

STREAK!

by Larry Bortstein

Baseball has DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak. It may never be broken. Perhaps the equivalent pro football record is John Unitas' 47-game touchdown-pass streak.

In at least one sense, Unitas' feat is more remarkable: he had to stay "hot" over a period of years!

TD STREAK DATA

During the 47-game streak, Unitas:
 Attempted 27.6 passes per game; completed 14.8.
 Gained 8.20 yards per attempt; 15.3 yards per completion.
 Averaged 226.5 passing yards per game.
 Averaged 2.17 TD passes per game.
 Averaged 55.3 yards gained on TD passes per game (24.4% of all his passing yardage during period).
 Completed one of every 12.7 passes for a TD.
 Threw one TD pass for every 6.8 completions.

UNITAS DURING THE STREAK

Year	Gm	Att	Com	Pct.	Yds	TD	Yds on TDs	Avg Yds TDs	Pct. of# TD Pass
1956	3	63	35	55.6	432	3	87	29.0	8.5
1957	12	301	172	57.1	2550	24	678	28.3	13.95
1958	10	263	136	51.7	2007	19	472	24.8	13.97
1959	12	367	193	52.6	2899	32	581	18.2	16.6
1960	10	304	161	53.0	2757	24	781	32.5	14.9
Tot.	47	1298	697	53.7	10645	102	2599	25.5	14.6

#-Pct. of completions which went for touchdowns.

RECEIVER BREAKDOWN ON UNITAS' RECORD

	TDs Caught	Games	Yds on TDs	Avg. Yds.
Raymond Berry	38	27	913	24.0
Lenny Moore	27	21	958	35.5
Jim Mutscheller	25	21	641	25.6
Alan Ameche	4	4	23	5.8
L.G. Dupre	3	2	39	13.0
Alex Hawkins	3	3	8	2.7
Jerry Richardson	2	2	17	8.5
TOTALS	102	--	2599	25.5

LENGTH OF TD PLAYS

DURING STREAK

1- 9 yds	-	35
10-19 yds	-	20
20-29 yds	-	11
30-39 yds	-	10
40-49 yds	-	5
50-59 yds	-	9
60-69 yds	-	7
70-79 yds	-	3
80-89 yds	-	2

NO. TD PASSES

DURING STREAK

1956	-	3
1957	-	*24
1958	-	*19
1959	-	*32
1960	-	24

*-Led league; also led with 25 in 1960, including one vs S.F., D-18

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 5, No. 7 (1983)

Shortest: 1 yd, to Dupre, vs Bears, 10-18-59 1 TD Games 15
to Hawkins, vs Green Bay, 10-9-60 2 TD Games 16
to Hawkins, vs Green Bay, 11-6-60 3 TD Games 9
4 TD Games 7

Longest: 82 yds, to Moore, vs San Francisco, 12-8-57

JOHNNY UNITAS' RECORD 47-GAME STREAK

NO.	DATE	OPPONENT	AT	SCORE	ATT-COM	YDS	TDs	TD RECEIVER	YDS	QTR
1956										
1	D- 9	Los Angeles	A	7-31L	29-14	147	1	Mutscheller	3	2
2	D-16	San Francisco	A	17-30L	16-11	124	1	Berry	31	3
3	D-23	Washington	H	19-17W	18-10	161	1	Mutscheller	53	4
1957										
4	S-29	Detroit	H	34-14W	23-14	241	4	Mutscheller DuPre Berry DuPre	44 35 35 3	1 2 2 3
5	O- 5	Chicago Bears	H	21-10W	26-17	184	2	Mutscheller Ameche	8 9	3 4
6	O-13	Green Bay (at Milwaukee)	A	45-17W	17- 7	130	2	Mutscheller Mutscheller	12 29	1 4
7	O-20	Detroit	A	27-31L	21-16	239	4	Mutscheller Moore Mutscheller Moore	15 72 52 4	1 2 2 3
8	O-27	Green Bay	H	21-24L	31-16	188	2	Berry Moore	52 6	4 4
9	N- 3	Pittsburgh	H	13-19L	9- 3	56	1	Berry	5	1
10	N-10	Washington	A	21-17W	30-17	247	2	Berry Berry	67 11	1 2
11	N-17	Chicago Bears	A	29-14W	23-11	245	1	Mutscheller	66	1
12	N-24	San Francisco	H	27-21W	25-16	230	1	Ameche	6	4
13	D- 1	Los Angeles	H	31-14W	30-18	271	3	Moore Berry Moore	3 10 50	1 4 4
14	D- 8	San Francisco	A	13-17L	37-23	296	1	Moore	82	3
15	D-15	Los Angeles	A	21-37L	29-14	223	1	Moore	2	3
1958										
16	S-28	Detroit	H	28-15W	43-23	250	2	Berry Berry	26 14	2 4
17	O- 4	Chicago Bears	H	51-38W	23-10	198	4	Berry Moore Mutscheller Moore	12 77 2 33	1 1 3 4
18	O-12	Green Bay (at Milwaukee)	A	24-17W	35-16	238	1	Mutscheller	54	3
19	O-19	Detroit	A	40-14W	17-11	221	1	Mutscheller	37	4
20	O-26	Washington	H	35-10W	15- 8	183	2	Berry Berry	17 48	2 3
21	N- 2	Green Bay	H	56- 0W	16- 5	99	2	Moore Ameche	2 5	1 2
--	N- 9	New York	A	21-24L	Did not play due to					
--	N-16	Chicago Bears	A	17- 0W	cracked ribs & collapsed lung					

