

CHARLES ANDREW KITCHENS

“BABY DOLL”

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“BABY DOLL” WAS BORN
MARCH 20, 1933, TO MANLEY
AND ORA KITCHENS OF

Cordova, AL. From an early age, Charles loved playing sports.

Charles is one of the most unique players to be selected for the Walker County Sports Hall of Fame. The “Babe” lettered six years in football at Cordova High School over a period of eight years. While playing for the varsity football team as a seventh grader, the players and coaches nicknamed him “Baby Doll.”

Kitchens was fortunate to play with some great players and under some great coaches. His first year was under C.A. Douglas, followed by Foster Lockridge, Jack Cornelius and Fred Knight. “Baby Doll” started on the 1949 team, which was the first undefeated season for Cordova High School. The team defeated many Birmingham area teams, as well as teams here in Walker County. He played with All-State players “Keg” Bankston and Walker County Sports Hall of Famer P.W. Underwood. The 6’5” 240 lb. lineman was a force on defense and led the way for the backs on a team that scored 236 points and allowed only 43 points.

Prior to the next school year, Kitchens used his brother Jimmy’s name to enlist in the Army. He played military ball at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and then played one year of junior college ball at Scuba Junior College in Mississippi. In 1952, “Baby Doll” returned to play his senior season at Cordova. The Alabama High School Athletic Association Director, Cliff Harper, ruled that Charles must sit out the first game of the season against Parrish and could return to the gridiron after that game. The 1952 team finished the season as Walker County Champions with a victory over Carbon Hill in the Thanksgiving Day game in Jasper.

Kitchens loved his community and continued to give back to it after marrying his wife, Debra Jo Kitchens. He continued to play semi-pro football with the Birmingham Vulcans and the Huntsville Rockets. Charles even participated in the Golden Gloves in Birmingham. He also coached and officiated various youth teams for Cordova. He was the coach for Cordova’s BABF team that won the federation title. He and Debra had two children, Kenny and Pam, who both still reside in Cordova.

