins where he played halfback and defensive back from 1956 to 1963. He was a beloved member of the Redskins, and even though he was one of the smallest players in the NFL at 5'9 and 175 pounds, he earned several awards. He was named Redskin Rookie of the year, inducted into the Redskins Ring of Fame, named as one of the 70 Greatest Redskins, was selected to the Pro Bowl in 1961, and still holds the Redskin rushing touchdown record of 4 in a single game, which was matched by the great Larry Brown. Dick also played for the New York Giants (1964) and the Minnesota Vikings (1965) before an injury ended his career.

During his playing days, Dick was also an excellent gymnast, known for showing his skills by walking on his hands down flights of stairs before games.

Dick was busy after his football days raising 6 active children and included jobs in Life Insurance, Sales, Sports Broadcasting on Local T.V. network affiliates in D.C., and coaching a semi-pro football team in Richmond, VA.

In 1975 Dick returned to his beloved Oregon and settled back in his hometown with wife Jeanne James. Dick continued to be active with the NFL Special Olympics Golf tournaments and community activities. He also coached football and baseball at Rogue River High School. He participated in local athletics himself playing softball, league golfing, bowling, basketball, and playing racquetball. There wasn't a sport Dick didn't master shortly after he tried it for the first time.

Richard A. James passed away after his second battle with cancer in Medford, Oregon June 28, 2,000.