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 5, No. 7 (1983)

22	N-23	Los Angeles	H	34- 7W	18-12	218	2	Moore Mutscheller	58 12	1 4
23	N-30	San Francisco	H	35-27W	33-17	229	1	Berry	7	4
24	D- 6	Los Angeles	A	28-30L	38-23	214	3	Berry Moore Mutscheller	3 5 22	1 2 4
25	D-14	San Francisco	A	12-21L	25-11	157	1	Mutscheller	38	4

NFL Championship game, Dec. 28, 1958, vs. New York Giants at Yankee Stadium, Unitas: 40 atts., 26 com., 349 yds., 1 TD pass, to Berry, 15 yds., 2nd period. Baltimore won, 23-17 (overtime).

1959

26	S-27	Detroit	H	21- 9W	30-13	230	2	Berry Mutscheller	18 40	3 4
27	O- 3	Chicago Bears	H	21-26L	38-17	221	3	Berry Mutscheller Mutscheller	7 4 13	4 4 4
28	O-11	Detroit	A	31-24W	25-13	259	3	Moore Mutscheller Berry	68 39 53	1 2 4
29	O-18	Chicago Bears	A	21- 7W	30-16	233	2	Moore Dupre	25 1	4 4
30	O-25	Green Bay	H	39-21W	29-19	206	3	Berry Ameche Berry	8 3 2	3 3 3
31	N- 1	Cleveland	H	31-38L	41-23	397	4	Moore Richardson Berry Mutscheller	3 8 10 5	3 3 4 4
32	N- 8	Washington	A	24-27L	35-15	265	2	Mutscheller Mutscheller	19 4	3 4
33	N-15 (at Milwaukee)	Green Bay	A	28-24L	33-19	324	3	Berry Berry Mutscheller	7 13 24	2 2 4
34	N-22	San Francisco	H	45-14W	19-10	141	2	Berry Moore	21 3	2 3
35	N-29	Los Angeles	H	35-21W	24-14	242	2	Berry Moore	55 17	2 3
36	D- 5	San Francisco	A	34-14W	36-21	273	3	Berry Berry Moore	7 13 64	1 4 4
37	D-12	Los Angeles	A	45-26W	27-13	110	3	Berry Berry Richardson	7 11 9	2 3 4

NFL Championship game, Dec. 27, 1959, vs. New York Giants at Municipal Stadium, Unitas: 29 atts., 18 com., 264 yds., 2 TDs, to Moore, 59 yds., 1st period, to Richardson, 12 yds., 4th period. Baltimore won, 31-16.

1960

38	S-25	Washington	H	20- 0W	35-17	232	1	Berry	12	3
39	O- 2	Chicago Bears	H	42- 7W	27-14	307	4	Moore Berry Moore Mutscheller	66 27 18 43	1 2 2 3
40	O- 9	Green Bay	A	21-35L	31-16	216	1	Hawkins	1	4
41	O-16	Los Angeles	H	31-17W	23-12	176	1	Moore	22	4
42	O-23	Detroit	A	17-30L	40-20	253	2	Berry Mutscheller	22 3	2 2

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 5, No. 7 (1983)

43	O-30	Dallas	A	45- 7W	16- 8	270	4	Berry Berry Berry Moore	68 52 70 20	1 2 2 2
44	N- 6	Green Bay	H	38-24W	29-20	324	4	Berry Hawkins Berry Berry	45 1 21 16	1 1 2 4
45	N-13	Chicago Bears	A	24-20W	33-16	266	2	Moore Moore	36 39	2 4
46	N-26	San Francisco	H	22-30L	30-16	356	3	Berry Hawkins Moore	10 6 65	2 2 3
47	D- 4	Detroit	H	15-20L	40-22	357	2	Moore Moore	80 38	2 4
THE STREAK ENDED IN THIS GAME:										
--	D-11	Los Angeles	A	3-10L	38-17	182	0	-----	--	--