

## CLARE RANDOLPH -- Finding His Niche

By Jim Campbell

In a late-night bull session at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Dr. Dan Fortmann announced, "You know who the only guy was who could tackle the Bronk (Bronko Nagurski) one-on-one? Clare Randolph! I'm not sure how he did it. Bronk was a lot heavier, but Randolph had a lot of Moxie. He'd just stick his head in there and somehow get Bronko off his feet without any help."

Fortmann's Hall of Fame teammate Joe Stydahar concurred: "He's the only guy in the league who could tackle Nagurski by himself."

In 1930, Clare Randolph signed with the Chicago Cardinals. He'd had a respectable career with the Hoosiers of Indiana University, but he was not a blue-chipper. Like so many others of the era, he was just a guy who wanted to play a little more football. Randolph, who later moved on to the Portsmouth Spartans and eventually to the Detroit Lions, earned his reputation as a two-way center, playing linebacker on defense. At 6-2, he was tall enough but perhaps a little light at 204. He had an inner toughness, though.

When the Lions got good -- in 1934 and 1935 (they were champions in the latter year) -- Randolph was selected second-team All-NFL. But mostly Randolph was forgotten once he hung up his cleats for the last time after the 1936 season. Forgotten that is until the Pro Football Hall of Fame opened in the early 1960s. No, Randolph was never a serious candidate, but those who were enshrined mentioned him on more than one occasion with a certain reverence.

Clarke Hinkle, a man who knew a little about mano-a-mano confrontations with Nagurski, said, "Clare Randolph was a wonder—he could actually tackle Bronko Nagurski man-on-man. I never saw anything like it!"

When other old pros of the era were asked about Randolph, the answer was always the same: "Clare Randolph Hmmm, I'll tell you what I remember about him. He was the only one of us playing at the time that could tackle Nagurski one-on-one."

### Clare Loring (Dutch) Randolph

C-LB-G-OE-DE

6-02 204 Indiana

Elkhart High School, Elkhart, Indiana.

Born May 2, 1907, Chicago, Illinois.

Died December 24, 1972, Glendale, California.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Gm</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Gm</u>
1930	ChiC	9	1934	Det	12
1931	Port	14	1935	Det	12
1932	Port	10	1936	Det	11
1933	Port	10	7 yrs		78