

# **Roger Brown**

## **Football, Wrestling, Track**

### **Class of 1956**

Roger Brown was one of the most powerful athletes to ever don a Nyack uniform. A versatile and fierce competitor, Brown dominated Rockland County in Football, Wrestling and Track. After winning several titles in high school, Roger enjoyed continued success in college and the NFL. He played an impressive 10 years as a pro with the Lions and the Rams.

Brown played Varsity Football for three years at NHS. He was an imposing Fullback and Lineman, and even kicked some extra points. Roger started to make a name for himself as a sophomore with a big interception in a 6-0 win over Suffern. In his Junior year, he led the County in scoring, and helped Nyack earn a share of the Rockland title. Against Spring Valley, Brown took a handoff from Al Simonds (NHSAHOF 2016), and then gave the ball back to the QB. The Defense was fooled, going after Roger as Simonds scored. Brown stepped up when his team needed him most, scoring three touchdowns in a comeback victory over Tappan Zee, and two touchdowns in a title-clinching win over Pearl River. As a Senior, Roger led the County in scoring again. He set a new Rockland mark by recording 27 points in a single game, against Pearl River. Remarkably, he scored four touchdowns, one of which was a 60-yard interception return, and kicked three extra points. Brown was voted All-County both Junior and Senior years.

In Wrestling, Roger competed in the Unlimited class. As a Captain his Senior year, he was a County and Section champion. In Track, Brown was dominant in the Discus and Shot Put, winning Rockland and Section titles.

After his successful high school run, Roger excelled at Maryland State. He earned Black College All-American honors in Football, and led his team to a Conference Championship. Brown also starred in Track, and even won numerous meets in a new event, Javelin.

Following his college career, Roger was selected in the fourth round of the 1960 NFL Draft, by the Detroit Lions. Over the next 10 years, he earned six Pro Bowl appearances with the Lions and the L.A. Rams. The 6'5" 300 lb. tackle was part of two legendary Defensive Lines that were each called the "Fearsome Foursome." In 1962, Brown set an NFL record with two safeties in one season. One was against Johnny Unitas, and one was against Bart Starr. In the game against the eventual champion Packers, on Thanksgiving Day, Brown also sacked Starr seven times.

Roger Brown has been recognized numerous times for his achievements. He is a member of the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame, the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame, and the College Football Hall of Fame. Brown's contributions to Nyack Athletics have been legendary. He extended his legacy from NHS all the way to the NFL, and made us all proud