

Phillip M. Odle Biography



Phillip M. Odle - Class of 1961 - b. November 23, 1942 (Elgin, Illinois) d. July 27, 2006 (Orem, Utah). From the EHS Yearbook, the Maroon: Football 2,3,4; Baseball 2,3,4; E Club 2,3,4.

Phil is a United States Marine Corp Veteran, and a member of the Elgin Sports Hall of Fame, The Brigham Young University Hall of Fame, and the Utah Athletic Hall of Fame.

The football career of this outstanding Elgin athlete began when he played halfback at EHS, scoring seven touch-downs, including four in one game as a junior in 1959. In 1960, his senior year, Phil gained 733 yards rushing in 108 attempts for a 6.78 average. He again scored seven touch-downs and was selected All Conference.

A 5'11" split end at Brigham Young University (The Cougars), he was an All-American when he led the nation in receiving his senior year. Phil was named to the All-Western Athletic Conference team three years running, from 1965-1967. He had a career total of 183 receptions (second most in NCAA history) for 2,548 yards and 25 touchdowns, one of the best all-time records for a major college receiver. He held BYU records for pass receptions, total receiving yards and total touchdowns for over two decades. He was invited to every post season collegiate all-star game and elected to play in the Coaches All American Game in Atlanta (1967) the East-West Shrine Game in San Francisco (1967) and the Hula Bowl in Honolulu (1968). He was named to the Dell Sports All-American first team and given BYU's Dale Rex Memorial Award for his contribution to amateur athletics in the state of Utah.

He was selected in the fifth round of the 1968 NFL Draft and played professional football on the special teams and as a wide receiver of the Detroit Lions (NFL) 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971.

He was later employed as a sales manager by Ford dealerships throughout Utah Valley and remained active in local community affairs.

Phil is survived by his wife Susan Lynn (Kisselburg) Odle (EHS Class of 1960), a son and daughter and three grandchildren.