



Robert Leon Gruber, Jr.

Bob Gruber is one of the top football players to come out of Mercer County. He was a stand-out lineman at Greenville High School until graduation in 1976 and a top performer in basketball and track and field. The All-Conference and All-State football star helped the team to Northwest Conference titles, and during his four years at Greenville High the team lost only two games.

In basketball his senior year Bob scored more than 300 points and helped the team post an outstanding record of 23-4 as the Trojans lost to eventual State Champion Midland in the PIAA playoffs. His junior year the squad went 18-4.

Bob earned a full football scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh where he was a member of the 1976 National Championship team and a star performer for his entire career as a Panther. He was named to the Sporting News All-American Freshman Team.

From there Bob went on to a professional career, drafted in the 10th round of the 1980 NFL Draft by the Los Angeles Rams. He played for the Jacksonville Bulls of the United States Football League from 1984-85 before returning to the NFL with the Cleveland Browns. In 1986 he helped the Browns to the AFC Central Division Championship. He played in 1987-88 for the Browns, Green Bay Packers, and Miami Dolphins.

Bob is a member of the NFL Alumni Association and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He coached Pop Warner Football and mentored local high school athletes in Florida. He was inducted into the Mercer County Hall of Fame in 2013.

Bob knew he wanted to be a professional football player at age 10. With passion and desire, good coaching and encouragement, he was able to achieve that dream. His favorite memory is his final game senior year. "The smell of autumn in the air, leaves burning, cool night, playing Reynolds, my last game in a Trojan uniform, playing with guys I grew up with. I can still smell those leaves and autumn in the air." A 22-0 victory over their rival probably helped.

Bob is the son of Robert (deceased) and Ruth Gruber (now Miller). His siblings are Pam Redfoot and Brian Gruber. He and his wife Debbie, who passed away two years ago, have one daughter Andrea Melton. Bob's words to live by: "You don't need to know where you're going if God is leading!"