

DOUG FLUTIE: 1984 HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER

Doug Flutie is the quintessential football performer. Between the 1981 and 1984 college football seasons, he produced a major college career record of 11,054 yards of total offense (10,579 of them from passing, another national career record).

He first appeared on the collegiate scene in the fall of 1981 starting in the fourth game of his freshman year in an already-lost game at Penn State. He raked Joe Paterno's defense for 135 passing yards and a touchdown and won the starting job with that performance.

He went on to post a 30-11-1 overall record as a starter while also leading BC to three post-season bowls, the school's first post-season play in 40 years. He was the game MVP of the Tangerine Bowl in his sophomore year against Auburn and the Liberty Bowl in his junior year vs. Notre Dame.

Flutie's last-chance, game-winning drives were the stuff of Hollywood screen writers. As long as there was time on the clock, Flutie always believed that it was possible to win.

And in those rare instances when it didn't happen, it was only because he had run out of time—not out of opportunity.

The best thing about watching Flutie in a game was wondering what astounding feat he would perform that day. Those feats weren't

always game-winning plays, but often a series of individual plays within a game that, when totaled, made victory possible.

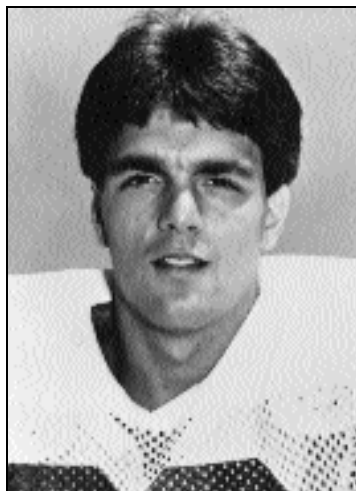
No obstacle on the field ever seemed too great to overcome.

While gifted with great mobility and an uncanny talent to "photograph" an opposing defense and then pick it apart at his whim, perhaps his greatest talent was an innate sense of how to win — an asset that never was coached into him.

When he wasn't rolling up prodigious amounts of passing yards, Flutie tantalized his foes with his scrambling and finished his career with more than 700 rushing yards.

Then, there was the size factor — "Little Doug" playing in a land of giants. Of course, "little Doug" was just as tall as the average American male, about 5-10. Perception soon became reality and a "little" man, real or imagined, wasn't supposed to accomplish what he did on a football field.

As a sophomore, he engineered a memorable tie against defending national champion Clemson. After the nationally televised game,



CBS commentator Pat Haden, himself a smallish quarterback who succeeded at USC, sought him out and told him, "Don't ever let anyone tell you that you are too small to play this game."

Yet, he also was a man of the people. He went to class with other students; he ate on the same meal plan they used; he played pick-up basketball games in the gym with them; and he never sought an exalted

place in either his campus or personal life.

He thrived in his family setting away from the adulation and glitz and glitter of his fame. One of the happiest moments of a momentous senior year was playing with his younger brother Darren, then a freshman wide receiver.

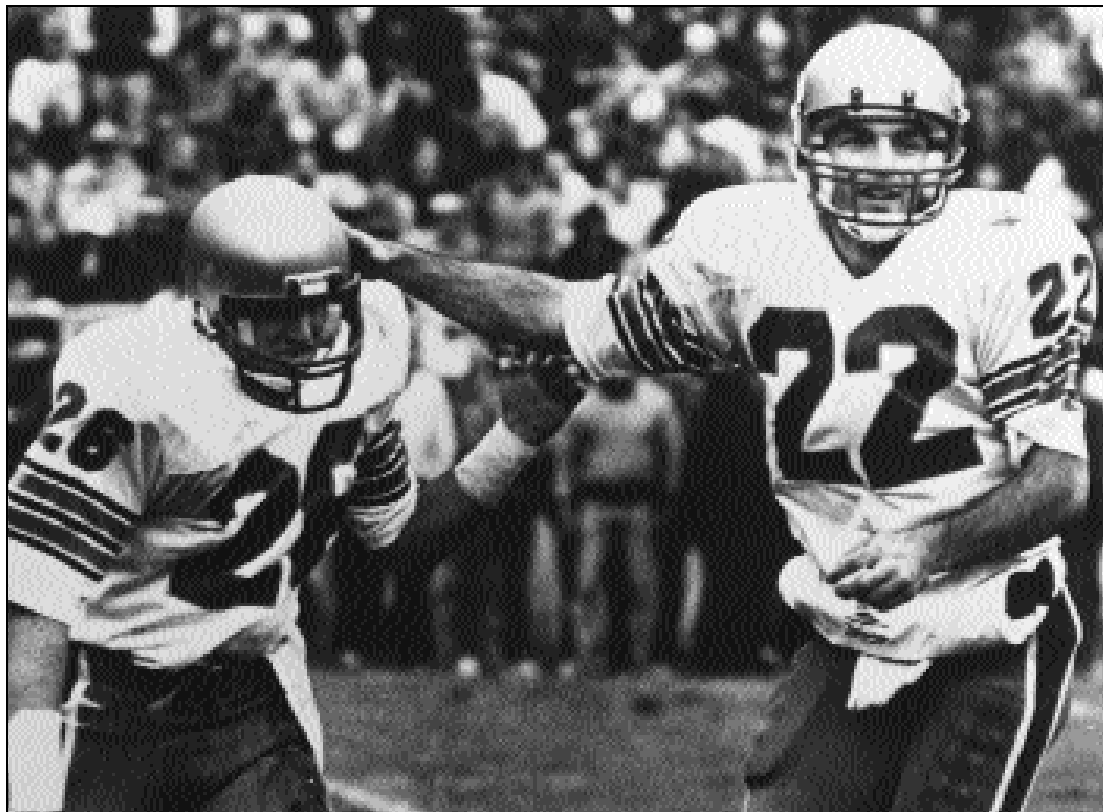
Oddly enough, Flutie eschewed scholarship offers from Holy Cross and Syracuse, who wanted to make him a defensive back despite his fine performances at quarterback for Natick High School, in Boston's Metrowest suburbs.

