

# ROY BARNI – PERFECT FORM

By Jim Campbell

At best, Roy Barni is a footnote to NFL history. Sure, he went to the same San Francisco high school that O.J. Stmpson would attend later -- Galileo. And he was part of a gaggle of University of San Francisco Dons who would migrate to the NFL. And he *did* get shot to death in a barroom fracas right before he would have reported to training camp in July of 1957. But there was little else to remember about the journeyman defensive back.

The 5-11, 185-pound Barni began his career with the Chicago Cardinals -- or "car-nulls" as he once related to his former team to an eager Philadelphia Eagles fan in the Hershey, Pennsylvania, training camp in 1954 -- in 1952 under his USF college coach Joe Kuharich. Perhaps rival NFL quarterbacks overlooked his toughness and picked on him. Anyway, he had 6 of his NFL-total 11 receptions in his rookie year. Never again would he have more than two in a season, and in two of his five years he was shut out. Barni moved on to the Eagles in 1954 and midway through the 1955 season he was reunited with Kuharich on the Redskins. He played his last season in 1956 in Washington.

What made Barni special in the eyes of one young observer was his tackling form. It was textbook perfect. In the '54 Eagles camp, an aspiring high school football player was captivated by Barni's style. He squared himself up. He stuck his shoulder into the ballcarrier's midsection and locked his arms around the runner's thighs. He kept his feet moving and dipped his inside shoulder as he twisted the bailcarrier to the ground, rolling him on his (the ballcarrier's) back. It was just the way the young aspirant's coach had told him and teammates how to tackle.

Nearly five decades later there are those who feel today's defensive backs could learn a thing or two by watching ftlm of Roy Barni's picture-perfect tackling form.

## Roy Bruno Barni

Defensive Back. 5-11, 185.

University of San Francisco.

Galileo High School, San Francisco, California.

Born February 15, 1927, San Francisco, California.

Died July 22, 1957, San Francisco, California.

Year	Team	Gm	IN	YDS	TD
1952	ChiC	12	6	70	0
1953	ChiC	8	0	0	0
1954	Phi	10	2	0	0
1955	Phi-Was	12	1	0	0
1956	Was	12	2	47	0
5 years		54	11	117	0