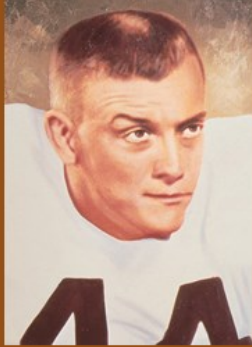
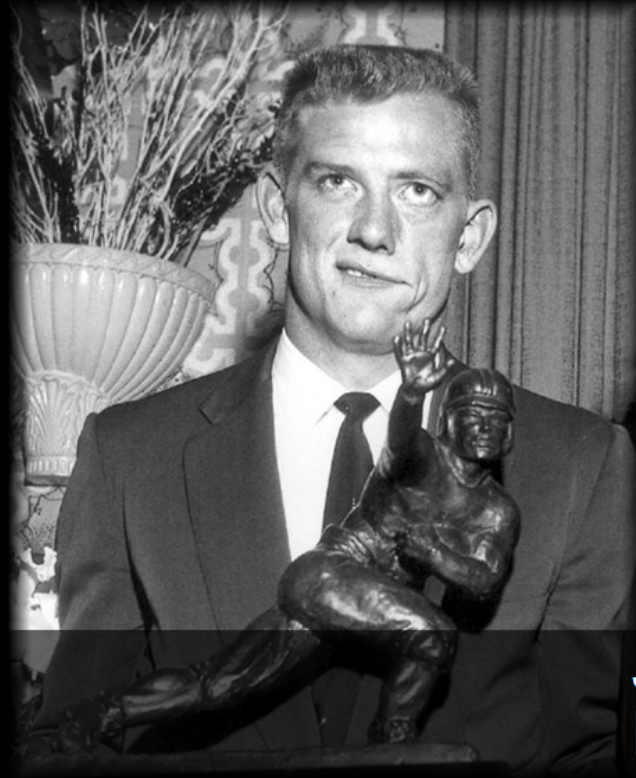




HEISMAN.



School Texas A&M



John David Crow

Bio

1957 - 23rd Award

John David Crow

Texas A&M Running Back

Despite suffering some early season injuries in 1957, during his senior campaign, John David carried the ball 129 times for 562 yards, scored six TDs, passed for five more, and added five interceptions. John David was named a scholastic All-American his senior year and was named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. John David had a memorable professional career with the Cardinals and 49ers, playing eleven years and setting rushing and touchdown records, some of which still stand. He rushed for 5,000 yards and gained over 3,000 yards on pass receptions. Returning to college ball in 1968, he worked as offensive backfield coach under his old A&M mentor, Bear Bryant, in Alabama. He then went on to the Cleveland Browns and San Diego Chargers in a similar capacity and was named Athletic Director and Head Football Coach at Northeast Louisiana State University in 1975, a position he held until 1980. John David served Texas A&M as Associate AD, AD, and as Director of Development for Athletics until his retirement in 2001. He was named a distinguished alumnus of Texas A&M. He serves on the Board of Directors of Gulf Greyhound Partners, Ltd. and The Green Group, Inc. John David and his wife Carolyn have three children (one deceased), seven grandchildren, and five great granddaughters. John David Crow was elected to the Texas and Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, and the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame 1976.

The Voting

Place	Name	School	Class	Position	Points			
					1	2	3	Total
1	John David Crow	Texas A & M	Sr.	RB	241	176	108	1,183
2	Alex Karras	Iowa	Sr.	DT	128	109	91	693
3	Walt Kowalczyk	Michigan State	Sr.	HB	116	93	96	630
4	Lou Michaels	Kentucky	Sr.	T	60	57	36	330
5	Tom Forrestal	Navy	Sr.	QB	34	42	46	232

6	Jim Phillips	Auburn	Sr.	E	34	35	44	216
7	Bob Anderson	Army	So.	HB	25	45	39	204
8	Dan Currie	Michigan State	Sr.	C	49	16	18	197
9	Clendon Thomas	Oklahoma	Sr.	HB	21	39	44	185
10	Lee Grosscup	Utah	Jr.	QB	21	28	28	147

John David Crow won every area except the Midwest, which went to Alex Karras. Karras, who recorded one of the highest finishes for a lineman in Heisman balloting, went onto star for the Detroit Lions before moving on to the movies and television. It was a standout year for the big boys of college football as Lou Michaels, a tackle from Kentucky, finished fourth, giving linemen two of the top four slots.

