

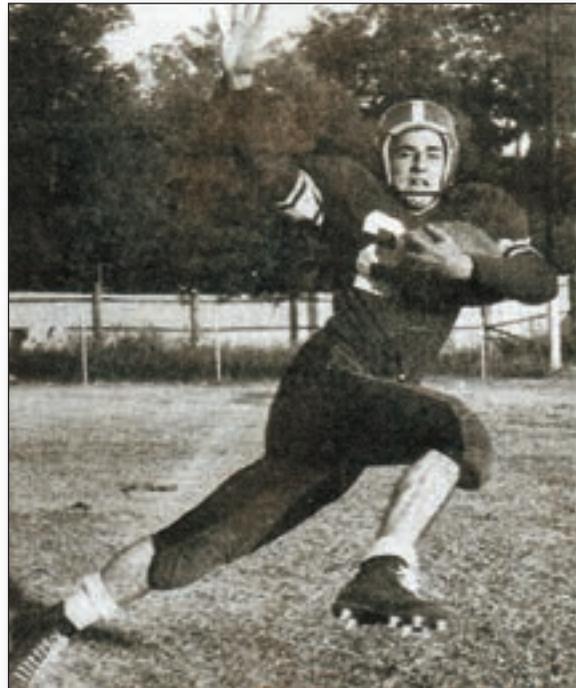
## HOLLIS HARBISON

**B**ORN TO CHARLIE AND VIOLA HARBISON IN 1933, AND THE FATHER TO 3 CHILDREN;

Randy, Debra and Kenny. Hollis passed away in 2000 leaving behind his children and beloved wife, Reba.

Hollis began playing football at Carbon Hill with the first toybowl team in Walker County. In that game against John Carroll his duty was to kick-off. His first kick hit a John Carroll player and bounced back to him on one bounce. Hollis was running full speed and no one touched him before he scored. After that score he scored on the 2nd play of every game he played at Carbon Hill.

The 1949 Cordova toybowl team went undefeated as did the Cordova High School Blue Devils. Hollis moved from toybowl to starting running back on the 1950 high school team and was a three year starter.



Hollis' speed was certainly a great asset but it wasn't his greatest gift. He had an uncanny ability to stop, start, shift and be full speed with the next step. This made him hard to contain.

Here are some outstanding games to review:

- Cordova was trailing Shades Valley 13-6. Shades Valley had to punt and the ball was surrounded by 4-5 Valley players. Hollis scooped up the ball and scored.
- One game Hollis scored 35 points! Five touchdowns and 5 extra points. No other points were scored that night. Final score 35-0.

Due to records and statistics not being kept there is no official documentation of his individual accomplishments. In his senior year Hollis scored 13 touchdowns and kicked all extra points. With two other backs running for the T-formation the carries were pretty much even. He probably had 15 carries each game so scoring 13 TDs was quite an accomplishment.

Hollis was just as outstanding on defense. He played safety like a great center fielder. He was always in the right spot at the right time.

Hollis was the consummate team player. Cordova won the Walker County Championship 2 of the 3 years and lost only 3 games during Hollis' career at CHS. Statistically he played on the greatest defensive team in CHS history, the 1952 team coached by Fred Knight. It is an understatement to say he was a legend of his day. Hollis lived and loved the game of football and that was his incentive to excel. Wilburn Hudson, long-time Cordova High School principal stated that he was "best football player I ever saw."