1938

By C.C. Staph

Stout Steve Owen, The New York Giants' coach, had so much talent on his roster that he was able to alternate complete teams by quarters -- an early version of the two platoon system. After a couple of early upsets by Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, the Giants roared through their last eight games undefeated. Washington kept pace, despite an injury to Sammy Baugh, but in the final showdown, New York destroyed the Redskins, 36-0, at the Polo Grounds.

In the West, Green Bay took advantage of a slummp by the Bears to lope to the top. The Pack used a three-pronged passing attack with Vets Arnie Herber and Bob Monnett and Rookie Cecil Isbell all throwing to Don Hutson and occasionally to each other. Detroit -- spurred by increased attendance -- stayed in contention for most of the season but an upset by the eagles in the final game doomed the Lions.   Green Bay survived a late- season loss to New York to finish one game in front.   The Championship game drew a record 48,120 to the Polo Grounds. Two blocked kicks gave New York a 9-0 lead in the first quarter. The Packers rallied for two second quarter TD's and the Giants added one to make their lead 16-14 at the half. Green Bay moved in front on tiny Engebretsen's 15-yard field goal early in the third period, but new York drove 61 yards -- topped by Ed Danowski's TD pass to Hank soar -- to make the score 23-17. That ended the scoring and the Giants were champions.

Mel Hein, the Giants' popular center was named the NFL'a Most Valuable Player for the 1938 season. Not only did Hein anchor the Giant line with his strong blocking and accurate snapping, but his fierce linebacking made the New York defense well nigh impregnable.

Byron "Whizzer" White signed to play halfback for Pittsburgh at a then-astronomical $15,800. He earned it, leading the league in rushing with 567 yards. In 1962, White was named a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

NFL 1938 FINAL STANDINGS

EASTERN DIVISION	W	L	T	Pct
New York Giants	8	2	1	.800
Washington Redskins	6	3	2	.667
Brooklyn Dodgers	4	4	3	.500
Philadelphia Eagles	5	6	0	.455
Pittsburgh Pirates	2	9	0	.182
WESTERN DIVISION	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**
Green Bay Packers	8	3	0	.727
Detroit Lions	7	4	0	.636
Chicago Bears	6	5	0	.545
Cleveland Rams	4	7	0	.364
Chicago Cardinals	2	9	0	.182

New York 23, Green Bay 17

1938 OFFICIAL ALL-LEAGUE

	First Team	Second Team
LE	Don Hutson, GB	Bill Hewitt, Phi
LT	Ed Widseth, NYG	Bruiser Kinard, Bkn
LG	Dan Fortmann, ChiB	Jim Karcher, Was
C	Mel Hein, NYG	Frank Bausch, ChiB
RG	Russ Letlow, GB	George Musso, ChiB
RT	Joe Stydahar, ChiB	Turk Edwards, Was
RE	Gaynell Tinsley, ChiC	Milt Gantenbein, GB
QB	Ace Parker, Bkn	Riley Smith, Was
LH	Ed Danowski, NYG	Whizzer White, Pit
RH	Lloyd Cardswell, Det	Cecil Isbell, GB
FB	Clarke Hinkle, GB	Johnny Drake, Cle