

## Donn Moomaw

### *Football*

#### *Class of 1948*

Donn Moomaw, a 1948 graduate of Santa Ana, was a giant of his day at 6-4, 220, and his athleticism made him a man among boys--and certainly ahead of his time. Not only was he a devastating linebacker, but also an outstanding tight end--and on goal-line situations, he would line up in the backfield. He was widely regarded as the toughest player of his day.

After graduating from Santa Ana, Moomaw went to UCLA where he played linebacker in 1950, 1951, and 1952. During that time, he was named:

- ~Two time All-American (in 1950 and consensus in 1952), a first in UCLA history.
- ~Named MVP in 1950 and 1952
- ~Co-captain in 1952
- ~Named College Football's Lineman of the Year in 1952
- ~His UCLA jersey number (#80) has been retired by the team.
- ~In 1973 he was inducted into both the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame, as well as the UCLA College Football Hall of Fame.
- ~His football legacy continues through the "Donn D. Moomaw Award for Outstanding Defensive Player in a USC Game", which is still given to this day.
- ~Moomaw was recognized as one of the world's greatest athletes by Who's Who in Sports in 1953
- ~He was a first-round draft pick for the Los Angeles Rams in 1953; however, he chose to play professionally in the Canadian Football League (CFL) where he was selected as a CFL All-Pro in 1954.

In a 1996 LA Times article, reporter Martin Henderson presented an All-Time Orange County football team, derived from a collection of the greatest players spanning six decades. Every high school coach and local college coach in Orange County was given an opportunity to pick a team and make his case. Moomaw was on that list of the top 26 football players in Orange County history.

He was one of the original Fellowship of Christian Athletes organizers and later served as President of FCA's Board of Trustees. He received his Master of Divinity Degree in 1957 from Princeton Theological Seminary and was ordained a Presbyterian USA pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, California, where he served for seven years. In 1964 he became Senior Pastor of the Bel Air Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles and went on to serve in that congregation until 1993. Moomaw was former United States President Ronald Reagan's pastor and also prayed for the President at both of Mr. Reagan's inaugurations in 1981 and 1985.