

= Abe Mickal =

Ibrahim Khalil " Abe " Mickal (c . 1912 / 1913 ? September 20 , 2001) was a Lebanese American college football player and a doctor . Mickal played as a running back for the LSU Tigers of Louisiana State University , where he was notable for his passing skills and play @-@ making ability . He was also the team 's primary punter and placekicker . A three @-@ time All @-@ Southeastern Conference selection , Mickal led LSU to an undefeated season in 1933 , and a conference championship and Sugar Bowl in 1935 . In 1936 , Mickal played quarterback for a college all @-@ star team that became the first team of college players to defeat a National Football League (NFL) team . Although selected in the 1936 NFL Draft , he did not play professionally . Mickal was a charter member of the LSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1937 and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1967 .

In addition to football , Mickal was a cadet in LSU 's Reserve Officers ' Training Corps (ROTC) , was a member of the pre @-@ med club and debate team , and as a senior was president of the university 's student body . While a student at LSU , Mickal declined a seat in the Louisiana State Senate offered to him by U.S. Senator and noted LSU supporter , Huey P. Long . He earned his medical degree in 1940 , and after serving in World War II he began a lifelong career in obstetrics and gynecology . He served as head professor of the LSU Medical School OB / GYN department for over twenty years . Actively involved in various university affairs during and after his time as a student , Mickal was named LSU 's " Alumnus of the Year " in 1980 .

= = Early life = =

Ibrahim Khalil Mickal was born in Syria , in an area that is today part of Lebanon , and immigrated with his family to the United States in 1920 and arrived on Ellis Island . He settled in McComb , Mississippi and attended McComb High School , where he played football , baseball , and basketball and ran track . His father Kalil , who ran a local general store , was initially against his son playing sports . " It was an old Lebanese custom , " Mickal later explained , " that the eldest son take over the business . My father wasn 't aware that I was playing . " His father was eventually persuaded by the townspeople to let his son play . During his senior year he was recruited by LSU and Notre Dame to play football , and ultimately chose the Tigers after the death of Notre Dame head coach Knute Rockne .

= = College = =

Mickal was an all @-@ around player ; a triple @-@ threat running back who also played on defense . He was regarded as an excellent deep @-@ ball passer ; in the words of LSU coach Lawrence " Biff " Jones : " Mickal is a greater passer than Red Cagle ? he 's the greatest I ever saw . " Jones was Cagle 's coach while at Army . One sportswriter referred to Mickal as " the Dizzy Dean of the nation 's forward passers . " He was also known for his play @-@ making ability during crucial moments of games , and LSU compiled a win ? loss record of 23 ? 4 ? 5 in the three seasons Mickal played for the team .

= = = 1933 = = =

Mickal showed his versatility in the first game of the 1933 season against Rice , tossing a 40 @-@ yard pass on the first play from scrimmage to end Pete Burge and booting punts of 76 and 61 yards . In week four against Arkansas Mickal completed touchdown passes of 48 and 57 yards and ran for a 15 @-@ yard touchdown , as he was responsible for every score in the 20 ? 0 win over the eventual Southwest Conference champion Razorbacks . He scored the only touchdown of LSU 's final game of the season , against Tennessee , with a goal line dive into the end zone . He also kicked the extra point for the 7 ? 0 victory , and completed the season having successfully made every extra point he attempted . The Tigers finished undefeated with three ties in their first season

as members of the Southeastern Conference (SEC) . After the season , Mickal was named to the United Press (UP) All @-@ SEC second team as a halfback .

== = 1934 == =

One of Mickal 's most notable games came in 1934 against the Mustangs of Southern Methodist . He threw two touchdown passes , the first one a 32 @-@ yarder to tie the game at 7 ? 7 in the second quarter . Late in the fourth quarter and down by a touchdown , Mickal dropped back at his own 35 @-@ yard line and hurled a pass down the middle of the field . It was caught in stride at the Mustang 20 @-@ yard line by Gaynell Tinsley , who ran it into the end zone to tie the game at 14 ? 14 , which was the final score . In week four against 13th @-@ ranked Arkansas , Mickal completed five of seven passes for 117 yards , which included a 52 @-@ yard bomb in the third quarter for the first score of the 16 ? 0 win . He also averaged over 50 yards per punt on nine punts . The next week he threw a touchdown pass , kicked a field goal , and averaged over 40 yards per punt in a 29 ? 0 win over previously undefeated Vanderbilt . Mickal was named a first @-@ team All @-@ SEC selection as a fullback by the Associated Press (AP) and as a halfback by the UP .

