



DON PERKINS

Jersey No. 43 will never be forgotten by either UNM or Dallas Cowboy loyalists. To Lobo grid-iron followers, the owner of that shirt meant the most exciting, explosive halfback to come on the Albuquerque scene in years. To Dallas fans, it belonged to the smallest (5'10", 205 pounds) fullback in the National Football League who became the Cowboys' greatest ground-gainer . . .

And in both cities the native of Waterloo, Iowa, turned ho-hum, going-nowhere clubs into outstanding teams . . .

Lured from the cornfields of Iowa by new head coach Dick Clausen in 1956, Don Perkins

instantly established his mark on an outstanding freshman team while the Lobo varsity started the climb back from a dismal 2-8 year. No. 43 quickly jumped into a starter's role as a sophomore in '57, relinquished the spot only when injured . . . His 3-TD performance (including a 64-yd. scoring pass) in UNM's 28-27 comeback win over Air Force in 1959 gained him AP 'National Back of the Week' laurels . . . Named to the Sporting News 1959 All-America.

When UNM retired red No. 43 (first ever) in 1967, the following marks belonged to an unassuming, modest Don Perkins: most points (74—12 TDs) in one season, career scoring (138), career rushing attempts (370), career rushing average per play (5.7 yds.) and single-game rushing (187 yds.) . . . A broken foot ruined his chances in the 1960 College All-Star Game, delayed his Dallas debut until 1961 . . .

The fledgling Cowboy franchise started slowly, then caught fire with Don Meredith passing, Perkins running. In eight NFL seasons, Dallas' No. 43 carried 1,500 times for 6,803 yards to become the 6th leading all-time NFL rusher . . . Played twice in NFL championship (vs. Green Bay) and four Pro Bowls . . . Two-timer on NFL All-Star team . . . When Perkins retired in 1969, teammate Meredith followed suit 48 hours later . . .