



# JIM BEIRNE

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## END

McKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA | McKEESPORT HIGH SCHOOL

## AT A GLANCE

Jim Beirne set the bar for Purdue pass catchers over the course of his career as a three-year starting tight end and split end from 1965 to 1967.

Consider: Beirne established school career records with 142 receptions, 1,864 receiving yards and 17 receiving touchdowns. He also had four 100-yard receiving games.

His best season came as a junior in 1966, with school records of 68 catches for 837 yards and eight touchdowns en route to first team All-American honors. Beirne tied the Purdue game record with 11 receptions at Michigan State on Oct. 22. A week later against Illinois, Beirne (125 yards) and senior halfback Jim Finley (103 yards) became the first 100-yard receiving duo in school history. Beirne's third-quarter 13-yard touchdown catch at Minnesota on Nov. 12 all but iced the Boilermakers' 16-0 victory in wintry Minneapolis and essentially clinched their Rose Bowl berth.

An industrial economics major, Beirne was named first team Academic All-American his senior season. He also received the Big Ten Medal of Honor for demonstrating great proficiency in scholarship and athletics and the Varsity Walk Award as the outstanding senior who participated as a varsity athlete and brought national recognition to Purdue.

Beirne played in the East-West Shrine Game and Hula Bowl following his senior campaign.

On the Purdue season receptions list, Beirne ranked first, tied for third (45 in 1967) and tied for eighth (29 in 1965) at the conclusion of his career.

In 1987, Beirne was voted to the All-Time Team for the first 100 years of Purdue football. He was inducted into the Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in 2004.

## RECORD WATCH

Fifty years later, Beirne ranks tied for seventh in career touchdown receptions, 13th in career receiving yards and tied for 14th in career receptions. Tight end Dave Young was the first to top the touchdown receptions mark in 1979 and the receptions mark a year later. Young and wide receiver Bart Burrell both bettered the receiving yards total in 1980. Beirne's eight touchdown receptions in 1966 are tied for the 10th-most in a season.

## YEAR-BY-YEAR STATISTICS

### RECEIVING

Year	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD	Long
1965	29	384	13.2	4	28
1966	68	837	12.3	8	40
1967	45	643	14.3	5	40
<b>Totals</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1,864</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>40</b>

## 1967 ROSE BOWL

Beirne had four receptions for 69 yards.

## POST PURDUE

Beirne was selected by the Houston Oilers in the fourth round (No. 105 overall) of the 1968 National Football League Draft. He played for the Oilers for six years and then had a one-year stint with the San Diego Chargers in 1974 before returning to the Oilers for the 1975 and 1976 seasons. His career statistics included 142 receptions for 2,011 yards and 11 touchdowns. Beirne was a 1969 American Football League All-Star.

Following his playing days, Beirne owned a custom home building company in The Woodlands, Texas, a suburb of Houston.