== = Senatorship == =

During the season , Mickal was acclaimed an honorary Louisiana State Senator by U.S. Senator Huey P. Long , whom he had befriended , at a burlesque campus meeting . Long was a noted LSU supporter and was highly involved in operations of the football program . When it came time for his ceremonial " seating " Mickal refused to appear for the ceremony , despite the urging of Long . After Long reasoned with the senate and spectators that Mickal " had to study , " Mickal was granted a five @-@ day leave of absence by senator Harvey Peltier to " do his work at school and go forward with his preparation for his football duties . " Mickal remained silent on the matter , however ; he did not give a reason for his refusal of the honor . The day he was to be inducted , Mickal said in a telegram to Long that if he accepted the senatorship he would introduce a joint resolution that made it " unlawful " for any Tulane player to cross the LSU goal line in 1934 .

== = 1935 == =

Mickal had a slow start to 1935 while he recovered from a broken ankle he suffered over the summer . In week three , he threw two touchdown passes against Manhattan College , and a game @-@ winning touchdown pass against Vanderbilt two weeks later . In the regular season finale , Mickal was responsible for three touchdowns in a 41 ? 0 win over rival Tulane . LSU played TCU at the end of the season in the Sugar Bowl , in a game that was a highly anticipated match @-@ up between Mickal and the Horned Frogs ' Sammy Baugh . The offenses were unable to do much , however , as rain throughout the day had muddied the field . TCU won the game , 3 ? 2 . LSU finished the season undefeated in conference play for its first SEC championship . Mickal was named to the AP All @-@ SEC second @-@ team as a fullback after the season , and earned second @-@ team All @-@ America honors from Liberty magazine .

== = 1936 All @-@ Stars vs. Bears == =

In September 1936 , Mickal played quarterback for the Centennial College All @-@ Stars , a team composed of college players from southern schools to play against the National Football League 's Chicago Bears at Cotton Bowl stadium . He scored the All @-@ Stars ' only touchdown with a dive into the end zone from the one @-@ foot line in the third quarter . The Bears scored their only touchdown later that quarter on a 5 @-@ yard run by Bronko Nagurski . Mickal had a chance to tackle Nagurski before the goal line . " A lot of things flashed through my mind , " explained Mickal . " There was nothing between him and the goal line but me . I thought about making the perfect tackle and reading about being the All @-@ Stars ' hero . Then I thought about Nagurski 's size . I

thought about the Nagurski legend . I thought about going to med school . I thought about possible brain damage . " He decided to step aside and let Nagurski score . The extra point , however , was blocked by Bob Reynolds , and the game ended 7 ? 6 in favor of the All @-@ Stars . It was the first time a team of college players defeated a professional American football team .

= = = Extracurricular = = =

Mickal was actively involved in the university 's Reserve Officers ' Training Corps . He received the Outstanding Cadet Award as a freshman and was regimental sergeant major as a junior . As a senior he attained the rank of Cadet Colonel and earned the Kemper Williams Sabre as the school 's outstanding cadet . Additionally , he was a member of the pre @-@ med club and debate team , and in 1936 was president of the school 's Interfraternity Council , college of arts and sciences , and student body . Mickal was a member of the Theta Kappa Nu fraternity .

= = Later life = =

= = = Medical career = = =

Mickal was selected in the sixth round of the 1936 NFL Draft by the Detroit Lions . However , he did not play in the NFL . He instead chose to complete his medical degree at the Louisiana State University School of Medicine , where he graduated from in 1940 . He served as a major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War II . After the war , he worked in obstetrics and gynecology at New Orleans Charity Hospital from 1946 to 1949 , shortly after which he was named to the LSU medical faculty . In 1959 he became the head professor of the LSU Medical School , a position he served in until his retirement in 1980 . He helped found the Society of Gynecologic Oncology and the Infectious Disease Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology , and served as president of the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons from 1981 to 1982 . From 1985 until his death in 2001 he was vice president for medical affairs at Kenner Regional Medical Center .

= = = Honors = = =

Mickal was a charter member of the LSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1937 . In 1967 , the National Football Foundation named Mickal to the College Football Hall of Fame . He was inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 1969 and the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 1985 . Mickal was named LSU 's " Alumnus of the Year " in 1980 and its " Medical Alumnus of the Year " in 1985 . " It 's been a beautiful marriage ? and I 've had all the better of it , " said Mickal of his involvement with the university . The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists gave Mickal its Distinguished Service Award in 1991 .