

## JOHN DOLZADELLI

Few men have served the University of New Mexico athletic program for 36 years in the role of an outstanding halfback then as a sports administrator. But before John Dolzadelli's retirement at UNM in 1972, "The Flying Wop" (as he was known in 1925-28 at UNM) had been given every Southwest pigskin honor, served as manager of Lobo athletic program, business manager of athletics and finally assistant athletic director.



John Dolzadelli becomes the second pupil of two Sports Hall of Fame coaches to be inducted. A year ago, Ralph Bowyer joined the Hall after gaining his playing laurels under the late F.M. (Tony) Wilson at Albuquerque High and under Roy Johnson at UNM.

Dolzadelli was an outstanding halfback at St. Mary's before transferring to AHS his senior year and coming under the watchful eye of Tony Wilson. With the Bulldogs, he gained All-State acclaim on a 16-player grid squad, played forward for an AHS quintet that edged Menaul for the state basketball title and went onto a national tourney in Chicago, then ran the 440 — all coached by Wilson.

Enrolling in the fall of 1925 at LoboLand, the "Flying Wop" starred four years under Roy Johnson as fleet halfback and linebacker (145 pounds soaking wet). Dolzadelli scored 10 TDs for the 1927 eleven which compiled the only undefeated season in UNM's history — 8-0-1. All-time tackle Mannie Foster led Dolzadelli's interference.

Twice Dolzadelli was named to the prestigious All-Southwestern team (Texas, Arizona, Southern California and New Mexico). He was named to Sigma Chi Fraternity's 1927 All America eleven and was picked to play in the Shrine East-West game in San Francisco after being tabbed "the fastest halfback in the entire Southwest" by Los Angeles papers. Twice he was selected Lobo captain.

In 1947, Dolzadelli was named to the all-time Lobo football team. Dolzadelli spent one year coaching high school football (El Paso Austin), where his aide was Ralph Bowyer, before joining UNM in 1936. Save for a stint in the U.S. Navy, he spent the rest of his active life helping build UNM's athletic program and its PE Department.

During his 34 years service, Dolzadelli served as then manager of Lobo athletic program (1955), as business manager of athletics (1956-1964), then assistant athletic under Pete McDavid (1965-1972).

The duo of McDavid and Dolzadelli, along with the late Tom Popejoy, are given major credit for the development of UNM's athletic complex (UNM Arena, University Stadium, baseball fields, athletic building) on the South Campus.

Dolzadelli was presented a lifetime Membership in the UNM Lobo Club upon his retirement in 1972.