

## **EARL C ABELL (PHS 1912)**

Earl "Tuffy" Abell graduated from Portage High School in 1912 before embarking on a collegiate football career that brought him national accolades. Mr. Abell's beginnings as a football player started early as he was a member of the Portage High School football team as a seventh grader. His athletic capabilities enabled him to compete on a nationally touring U.S. National Guard basketball team and an offer to join the Chicago Cubs baseball organization out of high school. But Mr. Abell excelled at football and went on to be a four-year starter for Colgate University from 1912 through 1915. Mr. Abell played tackle and handled punt and kick-off duties for the Raiders. In his senior season, Mr. Abell was elected team captain and earned Walter Camp All-American honors as a tackle. After graduating from Colgate in 1916, Mr. Abell played briefly in the fledgling National Football League before he began a college coaching career which led him to head coaching positions at Virginia Military Institute, University of the South, Mississippi A&M (now known as Mississippi State), Colgate and the University of Virginia. Upon his retirement from college coaching, Mr. Abell took a sales position with American Can Co. where it is believed he helped convince the beer industry to sell its product in cans. Mr. Abell passed away in 1956 at the age of 63. Posthumously, he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1973.

For more information on Mr. Abell, please refer to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl\\_Abell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl_Abell)