

THE ANNOTATED GREATEST QUARTERBACK OF ALL TIME

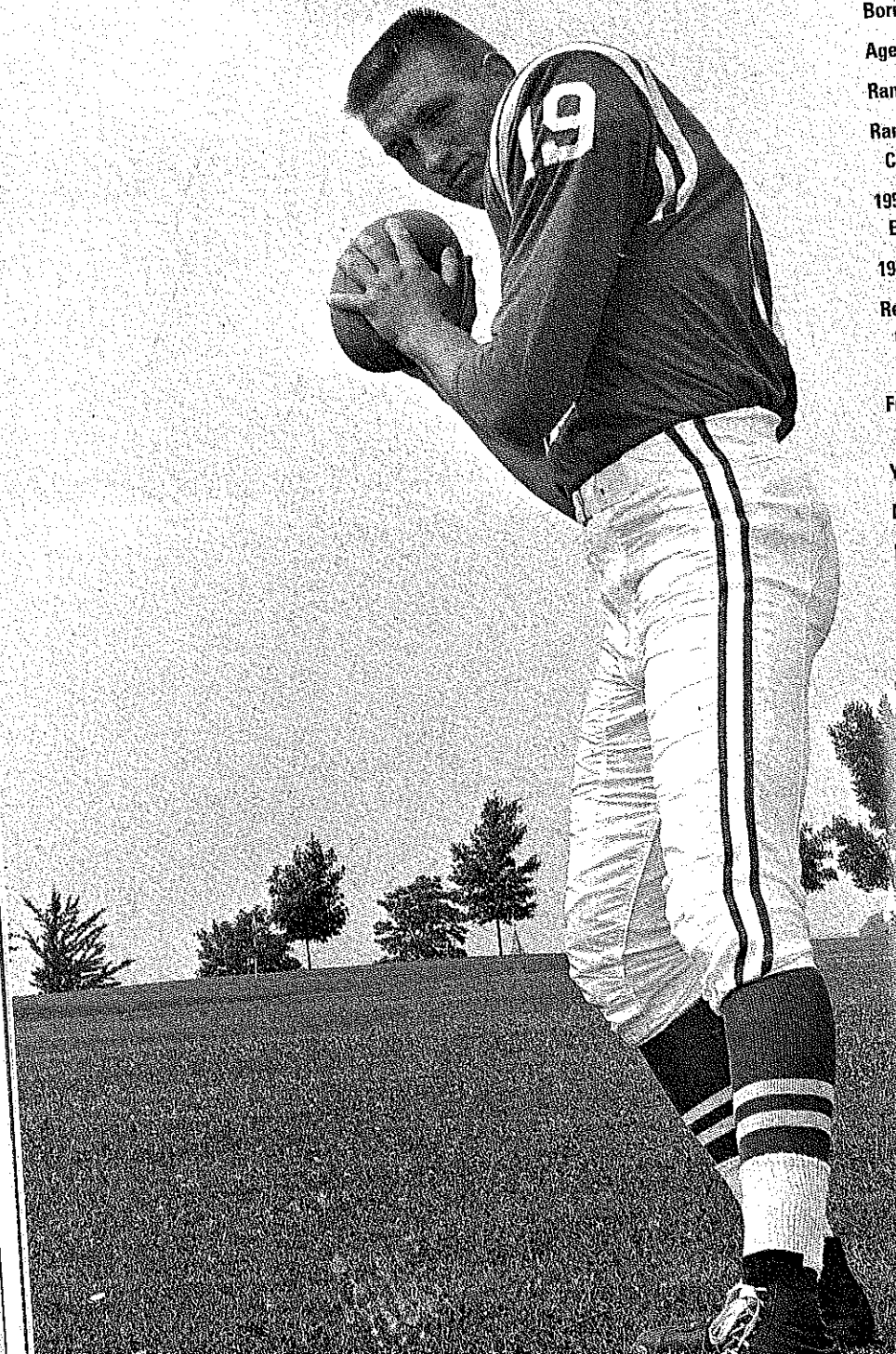
His was the arm that launched five thousand arcing spirals. He led his teams to astounding victories they should not have savored, against opponents who should have bested him (and did their best to break him). He inspired a generation of young men (and haircuts), and he made us all proud to be from Baltimore, long after he hung up his high-top black cleats.

