



## **John Ray Hatley**

March 16, 1930-February 10, 2001

1998 Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame

John was born March 16, 1930 in Lometa, Texas and grew up in Uvalde, Texas. He graduated from Uvalde High School where he was an all around athlete, playing football, basketball, baseball and won the state title in track.

After his service in the Marine Corps, where he was on the football and boxing teams, he attended Sul Ross State College in Alpine, Texas where he played football and was elected to the All Lone Star Conference Team.

In 1953, he was drafted by the Chicago Bears and played for them until he was traded to the Chicago Cardinals in 1954.

John rodeoed in his off season until 1956 when he left football to pursue rodeo full time.

He was a steer wrestler and won at Odessa, El Paso, Waco and Pecos, Texas, along with Palm Springs, California; Spokane, Washington and Cheyenne, Wyoming. In 1957 and 1958, he was sixth in the standings in steer wrestling. He went to the first National Finals Rodeo in 1959 and placed 13th.

He returned to football in 1960 and played for the Denver Broncos until 1961 when he again left football to rodeo. His last rodeo was in Cheyenne in 1974.

John was inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1998. He was elected to serve on the Board of the Rodeo Historical Society of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in 1999, a position he held until his untimely death on February 10, 2001.

Inducted into the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Cowboy Hall of Fame October 2004.

