



## **Dave Butz Selected To The College Football Hall of Fame, May 22, 2014**

Of the 132 scholarships Dave Butz received, he kept one as a souvenir.

The offer had nothing to do with playing football, a sport that paved the way for the former Purdue defensive tackle's selection to the College Football Hall of Fame on Thursday.

"Coach (Adolph) Rupp at Kentucky wanted me to play basketball," said Butz, who selected the Boilermakers over Michigan. "I was like 6-7, 280. I was giving new meaning to the words power forward."

All of Butz's activities were geared toward football, even playing basketball to improve his footwork and agility skills. It led to Butz becoming a three-year letterwinner for head coach Bob DeMoss at Purdue, developing into one of the top defensive tackles in the nation.

"I don't think I could've done it without all the teammates that I had," Butz said of his Hall of Fame selection. "It helps to have such a good group of guys to help you get in."

The first thing that struck teammate Otis Armstrong about Butz was his size. "He's one of the biggest guys I've ever seen," the former Boilermaker running back said Thursday.

Armstrong became a Hall of Fame member two years ago, and knows the emotions Butz is experiencing. Armstrong and Butz played at Purdue from 1970 to 1972 and shared captain duties during their senior season.

"He looked like a Greek god. He was really built," Armstrong said. "He moved people out of the way. He's fun to watch. He just moved people out of the way, and there he is, and the ball carrier has to deal with that. He was the biggest, strongest guy I've ever seen."

Butz was born in Alabama and raised in Park Ridge, Ill., attending Maine South High School before coming to West Lafayette. He was a consensus All-American at Purdue.

He credits defensive line coach Tony Mason for his success. "I had a fantastic line coach," Butz said. "He taught me how to read the offensive line and that helped me stay in the pros for 16 years. I was using the stuff he taught me my last (NFL) game. I was very fortunate to be there with Tony Mason. Hand placement, foot placement and how to read what's going on in front of you were all the things he taught me."

Butz was a first-round NFL draft pick by the St. Louis Cardinals and played two seasons before being traded to Washington. He spent 14 seasons with the Redskins, winning two Super Bowls, and was named NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1983. Butz retired in 1989 after missing just four games during his 16 seasons.

Armstrong, who played with the Denver Broncos, and Butz faced off during their successful NFL careers.

"I remember one Monday night game, and the first play I ran right up the middle and Dave made the tackle. I'm looking at him through my facemask and I told him, 'You got me that time.' He had me wrapped up pretty good," Armstrong said. The Class of 2014 will be inducted Dec. 9 in New York City.

## **2014 COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS**

### **Players**

Dre Bly: DB, North Carolina (1996-98)

Tony Boselli: OT, Southern California (1991-94)

Dave Butz: DT, Purdue (1970-72)

Shane Conlan: LB, Penn State (1983-86)

Joe Hamilton: QB, Georgia Tech (1996-99)

John Huard: LB, Maine (1964-66)

Darrin Nelson: HB, Stanford (1977-78, 1980-81)

Willie Roaf: OL, Louisiana Tech (1989-92)

John Scaarra: QB, UCLA (1972-75)

Sterling Sharpe: WR, South Carolina (1983, 1985-87)

Leonard Smith: CB, McNeese State (1979-82)

Derrick Thomas (deceased): LB, Alabama (1985-88)

LaDainian Tomlinson: TB, TCU (1997-00)

Wesley Walls: TE, Mississippi (1985-88)

### **Coaches**

Mike Bellotti: Chico State (Calif.) (1984-88) and Oregon (1995-08)

Jerry Moore: North Texas (1979-80), Texas Tech (1981-85) and Appalachian State (1989-12)