

TIGER-CAT Q&A

Name: Dave Fleming

Years with Tiger-Cats: 1965–74

Position: RB

CAREER

1. Tell us about how you got started in football and your amateur career.

At 8 years old, my father started me with the Pop Warner League. I continued to play High School football and then the Duquesne Ironmen of the Atlantic Coast League.

2. How did you get started in the CFL (draft, free agent, trade etc.)?

I played 2 year with the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1963/64 where I was scouted and signed with the Tiger-Cats in 1965.

3. Do or did you hold any records?

I still hold Tiger-Cat records for a "RB" for total games and years played, total touchdowns and total offensive yards.

4. Do or did you have a nickname?

"Fly".

5. Tell us about some of your fondest memories with the Tiger-Cats or in the CFL.

The 1967 team making a comeback playoff win to play in the Grey Cup. Also, winning the 1972 Grey Cup in Hamilton.



6. Who were some of the team-mates and opponents you admired the most and why?

Angelo Mosca and Garney Henley.

7. Which coach did you respect or enjoy playing for the the most and why?

Ralph Sazio.

8. Tell us about some of your favourite Grey Cup memories.

The 1972 Grey Cup where I caught the winning touchdown.

POST CFL CAREER

9. Tell us about your life and career after playing/working with the Tiger-Cats or CFL?

I scouted the CFL for a number of years and coached semi-pro football.

10. Tell us about your interests, hobbies, your passion or anything else you would like to share about yourself.

I hold many weight lifting records.

11. Share with us some of the places you've been or things you have experienced.

My favourite experiences are coaching my grandchildren and my son David coaching high school football.

THE GAME

12. What aspects of the Canadian game do you like the most?

The speed of the game.

13. Is there any aspect of the game you would change if you could?

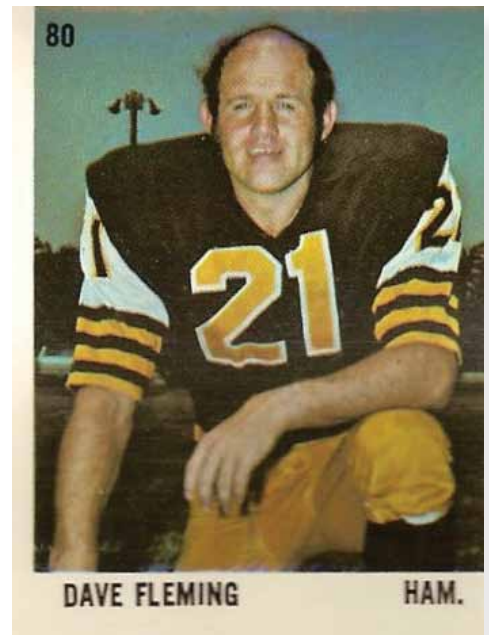
No, I think it's good the way it is.

14. What advice do you have to either young players or those just starting out in the CFL?

Be in the best shape you can, the CFL is much harder than the NFL.

13. 15. Is there anything else you would like to share? (thoughts, memories, stories)?

I lived with Angelo Mosca for 10 years which is more than enough for anybody. Why am I not on the Wall of Honour?



BIO

Dave Fleming played his entire ten year CFL career with Hamilton from 1965 to 1974. Initially, Fleming was used mainly as a defensive back, recording three interceptions in 1966 and two in 1967. Fleming's role on offense increased steadily from 1965 when he only played three games to 1969. In those years, his rushing totals progressed from 0 yards in 1965, 81 yards in 1966, 303 yards in 1967, 599 yards in 1968 and a career high 641 yards in 1969. At that time, most teams had a big fullback to carry the ball the majority of the time with smaller, faster halfbacks like Fleming as the number two rusher. Fleming played his part behind a number of fullbacks for Hamilton in his ten year career including Willie Bethea early in his career and players like Dave Buchanan and Andy Hopkins at the end. Besides being a capable running back, Fleming was also a dangerous receiver out of the backfield with some very good average yards per catch seasons such as when he caught 39 passes for 766 yards (more than he had rushing) for a 19.7 yard average. In fact, in 1970, Fleming's 56 catches led the East and won him an East All-Star selection. Even in his final year, Fleming had 30 catches for 545 yards and an 18.2 yard average pickup. Fleming finished his career with 3330 yards rushing.

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