

## DWIGHT SLOAN-- PADDLEFOOT

By Stan Grosshandler

*Football Facts and Figures* by Dr. L. H. Baker called the 1937 Arkansas Razorbacks "The passingest Team in the Nation" and stated the Razorback's Dwight Sloan "was the second finest passer in the nation." Called "Paddlefoot" for his ducklike walk, Sloan shared the passing duties with Jack Robbins. They threw to ends Jim Benton and Ray Hamilton. In the 1938 draft the Chicago Cardinals chose Robbins first and Sloan eighth; while the Cleveland Rams picked Benton first and Hamilton fourth. The 1938 Cards under Milan Creighton finished last in the West while utilizing three tailbacks in Sloan, Robbins, and Pat Coffee.

For the 1939 season Sloan joined the Lions where he handled most of the tailback chores rushing 79 times for 225 yards and four touchdowns and throwing 102 passes for 658 yards and two more TDs. Two notable teammates were Alex Wojciechowicz destined for the Hall of Fame and guard John Wiethe, an unusual individual who I knew when he was an assistant coach at the U. of Cincinnati. An All-NFL guard Wiethe was Phi Beta. Kappa graduate of Xavier U. who became an attorney and eventually the most powerful democrat in the city of Cincinnati. The following season Sloan was relegated to a backup role when Whizzer White returned from England to take over the tailback post and top the league in rushing.

In 1941, Paddlefoot, like so many other NFL players, went into the United States Army. I had the pleasure of knowing him at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, where he was a Lt. Colonel and well-liked by fellow soldiers. His walk certainly resembled a duck.

One day we were discussing Don Hutson. "The first time I ever covered him on a pass," Sloan recalled, "I had him step for step and figured he was not as tough as he was supposed to be. All of a sudden I couldn't find him. He had shifted into high gear and was far behind me down the field receiving the pass." Many years later I used this quotation in an article and sent a copy of the magazine to Sloan from whom I received a beautiful letter in return indicating what a truly class person he was.

### Dwight H. Sloan

Tailback. 5-10 180.

University of Arkansas

Alma High School, Alma, Arkansas.

Van Buren High School, Van Buren, Arkansas.

Born April 7, 1914, Rudy, Arkansas.

<b>Rushing</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg</b>	<b>TD</b>		
1939 ChiC	10	56	126	2.3	0		
1940 Det	10	79	225	2.8	4		
1941 Det	11	58	225	3.9	0		
3 years	31	193	576	3.0	4		

  

<b>Passing</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Com</b>	<b>Pct</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Td</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1939 ChiC	79	37	46.8	333	1	7	26.0
1940 Det	102	45	44.1	658	2	3	60.0
1941 Det	46	18	39.1	260	0	8	18.7
3 yrs	227	100	44.1	1251	3	18	33.1