

RETIRED NUMBERS

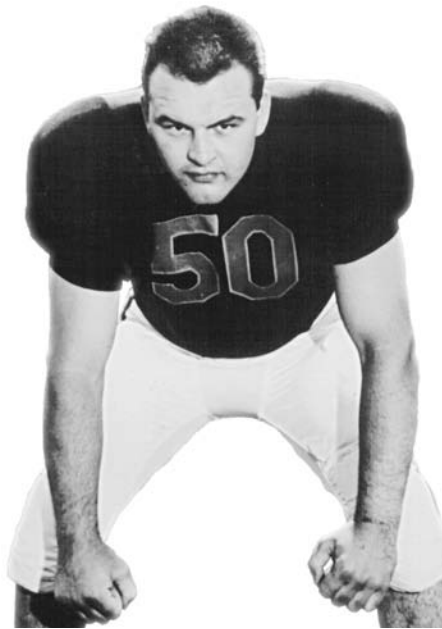
50 DICK BUTKUS

1962-64 // LINEBACKER/CENTER

BORN: DECEMBER 9, 1942

NUMBER RETIRED SEPT. 20, 1986

Dick Butkus remains the standard to which all linebackers are compared. He played two All-America seasons in 1963 and 1964 before enjoying a Hall of Fame career with the Chicago Bears, where he was a six-time All-Pro selection. Butkus finished third in the 1964 Heisman Trophy voting and has college football's annual award for the outstanding collegiate linebacker named after him. He had his jersey, No. 50, retired at Illinois in 1986, joining Red Grange as the only two Illinois football players to have their numbers retired. Butkus helped lead the Fighting Illini to a 1964 Rose Bowl victory over Washington. He earned first-team All-Big Ten honors twice and was awarded the 1963 Silver Football Award as the Big Ten's Most Valuable Player. Butkus finished his career with 374 tackles. His 145 stops in 1963 stood as the school record until 1976. He was named the 1964 Player of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association.



Butkus was named to the Big Ten Diamond Anniversary Team in 1970, *The Sporting News* College Coaches All-Time Team, the Walter Camp All-Century Team and the University of Illinois All-Century Team. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1979 and to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1983.

• "All I ever wanted to do was to play football. It was a human factor that got me to come here to Illinois. I'm very proud to be a former Illini. I'll always be an Illini."
— Dick Butkus

• "If every college football team had a linebacker like Dick Butkus of Illinois, all fullbacks would soon be three feet tall and sing soprano."
— Dan Jenkins, *Sports Illustrated*

• "Butkus didn't have bad games, just varying degrees of excellence."
— Bert Bertine, former Sports Editor, *Champaign Urbana Courier*

• "All the greats have the natural physical talent. Dick was so strong and agile and possessed great quickness. His biggest attributes, however, were his instincts and his desire. No one wanted to play the game of football as much as Dick Butkus. He is the finest football player I have ever coached."
— Pete Elliott, former UI coach

• "Dick would not only tackle you, he would consume you. He never missed a tackle and you knew that anytime you ran the ball that Butkus would be in on the tackle."
— Paul Hornung, Hall of Famer

• "What do I respect most about him? His guts . . . they put it to him hard and right away he comes back at them with a big play."
— Don Hansen, former UI teammate

• "He is a legend. I never thought any player could play as well as writers write that he can, but Butkus came as close as any player I've seen."
— Tommy Prothro, former UCLA coach

• "Dick Butkus remains the standard for defensive players to strive for."
— George Halas, former UI player and longtime owner and coach of the Chicago Bears

• "Our game plans were always to run at Illinois tackles . . . and AWAY from Butkus."
— Bump Elliott, former Michigan coach

BUTKUS' CAREER TACKLING STATISTICS

Year	Games	Tackles	Average
1962	7	97	13.9
1963	10	145	14.5
1964	9	132	14.7
Career	26	374	14.4

77 "RED" GRANGE

1923-25 • HALFBACK

NUMBER RETIRED IN 1925

BORN: JUNE 13, 1903 // DIED: JANUARY 28, 1991

Harold E. "Red" Grange is one of football's all-time greats, and arguably the game's greatest all-time offensive player. He is a charter member of the Pro (1963) and College (1951) Football Halls of Fame. Grange's most memorable performance came Oct. 18, 1924, when he scored four touchdowns in the first 12 minutes vs. Michigan in the Memorial Stadium dedication game. Later in the same game, he ran for a fifth touchdown and threw for a sixth. Nicknamed the "Wheaton Iceman" and "Gallop Ghost," he left Illinois to play pro football with the Chicago Bears under former Fighting Illini George Halas. He was an All-American in each of his three seasons with Illinois and won the 1924 Silver Football Award as the Big Ten's Most Valuable Player, the first recipient of the award. He was named to *The Sporting News* All-Time Team, the Big Ten Diamond Anniversary Team, the Walter Camp All-Century Team and the UI All-Century Team.

Grange's name will be immortal. They can argue all they want about the greatest football player who ever lived. I was satisfied I had him when I had Red Grange. I will never have another Red Grange, but neither will anyone else."
— Bob Zuppke, former UI coach

• "I played football the only way I know how. If you have the football and 11 guys are after you, if you're smart, you'll run. It was no big deal."
— Red Grange

• "They knew he was coming; they saw him start; he made no secret of his direction; he was in their midst, and he was gone!"
— excerpt from *Chicago Tribune* article after Illinois-Michigan game of 1924

• "A streak of fire, a breath of flame, eluding all who reach and clutch, A gray ghost thrown into the game That rival hands may never touch; A rubber bounding, blasting soul, whose destination is the goal."
— Grantland Rice, famed sportswriter

GRANGE'S CAREER STATISTICS AT ILLINOIS

	Rushing			Passing				Total Offense				
	Att	Yds	Avg	Att	Com	Int	Pct	Yds	TD	PI	Yds	TD
1923	129	723	5.6	9	4	0	.444	36	0	138	759	12
1924	113	743	6.6	44	26	4	.591	433	2	157	1176	15
1925	146	605	4.1	29	10	7	.345	106	1	175	711	7
Career	388	2071	5.3	82	40	11	.488	575	3	470	2646	34

	Receiving			Int.	Punt Ret.	K.O. Ret.	Scoring					
	No	Yds	TD				Avg	No	Yds	TD	Pts	
1923	10	178	1	17.8	3	140	15	212	1	7	12	72
1924	2	40	0	20.0	2	24	11	83	4	136	13	78
1925	2	35	1	17.5	6	83	22	191	10	310	6	36
Career	14	253	2	18.1	11	247	48	486	15	453	31	186

SOME OF GRANGE'S AWARDS

- 1924 Chicago Tribune Silver Football Award as Big Ten Most Valuable Player (First year of the award)
- 1924 Frank A. Toomey Trophy by the Veteran Athletes of Philadelphia for national player of the year

- (considered the Heisman Trophy of its time)
- 1951 Inducted as charter member into College Football Hall of Fame
- 1963 Inducted as charter member into National Football League Hall of Fame
- 1969 Football Writers Association of America All-Time All-America team (unanimous)
- 1989 Walter Camp All-Century Team
- 1990 Illinois All-Century Team



• "This man Red Grange of Illinois is three or four men and a horse rolled into one for football purposes. He is Jack Dempsey, Babe Ruth, Al Jolson, Paavo Nurmi and Man O' War."
— Damon Runyon, famed sportswriter

• "He ran with a rhythm I've never seen duplicated — the overall effect being one of orchestrated perfection. Generations to come will produce their great runners, but only