

#50

Richard "Dickie" Granier



The All State Center was a catalyst in the St. James running game leading the Wildcats to its first State Championship in 1959. The son of Mr. Joseph and Lelia Charlet Granier of St. James, "Dickie" grew up near Tip Top Store. Dickie left High School ranked the number one center in the South and was the best athlete out of St. James at the time. Granier started at Center on the North Team for the annual North-South All Star Football contest featuring top gridgers from throughout the state.

Recruited heavily by Southeastern, Tulane, LSU, and Mississippi Southern, he signed with LSU on a 4-year scholarship and became the first string center on the freshman team in 1960. As a junior, he quickly established himself as a stalwart for the Tigers earning a starting role at center and captain of the nation's seventh ranked team. He anchored an offensive line which enabled his team to compile a 15-6-1 record and trips to successive postseason bowl games, the 1962 Orange Bowl and the 1963 Bluebonnet Bowl.

In 1964, the 210 lb LSU senior was named Team Captain, Team MVP, All SEC and All American leading LSU to the Sugar Bowl defeating Syracuse 13-10 on New Years Day. According to Coach Charles McClendon, "Granier's strongest suit was consistency. There had been few times that Granier made a mistake; he was one of the most consistent performers we've had at center." Teams usually played their top defensive lineman nose on the center and Granier was LSU's anchor. On special teams, he excelled as the "head hunter", his job was to snap the ball and get downfield and pulverize the receiver. Dickie was seldom beat downfield and made a number of return men wish they had called for a fair catch. At the close of his career at LSU, Richard "Dickie" Granier was chosen as Permanent Team Captain.

Granier joined 47 other players in the 19th annual post season invitational Hula Bowl at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii. The nationally televised game was broadcast on NBC on the evening of January 8, 1965. In Baton Rouge, he was named Honorary District Attorney and East Baton Rouge Deputy Sheriff in June 1965. Richard played for the Hammond Eagles of the Texas Professional League. On October 17, 2014, LSU hosted a 50th reunion of the 1965 Sugar Bowl team where Richard "Dickie" Granier was represented as "Guest Captain". In 1965, the St. James High School Fathers Club retired Richard "Dickie" Granier's jersey #50 by unanimous consent in a letter sent to his dorm by Western Union telegram for the honors brought to his school and community.

