

Dick Barwegan

Offensive Guard-Defensive Guard-Linebacker

"He was a helluva ballplayer, not real tall, but quick and tenacious," said former teammate Paul Stenn Stenko), who played tackle alongside the much-honored Barwegan both with the Chicago Bears in the early 1950s and earlier on the crack March Field service team during World War II. Stenn added, "All I worried about was my man. I knew Dick would get his with no help. His quickness made him an ideal pulling guard, and don't forget, he could play defense as good as the best, too."

In 1943, Barwegan was voted MVP as a freshman with an undefeated Purdue team. Because of wartime considerations, he, was one of two men chosen to play in four consecutive Chicago College All-Star Games. The other was Hall of Famer Charlie Trippi.

When Barwegan joined the New York Yankees of the AAFC in 1947, he immediately earned second-team all-league honors. But before the next season, the league tried to improve some of its weaker teams with players from the stronger clubs. Barwegan was sent to the Baltimore Colts. For the final two years of the AAFC, he was first-team all-league.

He joined Stenn and the Bears in 1950 and was consensus all-pro that year and again in 1951. All-pro offensive guards were usually taken from championship teams, but Barwegan made the Pro Bowl for four consecutive years, 1951-54. His final two seasons were spent with the reconstituted Colts.

When the Pro Football Hall of Fame picked its all-1950s team in conjunction with the league's 50th anniversary, Barwegan was one of three guards named.

--- Jim Campbell: *Total Football*

Barwegan, Richard James 6-1, 227
Born: December 25, 1921, Chicago, IL
Died: September 3, 1966, Baltimore, MD (44)
College: Purdue
Drafted: 1945 Round 6 Brooklyn NFL

1947 New York Yankees AAFC
1948-1949 Baltimore Colts AAFC
1950-1952 Chicago Bears NFL
1953-1954 Baltimore Colts NFL

All-NFL 1950, 1951
1951, 1952, 1953 1954 Pro Bowls