One of the most memorable moments in Placer High School sports history is the incredible 87-yard kickoff return in the fog by Terry Spivey during the 1980 season. The talented wide receiver/defensive back and kick returner was a key member of the that year's state champion football team.

Spivey excelled on the track team as well and will be honored for his outstanding high school career when he is inducted into the PHS Athletic Hall of Fame on April 27 in a ceremony in the school's iconic Earl Crabbe Gym.

In 1980, Placer's final regular season game came down to facing Nevada Union at LeFebvre Stadium, with both the Miners and the Hillmen undefeated and boasting high-powered offenses. The winner would claim sole possession of the Sierra Foothill League and move on to the CIF Sac-Joaquin AA playoffs. The loser would stay home.

The contest began on a stormy night with heavy rain drenching fans and players alike, leaving the field a muddy quagmire. Placer took a sloppy 8-7 lead into the locker room at halftime. But then the storm abated and a thick, heavy fog moved in. Neither the playing field nor the scoreboard was visible as Nevada Union kicked off to begin the second half.

Spivey was the return man for Placer. "I could barely see the other team getting ready too kick off and saw the ball leave the kicker's foot." he recalled. "I used my baseball training to figure the angle of the ball and where it would land."

He was close. The ball suddenly appeared out of the fog and hit Spivey in the face mask. "It bounced once on the ground and I picked it up," he continued. Through a slight opening in the fog, he could barely see the Placer sideline. He headed that way, and the speedy wide receiver dashed along the sidelines for an 87-yard touchdown that was unseen by anyone not on the field. "I ran scared," he said, "Probably ran a three-five forty."

That play opened up a second half rout, the Hillmen winning by a score of 30-7. The team finished 11-0 and was named Division AA state champions by Cal-Hi Sports.

His varsity football career for Placer began as a sophomore when he was brought up from the Junior Varsity team to start at wide receiver for the SFL championship game. The next year, he was named all-league, leading the Hillmen to a 9-1 record and the SFL championship.

As a senior he was on everyone's radar, being named first team All State wide receiver by Cal Hi Sports. He also was also named All-Sacramento Area by the Sacramento Union, All-Superior California by the Sacramento Bee, All-Sac-Joaquin, All-SFL, and the league's Most Valuable Player.

After the season, he was invited to the Optimist All-Star game 1981. He scored two touchdowns on deep passes against the best players from Sacramento City schools, proving that no player in Nnorthern California could cover him.

His inspiration as a receiver came from watching a couple of Hillmen receivers when he was younger —Randy Kennedy and Denny Brewer. "I liked Randy's long, speedy, down-the-sideline game and Denny's short quick across-the-middle game. Watching them, plus having a high-energy coach in Joe Montoya Senior," helped him excel at the position.

Spivey credits his athletic influence also to his childhood baseball coach, his father Jim Spivey. The elder Spivey played minor league baseball for the San Francisco Giants organization.

Although he was exceptional on the gridiron, Spivey also was a standout on the Hillmen track team. He ran varsity track as a freshman and in his final three years was a Sac-Joaquin Sub-section and Section qualifier in various events including the long jump, 100M and 200M, 4x100M and 4x400M relay teams.

As a senior he won medals in eight different events. All told that year, he won 18 gold medals, 12 silver, and 10 bronze.

His teammates understood his value, voting him MVP in freshman basketball, JV football (twice), JV basketball, varsity football, (twice), and varsity track (three times).

Multi-talented, Spivey also played the drums for the ensemble and sang in the school choir.

Following graduation, Spivey received a scholarship to play at UNR and eventually transferred to Sierra College. But he missed the competitive spirit generated at Placer and found that he couldn't get that competitive edge back.

"Nothing compares to playing football with your hometown state championship teammates —Nothing."

From 1985 -1989 Spivey was as a fire fighter the the CDF and served in the army reserves. Following that, he made a career working for the California Department of Corrections from 1989-2014. Ranked as an expert in marksmasnship, he worked the gun towers on San Quentin's Death Row's exercise yard and everywhere guns were needed in the prison. He also served in the Honor Guard for Fallen Officers.

Spivey is retired and currently lives in Rancho Cordova;

The Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony will be held in the Earl Crabbe Gym on April 27. A reception will begin at 6 pm followed by the induction ceremony at 7 pm.

Tickets for the reception cost $25 until April 15, and $35 after, and are available online at placerathletichalloffame.org.

The 7 pm ceremony is free of charge to the public.