

# Earl Tanner Britton Biography



**Earl T. Britton “Britt”, - Class of 1922 - b. July 15, 1903 d. October 24, 1973** From the EHS Yearbook, *The Maroon*: “Earl”, General Course, *“Hurdles to athletics, hurdles to ladies, He made good with them both”* Football ’18, ’19, ’20, Captain ’21; Basketball ’18, ’19, ’20, ’21; Track ’18, ’19, ’20, ’21; Junior Class Play.

From the Elgin Sports Hall of Fame: Many consider Earl Tanner Britton (6 ft 3 in tall and weighed 212 lb), who earned 12 letters in major sports at Elgin High School from 1919-22, to have been the most versatile athlete in Elgin’s history. He was the fullback on the Elgin High School football teams which compiled a four year aggregate record of 23-7-3. In 1921 he scored seven touchdowns in a single game and finished the season with 157 points, an EHS record that stands today. Earl was a sprinter, high jumper and relay anchor on the school’s track teams, and was center on the basketball team and its leading scorer for two seasons (1920-21 and 1921-22).

During the summers “Britt” could be found swinging a bat on baseball diamonds around the city. His football ability led him to the University of Illinois and in 1923, 24 and 25 he was blocking back for the immortal Harold “Red” Grange. He also excelled at kicking field goals; in 1923 he preserved an undefeated season for the Illini by booting one 55 yards. His coach, Bob Zuppke, called Britton “one of the greatest punters and place kickers of all time.” He left Illinois at the close of its football season in 1925, his senior year, to play professional football with the **Chicago Bears**. He played pro ball for the Brooklyn Lions 1926, Frankford Yellowjackets 1927, Dayton Triangles 1928, and the **Chicago Cardinals** in 1929.

Earl was the son of Benjamin Harold Britton and Edna May Tanner. He was a first cousin to music educator Allen Perdue Britton (also an EHS Notable Alumni - Class of 1932).