

Coach Hal Kuck Memorial Scholarship

Hal Kuck joined the Panthers in 1972 as Biology teacher, football, and basketball coach at Norfolk Senior High School. Coach Kuck was named the Panthers head football coach in 1976, succeeding Erv (Tex) Wentling. Coach Kuck and his staff led the Panthers to the Class A playoffs three times and compiled a 52-29 record in the Greater Nebraska Conference Plains Division. During his tenure, Coach Kuck was selected as a Head Coach of the Nebraska Shrine Bowl in 1986, and was an assistant coach in 1983. As a teacher and coach, Hal had the opportunity to be a role model and mentor to many young people, including players that would continue their careers at the collegiate level and beyond.

“As a coach, Hal was intense. He expected more out of his athletes than they thought they had, and he got it. Hal build confidence in his young men. At game time, he believed in them and in turn they believed in themselves. His inspiration helped teams win games,” James Merritt, Superintendent Norfolk Public Schools (1987).

Coach Hal Kuck served in the U.S. Navy for four years. He was a 1966 graduate of Westmar College where he participated in track and football and was an NAIA All-American and 3-year All-Conference First Team tight-end and punter. In 1966, Hal signed an NFL contract with the Minnesota Vikings. Prior to coaching at Norfolk High School, Coach Kuck coached in Minnesota and Iowa. In 1987, Hal Kuck joined Tom Osborne’s coaching staff at the University of Nebraska.

Selection Criteria:

1. GPA must be 84% or higher, with plans to enroll in 12+ credits in college.
2. A letter of recommendation must be written by the Head Football Coach at NHS
3. Awarded to the Panther football player that has demonstrated (as Coach Kuck would say...) “hellacious tenacity, exceptional hustle and intestinal fortitude”.
4. The graduating senior must have played 3 years of football for NHS.
5. Selection will be made by the NPSF Scholarship Committee.