

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 8, NO. 10 (1986)

1945 DRAFT

Held April 8, 1945

Although the Boston and Brooklyn franchises merged for the 1945 season, at the time of the draft they still were independent franchises, and each selected separately. Neither gave up its rights to any players while the merger was in effect. Pittsburgh and the Chicago Cardinals which had been merged in 1944, alternately selected first, second, and third (with Brooklyn) for their last-place finish the previous season.

In 1944, the league had passed a special one-year rule allowing a handful of players who still had college eligibility to play one year in the NFL and then to be returned to the preferred negotiations list in 1945. This rule primarily was aimed at those players who were unable to play collegiately because their programs had dropped football, but also included some who had left school but then had been ineligible to serve in the Armed Forces. In 1945, three such players were selected after a year in the NFL: Paul Duhart (Pittsburgh, second round), Russ Lowther (Detroit, sixth round), and John Morelli (Boston, twenty-eighth round). One other player -- John Itzel (Pittsburgh, seventeenth round) -- was granted special permission to be selected and to play in 1945, returning to the preferred negotiations list in 1946.

BOSTON 1945

1. *Prokop, Eddie, B, Georgia Tech, 4
2. *Dean, Tom, T, SMU, 15
3. *Tassos, Damon, G, Texas A&M, 20
4. *Deeks, Don, T, Washington, 31
5. *Strzykalski, Johnny (Strike), B, Marquette, 36 +
6. *Mello, Jim, B, Notre Dame, 47
7. Silovich, Marty, C, Marquette, 58
8. *Jones, Ellis, G, Tulsa, 69
9. Lambert, Earl, B, Manhattan, 80
10. Kasprzak, Don, B, Dartmouth, 91
11. Jones, Ben, E, Arkansas, 102
12. *Coleman, Herb, C, Notre Dame, 113
13. Pezelski, Joe, B, Villanova, 124
14. DiGangi, John, T, Holy Cross, 135
15. Highsmith, Chan, C, North Carolina, 146
16. Costello, Mike, E, Georgetown (DC), 157
17. Dromgoole, Paul, E, Manhattan, 168
18. Czekala, Dolph, T, Syracuse, 179
19. Drumm, Joe, T, Georgetown (DC), 190
20. *Gianelli, Mario, T, Boston College, 201
21. Jamison, Eric, T, San Francisco, 212
22. Kretz, Walt, B, Cornell, 223
23. Grbovaz, Marty, E, San Francisco, 234 +
24. Gory, Ziggy, C, Villanova, 245
25. Iancelli, Bill, E, William & Mary, 256 +
26. Kull, Al, T, Fordham, 267
27. Mangene, Bob, B, Boston College, 278
28. *Morelli, John, G, Georgetown (DC), 289
29. Fisher, John, C, Harvard, 300
30. Oberto, Elmer, G, Georgetown (DC), 311

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2. Williams, Wayne, B, Minnesota, 13
3. Gray, Cecil, C, Oregon, 17
4. *Erich, Steve, G, Marquette, 30
5. *Kowalski, Al, QB, Tulsa, 34
6. *Barwegen, Dick, G, Purdue, 44
7. Futrell, Louie, B, Fresno State, 57
8. Dodds, John, G, California, 67

9. Johnson, Elting, B, Bucknell, 77
10. Cross, Roy, E, Tennessee, 90
11. Haury, Earl, T, Kansas State, 100
12. Martin, John, B, East Tennessee State, 110
13. McDonald, George, T, South Carolina, 123
14. Self, Hal, B, Alabama, 133
15. Reilly, Tom, G, Fordham, 143
16. Harrison, Skimp, E, South Carolina, 156
17. *Weinmeister, Arnie, E, Washington, 166
18. *Eikenberg, Virgil, B, Rice, 176
19. Kasulin, Al, B, Villanova, 189
20. Lively, Charley, T, Arkansas, 199
21. Curran, Ted, B, Iowa, 209
22. Fabling, Don, B, Colorado, 222
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24. Taddie, Jules, C, Rochester, 242
25. Whitney, Jerry, B, USC, 255
26. Trapani, Felix, G, LSU, 265
27. Finney, Hal, B, USC, 275
28. Fauble, Don, B, Oklahoma, 288
29. Studen, Nick, B, Denver, 298
30. Dykstra, LaMar, B, Colorado, 308

