

# Roger Dutton - The Greatest All-Around Athlete

By MO KELLEY  
Sports Editor

Boone High School has been selectee in basketball who, as a and Oskaloosa formed the repeated first team all-conference state berth. In existence for well over 100 senior, was the state's top guard Central Iowa Conference which, honors, and was again the In football, Roger was again in years and, perhaps, there are votegetter in all-state balloting. at that time, based on consistent league's top scorer, missing the an all-conference choice for three some his equal in a specific sport. In addition to that impressive success in statewide tourney all-time league scoring record by years and a fifth team all-state but Roger Dutton reigns as the high school resume', at Northern competition, was deemed one of just a couple points. selectee in his senior season.

greatest all-around athlete in Illinois University, he was such a the best prep athletic leagues in That senior season, Dutton He played quarterback and Toreador sports history. basketball/baseball standout he the state. guided four junior starters to running back on offense and was

As a result of his excellence has been inducted into that uni- In basketball, as a sopho- another second place league fin- a safety on defense in his sopho- in four different sports, Dutton is versity's Hall of Fame. Those more in 1960-61, Dutton was the ish, behind a Newton team that more year. As a junior and senior, clearly a Legend in Boone baseball talents came close to leading scorer in the conference eventually won the state champi- he concentrated on the running Sports. earning him a spot in the New and won the first of his first team onship. back and safety positions and

In brief, as a Toreador, he York Yankees outfield. all-conference honors. He led his His leadership and court also was his team's punter and was a three-time all-conference But, let's delve further into Toreador team to a second place ability also led that team to punt and kick return man.

selection and an all-state choice Dutton's athletic success, sport- league finish. Boone High's first boys state In his senior football season, in football, a third place state fin- by-sport. As a junior in 1961-62, basketball appearance since 1948 the Toreador team defeated and just the third BHS boys state Ames, 28-12, for the Boone basketball appearance overall. team's first victory over their

In the sub-state final against rival in 29 years. In the sub-state final against rival in 29 years. In track, Dutton always com- Carroll, Dutton dominated with 31 points and 15 rebounds. peted in the pole vault and long

At the end of the season, *continued on following page...*



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## Roger Dutton, All-Around Athlete continued

jump while rotating in other events such as the high jump, open half-mile (800) and various relay assignments.

His best half-mile time (800) was 2:05 and he vaulted 12-6 in the state track meet to earn third place honors.

Dutton was always a baseball standout, right from the time he led a Boone Little League team to state runnerup honors and was named to the Iowa State Little League All-Star team.

He was selected a Boone Little League All-Star in the first two years the local league was in existence.



Roger Dutton

Roger was also a Babe Ruth All-Star and a member of a team that lost a state championship game to Ottumwa at Sioux City. As a Toreador, he was the star player, among many stars, for three years on teams coached by Bill Sapp.

When Dutton was a star basketball player at BHS, one of the Toreadors league rivals, played shortstop as a freshman, and was coached by first base as a sophomore and Ev Cochrane, who took several Bobcat teams to the state tournament and won a pair of championships after his junior season. He missed being a unanimous choice by one vote and received consideration for league Player of the Year.

At the end of that junior season, in 1966, Dutton became the New York Yankees third round draft choice behind Ron Bloomberg and Dennis Baldridge. Roger played four years in the Yankee farm system but, after reaching the Syracuse AAA club, he ran into a centerfield fence and suffered a broken neck among other injuries. That unfortunate injury concluded a professional career that seemed des-

tined to result in a visit to the major leagues.

In fact, he had previously been invited by the big club to visit Yankee Stadium, meet the Yankee stars of that day and sit in the dugout with them.

In his pro career, he played with and against numerous individuals who made it to big league rosters.

He roomed in the minors with Thurman Munson, played in the outfield with Bloomberg and against Jim Palmer, Larry Bowa, the Carlton Fisk and Rick Monday among others.

For both his basketball and baseball achievements, Dutton was inducted into the Northern Illinois University Hall of Fame in 1996.

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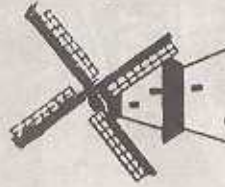
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