



# **DON COCKROFT**

## **One of the NFL's Greatest Kickers**

### *Inducted October 28, 2014*

Don Cockroft, a graduate of Fountain-Fort Carson High School where he was a three-sport star in football, basketball and track, ended his sports career as one of the greatest punters/kickers in collegiate and NFL history.

A walk-on hopeful at Adams State College, Cockroft was a varsity football letterman from 1963-1966, playing as a punter/kicker and strong safety. He led all college punters his senior year with an average of 48.1 yards per punt, earning him NAIA All-American honors.

A third-round draft choice of the Cleveland Browns in 1967, Cockroft was one of the last “straight-on” kickers



and one of the last double-duty kickers in the NFL. In 1972, along with being recognized as Colorado's Outstanding Pro Athlete, he was named to the NFL's All-Pro Team as a punter and received the Thom McCann NFL Golden Toe Award as the NFL's outstanding kicker.

During his time in the NFL Cockroft was at his best in the clutch, making 17 of 17 kicks in game-winning situations.

He retired in 1981 as the 8th leading scorer in NFL history with 1,080 points. He was inducted into the Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Cleveland Browns Legends in 2007.