Those who played with and against him say the late Tim Todd was a man among boys.

Todd excelled in football, wrestling and track in high school. As a freshman he also played junior varsity baseball. Occasionally, wearing his track suit under his baseball uniform, he would pitch in a game until his event came up at the adjacent track meet. Then, like Superman, he’d strip down and go win the 100-yard-dash or long jump.

Todd’s baseball career ended when he accidentally hit a batter in the head with a fastball during a Babe Ruth game, breaking the hitter’s helmet.

“He never wanted to hurt anybody,” said Andy Frank, who had known Todd since elementary school. “He was the kindest guy you’d ever want to meet; a gentle giant.”

As a 6-foot, 200-pound running back and defensive back, Todd was named first team all-league on both offense and defense his senior season at CVHS. He was the starting halfback for the 1968 Alameda County All-Star football team. He also punted and kicked off.

“He was big strong guy who did everything,” said John Brosnan, Castro Valley’s football coach at the time. “He had great leg strength . . . hard to bring down.”

Todd earned a football scholarship to Cal and lettered for the Bears in 1969, ’70 and ’71. As the starting tailback, he led the team in touchdowns, rushed for 588 yards and caught passes for 238 yards in 1970, his best season.

Following his college career, Todd was invited to the Dallas Cowboys’ camp where he injured his back during a scrimmage. He never played after that and suffered from back pain for the remainder of his life. Todd died of a heart attack during a business trip to South America in 2003.

Todd competed in the sprints, hurdles and long jump for the CVHS track team and occasionally would throw the shot put when the Spartans (as they were known then) needed points to win a meet.

In the CVHS record book, Todd is still fourth all-time in the 100-yard-dash (9.9 seconds) and fourth in the long jump (22’4”). And he ran on the 1965 4x220 relay team that still holds the CVHS varsity record.

Wrestling in the 194-pound division, Todd had three monumental matches against San Lorenzo’s Jay Craney in 1968. Tim prevailed in the North Coast Section meet, while Craney won the Hayward Area Athletic League and Northern California matches.

In his senior year at CVHS, Todd was president of the Varsity Letterman’s Club.