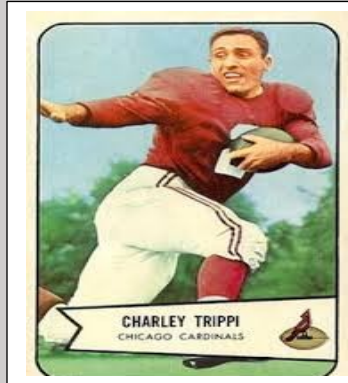


CHARLEY TRIPPI
Professional Football Hall of Fame

WHEN? 1940s

EVENT
Trippi is a multi-position
player on college and
professional teams



WHERE?
On the football field

VOCABULARY
Double A
football

Area football fans still say the name of Charley Trippi with reverent respect. Born in 1922 in Pittston, he went on to win the Maxwell Award for best college player of the year (1946), finished second in the Heisman balloting that same year, selected to the Georgia Hall of Fame, the College Hall of Fame, and the Professional Football Hall of Fame. Trippi also won All-American status as a baseball player going on to play at the Double A level before abandoning baseball to concentrate on football (Kashatus 48, 49).

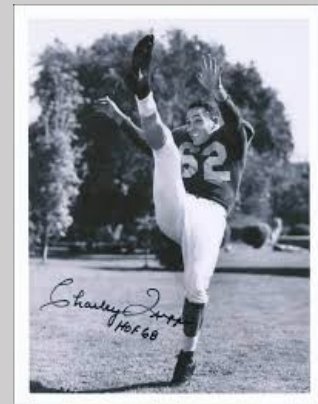


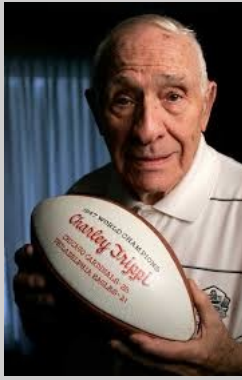
After graduating from LaSalle Military Academy in New York, Trippi turned down scholarships from Fordham and Notre Dame and chose to attend Georgia. He excelled on the gridiron right from the start. The “Pittston Flash” as his teammates called him totaled 1,239 yards for the 1942 season leading the Bulldogs to an 11-1 record. The team won the Southern Conference (SEC) championship that year and earned a trip to the Rose Bowl where Trippi won the most Valuable Player award (Kashatus 48, 49).

War had engulfed the nation in December, 1941 with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Trippi interrupted his football career (1943-1945) and joined the Air Force earning the rank of staff sergeant. When he returned to the field, Georgia had six games left on their schedule and had changed their offense to a T-bone which suited Trippi's talents well. He set SEC records for passing yardage (323) and total yardage (381). The following year, 1946, Trippi led the Bulldogs to an undefeated season and a Sugar Bowl victory as their captain.

Graduation meant only one thing: more football. He accepted an offer of \$100,000 from the Chicago Cardinals—one of the worst teams in the National Football League (NFL) (Kashatus 49).

With the addition of Trippi to an already talented group, the team excelled as Trippi played at numerous positions: halfback, punter, kickoff return, and quarterback and eventually work on the defensive unit by 1954, 1955 (Kashatus 49). During the NFL championship game against the Philadelphia Eagles in 1947, Kashatus writes “Trippi wore basketball shoes for better traction on





the icy field and totaled 206 yards including 102 yards on two punt returns. He scored touchdowns on a 44-yard run and a 75-yard punt return.”

Pittston Area high school named their football stadium after the hometown hero. He spent nine seasons with the Cardinals where he rushed for 3,506 yards, caught 130 passes for 1,321 yards and scored 11 touchdowns in 99 games. He also threw for 2,547 yards and 16 touchdowns. He passed away in 2022 at the age of 100.

ONLINE RESOURCES

[Charley Trippi](#)

[Pro Football Hall of Fame](#)

PRINT RESOURCES

Kashatus, William. *Valley With A Heart*. Luzerne County, PA: Luzerne County Historical Society and Luzerne Community College. 2012.