Number of registered electors: 1,267

Date of announcement: December 3, 1957

Date of dinner: December 11, 1957

The positions within each region:

Place	East	South	Midwest	Southwest	Far West
1	Crow	Crow	Karras	Crow	Crow
2	Kowalczyk	Michaels	Kowalczyk	Hill	Kowalczyk
3	Anderson	Phillips	Crow	Karras	Karras
4	Karras	Kowalczyk	Currie	Kowalczyk	Grosscup
5	Forrestal	Karras	Clark	Thomas	Anderson

JOHN DAVID CROW
Associate Director of Athletics
Texas A&M University

John David Crow waited until he was 48 years old to make what was likely his final career decision. It was an easy decision for Crow to return to his alma mater as Associate Athletic Director. It was just as easy a decision for Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill to bring back one of A&M's most respected former Athletes.

Crow's athletic resume alone could have been enough to land him the job but his reputation as a coach and businessman has served to make John David Crow one of the most respected administrators in college athletics today.

"I consider myself very fortunate," Crow says. "First off, I had the opportunity to attend this fine school and play football under Coach Bryant. I think I'm probably as normal as most people who leave their university, who are involved in something which the university has, which would enable them to possibly come back. That's probably the dream of a lot of coaches, professors, presidents of colleges...certainly I felt that one day, hopefully, I could come back to the athletic department at Texas A&M.

As comebacks go, John David Crow's comeback has been productive and quite energetic. As Associate Athletic Director, Crow is charged with overseeing the operation of all varsity athletic programs, except football. He is also in charge of coordinating Texas A&M's participation with the NCAA, the College Football Association and the Southwest Conference. Among other duties, that involves negotiation of future athletic schedules and both network and cable television contracts.

His duties also include development of plans for improvement of athletic facilities. In Crow's first two years on the job, construction began on a new Physiology and Conditioning Lab (which will house the most sophisticated weight training facility in the country), a new track and field facility and initial improvements to G. Rollie White Coliseum. A reorganization of athletic department personnel and offices was also accomplished in Crow's first two years as an administrator.

Through his selection of Lynn Hickey as Assistant Athletic Director and Head Women's Basketball Coach, Crow has given new and spirited direction to A&M's women's athletic program and particularly its participation and competitiveness in the Southwest Conference.

Sherrill knew that bringing back A&M's only Heisman Trophy winner was a feather in all Aggie's caps. "He's obviously one of the most recognized names in Texas A&M history and we're glad he's coming home," Sherrill said in announcing Crow's return on Aug. 16, 1983. Crow was just as enthusiastic about working for Sherrill. "I really have a strong feeling that the person who's in charge here is the person who can make this school what we want it to be. We, meaning the former students."

John David Crow was born July 8, 1935 in Marion, LA., the third child of Harry and Velma Crow. Soon after John's birth the family moved to Springhill where he grew up with his brother and two sisters.

Crow's athletic career started in Springhill. At Springhill High School he was an All American in football, track and basketball. As a junior under Coach W.D. Baucum in 1952 he led the Lumberjacks to the Louisiana State Football Championship and as a senior in 1954 he led the basketball team to the state title. Springhill hasn't won a state crown in either sport since.

Crow's reputation led him to Texas A&M in 1954, the same year Paul Bryant resigned his head coach job at Kentucky to become A&M's 20th head football coach. Coach Elmer Smith of Southern State (now Southern Arkansas University) had been pressured by some supporters to try to recruit Crow. Crow recalls the story: "My brother Raymond played football at Southern State and I'd go up there and sit on the bench. Then, during my senior year, Elmer asked me to come up to Magnolia and when I got there, he said some people were pressuring him to recruit me. He said he'd be doing me an injustice, though, if he did. He said he felt I should go to the larger school. It was the first time I felt I might be able to play for a major college.

"Well, Coach Bryant moved to A&M and hired Elmer as one of his assistant coaches. My high school won the state title and I was the first prospect Elmer contacted. I didn't know Coach Bryant. Newspaper and radio coverage wasn't what it is now. But I knew Elmer and knew him to be an honest, decent man. Elmer Smith recruited me and Elmer Smith is the reason I came to Texas A&M."

Crow may not have known of Bryant before entering A&M, but it didn't take them two long to get acquainted. Crow recalls: "Every time I look at the south end of Kyle Field, I remember a long, long scrimmage we had one day. I was sitting in a metal folding chair under the shower when the manager came in and said 'Put 'em back on!' I said, 'What? You're crazy!' He said, 'Nope. The man said to put 'em back on.' We did, and went back outside. Coach Bryant told us to grab a knee, but I knew if I went down to one knee, I'd never get up. Then he started telling us what we were going to accomplish.

"I looked at him, framed by the tunnel at the north end of the stadium and I listened. I don't recall what he said, but I said to myself, 'By God, you might kill me, but you're not going to run me off!'

"And he almost did. I woke up three hours later in the infirmary, holding an orange drink, with my wife Carolyn standing at the side of the bed and Coach Bryant down at the end. I'd had a heat stroke.

"Coach Bryant looked at me and said, 'John, why didn't you tell me you were tired?'"

