



Alan Pick
West Bend High School Class of 1939
and Distinguished Contributor

A letter from his father Carl Pick while he was in high school encouraged Alan Pick to “work hard, get tough, stay in there, and keep your head down” to earn a spot on a Big Ten Conference football team. Carl tells Alan in the letter that if he could play football for a Big Ten Conference school, he would be the first boy from Washington County to do so in nearly 50 years. Alan not only earned his place on the Northwestern University Wildcats football team, he also kicked the game-winning 22-yard field goal to beat the reigning national champions University of Texas Longhorns in 1942. The accomplishment became known as “The Kick,” and was featured in newspapers across the country.

Alan was an accomplished high school and college athlete. After his collegiate football career and upon graduation from Northwestern University in 1943, he was offered a contract to play professional football for the New York Giants. However, Alan instead served his country during World War II and joined the U.S. Navy where he earned a Purple Heart.

After the war, Alan returned to West Bend where he was respected as a successful and civic-minded businessman. He and his wife generously donated the lights for the football field at West Bend East and West High Schools, which is named for his father, Carl. In addition, his daughter, Prudence Pick Hway, supports the West Bend schools in many ways, even establishing the Nancy and Alan Pick Award for the most outstanding graduating female athlete at East and West High Schools and the Prudence Pick Hway Coach of the Year Award.



Prudence Pick Hway, daughter of Alan Pick, accepted the honor for her late father.