



KEN KUNKEN GRADUATES — Former Cornell football star Ken Kunken, paralyzed from the neck down from an accident on the playing field in 1970, received his B.A. in Industrial Engineering Friday. Here he is pushed in the procession of graduates during Cornell Commencement ceremonies by classmates. (AP Wirephoto).

3,212 Get Degrees At Cornell

ITHACA, N.Y. (AP) — Cornell University awarded degrees today to 3,212 persons, including a football player paralyzed below the neck from a gridiron accident 2½ years ago.

Ken Kunken, 22, of Ocean-side, received his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering. He plans to return to Cornell this fall to begin graduate studies in student counseling and administration.

President Dale R. Corson presided at Cornell's 105th commencement exercises and gave the main address. In accordance with university tradition, no honorary degrees were bestowed.

Kunken, a member of Cornell's 150-pound (lightweight) football team, collided with a Columbia player on a kickoff return in October, 1970. The freak accident damaged his spinal cord.

Kunken spent 10 months in hospitals, amassing huge bills that are slowly being paid with the help of a fund created on the Cornell campus.

He returned to Cornell for the fall semester of 1971. That first term, he admitted in an interview today, was "very much of a challenge" as he learned to cope with his disability.

Roommates tended to his physical and psychological needs and his friends and classmates have helped him with note-taking and other classroom chores.

He is confined to a wheelchair but has obtained a summer job with Oceanside's recreation department.