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Dave Duerson

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

David Russell Duerson (November 28, 1960 – February 17, 2011) was an [American football safety](#) in the [National Football League](#) (NFL) who played for the [Chicago Bears](#) (1983–1989), the [New York Giants](#) (1990), and the [Phoenix Cardinals](#) (1991–1993). He earned significant honors during his career, including selection to four consecutive [Pro Bowls](#) for NFL seasons 1985 through 1988.

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Early life

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Duerson played football, basketball, and baseball at Muncie (Indiana) Northside High School. He was given an opportunity to play for the [Los Angeles Dodgers](#) as a pitcher and outfielder in 1979, but declined. Duerson received many honors during his high school years, including the 1979 Indiana Mr. Football,^[2] and was part of the [National Honor Society](#) and [The Musical Ambassadors All-American Band](#).

College career

[\[edit\]](#)

Duerson played [college football](#) at the [University of Notre Dame](#) from 1979 to 1982.^[3] He graduated with honors, with a BA in Economics. He started all four years, and earned recognition as an [All-American](#) in 1981 and 1982. He was named as his team's MVP in 1982, and a Captain. He was the winner of the Edward "Moose" Krause Distinguished Service Award in 1990 by the Notre Dame Monogram Club, of which he was a past president. He was also a member of the University of Notre Dame Board of Trustees from 2001-2005.^[3]

Professional career

[\[edit\]](#)

Dave Duerson

No. 22, 26
Safety
Personal information
Date of birth: November 28, 1960
Place of birth: Muncie, Indiana
Date of death: February 17, 2011 (aged 50)
Place of death: Sunny Isles Beach, Florida ^[1]
Career information
College: Notre Dame
NFL Draft: 1983 / Round: 3 / Pick: 64
Debuted in 1983
Last played in 1993
Career history
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicago Bears (1983–1989) • New York Giants (1990) • Phoenix Cardinals (1991–1993)
Career highlights and awards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4× Pro Bowl selection (1985, 1986, 1987, 1988) • 2× Associated Press Second-team All-Pro selection (1986, 1987) • 1987 NFL Man of the Year Award • 2× Super Bowl champion
Career NFL statistics
INT 20
INT yards 226
Sacks 16
Stats at NFL.com 

Duerson was selected to four consecutive Pro Bowls from 1986 to 1989 in his career, and won two championship rings, with the Bears ([Super Bowl XX](#)), and with the Giants ([Super Bowl XXV](#)). During the 1986 season, Duerson set an NFL record (later broken in 2005 by [Adrian Wilson](#) of the [Arizona Cardinals](#)) for most sacks in a season by a defensive back, with seven. He also intercepted six passes for 139 yards with a long return of 38 yards. At season's end, Duerson was named first team All-Pro by [Pro Football Weekly](#), the [Pro Football Writers Association](#) and [The Sporting News](#) and second team All-Pro by [AP](#). In 1987, Duerson was the recipient of the [NFL Man of the Year Award](#). In his 11 seasons, Duerson recorded 20 interceptions, which he returned for 226 yards, and 16 quarterback sacks. He also recovered five fumbles, returning them for 47 yards and a touchdown.

After football

[[edit](#)]

Duerson owned three McDonald's restaurants in [Louisville, Kentucky](#) for six months, from late 1994 to April 1995. He purchased the majority interest in Fair Oaks Farms (formerly Brooks Sausage Company) in 1995.^[4] Duerson grew the company from \$24M revenue to over \$63.5M in six years. He sold his stake in the company in 2002 and started Duerson Foods, but that company was forced into [receivership](#) in 2006 and most of its assets were auctioned off.^[5]

Death

[[edit](#)]

Duerson was found dead at his [Sunny Isles Beach, Florida](#)^[1] home on February 17, 2011. The Miami-Dade County medical examiner reported that Duerson died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest.^[6] He sent a text message to his family saying he wanted his brain to be used for research at the [Boston University School of Medicine](#), which is conducting research into [chronic traumatic encephalopathy](#) (CTE) caused by playing professional football.^[7] He left behind three sons and a daughter from his marriage to ex-wife Alicia Duerson.^[6] On May 2, 2011 researcher neurologists at Boston University confirmed that he suffered from a neurodegenerative disease linked to concussions.^[8]

See also

[[edit](#)]

- List of suicides



References

[[edit](#)]

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External links

[edit]

- [Duerson's stats](#) 

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