

## MINI-BIOS: The Other Dream Backfielders

By Bob Carroll

### ELMER ANGSMAN

Elmer Joseph, Jr.  
HB 5-11 205  
Notre Dame 1943-45  
Born: 12/11/25 Chicago, IL

Although Angsman was the leading rusher for Notre Dame in 1945 with 616 yards and seven touchdowns, the stumpy, hard- running Chicagoan wasn't originally considered part of the Cardinal's "Dream Backfield" because he lacked the All-America credits of Trippi, Christman, Harder and Goldberg. Nevertheless, his average gain per rush topped the NFL in his rookie year. By 1947 he had supplanted Goldberg on offense. His greatest game was the 1947 NFL Championship against the Eagles. Twice he bolted through the line and raced down the frozen Comiskey Park turf for 70-yard touchdowns, as Chicago won 28-21.

In 1949, while the Cardinals slipped into mediocrity, Angsman had perhaps his best year, rushing for a career-high 674 yards, scoring six touchdaowns, and being named to the second squad of most All-NFL teams. The next year, he was the the starting right halfback for the east in the first NFL Pro Bowl.

YEAR	TEAM	LG	GM	RUSHING				RECEIVING			
				ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	PC	YDS	AVG	TD
1946	ChiC	N	11	48	328	*6.8	2	2	44	22.0	0
1947	ChiC	N	12	110	412	3.7	7	5	138	27.6	1
1948	ChiC	N	12	131	638	4.9	8	9	142	15.8	1
1949	ChiC	N	12	125	674	5.4	6	5	57	11.4	0
1950	ChiC	N	12	102	362	3.5	1	7	56	8.0	1
1951	ChiC	N	12	121	380	3.1	3	9	195	21.7	1
1952	ChiC	N	10	46	114	2.5	0	4	22	5.5	1
7 years			81	683	2908	4.3	27	41	654	16.0	5

### PAT HARDER

Marlin M.  
FB 5-11 205  
Wisconsin 1941-42  
Born: 5/6/22 Milwaukee, WI

Pat Harder was the NFL's first great fullback after World War II. He was named All-NFL from 1947 through 1949. A punishing blocker, powerful line smasher, and outstanding place kicker, Harder led the NFL in scoring three times, setting a record in becoming the first player to score 100 or more points in three consecutive seasons (1947-49). His 53 extra points without a miss in 1948, and his nine extra points in one game on October 17, 1948, also established records. After contributing heavily to the Chicago Cardinal's NFL Champions of 1947 and division winners of 1948, Harder moved to Detroit in 1951, where he helped the Lions win championships in 1952-53.

Harder won All-America honors at the University of Wisconsin in 1942, but, after spending the next three years in military service, decided to forgo the remainder of his college eligibility to join the Cardinals. He served as an NFL field umpire from 1965 to 1982.

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YEAR	TEAM	L	GM	RUSHING				RECEIVING				SCORING		
				ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	PC	YDS	AVG	T	XP	FG	PTS
1946	ChiC	N	11	106	545	5.1	4	11	128	11.6	1	5	0	35
1947	ChiC	N	12	113	371	3.3	7	9	78	8.6	0	39	*7	*102
1948	ChiC	N	12	126	554	4.4	6	13	93	7.2	0	*53	7	*110
1949	ChiC	N	11	106	447	4.2	7	12	100	8.3	1	*45	3	*102
1950	ChiC	N	12	99	454	4.6	1	15	111	7.4	0	22	4	40
1951	Det	N	12	101	380	3.8	6	17	193	11.4	2	0	3	57
1952	Det	N	11	81	244	3.0	2	14	142	10.1	1	34	11	85
1953	Det	N	5	8	21	2.6	0	1	19	19.0	0	-	-	0
8 years			86	740	3016	4.1	33	92	864	9.4	5	198	35	531

\* - Led NFL

## PAUL CHRISTMAN Paul Joseph (Pitchin' Paul)

**QB** 6-2 200  
Missouri 1938-40  
Born: 3/5/18 St. Louis, MO - 3/2/70 (Age 51)

"Pitchin' Paul" Christman was the quarterback of the Chicago Cardinals post-World War II "Dream Backfield." A self-confident star, Christman was named All-America at the University of Missouri in both 1939 and '40, where he was a triple-threat tailback. The 1939 Tigers went 8-1 in the regular season and were chosen to play in the Orange Bowl, where they lost to Georgia Tech, 21-7.

