

MINI-BIO: ALEX WEBSTER

By Bob Carroll

Big Red Webster was consistently underrated. After completing his career at North Carolina State, he went undrafted in 1953 until Washington gave him the nod in the twelfth round. Then the Redskins cut him before the season began. Undaunted, he went to Canada where he became a star. In 1955, he returned to the NFL, signing as a free agent with the New York Giants. Though his more versatile running mate Frank Gifford received the press accolades, Webster led the Giants in rushing as a rookie.

He was the kind of runner known as a "glider," eating up yardage with smooth, deceptively fast strides. But at 6'3" and 218 pounds, he could bruise would-be tacklers. He also developed into a reliable, if unspectacular, pass receiver. In 1956, Webster, Gifford, Chuck Conerly, and the great Giant DEE-fense won the NFL championship in a 47-7 rout of the Chicago Bears. Big Red scored a pair of touchdowns on short runs and caught five passes for 76 yards.

Various shoulder and leg injuries limited Webster's production over the next few years. In 1961, he was nearly cut in training camp, but once the season began, he made a magnificent comeback by gaining over 1,200 rushing and receiving yards. He retired as a player after the 1964 season, having been an integral part of the Giants' greatest period of sustained success. In ten seasons, he played in six championship games, though 1956 saw the only New York victory.

Webster served as a Giants assistant coach in 1967-68 and was named head coach in 1969, succeeding Allie Sherman. The team was on the downgrade, but when he brought them in second in their division with a 9-5 record in 1970 both the UPI and Washington Touchdown Club voted him Coach of the Year. New York had one more winning season under Webster, but it collapsed completely in 1973. He announced his resignation before the final game.

Alexander Webster

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North Carolina State * Kearny HS, NJ

Born: 04/19/31, Kearny, NJ

Drafted Round 12 Washington 1953

* Pro Bowl: 1958, 1961

* Coach of Year: 1970 UPI & Washington Touchdown Club

YEAR	TEAM	LG	Gm	RUSHING				PASS RECEIVING				SCOR PTS
				ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	
1953-54	CFL											
1955	NYG	N	12	128	634	5.0	5	22	269	12.2	1	36
1956	NYG	N	12	178	694	3.9	7	21	197	9.4	3	60
1957	NYG	N	11	135	478	3.5	5	30	330	11.0	1	36
1958	NYG	N	9	100	398	4.0	3	25	279	11.2	3	36
1959	NYG	N	10	79	250	3.2	5	27	381	14.1	2	42
1960	NYG	N	8	22	48	2.2	0	8	106	13.3	0	0
1961	NYG	N	14	196	928	4.7	2	26	313	12.0	3	30
1962	NYG	N	14	207	743	3.6	5	47	477	10.1	4	54
1963	NYG	N	7	75	255	3.4	4	15	128	8.5	0	24
1964	NYG	N	12	76	210	2.8	3	19	199	10.5	0	18
10 yrs			109	1196	4638	3.9	39	240	2679	11.2	17	336

Additional: Threw one incomplete pass in 1959.

Head coach New York Giants 1969-73 (29-40-1)