



## CLASS OF 2018 INDUCTEE



### Charlie "Humps" Cowan

Charles Edward Cowan played 206 games over 15 seasons as an offensive lineman for the Los Angeles Rams in the NFL from 1961 to 1975. He is tied with UNM Terrance Mathis with most games played in the NFL from a player from a high school or college in New Mexico. Charlie is considered one of the best athletes in the history of New Mexico Highlands University. A native West Virginian, he excelled in 1960 as a defensive lineman and the leading scorer and rebounder for the basketball team earning All-American honors in both sports, which is a rare feat in college athletics. He was drafted in the fourth round and 45th pick.

At the time of his retirement in 1975, Charlie ranked second with two fewer games played than franchise leader and Pro Football Hall of Famer, Merlin Olsen. The Rams made the playoffs five times (1967, 1969, 1973, 1974, 1975), reaching the NFC championship game of the 1974-75 NFL Playoffs and the 1975-76 NFL Playoffs. Cowan earned Pro-Bowl honors three consecutive seasons (1968 to 1970).

For almost 10 years Cowan, Hall of Famer Tom Mack, and Ken Iman were an intimidating presence on the offensive line. When Cowan wasn't busy with excelling at his craft, he was known for taking rookies or struggling teammates under his wing. "Charlie was a real teacher," said 6-time Pro Bowler and once Cowan student Rich Saul. It got to the point where the Ram's Offensive Line coaches over the years would tell the struggling rookies to go to Charlie to find out how to correct what they were doing wrong.

Charlie was second team All-NFL offensive tackle by New York Daily News and United Press International in 1967; second team All-NFL by New York Daily News and Associated Press, plus first team All-Conference by Sporting News in 1968; first team All-Conference by Sporting News in 1971; and in 1973, he was second team All-Conference by UPI and second team All-Pro by Associated Press and Pro Football Writers. He was named to the Rams 40th Anniversary All-Time Team. Charlie was inducted into the New Mexico Highlands University Hall of Honor in 2002.