CHICAGO BEARS 1945

1. Lund, Don, B, Michigan, 7
3. Allen, Charley, B, SMU, 22
5. *Masterson, Forest, C, Iowa, 40
6. Shaw, Wayne, B, SMU, 50
7. *Burgeis, Glen, T, Tulsa, 60
8. O'Brien, Pat, T, Purdue, 73
9. Mayther, Bill, C, Oregon, 83
10. Poe, Bill, B, Clemson, 93
11. Avery, Chuck, B, Minnesota, 106
12. Boyd, Jack, B, UCLA, 116
13. Ellsworth, Ralph, B, Texas, 126
14. *Mattioli, Frank, G, Pittsburgh, 139
15. Gibson, Merle, E, TCU, 149
16. Creevey, John, B, Notre Dame, 159
17. *Sacrinty, Nick, B, Wake Forest, 172
18. *Keane, Jim, E, Iowa, 182
19. *Niedziela, Bruno, T, Iowa, 192
20. Williams, Broughton, E, Florida, 205
21. *Stickel, Walt, T, Penn, 215
22. *Livingston, Bob, B, Notre Dame, 225
23. Vargon, Mike, E, Kansas State, 238
24. Wright, Charley, G, Iowa State, 248
25. Green, Jack, G, Alabama, 258
26. *Gambino, Lu, B, Maryland, 271
27. Jones, Ray, B, Texas, 281
28. Hary, Bob, B, Minnesota, 291
29. *Forkovich, Nick, B, William & Mary, 304
30. Robinson, Don, B, Michigan, 314
31. Johnston, Wayne (Rusty), B, Marquette, 319
32. *Groves, George, C, Marquette, 327

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1. *Trippi, Charley, B, Georgia, 1
2. *Collins, Paul, B, Missouri, 14
3. *Watt, Walt, B, Miami, 18
4. *Dobelstein, Bob, G Tennessee, 28
5. Chronister, Zeke, E, TCU, 35
6. *Clatt, Corwin, B, Notre Dame, 45
7. *Czarobski, Ziggy, T, Notre Dame, 55
8. *Harrington, John, E, Marquette, 68
9. Meeks, Gene, B, Kentucky, 78
10. Huber, Bill, E, Notre Dame, 88
11. Heard, Halley, T, LSU, 101

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12. *Cowan, Bob, B, Indiana, 111
13. Luper, Elmore (Buddy), B, Duke, 121
14. *Barnett, Solon (Bobo), G, Baylor, 134
15. Carver, Gordon, B, Duke, 144
16. *Cannady, John, B, Indiana, 154 +
17. Cittadino, Ben, E, Duke, 167
18. Strayhorn, Ralph, G, North Carolina, 177
19. Andretich, John, B, Purdue, 187
20. *Kramer, John, T, Marquette, 200
21. Cheek, J.D. (Red), G, Baylor, 210 +
22. Grant, Fred, B, Wake Forest, 220
23. Cook, Johnny, B, Georgia, 233 +
24. McClure, Ardie, T, Georgia, 243
25. Norige, Hugo, B, Wooster, 253
26. Knight, Gene (Red), B, LSU, 266 +
27. Fambrough, Don, B, Texas, 276
28. Williams, Garland (Bulldog), T, Duke, 286
29. Dusek, Ed, B, Texas A&M, 299
30. Payne, Otto, B, Texas A&M, 309

