

Distinguished Alumnus 2003
Marvin Ellstrom
Class of 1929

Marvin "Swede" Ellstrom was born in 1906 and graduated in 1927 from Central High School in Waynesburg, Illinois. He earned an Associate of Science degree from University Preparatory School-Junior College where he was considered the greatest triple threat ever to play football at Northern. In 1928 and in 1929 he was named First Team All-Conference at Fullback. He attended the University of Oklahoma, lettering in football.

Married to Gladys Young, he played professional football in the 1930s for teams in Boston, Rochester, Philadelphia and Pittsburg. He is listed on the All-Time Steelers roster. During World War II he served with the Seabees in the South Pacific.

Mr. Ellstrom returned to the Tonkawa area after his years with professional football. He worked as an athletic coach for Conoco Oil Company. In 1951 a panel of area residents selected him as the greatest football player of the first half century at Northern. He died in 1994.