

1928 ALL-PROS

By John Hogrogian

The Providence Steam Roller hit the heights in 1928 in an odd season. Pro football's two most famous stars, Red Grange and Ernie Nevers, sat out the season nursing injuries. The 1927 champion New York Giants fell flat on their faces, and the 1929 champions-to-be Green Bay Packers were a few players away from being ready. Into the breach stepped the Steam Roller and brilliant halfback Wildcat Wilson with a surprise NFL title.

Providence fared well on the annual Green Bay *Press-Gazette* All-Pro team, selected by a poll of nine NFL team managers and an unspecified number of sports writers. Of the five honored Providence players, Wilson appeared in the poll for the first time, Curly Oden reappeared after a 1926 berth, and Clyde Smith, Gus Sonnenberg, and Milt Rehnquist repeated from 1927. Smith and Rehnquist had starred for Cleveland the year before, and their arrival in Providence made the Steam Roller a championship squad.

A curious variant of the annual poll was circulated by the Associated Press. In an article with a December 22 dateline, A.P. printed a first and second team selected by the managers of the NFL teams. The results are identical to the *Press-Gazette* poll except at the end positions. The A.P. story put Cal Hubbard on the first team and Ray Flaherty on the second -- the reverse of the *Press-Gazette* poll. On the A.P. second team, Lyle Munn of Detroit replaced teammate Carl Bacchus. It's not clear whether these differences represent a wholly different poll, the modifications caused by using only the votes of the team managers, or perhaps just inaccurate reporting.

Only two All-Pro teams were named by individuals in 1928. Wilfrid Smith of the *Chicago Tribune* picked first and second teams which included all but five of the players picked in the *Press-Gazette* poll. Smith had been choosing teams for several years, and he added a special flourish by naming Benny Friedman "captain", apparently the equivalent of an MVP nomination.

1928 ALL-NFL TEAMS

POS	GA	MA	SM
E Lavie Dilweg, Green Bay	1	1	1
Cal Hubbard, N.Y. Giants	2	1	1
Ray Flaherty, N.Y. Yankees	1	2	2
Carl Bacchus, Detroit	2	-	-
George Kenneally, Pottsville	-	-	2
Lyle Munn, Detroit	-	2	-
T Bill Owen, Detroit	1	1	1
Bull Behman, Philadelphia	1	1	2G
Gus Sonnenberg, Providence	2	2	1
Link Lyman, Chicago Bears	2	2	-
Roger Ashmore, Green Bay	-	-	2
Don Murry, Chicago Bears	-	-	2
G Mike Michalske, N.Y. Yankees	1	1	1
Jim McMillen, Chicago Bears	1	1	1
Al Graham, Dayton	2	2	2
Milt Rehnquist, Providence	2	2	-
C Clyde Smith, Providence	1	1	2
Joe Westoupal, Detroit	2	2	1
Q Benny Friedman, Detroit	1	1	1
Curly Oden, Providence	2	2	2

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H Wildcat Wilson, Providence	1	1	1
Verne Lewellen, Green Bay	1	1	1F
Paddy Driscoll, Chicago Bears	2	2	1
Ed Kotal, Green Bay	2	2	2
Ken Mercer, Frankford	-	-	2
F Wally Diehl, Frankford	1	1	2
Tony Latone, Pottsville	2	2	-

GA = Press-Gazette poll: Green Bay *Press-Gazette* (12/17/28); Milwaukee *Sentinal* (12/16); Providence *Journal* (12/18).

MA = NFL Team Managers (possible variant of the Press-Gazette poll: New York *Herald Tribune*, Philadelphia *Inquirer*, Philadelphia *Public Ledger*, Philadelphia *Record*, Detroit *Free Press*, Detroit *News*, Chicago *Herald Examiner*, New York *Times* (12/28/28).

SM = Wilfrid Smith: Chicago *Tribune* (12/23/28).