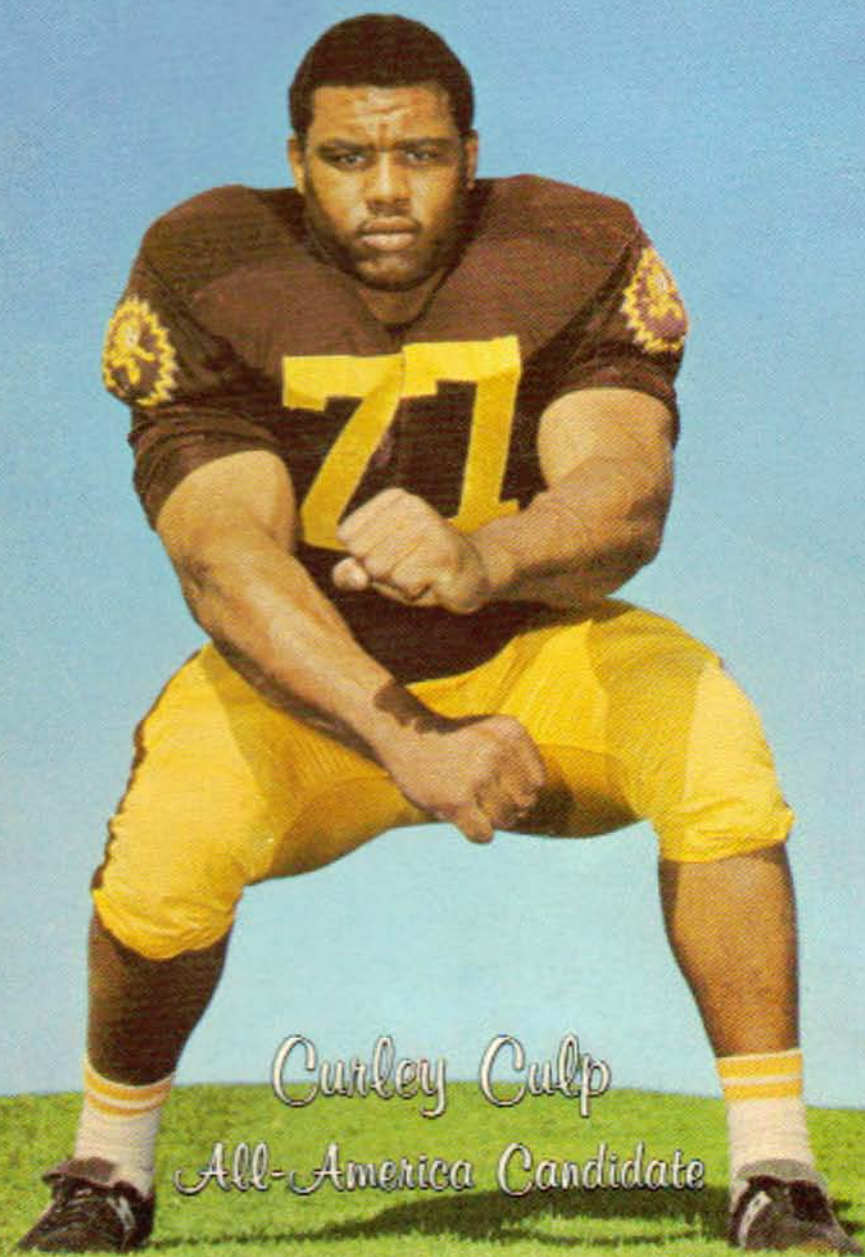


Arizona State University

Sun Devils



Curley Culp
All-America Candidate

FOOTBALL

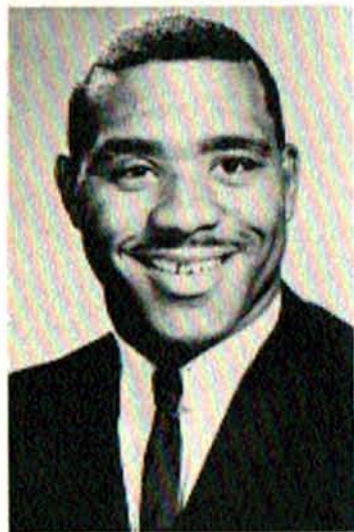
1967

Curley Culp

All-America Candidate Arizona State University

Curley Culp has a thing about helmets. He likes to decorate his own, and demolish those he plays against.

