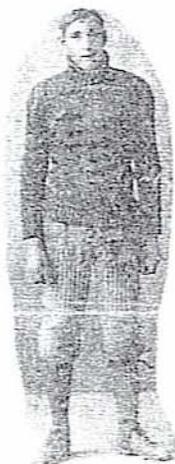


“Indian” John Russeau

John grew up on the Indian reservation at Reserve, near Hayward and played football first in high school at Superior where he graduated. In 1903, he attracted the attention of a scout from the famous Carlisle Indian Institute in Pennsylvania. John, a Chippewa Indian, played right tackle for Carlisle from 1903 to 1912 and as a teammate of the immortal Jim Thorpe, who some consider the greatest all-around athlete of the 20th century in America. While at Carlisle, Russeau played under the legendary coach “Pop” Warner during the years Carlisle made football history.



Following football, ‘Indian John’ served overseas as a volunteer in the Canadian Army in WWI and married a British war bride, Lillian, in Sussex, England in 1919. They then moved to Rice Lake to make their living and raised a family until John passed away on October 30, 1969. He was a ‘brave’ who made good in the white man’s world. He loved children. He literally chatted with thousands of people on the streets of Rice Lake in his familiar trademark, a suit coat and hat, during his 50 years in the city he called his home. He boxed during the 1920's under the name of “Black Jack.” His own grandfather served with the Union Army in the Civil War. His ancestors knew this territory like the back of their hands. His own children and grandchildren grew up in Rice Lake and played ball, studied and rubbed elbows with everyone else, most recently, Darrell “The Horse” Russeau, a great Warrior fullback in the mid ‘50's and Shane Elliott, on the 2000-01 Warrior basketball team which made it to the sectional finals. “Indian John” is part of Rice Lake all the way.



A football field was named in his honor on April 26, 1991 at Clanton Park in Rice Lake for youth flag football and adult football.