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2. *Lazetich, Milan, T, Michigan, 16
3. Wooten, W.G. (Dub), E, Oklahoma, 21
4. *Zilly, Jack, E, Notre Dame, 32
5. *Harding, Roger, C, California, 37
6. *Cowhig, Jerry, B, Notre Dame, 48
7. *Negus, Fred, C, Wisconsin, 59
8. August, Johnny, B, Alabama, 70
9. *Huffman, Dick, T, Tennessee, 81
10. Walters, Vern, B, Alma, 92
11. *Fears, Tom, E, UCLA, 103
12. *Winkler, Joe, C, Purdue, 114
13. Aland, Jack, T, Alabama, 125
14. Uknes, Chuck, B, Iowa, 136
15. *Lund, Bill, B, Case Western Reserve, 147 +
16. Barton, Bob, E, Holy Cross, 158
17. *Hoerner, Dick, B, Iowa, 169
18. Kennon, Lee, T, Oklahoma, 180
19. Matulich, Eagle, B, Mississippi State, 191
20. Griffin, Bill, T, Kentucky, 202
21. Erickson, Leroy, B, Oregon, 213
22. *Evans, Ray, T, Texas-El Paso, 224 +
23. *Higgins, Luke, T, Notre Dame, 235
24. Nowak, Stan, E, South Carolina, 246
25. Konopka, Gene, G, Villanova, 257
26. Florek, Ray, B, Illinois, 268
27. Perry, Russ, B, Wake Forest, 279
28. *West, Pat, B, USC, 290
29. Davis, Bill, B, Oregon, 301
30. Compton, Charley, T, Alabama, 312

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1. *Szymanski, Frank, C, Notre Dame, 6
3. Mohrbacher, Stan, G, Iowa, 24
5. *Wiese, Bob, B, Michigan, 39
6. *Fekete, Gene, B, Ohio State, 49
7. *Jarmoluk, Mike, T, Temple, 62
8. *Lowther, Russ, B, Detroit, 72
9. Joop, Les, T, Illinois, 82
10. *Walker, Paul, E, Yale, 95
11. Hansen, Howie, T, Utah State, 105
12. *Kasap, Mike, T, Illinois, 115
13. Hopp, Wally, B, Nebraska, 128
14. Trickey, Ben, B, Iowa, 138
15. *Williams, Windell, E, Rice, 148
16. Flanigan, Wayne, E, Denver, 161

17. Key, O.J., B, Tulane, 171
18. McWhorter, Jim, B, Alabama, 181
19. *LeForce, Clyde, B, Tulsa, 194
20. Castronis, Mike, G, Georgia, 204
21. Currier, Ken, G, Wisconsin, 214
22. Verutti, Jack, B, St, Mary's (CA), 227
23. Olsen, Ray, B, Tulane, 237
24. *Morrow, Russ, C Tennessee, 247
25. Green, Stan, T, Oklahoma, 260
26. *Ivory, Bob, G, Detroit, 270
27. Taylor, Dell, B, Tulsa, 280
28. Ciesla, Len, B, Creighton, 293
29. Lopp, Frank, T, Wisconsin, 303
30. Limont, Paul, E, Notre Dame, 313
31. Schadler, Ben, B, Northwestern, 321 +
32. Dorais, Tom, B, Detroit, 326

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3. *Goodnight, Clyde, E, Tulsa, 27
5. Graham, Joe, E, Florida, 43
6. *Wells, Don, T, Georgia, 54
7. Stephenson, Casey, B, Tennessee, 65
8. Collins, Toby, T, Tulsa, 76
9. Dingler, Lamar, E, Arkansas, 87
10. Helscher, Hal, B, LSU, 98
11. Hammond, Ralph, C, Pittsburgh, 109
12. Podgorski, Ed, T, Lafayette, 120
13. Hackett, Bill, G, Ohio State, 131
14. Lindsey, Marv, B, Arkansas, 142
15. *McClure, Robert (Buster), T, Nevada-Reno, 153 +
16. Pieper, Harry, C, California, 164
17. Kula, Bob, B, Minnesota, 175
18. Hazard, Frank, G, Nebraska, 186
19. *Jeffers, Ed, T, Oklahoma State, 197
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21. Fuller, Warren, E, Fordham, 219
22. Neilsen, Fred, T, St. Mary's (CA), 230
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29. Evans, Jim, E, Idaho, 307
30. *Nichols, Ham, G, Rice, 318
31. Priday, John, B, Ohio State, 324
32. Aldridge, Billy Joe, B, Oklahoma State, 330