Drafted on the second round by the Cardinals in 1941, he spent four years in the Navy before joining them early in the 1945 season. Although his passing statistics pale by comparison with modern throwers, he ranked only behind Sammy Baugh and Sid Luckman in the NFL during the 1945-47. In 1947, he took the Cards to the NFL championship. Injuries eventually wore him down, and he finished his career with Green Bay in 1950.

Christman later became an excellent TV "color man," teaming with veteran broadcaster Curt Gowdy. He brought a depth of knowledge and a sense of humor that set the standard for those who followed.

YEAR	TEAM	LG	GM	PASSING							
				ATT	COM	PCT.	YARD	AvgG	TD	IN	RATE
1945	ChiC	N	8	*219	89	40.6	1147	5.24	5	12	42.5
1946	ChiC	N	11	229	100	43.7	1656	7.23	13	18	54.7
1947	ChiC	N	12	301	138	45.8	2191	7.28	17	22	64.3
1948	ChiC	N	7	114	51	44.7	740	6.49	5	4	66.5
1949	ChiC	N	12	151	75	49.7	1015	6.72	11	13	60.0
1950	GB	N	11	126	51	40.5	545	4.33	7	7	49.2
6 Years			61	1140	504	44.2	7294	6.40	58	76	54.7

\* - Led NFL

## BIGGIE GOLDBERG

**Marshall**  
**HB-FB-DB** 5-11 190  
Pittsburgh 1936-38  
Born: 10/24/17 Elkins, WV

An unselfish star, Goldberg sacrificed personal headlines for team wins. Nicknamed "Biggie" because he weighed only 110 pounds as a high school sophomore, Goldberg was a solid 185 in 1936 when he became regular tailback for the University of Pittsburgh. In his first game, he rushed for 208 yards on 15 carries. He gained 886 yards as a sophomore and 701 for a 6.1 average as a junior when he was a unanimous All-America. In 1938, Pitt had other good tailbacks but no fullback. Biggie volunteered to switch to full where he would primarily block for others. His statistics slipped, but he scored several key touchdowns and was again a unanimous All-America.

Before serving three years in the Navy during World War II, Goldberg was an all-purpose tailback for the weak Chicago Cardinals. The Cards built a strong team after the war, and Goldberg was penciled in as part of what was termed "The Dream Backfield" with three other former All-Americans. But the team

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needed his defense more and Biggie once more went where he was needed. His work as a defensive back helped the Cardinals win the NFL Championship in 1947 and the Western Division title in '48.

YEAR	TEAM	LG	GM	RUSHING				RECEIVING			
				ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	PC	YDS	AVG	TD
1939	ChiC	N	9	56	152	2.7	2	5	90	18.0	1
1940	ChiC	N	11	87	325	3.7	2	2	29	14.5	1
1941	ChiC	N	11	117	427	3.6	3	16	313	19.6	1
1942	ChiC	N	11	116	369	3.2	1	9	108	12.0	0
1943	ChiC	N	2	6	6	1.0	0	4	31	7.8	1
1944									Military Service		
1945									Military Service		
1946	ChiC	N	11	43	210	4.9	3	17	152	8.9	1
1947	ChiC	N	12	51	155	3.0	0	7	52	7.4	0
1948	ChiC	N	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Years			78	476	1644	3.5	11	60	775	12.9	5