

Terry Fuller



TERRY FULLER never met a sport he didn't love ... or didn't excel in. Whether it was football, wrestling, baseball, or even karate, Terry could always be found near the head of the class.

He left perhaps his biggest mark in football, a sport he began playing as a nine year-old in the Norwalk Pop Warner program. That prepared him for the junior high school tackle football league, a then-popular program sponsored by the Norwalk Recreation Department with games played on Sunday mornings. As a ninth grader in the fall of 1967, Terry, a running back, helped the Ponus Ridge Green Devils win the city championship.

All roads led to Brien McMahon High School, where he established himself as a standout defensive back for the Senators and was named First-Team All-FCIAC as a senior.

That fall of 1970 was the same season Terry set a new FCIAC record with seven interceptions as McMahon, ranked as high as No. 6 in the state, went 8-1 for the best record in program history to that point. The only blemish was a one-touchdown loss to state champion Stamford High.

Terry had several big games that season, including a pair of interceptions in a 28-6 win over Danbury. Two weeks later he set a new school record for most tackles in a game with 16 as the Senators beat Greenwich 16-12. He also picked off his sixth interception of the season.

But Terry's biggest tackle of the season—and his career—came in McMahon's annual intracity rivalry game against Norwalk High when he tackled an NHS player in the end zone for a safety. That second-quarter play by Terry proved to be the only scoring in McMahon's exciting 2-0 win in one of the most talked about games in the 65-year city series between the two local high schools.

The football season was no sooner over when Terry began his final wrestling season for McMahon. But it was his memory from the end of the wrestling season that he covets the most. That's when Terry went into the state tournament unseeded, but defeated four straight seeded opponents to capture the 145-pound state championship.

While his wrestling career was over, Terry's high school football career still had one more game to go. He was selected to play in that summer's annual Nutmeg Bowl, which featured the best players in the entire state. Terry was the starting safety for the West squad and also returned punts and kickoffs. Then when the team's two running backs were injured, Terry was used on offense in the second half.

He didn't get much of a break before it was time to report for preseason football practice at Central Connecticut State College in New Britain. As a senior in 1975, he anchored the Blue Devils' defensive backfield and was among the team leaders in tackles and interceptions, had one fumble recovery, and returned punts. He capped off his collegiate career by being voted the team's MVP, and was even invited to a tryout with the NY Giants.

And his football days still weren't over as he played several seasons in the Norwalk Recreation Jack Casagrande Touch Football League. His team, the Carver Bucs, coached by his older brother

FULLER, from p.33

McMahon Nips Norwalk, 2-0 On Terry Fuller's Tackle

Headline from The Norwalk Hour

Ricky, won a pair of league championships in 1986 and '88.

His brother also coached him in Little League, where Terry was an all-star catcher and later played second base in the Norwalk Babe Ruth League. He also excelled in martial arts and in 1992 received his third-degree black belt in Tang Soo do Karate.

This year's Norwalk Old Timers award for Terry

continues a Fuller family legacy. His father Lloyd Fuller Sr. was honored by the Old Timers in 1983, while his older brothers Ricky and Lloyd Jr., were recognized in 2001 and 2015, respectively. Before them, his uncle, George Fuller, was honored in 1976, while his cousin, Mike Ashley, joins Terry as a 2025 Norwalk Old Timers honoree. ■