She spoke about the characteristics that helped shape her husband as a player—a man—qualities like self-discipline, self-mas- teriness, determination, and courage. She touched on the camaraderie and team work which carried him on and off the field. She spoke about those plays that ended poorly and how she watched him pick himself up to try again.

She spoke about Vinny Clements and how he had channeled like they’ve always done.

“The way that they talk about the things that football had done for him and for him to do it,” he said, “anybody if they allow it to.”

“Those attributes that come out of playing really blessed him with his whole life. Those are the things you take with you and everything you do, as well as the friendships that were formed.”

Sue Clements said, “When people talk about his records being broken, I always say that they really haven’t been legitimately broken in the sense that, when we went to UConn you couldn’t play varsity sports as a freshman. You had to play freshman football. It was an entire team that was as a separate team and at that point in time greats up here, he was doing it with a lot more consistency, but he was a true three-sport athlete at Southington High School. He scored 682 points for the basketball team, including a 20-point game against Rockville as a junior and a 27-point contest against Woodrow Wilson as a senior. He powered the baseball team in the spring with a .303 batting average and 12 wins on the mound. Clements pitched 114 innings of varsity baseball with 147 strikeouts and just 28 walks. In 1996, he was inducted into the Southington High School baseball hall of fame. "Vin just loved athletics. He grew up in a time when you would just play sand lot baseball, grab a stick and a ball, and go out on a field with your friends," said his wife. "They played ice hockey in the winter. They just did everything." Of course, it was football that drew national attention, and Clements was drafted by Minnesota in the fourth round of the 1971 NFL draft. He played his first two years on the field as a defensive back and then moved to the offensive line. Even when he never took the field for the Vikings, he was traded to the New York Giants in the off-season. For a young man from Southington, that was a dream come true. "At that time, they played at the old Yankee Stadium, and he's always said that this was the thrill of his lifetime," his wife said. "Walking out on that field that first day where so many of his heroes had played! So many of the athletes that he had looked up to as a little boy growing up! To be standing out on that field! It was a marvellous at the time." Clements played in four games in 1972, but amassed over 700 yards in two seasons with the Giants. He scored once on the ground and once in the air in 1973 but was released as a free agent following his second season. He was picked up by Hawaii World League Football Franchise, and he played two years for that team before retiring in 1975. His wife said that he never missed a game. "I can say this. He is such an even-keered person that he's always been cool and humble. I don't think it changed him a whole lot," she said. "He always took it in stride, but he always realized that it was something special and unique. It wasn't really real life." With his storied career, it was no surprise that Clements was selected in the inaugural class of the UConn Football Hall of Fame. On Wednesday, Nov. 30, he will be honored in an induction ceremony at the Aqua Turf.

"It's an honor," Clements said in a statement. "It's very special to be recognized in the town where you grew up."

For tickets to the hall of fame ceremony, contact Jim Verderame, (860) 628-7335, or purchase tickets at Anthony Jacks Wood Fired Grill, Bonterra Italian Bistro, or the Clara Barton Hall of Fame at 603 East Main Street, Southington.