



## 2016 Inductee

### MADISON SMITH HEDGECOCK

Is there anymore an intimidating sight in sports than a 6-foot-3, 260-pound running back bearing down on you in the open field?

Perhaps not when it's Madison Hedgecock — and that's when he played football for Ledford High School, where he gained 3,673 yards and 44 touchdowns in four years for the Panthers.

Then consider that's before he went on to play running back and defensive end for the University of North Carolina Tar Heels (2001 to 2004), and then was drafted in the seventh round by the St. Louis Rams in 2005 before going on to play fullback for the New York Giants (2007 to 2011), where he was the starting fullback for the Super Bowl champion Giants in 2008.

Whew.

As you might imagine, he collected recognition in his football career as prodigiously as he collected yardage on the football field: The Dispatch All Davidson County 1997-99; All-County Offensive Player in 1998; All Central Carolina Conference 1997-99; CCC Offensive Player 1998; Shrine Bowl captain in 1999; East-West All-Star Game captain in 2000, and Winston-Salem Journal All-Northwest in 1999.



In college, he saw action all four years with the University of North Carolina. He was the Jeffrey Crowell Memorial Award Outstanding Newcomer on Defense in 2002 and the Andy Bershak Outstanding Defensive End in 2003. In 2004 he was the Jack Sapp Memorial Award Best All Around Senior.

The Sporting News named him the Best Blocking Back in the ACC. And get this: he holds UNC team records in bench press (435 pounds) and power clean (385 pounds) by a fullback.

With the Giants, he was the lead blocker for 1,000-yard rushers Brandon Jacobs and Derrick Ward in 2008 and was named to the All-Pro team that year.

Clearly, Hedgecock was a force to be reckoned with on the football field.

