

## 2013 Athletic Hall of Fame Honoree



### JACK SNOW

*CLASS OF 1961 (1943-2006)*

Jack Snow had a long and illustrious career as a professional football player with the Minnesota Vikings and the Los Angeles Rams, but he will forever be remembered by Notre Dame fans for playing a lead role in the 1964 season that ushered in "The Era of Ara," the 11-year coaching tenure of the legendary Ara Parseghian that included two national championships and a 95-17-4 record during that 11 year span.

Jack Snow, combined with quarterback and fellow California native John Huarte to form the record-setting passing combination for the 1964 team that won its first nine games, rose to No. 1 in the national polls and came within minutes of completing a national-championship season before losing 20-17 at USC.

Remembering when he was a senior at St. Anthony and he received the offer from Notre Dame to play for them, Jack said, "It took 20 seconds to decide whether to accept the scholarship offer". So following graduation from St. Anthony, Jack enrolled at the University of Notre Dame where he was selected as an All-American in 1964. He finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Heisman Trophy voting his senior year, which was won by fellow Fighting Irish football player, John Huarte.

Tom Pagna, Ara Parseghian's backfield coach at Notre Dame, remembers that, "We noticed that Jack wasn't exceptionally fast nor a great blocker at halfback, but he had great hands and caught everything. He also was very, very smart in his route running, and he and John Huarte developed chemistry. They worked out all summer together, and they were able to communicate on the field just through eye contact." The Huarte-to-Snow combination turned out to be a winner. At St. Anthony he is remembered as an athletic superstar.

Jack E. Snow was born in Long Beach in 1943 and attended St. Athanasius Catholic Elementary School. He excelled in sports at an early age and quickly made his mark at St. Anthony High School, starting in his freshman year, 1958.

Jack lettered for two years in football and baseball and was named Captain of the 1960 Catholic League Championship team. He was selected as the City of Long Beach Lineman of the Year in 1960 and named to the All-CIF, All-City and All-Catholic league teams in his senior year, as well as being an All-City and All-Catholic league selection in baseball. Jack was also president of the Letterman Club.

The 1961 Anthonian yearbook is full of the name "Snow" as victories were recorded for the 1960 Catholic League Championship Team, saying, "Jack Snow was named All-CIF for his fine defensive and offensive end play. Jack had the happy facility of coming up with the big play at the opportune time."

The Minnesota Vikings selected Jack as the number 8<sup>th</sup> pick in the 1965 NFL draft, but then traded him to the Los Angeles Rams. Jack played for eleven seasons with the Rams (1965-75) and was selected for the Pro-Bowl in 1967. He finished his professional career with 340 receptions and 45 touchdowns. Jack caught 38 passes as a rookie in 1965 and made the 1967 Pro Bowl with a remarkable 26.2 yard per catch average. His 6012 career receiving yards ranked 30<sup>th</sup> in NFL history.

After Jack's retirement from professional football, he worked as a broadcaster and NFL radio analyst for the Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams from 1991 until his passing in 2006. Jack is survived by three children, Michelle, J.T. – a Golf Glove first baseman for the San Francisco Giants – and Stephanie. Snow's wife Merry Carole Shane, Class of 1961 and mother of his children, passed away in 1998.