After each football game at Arizona State University the football staff grades performances of the players. An outstanding day by a defensive lineman will enable him to garner one letter toward the DEVIL club. Five outstanding games would give him the five letters in DEVIL.



The past two seasons the first to arrive at DEVIL was Curley Culp, 6-1, 265-pound defensive middle guard for the Sun Devils.

Then there's the matter of opposing helmets. Culp, expert with the forearm, totals helmets with regularity. He set the school record of three in one scrimmage last season.

He also brought about a remark from a pretty fair offensive guard who said, upon quitting the team last fall, "I hate to leave because of the coaches, but then they're not out there playing opposite Curley every day."

Culp is not only big and strong, but fast afoot with quick reactions. These attributes also made him an outstanding collegiate wrestler—three-time Western Athletic Conference heavyweight champion and likewise heavyweight champ at the NCAA 1967 Championships.

Many athletes nowadays gain size and strength through weight lifting. Not Curley. He attained physical strength through physical labor—namely, helping his dad in Yuma, Ariz. with work on the farm. His father raised pigs and contracted for garbage with many firms in Yuma. Many are the 50-gallon barrels of garbage toted by Curley. He also has pitched watermelons and worked at an ice plant which accounts for an 18½-inch neck and biceps to match.

Culp was born in Yuma in 1946, one of 10 children born to Frank and Octavia Culp. During Curley's childhood his father, now 72 years old, retired from the railroad and took to farming.

At Yuma High School Culp was an outstanding athlete and scholar. He won three letters each in football (all-state) and wrestling (twice prep heavyweight champ). He was also president of the Future Farmers of America, vice president of the Associated Men Students, American Legion Student of the Year, and a member of the National Honor Society and Lettermen's Club.

He was graduated in the spring of 1964 and accepted a football scholarship to ASU. Surprisingly, he was not actively sought by a large number of colleges.

As a freshman Culp won the Western Athletic Conference heavyweight wrestling title, and coupled it with the Charles Christopher Award, presented annually to the outstanding freshman scholar-athlete.

He now heads into his senior year with solid credentials—a near “B” average in business, a highly popular student (he won the school's award for “Boy With Best Smile”), winner of Student-Athlete of Year Award presented by student body, all-conference honors in football and ASU's number one candidate for All-America football honors in '67.

An interviewer of Culp must come loaded with questions, for he is quiet spoken and prone to talk about anyone but himself. He hopes to play professional football and then follow that with a career in insurance. He should be good. He's a specialist in collisions.

What Opponents Say About Culp

Dave Middendorf, offensive guard, Washington State—“Culp is really strong. I have never played against a linebacker or middle guard who is as strong in the upper body. He just tosses you off and goes about his business.”

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Phil Hampton, center, West Texas State—“You could take all the defensive linemen we faced last year and you wouldn't find a better one than Culp. His strength and speed made him almost impossible to block.”

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Ron Vrlicak, center, Washington State—“Culp is the most difficult man to block that I encountered in three seasons at Washington State. His arm strength is amazing and he's the most curious man I ever met. He always wants to see what's going on behind your block.”

Mel Hamilton, offensive guard, University of Wyoming—"I was impressed with Culp. I never was hit so hard. In fact, I'm so impressed with Culp that I've got his picture hanging on the wall, building myself up for next season."

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Percy Green, offensive guard, West Texas State—"He moved so fast for a big man I don't believe I hit him all night."

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Rockne Freitas, center, Oregon State—"Do I remember Culp? I'll say I do. He was all over the place when we played the Sun Devils last fall. The guy has amazing strength, and was everything our coaches had warned us he would be. He should be great in 1967."

