

Tom was a four-sport star at Garner from 1961 through 1964. He earned 15 varsity letters including four in football, four in track, four in baseball and three in basketball. He was a First Team All-Conference performer his junior and senior year in football and basketball. He earned First Team and Third Team All-State honors in football where he was the state's top offensive player his senior year. He led the state in touchdowns, points and total offense during that time. He also set the conference record for scoring in football with 21 touchdowns on the ground, 12 passing touchdowns and 24 extra points. He also led the conference in scoring three straight years.

A three year starter in basketball, he averaged 22.7 points a game his senior year and was named First Team All-State. He was a two-time First Team All-Conference performer. Garner only lost a total of four games during his junior and senior years. During his four-year career in track he ran a 9.8 100 yard dash and held the 220 yard state record as well as a school record 21'11" broadjump. Tom also lettered all four years in baseball and as a junior he hit .512 with 27 RBIS and finished 3-1 on the pitching mound with a .70 ERA.

Tom held scholarship offers from 79 schools. Tom chose to continue his football career at Iowa State to be closer to home and to play for Coach Clay Stapleton. A three-year starter for the Cyclones, he ended his career seeing action as a receiver, tailback, punter, place kicker, punt returner and kick off returner. He ended his career in 1967, third on the Iowa State all-time receiving yards. He was one of the most versatile players and one of the great deep threats in Iowa State history, averaging 15.8 yards a reception for his career. In 2006 - 40 years later - he is still ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> on the all-time Iowa State kickoff average with 24.7 yards per return. The Kansas City newspaper called him one of the best all-around backs in Big 8 history. He finished second in Big 8 scoring as a junior and set a school season game record with 13 pass receptions for 134 yards against Kansas. He was selected to play in the prestigious Senior Bowl and Blue-Grey Bowl. He was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals of the NFL and also headed north to play one year for the Winnipeg Bombers of the Canadian Football League. His greatest college thrill however was "Tom Busch Day" at Iowa State. At his final game, over 300 "Garnerites" were in attendance and he was presented the honor before the football game by Garner Mayor A.G. Landon.

After college, Tom went on to coach and teach school in Klemme and at Cedar Rapids Washington, Cedar Rapids Jefferson and Roosevelt Middle School. He enjoyed playing fastpitch softball for many years after college. He enjoyed the challenge and competition of fastpitch softball and was a feared leadoff hitter with the speed and power playing for fastpitch powerhouse teams: Clear Lake Butt'r Top, the Des Moines Bombers, Collins Radio and Mahoneys of Cedar Rapids. Additional Hall of Fame honors include Iowa High School Football (1997), Iowa Softball (1998) and Cedar Rapids Softball (1999).

