

## **Ted Parks**

### **Athlete: Football and Baseball**

### **Santa Ana HS – Class of 1964**

By the time this young man had graduated from Santa Ana High in 1964, he had earned a total of nine varsity letters in four sports over three years (football, basketball, track & field, and baseball), he had earned All-CIF honors in both football and baseball, and reporters following him had given him the nickname “Touchdown Ted Parks.”

As a two-year varsity football player, Parks’ speed and athleticism made him a dangerous two-way starter, playing both running back and safety. His impressive senior stats have him finishing with 918 rushing yards on 102 carries for an average of 9.0 yards per carry (keep in mind, he was often pulled out of lopsided games at the half). He netted 224 receiving yards on 10 receptions. He was Orange County’s leading scorer with 15 touchdowns and a total of 90 points; not to mention his 8 interceptions on the defensive end. While he was an easy selection to play in the North-South Shrine Game, where he was one of the stars in that game, his season performances also earned him a long list of honors as he was selected by coaches to the All-Sunset League team, he was also voted the Sunset League Player of the Year, he was All CIF-SS 2nd Team, All-Orange County 1st Team, and was chosen by the LA Times as the Orange County Back of the Year. For those who saw him play, he was considered “one of the best all-around football players ever to come out of Santa Ana High.”

But his talents went well beyond football as Parks was also a three-year varsity baseball starter who finished his high school career with a .330 batting average, earning All-Sunset League honors all three years, and being recognized as an All CIF-SS player his senior year. He played two years of varsity basketball, where he was a member of the League Championship team his junior year and a starter his senior year. He was also a two-year letterman on the track team, competing in the High Jump (with a PR of 6’3”, the Long Jump (a PR of 22’5”), and the 100-yard dash (with a time of 9:9).

Parks accepted a two-sport athletic scholarship to UC Berkeley where he competed in both football and baseball. In the 1966 MLB Amateur Draft, the Baltimore Orioles selected Ted Parks in the 1st round with the 16<sup>th</sup> overall pick. He played professional baseball for 6 years (from 1966-1971) as an infielder, finishing his career in AAA with the Kansas City Royals.



Coach Bill Ross and Captain Ted Parks.

