

## ★ WALT ARNOLD ★

Walt Arnold's athletic ability, integrity, personal excellence and his community leadership made him a prime candidate for induction tonight as the 58th member of the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame.

The former University of New Mexico football and baseball star and an 8-year veteran in the National Football League received similar honors in 1994 when he was named to the prestigious UNM Hall of Honor.

President of his own Albuquerque real estate company, Arnold, 38, starred as a Lobo tight end in football and twice was selected as an all-WAC catcher with the baseball team. As a senior he played on the 1980 Lobo baseball team that won over 40 games.

Arnold remains active in the university and civic communities. He is the alumni representative on the UNM Athletic Council and in 1992 served on the selection committee which recommended Dennis Franchione to be the Lobo head football coach.

Arnold is president-elect of the new Association of Realtors of New Mexico and also is president of Certified Commercial Investment Members. He has served on the UNM Alumni Association board of directors and was past president of both the UNM Alumni Lettermen's Club and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"I enjoyed my high school, collegiate and pro football days," said Arnold, who returned to UNM after his pro career to receive a degree in 1987.

"I had a respectable NFL career with Los Angeles (1980-81), Houston (1982-83) and Kansas City (1984-87). I tore up my knee my last season with the Chiefs and never got to get a free agent contract."

His career-ending injury happened against Pittsburgh in Arrowhead Stadium. Ironically, ex-Lobo Robin Cole was

involved when Arnold's foot was trapped in a freak pileup. Cole, an all-Pro Steelers star and an all-WAC Lobo, was inducted into the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame four years ago.

During his best pro season in 1985 with the Chiefs, Arnold caught 28 passes for 339 yards. He finished his pro career with 99 catches.

A native of Galveston, Texas, Arnold moved to Los Alamos when he was in junior high school.

He earned eight letters in three sports at Los Alamos High School. He was an all-state athlete in both football (fullback-linebacker) and baseball (catcher-first baseman). He also started with the basketball team.

Arnold is the only athlete ever to be named the most valuable player in both the New Mexico High School North-South All Star football and baseball games.

Recruited by ex-UNM football coach Bill Mondt, Arnold said he chose the Lobos over Rice and New Mexico State.

Arnold played sparingly as a football freshman. He caught 10 passes as a sophomore and led the team in per-catch average with 22.3 yards. He was a backup behind all-WAC tight end Chris Combs and Mike Forrest.

Winning a starting role as a junior Arnold caught 13 passes for a 16.0 average and one TD. Pro scouts noticed him as a senior when Arnold caught 13 passes for 189 yards. He was signed by the Rams in 1980 after Los Angeles had played in the Super Bowl.

Arnold plays golf and recreation basketball at a local spa, but says he prefers to spend quality time coaching his three children fundamental athletic skills so important in all sports. He believes an athlete must strive to get perfect balance.

Walt's and wife Ann's two sons, Mark, 14, and Kevin, 11, play football, baseball and basketball. His daughter, Shelley, 9, plays softball.