

# DON KINDT

By Stan Grosshandler

Don Kindt came to the Chicago Bears in 1947 as a first round draft choice from Wisconsin. He was to prove himself an extremely versatile player.

In his first season Don went both ways sharing the carry with Joe Osmanski, George McAfee, Bob Fenimore, and Mike Holovak. He gained 266 yards on 61 attempts scoring two touchdowns.

Throughout his entire career he not only played both offense and defense but caught passes, returned both punts and kick offs.

In 1948 the Bears had the famous "3 L" Quarterbacks of Sid Luckman, Bobby Layne, and Johnny Lujack.

"I thought Lujack was the best athlete on the team," Don said. "He would have been a star at any position. In fact I think he would have made a great linebacker."

In '49 Don carried 54 times for 189 yards and caught 11 passes. The following year he played mostly defense and was switched to fullback on the offense.

One of the most bizarre games he ever played in was the 1952 game against the nomadic Dallas Texans that was played in Akron, Ohio.

"George Halas did not take this game too seriously," recalled Don. "He did not put in the regulars until the Texans had gotten a 20-2 lead. George Blanda came in and threw two TD passes."

"With a little more than a minute left we had them 23-20. We had been double teaming Buddy Young all day with good success; however, they now sent in Tom Keane."

"Keane had been a great defensive back with the Rams; however, we knew when they sent him in on offense the pass would go to him. I walked over to Halas and asked him if we could switch the double team to him and he said no."

"As we anticipated they threw to Keane. We both went up for it and I took it away from him; but the referee awarded it to the Texans. They were now on the goal line and another ex-Ram, Dick Hoerner, hits the line. I stole the ball from Dick but again the officials gave it back to them. With 34 seconds left Frank Tripucka sneaks over for the winning TD."

"George Halas was so mad he rushed the length of the field and kicked me in the shin!"

Though Don Kindt is thought of as a defensive back the only seasons of his nine year career with the Bears that he played 100% defense were 1953 and 1955. He rushed 172 times for 586 yards and four touchdowns, caught 43 passes for two touchdowns and intercepted 21 passes for seven touchdowns. He even scored two safeties.

As a Bear he was team mates with future Hall of Famers Sid Luckman, Bulldog Turner, George McAfee, George Blanda, George Connor, and Bill George.

## Don Kindt

Kindt, Donald John Sr.

HB-DB 6'1 207

College: Wisconsin

High School: Washington [Milwaukee, WI]

Born: July 2, 1925, Milwaukee, WI

Drafted: 1947 Round 1 Chicago

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Year	Team	Gm	INTERCEPTIONS			
			INT	YDS	TD	Fum
1947	ChiB	12	3	19	0	6
1948	ChiB	12	1	21	0	0
1949	ChiB	12	2	3	0	3
1950	ChiB	12	0	0	0	0
1951	ChiB	12	4	56	0	0
1952	ChiB	12	3	49	0	0
1953	ChiB	12	6	172	1	0
1954	ChiB	12	2	28	0	0
		<u>96</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>348</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>