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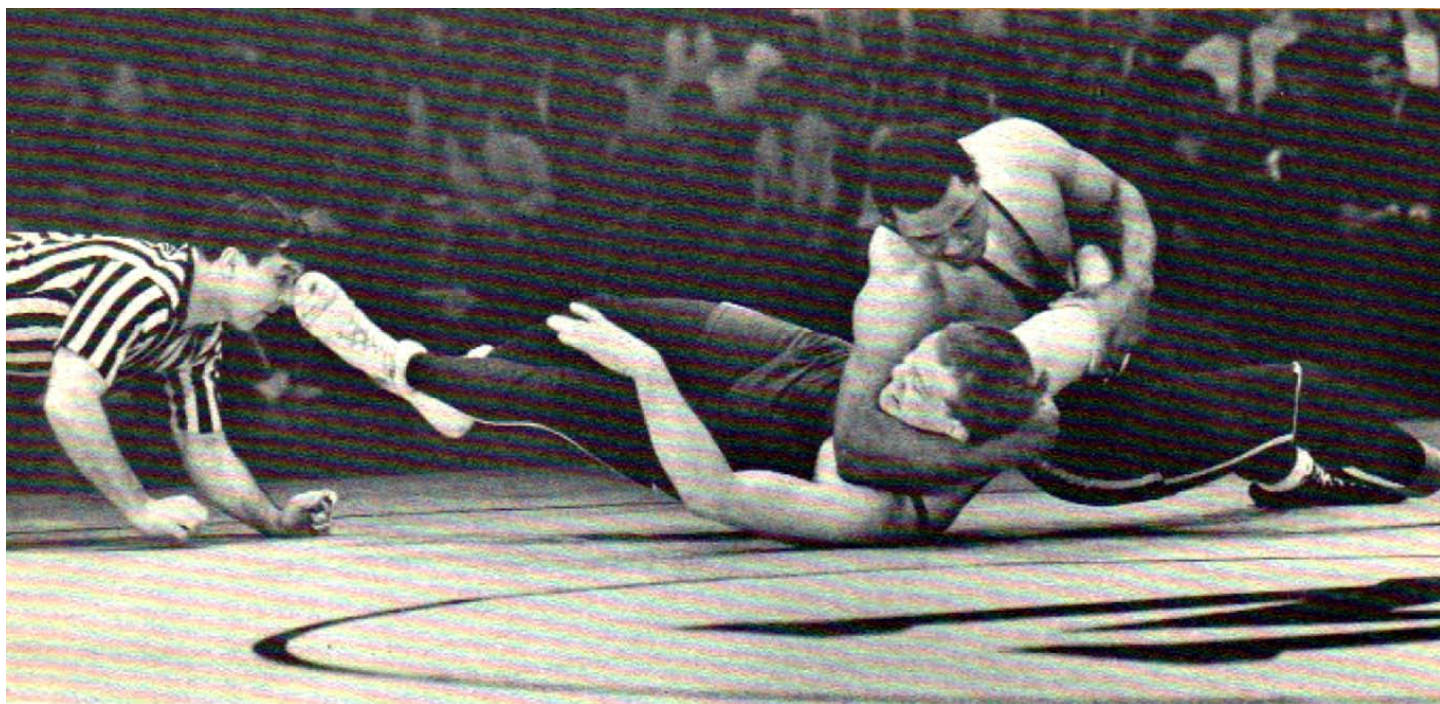
Tom Roth, quarterback, Washington State—"Culp chased me all night, and I think it was this more than any other single factor which kept our offense off-balance. I'm sure we would have scored more had Culp not played so well."

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Hank Washington, quarterback, West Texas State—"Everytime I dropped back to pass Culp would be there to greet me. He stayed on me all night long and hit like a tank. He would have to be the best defensive player I saw all season."

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Elwood Stewart, fullback, University of Utah—"Culp hit me and I didn't know if I'd ever get up again."



DOWN FOR THE COUNT—The NCAA heavyweight wrestling title is on its way to Arizona State's Curley Culp as he takes Nick Carollo of Adams State College to the mat in the championship match. After 51 seconds it was all over. Culp, in winning the title, scored one decision (15-5) and recorded three pins in a total elapsed time of 6:27. Other victims included Granville Liggins of U. of Oklahoma and Jeff Richardson of Michigan State. (Photo courtesy Sports Illustrated)