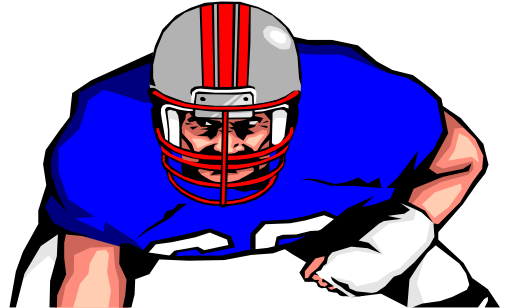


“The Hit of the Year”

One of the personal true stories from my book titled “But, That’s Another Story”
by William P. Brown

Even though I was considered one of the smaller players, I played on the Varsity Football Team all four years of High School. I was a very fast runner and could outrun all but one other player on our team. Every year after our first series of practices we played an inter-squad game two weeks before our first season game. The coach would divide the squad into two teams. It was the last chance he had to review each player’s performance and make the final starting position assignments



In our small school most players were assigned at least two playing positions. For my Junior year I was assigned as a quarterback on offense and as immediate line backer on defense. We had an excellent large fullback player who the coach had built most of our offensive plays around. For this inter-squad game, the coach had assigned most of his better defensive players to the team opposite the starting quarterback and fullback so he could evaluate the new plays he had designed around the large fullback. The starting quarterback position had already been assigned to some one else so I was the backup quarterback. I was assigned the line backer position on the defensive team for the inter-squad game. I was determined to show the coach I could fill that position as a starter.

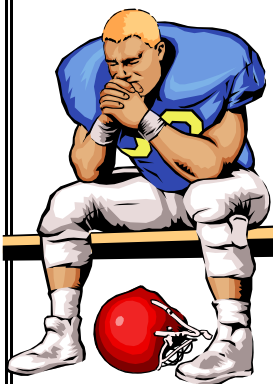


Well, early in the game as my team was on defense, the big fullback was running all over the defensive team. He ran through us, around us and over us. He had not yet come directly through my side of the line but I knew several of the new plays would send him my way sooner or later. Finally he came driving through the left side of our line. I was more determined than ever to stop him. I intentionally played slightly off of my regular spot hoping that would cause him to veer off his attack line. Sure enough, pretty soon he came driving through the line toward the spot I have vacated. I immediately closed the hole and hit him right in the knee as hard as I could. I heard a loud crack and he went down hard. I’d stopped him and felt good that the coach would know I could stop anybody even though I was one of the smaller players.



But, the big fullback just laid there moaning and moving his body slightly side to side. The coach and several others ran out and gathered around him. He was taken off the field on a stretcher. We learned he had a broken leg and would be out for the entire season.

The coach was not pleased. In fact, he was very upset. His entire team had been built around that fullback. All of our plays were designed to utilize that big guy as our best chance to win our Division Championship and possibly the State.



*Needless the say I was also not very popular with the rest of the team for some time. That year we lost most of our games. Thankfully, next year would be much better. **But - that's another Story.***



- Bill Brown