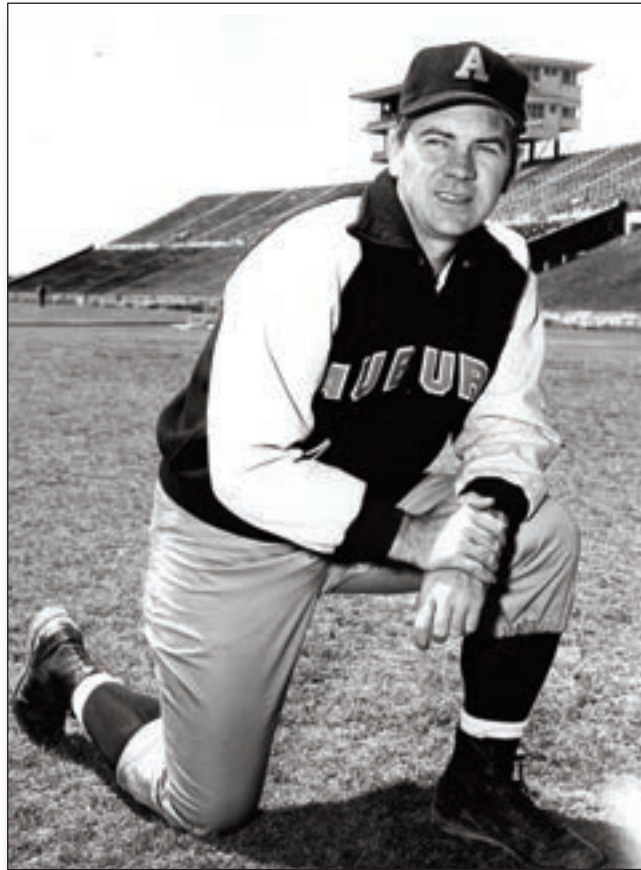


NEIL ENNIS “DICK” MCGOWEN

DICK MCGOWEN WAS BORN IN SIPSEY, ALABAMA, ON AUGUST 19, 1919, to Alma Ennis

McGowen and Jackson Ramsey McGowen. He attended Dora High School, where he played multiple sports and was mentioned as a fullback on the 1936 All State Football team.

Dick McGowen enrolled in Auburn University in 1938 on a football scholarship. He played both offense and defense and was named All-Southeastern Conference at halfback. McGowen set a national record punting 92 times for an average of 43.03 yards. He still holds the Auburn record for punting. At the inaugural game at the Jordan-Hare Stadium, McGowen threw the first touchdown pass in the stadium and kicked the first extra point. He was selected to play in the Blue-Gray Game in 1940. Dick also played baseball at Auburn, where he was a catcher/outfielder and was offered contracts by the New York Yankees, Detroit Tigers and Cleveland Indians.



After graduation Dick joined the Army and was a battery commander and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was highly decorated and received the Purple Heart. He left active military duty in 1945 and became Head Baseball and Football Coach at Eufaula High School for two years. In 1948 McGowen returned to Auburn as an assistant coach. Dick eventually became the Head Freshman Coach and Head Baseball Coach at Auburn. During his tenure at Auburn he was instrumental in recruiting. He recruited Jimmy Powell of Dora and Lloyd Nix of Carbon Hill during his stay at Auburn. He was a coach on the 1957 National Championship team.

A little known fact is while at Auburn in 1953, he obtained the patent for the “Extra Point and Field Goal Kicking Tee.” Dick also worked with Walker County high school players on kicking while on the staff at Auburn.

McGowen was an active member in the Auburn Letterman’s Club and a founding member of Meagher’s Marauders. In 1979 McGowen was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame for his contributions to athletics in Alabama. Dick passed away on July 30, 2003.