

Dennis Gaubatz

A student from 1955-58 at Columbia, Gaubatz was all-county and all-district football in his final two years, playing linebacker for the Roughnecks. He also participated in track and field, competing at the state meet as a senior in the high jump and mile relay.

After high school Gaubatz headed to LSU and played for the Tigers from 1959-62 and was named Second-Team All-American his senior season. During his college career, he played in the Orange Bowl, Cotton Bowl and All-American Bowl.

The 6-foot-2, 225-pound player was drafted by the Detroit Lions in 1963, and he stayed with them for two seasons. After the Lions, Gaubatz hooked up with the Baltimore Colts where he played with Johnny Unitas for five seasons.

Gaubatz played in Super Bowl III as the Colts and Jets faced off and Joe Willy Namath led New York to a 16-13 win.

“This is a real honor, we’ve never had anything like this before other than our letter jackets,” Gaubatz said. “You go around and see deals like this but at other places, and I am just glad it came here. I am also glad to be included in one of the first classes.”

He still has quite a memory for so many battles fought on the gridiron.

“Beating Bay City by 50 points when they were ranked that year, and we were a nobody,” Gaubatz said. “Also getting to the semifinals in my senior year and we barely made it through district finishing in a three-way tie at the end. But we beat them so we got chosen.”

