GARY KERR

Gary Kerr earned four varsity letters in track, three in basketball and two in football at Castro Valley High from 1961 to 1965. He was a three-time Hayward Area Athletic League champion in the 120-yard high hurdles and a two-time league champ in both the low hurdles and long jump, setting school records in all three events. He also was part of the league-champion 440-yard relay team.

In football, Kerr was an all-HAAL wide receiver and in basketball was honorable mention all-league at center.

Kerr continued his athletic prowess at Chabot, playing wide receiver and defensive back in the fall and running track in the spring, then played both sports at Cal Poly before signing a contract as a free agent for the Chicago Bears.

John Madden, the Oakland Raiders coach at the time and a Cal Poly alum, had shown an interest in Kerr. He had gone to San Luis Obispo to put Kerr through some football drills, considering him as a free agent possibility. But the Raiders were loaded with receivers and Kerr thought he had a better chance in Chicago.

He played one pre-season with the Bears and one year at wide receiver with the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League. At Calgary in 1972, he played in all 16 games, caught 38 passes for 721 yards and three touchdowns and was named Rookie of the Year.

Although he ended up playing professional football, track always held a special place in Kerr’s heart. He set Chabot school records in the 120-yard high hurdles and the 330 and 440 intermediates. He broke the Northern California Junior College meet record in the highs and finished second in the 330 intermediates at the JC State Meet. Kerr is a member of the Chabot College Hall of Fame.

At Cal Poly he was the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) champion in the high hurdles. He actually was considering training for the U.S. Olympic Team in the decathlon, but accepted a free-agent contract with Chicago instead.

Presently retired from a 26-year career as a fireman, Kerr and his wife, Nancy, live in Danville. They have five children and six grandchildren.