

BUD GRANT

PURPLE AND BLUE, THROUGH AND THROUGH

By Brian Marshall

The first pick of the Philadelphia Eagles in the 1950 NFL Draft was Harry "Bud" Grant, who had been an All-Big Ten End with Minnesota during the 1948 and 1949 college football seasons and Grant was also the fourth pick of the Minneapolis Lakers in the 1950 NBA draft. Bud Grant decided to play basketball and was a 22 year old, 6'3", 195 lb. forward for the NBA Champion Minneapolis Lakers during the 1949-1950 season. Grant elected to stay with the Minneapolis Lakers for the 1950-1951 season rather than play for the Eagles. It wasn't until the 1951 season that Grant, now a 24 year old, 6'3", 200 lb offensive end/defensive end, played for the Eagles. His 1951 statistics amounted to one punt return for nine yards and no points scored. The 1951 season was the last season for the greatest Eagle of them all, Steve Van Buren. It wasn't until the 1952 season that Bud Grant was able to display his football talents as a 198 lb offensive end when he was second in the NFL for both pass receptions and receiving yards and also managed to score seven touchdowns. The best single game performance for Grant was 11 receptions for 203 yards and 2 TDs on December 7, 1952 against the Dallas Texans.

Bud Grant left Philadelphia and headed north of the border to play for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the CFL for the 1953 through the 1956 seasons. Bud Grant's talent allowed him to lead the Western Conference of the CFL in pass receptions for the 1953, 1954 and 1956 seasons as well as leading in receiving yards for the 1953 and 1956 seasons. Grant was a Western Conference All-Star, at offensive end, in 1953, 1954 and 1956 and in 1953 the Blue Bombers played in the CFL Championship game, for the Grey Cup, and lost to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

In 1957 Bud Grant began his coaching career and coached the Winnipeg Blue Bombers for ten seasons from 1957 to 1966 and finished with a record of 102 wins, 56 losses and 2 ties. Grant's Blue Bombers made the playoffs in eight of the ten seasons and played for the CFL Championship in six of the ten seasons and managed to win the Grey Cup in four of those games. In 1967 Bud Grant headed south of the border to the NFL where he coached the Minnesota Vikings from 1967 to 1983 and 1985 and finished with a record of 158 wins, 96 losses and 5 ties. Grant's "Purple People Eaters" made the playoffs in twelve of the eighteen seasons and played in four Super Bowl games.

To say that Bud Grant was a great athlete and a successful coach is an understatement considering that he was elected to the CFL Hall of Fame in 1983 and also to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, in Canton, Ohio, in 1994.

Bud Grant

Grant, Harold Peter Jr.

OE-DE 6'3 199

College: Minnesota

High School: Central [Superior, WI]

Born: May 20, 1927, Superior, WI

Drafted: 1950 Round 1 Philadelphia

RECEIVING

Year	Team	Gm	No	YDS	AVG	TD
1951	Phi	12	0	0	---	0
1951	Phi	<u>12</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>997</u>	<u>17.8</u>	<u>7</u>
2 Years		24	56	997	17.8	7