But Boston College got him with an assurance by new head coach Jack Bicknell that he would be given a full shot.

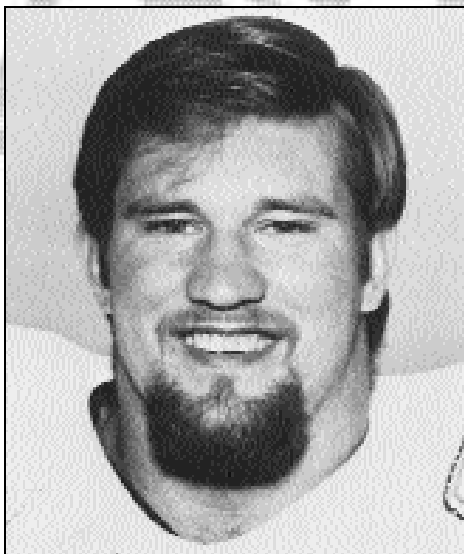
In 1983, he was key in the Eagles upset victory over Alabama and another last-second win against Temple. His team lost to Notre Dame in the Liberty Bowl but he was named the game's MVP.

All of that simply set the table for his amazing senior season in 1984. He threw six touchdown passes in a 52-20 romp over North Carolina; got four in an opening game victory over Western Carolina; and three each against Rutgers, Army and Holy Cross; and of course, his fabled, last-play touchdown pass to Gerard Phelan to beat Miami stood above all else.

In 1984, Doug Flutie became the first player in Boston College history to win college football's grandest individual award — the Heisman Trophy. It capped an unbelievable 9-2 season that



MIKE RUTH: 1985 OUTLAND TROPHY WINNER



Mike Ruth is the only Boston College player ever to win the Outland Trophy, presented to the nation's best interior offensive or defensive lineman. Ruth was honored in 1985 though his team had a losing record, the only time a player from a non-winning team was so-honored.

At 6-1 and 265 pounds, he not only was the team's strongest player — he had a record 560-pound bench press as a junior — but he also was the quickest lineman.

He mauled the offensive linemen who tried to block him, often tossing them aside like rag dolls; or he fooled them with his cat-like quickness that helped him elude double teams by centers and guards until it was almost monotonous to watch.

The combination of his strength and quickness helped him accumulate a couple dozen sacks and nearly 300 tackles during his career.

Injuries once more dogged him as a senior but not enough that he didn't excel on a team that won only four of twelve games.

Ruth had built a tremendous reputation during his junior season and really secured the Outland in the 1985 season's first game, the Kickoff Classic against Brigham Young University at Giants Stadium in New Jersey.

He relentlessly harassed BYU's quarterbacks the entire game, convincing the trophy's voters that he still was the country's best interior lineman. His play for the rest of the disappointing season did nothing to diminish that impression.

Ruth showed as a freshman during the 1982 season that he would be special when, playing a backup role, he accumulated 36 tackles and three quarterback sacks.

Though dogged by a season-long ankle injury as a sophomore in 1983, he more than doubled his tackles to 80 and had seven-and-a-half sacks.

In 1984, as the key to the Eagles defensive strength, Ruth had 102 tackles, 76 of them solo. He had six-and-a-half sacks but also was credited with 20 quarterback pressures and seven other minus yard plays. In the 1984 game against Holy Cross, he pressured the Crusader quarterback into throwing five interceptions.

Away from the field, he was just as unique.

For most of his time at BC, he seriously considered a vocation to the priesthood. He was a



very value-oriented person, who practiced what he preached. Often, the night before a game, the team would watch a movie he found objectionable and he simply sat outside the meeting room where it was being shown, and studied.

When his teammates emerged, he rejoined them for the team's late-night snack and everything was very comfortable for all concerned.

His mother was a victim of severe arthritis, so bad that at times she could not walk down the aisle in his family's parish church outside Philadelphia. No matter. Mike simply picked her up in his massive arms and carried her to her pew; and when it came time for her to receive Holy Communion, he carried her to the altar and back again.

He was team captain in 1985, his Outland Trophy year, but his leadership, even in a losing season, remained true to his personality. He told everyone before that season that he was not a holler guy, that his leadership would be by example. He never wavered and played as intensely as he had the previous seasons.

Ruth came to BC from Norristown, Pa., where he graduated from Methacton High School. He was a third team all-state pick and was the team captain.

After his BC career, Ruth was a second-round draft pick (42nd pick overall) of the New England Patriots and played for the team in 1986-87.