Crow regards Bryant as a positive force in his life. "I hope that I learned from Coach Bryant that it took an awful lot of hard work, sacrifices and dedication to achieve anything worth having. I hope I learned that from him because that's what he stressed."

As a freshman in 1954, Crow developed the skills that would make him the most decorated athlete in A&M history. His varsity heroics started early in the 1955 season. As a sophomore his team had been humiliated 21-0 by UCLA in the season opener.

The next week, in a game played at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Crow would be involved in a play that he still calls the greatest thrill of his athletic career. Ahead 14-0 in the third quarter, Loyd Taylor had returned an LSU punt to the Aggie 23. On the next play quarterback Jimmy Wright handed off to Crow who shot through the middle on the way to a 77-yard touchdown run. It was John David Crow's first varsity touchdown for A&M. He would go on to score 18 more in his three varsity seasons, seasons that saw A&M go 24-5-1. Crow's junior year, 1956, the Aggies held the number one ranking in the nation for a time during the season and it remains A&M's only undefeated season since A&M won the national title in 1939.

Crow is quick to point out the team's success over his own personal statistics that helped him to the 1957 Heisman Trophy and numerous other honors. In his three varsity seasons, he rushed for 1,455 yards on 296 rushes, an average of nearly five yards per carry. He scored 19 touchdowns, including ten in 1956 alone. He led the team in receiving as a sophomore and a junior, finishing with 14 catches for 288 yards. He also had 21 punt returns for 248 yards, including eight for 136 in that '56 championship year. On defense, Crow had seven interceptions, four coming his senior Heisman-winning season.

In addition to the Heisman Trophy, Crow was the recipient of the Walter Camp Memorial Award, the Harley Award, AP and UPI Back of the Year, UPI Player of the Year, Texas Sports writers Southwesterner of the Year and Amateur Athlete of the Year, Houston Post Back of the Year, Player of the Year by Coach and Athlete Magazine and the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, Sports Magazine's Top Performer Award, Outstanding Back of the Gator Bowl and the Hula Bowl, and Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges. Crow's accomplishment didn't stop on the field, but continued in the classroom where he was named to Scholastic All America first team, sponsored by American People Encyclopedia.

Crow's college career was followed by 11 years in the National Football League. The No. 1 draft choice of the Chicago Cardinals in 1958, Crow played two years there before moving with the team to St. Louis where he played for five seasons. In 1965 he was traded to the San Francisco 49'ers where he completed his playing career in 1968. As a pro, Crow had two 1,000-yard seasons and was named to four Pro Bowl teams, three times with the Cardinals and once with the 49'ers.

In 1968, instead of taking an offer for a two-year contract extension with the 49'ers, Crow retired as a player and returned to Paul Bryant, who by that time was starting his 12th year at Alabama. Bryant hired Crow as an assistant in 1969 where he stayed three years before becoming running back coach with the Cleveland Browns in 1972 and 1975. In 1976 he was named head coach and athletic director at Northeast Louisiana where he stayed five years. From 1981 to 1983 Crow spent the only period of his life out of athletics. He entered private business in Monroe, LA until May of 1983 when he moved to Tyler and insurance business. Two months later, Jackie Sherrill called.

John David Crow will recall both good and bad decisions he's made in his life but he'll claim the best one came in 1954, before entering A&M. On July 2 of that year he married Carolyn Gilliam. She had grown up in Sparkman, Ark., but had moved to Springhill where she and John David met. They have three children. John David Crow, Jr. was born while his father was a student at A&M. Their daughters are Anna Lisa Stenklyft and Jeannie Crow.

IMPORTANT DATES IN JOHN DAVID CROW'S LIFE

- Jul 8, 1935: Born in Marion, LA – Family moved to Springhill, LA.
- 1954: Graduated from Springhill High School as All-American Halfback.
- 1954: Entered Texas A&M under new Coach Paul Bryant.
- Jul 2, 1954: Married Carolyn Gilliam.
- Sept 24, 1955: Scored first varsity touchdown on 77-yard run against LSU in game played at Cotton Bowl in Dallas.
- Nov 29, 1956: A&M defeats Texas, 34-21, to win Southwest Conference Title.
- Nov 13, 1957: John David Crow named winner of the Heisman Memorial Trophy as best college football player in the country.
- 1958: Drafted first by the Chicago Cardinals of the National Football League.
- 1960: Moves with team to St. Louis.
- 1965: Traded to San Francisco 49'ers.
- 1968: Retires as player.
- 1969: Named assistant to Coach Paul Bryant at Alabama.
- 1972: Named running back coach with Cleveland Browns.
- 1974: Named offensive coordinator with San Diego Chargers.
- 1976: Named Athletic Director and Head Coach at Northeast Louisiana University.
- 1981: Enters private business in Monroe, LA.
- Aug 16, 1983: Named Associate Athletic Director, Texas A&M University.