

DON WOODS

Don Woods has the unique distinction of being named Most Valuable Player at two universities two successive seasons—New Mexico Highlands (1972), UNM (1973).

The 6'3, 200-pound quarterback from Denton, Tx., was an NAIA All-American triple-threat for the Cowboys, rushing 1607 yards and passing for 3558 for 5165 total offense yards in three seasons. He had 10 rushing TDs and 24 passing.

When Highlands dropped football after the 1972 season, then-Lobo coach Rudy Feldman snapped him up and the Lobos had their starting 1973 quarterback. As a senior signal-caller Woods set a season's rushing mark for UNM QBs (971) and led the Lobos in passing with another 869 for 1,840 total offense. Woods was named Back of the Week by UPI after rushing 118 yards, scoring two TDs, passing for another in UNM's 48-6 win over the NM Aggies.

Though the Lobos finished 3-8, Woods stood out like a star on the horizon and was named MVP and recognized as Athlete of The Year by the Sports Hall of Fame (1974-75).

Don was drafted by the Green Bay Packers in 1974, but was lost in the pre-season training camp shuffle, placed on waivers and grabbed by the San Diego Chargers with whom Feldman had close ties. Woods promptly made the Packers pay for their mistake, being the second leading rusher in the NFL plus 'Rookie of the Year.'

After six years with the Chargers, Woods was traded to the Forty-Niners in 1980 where he finished his pro career.

Woods returned to Albuquerque, joining APS in 1989 as teacher and assistant football coach at West Mesa High for 10 years. Don moved to Rio Grande High in 1998 where he teaches Special Education.

Don has a son (Don) and daughter (Ta-Tasha).