

Roger Shoals



From Norwalk High School to the University of Maryland and eventually to the NFL, **Roger Shoals** certainly put the city of Norwalk on the football map during the '50s, '60s, and early '70s.

Born in Baltimore, MD, in 1938 and a product of the Broad River area in Norwalk, Shoals graduated from Norwalk High in 1956 where he played three years of football during the fall of 1953, '54, and '55. Regarded as one of the best offensive linemen the city has ever produced, Shoals played tackle for the Green and White and not only earned All-State honors but was also selected as a High School All-American.

Following his graduation from NHS, Shoals spent the 1956-'57 academic year at Greenbrier Military School, where he helped the football team there go undefeated. From there, it was on to the University of Maryland where Shoals enjoyed another undefeated season in

1957 with the Terrapins' freshmen football team.

He would play three seasons of varsity football at Maryland between 1960-'62 and was named an All-Atlantic Coast Conference tackle his last two years.

But football wasn't the only sport Shoals excelled in at Maryland. He also wrestled and was the ACC heavyweight champion back to back years in 1960 and '61.

Football was his first love, however, and Shoals joined the NFL Cleveland Browns in 1963. He played two seasons as an offensive tackle and guard, opening holes for Hall of Fame running back Jim Brown to run through en route to becoming the NFL's all-time leading rusher.

And Shoals was a member of the 1964 Cleveland Browns team, which won the world championship by beating his hometown Baltimore Colts 27-0 in the NFL title game.

Shoals would enjoy a stellar 11-year career in the NFL, spending seven of those seasons with the Detroit Lions as an offensive tackle from 1964 to '71. During that time, Norwalk football fans would watch Shoals play every year on their TV screen as he lined up for the Lions in their annual nationally televised Thanksgiving Day game in Detroit.

Shoals would end his professional football career playing with the Denver Broncos in 1971 and '72, shortly after the AFL-NFL merger took place.

Living in Pennsylvania, Shoals stayed involved in sports even after his days on the gridiron were over as he coached ice hockey in the Philadelphia area for four years from 1972-'76.

Now a resident of Bryn Mawr, PA, Shoals, who will be 63 in December, is currently vice president of sales for the Gould Paper Corporation, and owner of the Buick-Pontiac-Cadillac dealership in Kutztown, PA.

Shoals and his wife, the former Jean Allen, have two children, Michael and Hollie, and four grandchildren.