

— 2018 —

Forsyth-Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame

Peppi Zellner



Peppi Zellner was a star defensive football player for Mary Persons High School, and part of the 1993 team which played for the State Championship, ending with a 13-2-0 record and State runnerup status, and a part of the team that gave Dan Pitts his 300th victory at MP. For the team that year, Peppi was named the MVP for his outstanding year which included 83 tackles, a fumble recovery, 3 interceptions (one returned for a touchdown), 9 receptions on offense for 136 yards and 5 TD's, selection to the GHSA Georgia-Florida All-Star Team, All-State Selection by the Atlanta One Hundred Percent Wrong Club, Class AA All-State, and Middle Georgia Player of the Year. Peppi also lettered in basketball at MP and played in the North-South All-Star game. Peppi moved on after graduation from MP to play collegiately at Georgia Military College as a linebacker and defensive linemen with 129 tackles and 15 sacks in his two GMC seasons. He transferred to Fort Valley State for the 1996 season where he played football and basketball and Fort Valley State won its first basketball conference championship since 1969. For the 1998 Fort Valley State football season Peppi starred at defensive end with 60 tackles, 14 for loss, and 3 sacks, and received All-America and All-Southern Intercollegiate Athletic

Conference honors. Peppi was selected by the Dallas Cowboys in the fourth round (132nd overall pick) in the 1999 NFL draft as a defensive lineman, and as a rookie with the Cowboys had 10 special team tackles, and got his first career sack against the Atlanta Falcons. Playing for the Cowboys in 2000 Peppi had 13 special team tackles, 16 defensive tackles, and 2 sacks, missing the last four games due to an injury. In 2001 he started 15 games at right defensive end for Dallas and had 46 tackles, 3 sacks, and 22 quarterback pressures. From the Cowboys, Peppi moved to the Washington Redskins in 2003 and had 14 tackles and a sack for the Redskins. Peppi completed his pro career with the Oakland Raiders (2004) and the Arizona Cardinals (2005). Peppi is a cousin of Tra Battle, who also came out of Mary Persons and played professionally with a stint with the Dallas Cowboys.