He was a regular-sized, normal-looking man—until you saw his eyes. They were windows into the soul of a general who would not accept defeat in any contest. More than any other man, he hoisted an ailing professional football league onto his own

oft-wounded back and made the sport America's game. And yet he always was as respectful to his fans as they were to him, their golden idol, "the Golden Arm."

Fellow Baltimore Colt John Mackey has been quoted as describing playing with him this way: "It's like being in a huddle with God." Hall of Fame quarterback Sid Luckman called him the best quarterback to ever play the game. Bubba Smith called him his hero.

He passed away on September 11, 2002, the victim of a heart attack. John Constantine Unitas, we will miss you.



Born: Pittsburgh, May 7, 1933

Age when father passed away: 5

Rank in 1955 NFL draft: 102

Rank in ESPN's Greatest Athletes of the 20th Century: 32

1955 per-game pay while a semi-pro Bloomfield Ram: \$6

1956 yearly salary with the Baltimore Colts: \$7,000

Result of first play as a quarterback in NFL, against the Chicago Bears: Pass intercepted by Chicago, returned for touchdown

From 1956 to 1960, consecutive games in which he threw a touchdown pass: 47

Years that record has stood: 42

Number of yards thrown, career: 40,239

Number of quarterbacks to throw for 40,000 career yards before Unitas: 0

Number of ribs broken and lungs punctured in sixth game of 1958 season: 3, 1

Number of games missed after those injuries: 3

Final score of 1958 NFL championship game, won by the Baltimore Colts in sudden-death overtime: 23-17

Number of touchdowns thrown, career: 290 (fifth on all-time list)

NFL Most Valuable Player awards: 2

Year elected to Pro Football Hall of Fame: 1979

Years in the NFL: 18

Number of Pro Bowl elections: 10

Number of fingers on his right (throwing) hand lost permanent use of due to football injuries: 1

Number of knees replaced: 2

Number of NFL Championships won: 2

Number of Super Bowls won: 1

NFL passing records held at time of retirement in 1973: 22

Years voted best quarterback of all time by NFL Hall of Fame committee: 1969, 2000

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PETIT LOUIS BISTRO

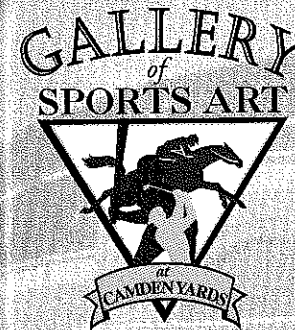
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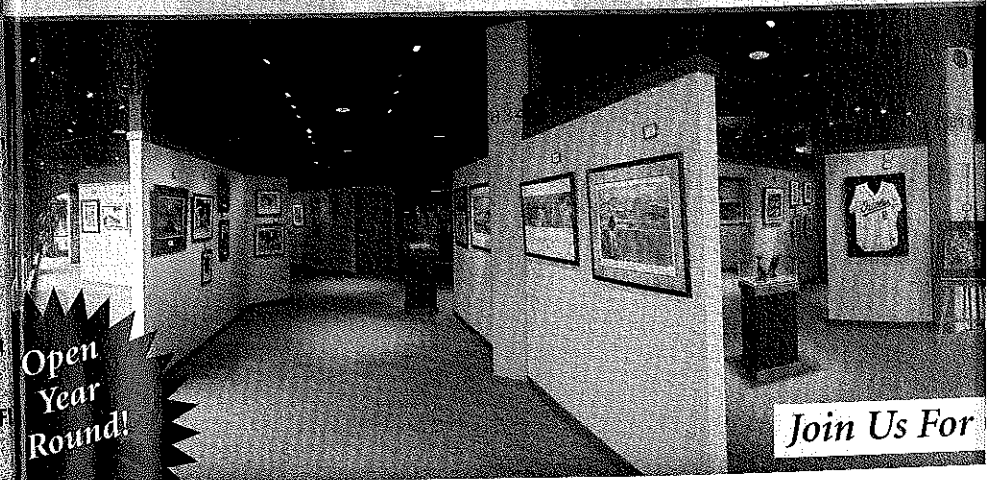
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