



James "Jimbo" Covert

Jimbo Covert is a 1978 graduate of Freedom Area High School and led the 1977 football team with an undefeated 11-0 record to the Midwestern Athletic Conference (MAC) Championship as a senior. Although the Bulldogs eventually lost to Laurel High School in the 2nd round of WPIAL playoffs, Covert earned UPI First-Team All-State honors and become a highly recruited player. Covert was a member of both the Freedom football and wrestling teams and excelled in both sports. On August 27, the Freedom Football field will be renamed the "Jimbo Covert Field at Freedom Stadium" to recognize his contribution to the Freedom football program and his induction into the NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Covert began his collegiate career in 1978 at the University of Pittsburgh on the defensive line, but after a shoulder injury sidelined him for the 1979 season, he moved to offensive tackle in the spring of 1980 at the urging of offensive line coach Joe Moore. He was a starter on Pitt's offensive front his final three seasons, surrendering just three sacks during that span. That decision led to Covert to being named to the College Football Hall of Fame. Pitt went 31-5 during Covert's three years as a starter and finished in the nation's Top 10 each season. While at Pitt, he was a two-time All-American. Following his final season at Pitt, he played in the Hula Bowl and Senior Bowl all-star games. Pitt retired his #75 jersey in 2015.

Covert played for the Chicago Bears from 1983-1990 and was inducted to the Pro Football Hall of Fame on August 7 as the Centennial Class of 2020. He played offensive tackle for eight seasons with the Chicago Bears. The Bears used their first-round pick in the 1983 NFL draft, the 6th overall, to select Covert. He was a two-time first-team All-Pro who helped the Bears win six division championships, one NFC title and the 1985 Super Bowl. He ranks 13th on the Bears' all-time top 100 player list and was named to the NFL's 1980s All-Decade Team.

Covert has been inducted to several other Halls of Fame, including the Beaver County Sports Hall of Fame in 1996, Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 1995 and the College Football Hall of Fame in 2003, the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame in 2004, the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League Hall of Fame in 2009, the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 2012. In 1986, he appeared in a 20-man battle royal at WrestleMania 2 along with other NFL stars.

After retiring from the NFL in the 90s, he began his healthcare career at Baxter International in their Physical Therapy Division where he served as Director of Sales and Development. During the next two decades, he held various executive positions with healthcare companies. In 2007, Covert was named President and CEO of The Institute for Transfusion Medicine, one of the nation's foremost non-profit organizations specializing in transfusion medicine and related services, and the leader in transfusion medicine in both the Pittsburgh and Chicago regions. Its two blood centers, Central Blood Bank in Pittsburgh and LifeSource in Chicago, provide nearly a million units of lifesaving blood products annually. In 2018, Central Blood Bank and LifeSource were both renamed as Vitalant.

Covert lives in Weston, Florida now with his wife Penny who was a former cheerleader at Pitt and they met while both were at Pitt. They have three children.

Check out Jimbo Covert's entire bio on Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Covert