



Earle Parsons

*Helena High
High School*

Earle Parsons, better known to his friends as "Pruney," played three sports while attending Helena High, and earned All-State honors in both football and basketball as well as being the high-point performer at the state track meet both his junior and senior seasons.

Helena High failed to win any team championships during the years Parsons played - 1938 through 1940 - but that did not prevent him from garnering a lot of personal recognition. And he displayed great versatility in more than one sport.

In football, Parsons was truly a triple-threat performer as he ran, punted and passed in all games during his career at Helena High. He was named All-State in both 1939 and 1940 - the same two years he won All-State honors in basketball.

And in track, his athletic ability was evidenced by the fact that as a senior he was entered in every event at the state meet in Missoula. And while Helena High finished third in the team standings, Parsons was the

meet's top scorer with 19½ points. He won the 100 and 220-yard dashes, tied for first in the pole vault, was third in the long jump (then called the broad jump) and fourth in the discus.

Parsons went on to play football for Santa Ana Junior College in California for two seasons, helping that school to the junior college national championship in 1941. He then transferred to the University of Southern California where he helped the Trojans to victory in the 1944 Rose Bowl. In that game, unranked USC defeated No. 12-ranked Washington 29-0.

Parsons was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1944, but played that season with the Hollywood Rangers. In 1945 he played for the Los Angeles Bulldogs and then played two seasons, 1946 and 1947, for the San Francisco 49ers of the National Football League.

Parsons now resides in San Jose, California.