

## ★ BILL WEEKS ★

Bill Weeks, a coaching giant in the days of one-platoon football, remembers the dramatic changes that the Wing-T formation brought onto the University of New Mexico scene.

Weeks, 68, will be the 61st member to be inducted into the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame tonight. He spent 30 years at UNM, before he retired in 1986.

Weeks led the Lobos to three consecutive Western Athletic Conference football championships (1962-64), and an Aviation Bowl victory over Western Michigan in 1961 in Dayton, Ohio.

In 1958 when Marv Levy was named head Lobo football coach, he retained me as his assistant off Dick Clausen's staff here," Weeks said. "Marv and I went to Iowa City to talk to Forrest Evashevski about bringing the new formation to UNM. We put it in during fall practice."

The Wing-T for a time, changed the face of Lobo football for the better. The Wolfpack turned the tables on such powers as Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado State, Utah and even BYU until the two-platoon era began taking its toll in numbers and finances.

In 1960 when Weeks was hired as head coach at UNM at age 30, the former two-time All Big Seven quarterback had to hire an entire new coaching staff. Levy took all of his assistants with him when he became head coach at California.

Weeks hired Rod Rust from Ottumwa, Iowa High School to coach the line; Ken Blue from Hartnell, Calif. Junior College to coach the defense; Bob Peterson from Grand Canyon, Ariz., College to coach the offense and Reese Smith from Artesia High School to coach the linebackers and freshmen. Four assistants. That was it.

The Lobos, after two 7-3 seasons under Levy, went 5-5 in 1960 then hitched their wagon to All-American halfback Bobby Santiago to go to the Aviation Bowl with a 7-4 club in 1961. Santiago was the MVP in the snow but a key to the win included five booming punts by Dick Fitzsimmons that went out inside the 15-yard line. Fitzsimmons had transferred to UNM when Denver U gave up football.

Weeks continued to modify his Wing-T. He made it work by recruiting the likes of Bob Bouyer, Eddie Stokes, Stan Quintana, Dave Hettema, Chuck Kelly, Jim Cromartie, Chuck Clausen, George Heard,

Jack Abendschan, Joe Vivian, Jim Ottmann, Gary Plumlee, Gary Ness, Chuck Cummings, Paul Smith, Bucky Stallings, Jay McNeill, Wayne Tvrdik, John Kosor, Gary Repetto, Glenn Troublefield, Mario Marianni, Bobby Chavez, Joe Casas, Steve Avery, Woody Dame, Glen Gares, Ed Meadows, Scott Hennington, Steve Legion, Mickey Henry, Jim Bradley and Orvey Hampton.

Benchmarks of Weeks' three straight WAC titles in 1962, 1963 and 1964 were three HUGE wins over Wyoming, Arizona and Colorado State. The season marks those years were 7-2-1, 6-4 and 9-2.

"I'm proud that we achieved success with mostly New Mexico players," said Weeks. "We pretty much had our way until two-platoon football cut into our success. The school just couldn't afford it."

Weeks' record dipped to 3-7, 2-8 and 1-9 when he was reassigned to other UNM posts.

He was assistant and then administrative director of the New Mexico Regional Medical Program and later was Director of Development and executive assistant to the UNM president before retiring in 1986 as UNM liaison to the Board of Educational Finance.

A native of Hampton, Iowa, Weeks earned eight letters in football, track and baseball at Hampton High School. He starred as an all-Big Seven Quarterback under Coach Abe Stuber at Iowa State and played in both the East-West Classic and the Hula Bowl his senior year.

In 1951 he broke the Big Seven total offense mark with 1,552 yards passing and was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles.

An injured right foot in an auto crash that winter ended all hopes of a pro football career so Weeks earned his master's degree at Iowa State in 1953. He was Stuber's assistant the next fall at Iowa State. He coached at Grinnell, Iowa, High School in 1954-55 before being hired as an assistant by Dick Clausen at UNM in 1956.

Weeks and his wife, Pat, are parents of five children, Susan Hart and husband John of Scarsdale, N.Y., Katherine Jones of Santa Fe, Tom Weeks and wife Lyn of Albuquerque, Jim Weeks and wife Lynn of Albuquerque and John Weeks and wife Donna of Denton, Texas. Weeks has 13 grandchildren.