



ALUMNI PROFILE

WHO IS ZENON ANDRUSYSHYN?

Nicknamed "Big Z", Zenon Andrusyshyn was born in Günzburg, Germany to Ukrainian parents. When he was three years old, his family emigrated to Canada settling in Oakville, Ontario. By the time he reached high school, he had become an athletics star in javelin, discus and shot put. While at Trafalgar High School in Oakville, Andrusyshyn set a Canadian high school javelin record that lasted more than 30 years.

Zenon was selected to compete for Canada at the 1966 British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Kingston, Jamaica. He competed in three events, finishing 7th in the Javelin, 10th in Shot Put, and 14th in Discus. Andrusyshyn at one point held the Canadian record in the javelin with a distance of 242 ft 6 in.

With his sights set on making the 1968 Olympic team, Zenon accepted an athletics scholarship to UCLA to compete in javelin. When he injured his throwing arm in 1967, he decided to try out for the UCLA football team as a place kicker and punter. His kicking abilities impressed the coaches and he was offered a spot on the team. It would lead him to a career in professional football. It is as a football player that Zenon Andrusyshyn is most remembered.

Andrusyshyn was named an All-American punter twice at UCLA, and in 1970 was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football league. He did not make the team, but was signed instead by the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League. Zenon spent a total of 10 seasons playing for the Argos over three different spells with the team. In 1977, he set a CFL record with a punt that travelled 108 yards - a record that still stands today. He also played briefly with Hamilton, Edmonton and Montreal, and was signed by the the Kansas City Chiefs of the NFL for one season. Andrusyshyn went on to spend three years with the Tampa Bay Bandits of the USFL.

After his football career ended, Andrusyshyn was ordained a minister in the Southern Baptist church. He graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary with a Master in Arts, Biblical Studies in the mid 1990's.

Zenon also took part in a number of humanitarian missions to various parts of the world - including trips to deliver medical supplies to Cuna Indians in Panama, and cancer hospitals for children in Ukraine after the nuclear accident at Chernobyl. In 2007, Zenon and his wife Susan formed their own not-for-profit youth ministry, Zenon Ministries.

Zenon Andrusyshyn passed away in August 2023 at the age of 76.