

HUNCHY

by Mark Latterman

Bob "Hunchy" Hoernschemeyer was a key member of the great Detroit Lions teams of the early 1950's.

Hunchy first demonstrated his tremendous versatility as a 17-year-old freshman for Bo McMillin's wartime Indiana team by leading the Big Nine in total offense, breaking records previously set by Tom Harmon and Otto Graham. After a stint in the Navy, he joined the old All America Football Conference and played singleging tailback for the Chicago Rockets and Brooklyn Dodgers. An excellent runner and quality passer, he even did some kicking during his stay in the AAFC.

In 1950, the AAFC was absorbed by the NFL. A number of "other league" stars were available to NFL teams. Hoernschemeyer's old college coach, Bo McMillin was putting together the nucleus of the Lions' championship teams of the era. In addition to Hunchy, the roster included Leon Hart, Cloyce Box, and Les Bingaman. The great Lions' backfield had Hoernschemeyer, Bobby Layne, Doak Walker, and Pat Harder. It was a versatile group, with each member excelling at several skills.

Among Hunchy's contributions was his ability to pass from his halfback position. During his six seasons in the Lions' backfield, he connected for ten touchdowns on only 26 pass attempts. As the first effective option passer from the T-formation, he paved the way for Frank Gifford and Paul Hornung.

Hoernschemeyer led Detroit in rushing from 1950 thru 1954, and was particularly noted for his dependability on third down. But "the best third-down back in football" was more than a plugger. In 1950, he broke off a 96-yard touchdown run against the New York Yanks that still ranks as the third longest in NFL history. The next year, he rambled for 85 yards and a TD against Green Bay.

ROBERT J. "HUNCHY" HOERNSCHEMEYER

5-11 192 Indiana

Born: September 24, 1925, at Cincinnati, OH

Died: June 17, 1980, at Detroit, MI

YEAR	TEAM	LG	RUSHING				RECEIVING			
			ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	PC	YDS	AVG	TD
1946	Chi	AA	111	375	3.4	0	1	11	11.0	0
1947	Ch-Br	AA	152	704	4.6	5	1	4	4.0	1
1948	Brk	AA	110	574	5.2	3	11	173	15.7	3
1949	Chi	AA	*133	456	3.4	2	-	-	-	-
1950	Det	N	84	471	5.6	1	8	78	9.8	1
1951	Det	N	132	678	5.1	2	23	263	11.4	3
1952	Det	N	106	457	4.3	4	17	139	8.2	0
1953	Det	N	101	482	4.8	7	23	282	12.3	2
1954	Det	N	94	242	2.6	2	20	153	7.7	1
1955	Det	N	36	109	3.0	1	5	36	7.2	0
10 years			1059	4548	4.3	27	109	1129	10.4	11

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YEAR	TEAM	LG	GM	PASSING					SCOR	
				ATT	COM	YDS	TD	IN	PTS	
1946	Chi	AA	14	193	95	1266	14	14	0	
1947	Ch-Br	AA	14	173	73	926	4	11	36	
1948	Brk	AA	14	155	71	854	8	15	42	
1949	Chi	AA	12	167	69	1063	6	11	12	
1950	Det	N	10	4	1	19	1	1	12	
1951	Det	N	11	4	2	46	2	0	30	
1952	Det	N	10	4	2	14	2	1	24	
1953	Det	N	12	5	2	16	1	1	54	
1954	Det	N	11	7	3	81	3	1	18	
1955	Det	N	5	2	1	17	1	1	6	
10 years			113	714	319	4302	42	56	234	

ALL-NFL - 1952 & 1953 New York News, First Team