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3. Appleby, Gordon, C, Ohio State, 26
5. Castleberry, Ed, B, West Texas State, 42
6. *Poole, Barney, E, Mississippi, Army, 53
7. *Mead, Jack, E, Wisconsin, 64
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30. Wolf, Joe, C, USC, 317
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10. Sardonis, Joe, T, Fordham, 96
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12. Newmeyer, Jim, T, St. Vincent, 118
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14. Duda, John, B, Virginia, 140 +
15. *Montgomery, Bill, B, LSU, 151
16. Werner, Howard, E, Syracuse, 162
17. Austin, Jim, B, Missouri, 173
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19. *Spencer, Joe, T, Oklahoma State, 195
20. Pratt, Leo, T, Oklahoma State, 206
21. Teschner, Phil, T, Brown, 217
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24. Brown, Blair, G, Oklahoma State, 250
25. Hall, Bob, E, Stanford, 261
26. *Talcott, Don, T, Nevada-Reno, 272
27. Thompson, Bill, T, New Mexico, 283
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29. Benjamin, Leo, C, West Virginia, 305
30. Dougherty, Jim, B, Miami (OH), 316
31. *Reese, Ken, B, Alabama, 322
32. Braner, Loren, C, Pittsburgh, 328

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1. *Duhart, Paul, B, Florida, 2
2. *Dugger, Jack, E, Ohio State, 12
3. Dellastatious, Bill, B, Missouri, 19 +
4. Adams, Roger, C, Florida, 29 +
5. *Mehelich, Chuck, E, Duquesne, 33
6. *Browning, Greg, E, Denver, 46
7. Wolak, Mike, B, Duquesne, 56
8. Hughes, Tom, T, Missouri, 66
9. *Pense, Leon, B, Arkansas, 79
10. *Brandau, Art, C, Tennessee, 89
11. Ball, Ray, B, Holy Cross, 99
12. Basilone, Frank, B, Duquesne, 112
13. Monahan, John, E, Dartmouth, 122
14. *Odelli, Mel, B, Duquesne, 132
15. *Connor, George, T, Notre Dame, 145 +
16. Ungles, Jim, B, Kansas State, 155
17. *Itzel, John, B, Pittsburgh, 165
18. *Wizbicki, Alex, B, Holy Cross, 178
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21. Price, Art, B, Rutgers, 211
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28. Marsh, Jim, T, Oklahoma State, 287
29. Grant, Ralph, B, Bucknell, 297 +
30. *Kondrla, John, T, St. Vincent, 310

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1. *Hardy, Jim, QB, USC, 8
3. *Adams, John (Tree), T, Notre Dame, 23
5. Bujan, George, C Oregon, 38
6. *North, Johnny, E, Vanderbilt, 51
7. *Steber, John, G, Georgia Tech, 61
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10. Brogger, Frank, E, Michigan State, 94
11. Creger, Mack, B, Northwestern, 104
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14. Putnik, John, E, Utah State, 137
15. *Saenz, Eddie, B, USC, 150
16. Fusci, Dom, T, South Carolina, 160
17. Jenkins, Bobby Tom, B, Alabama, 170
18. *Stacco, Ed, T, Colgate, 183 +
19. Bradshaw, Jim, C, Auburn, 193
20. Shipkey, Bill, B, Stanford, 203
21. Halliday, Sid, T, SMU, 216
22. Davidson, Chick, T, Cornell, 226 +
23. Martin, Gabby, E, SMU, 236
24. McCurdy, Jim, C, Stanford, 249
25. *Souders, Cecil (Cy), E, Ohio State, 259
26. Wall, Ben, B, Western Michigan, 269 +
27. Hillery, George, E, Texas-El Paso, 282
28. Dreblow, Milford, B, USC, 292
29. Irwin, Frank, T, Duke, 302 +
30. Diner, Leon, E, Denver, 315
31. Cummings, Bob, C, Vanderbilt, 320
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