

# JACK PARDEE -- SURVIVOR

By Mark Speck

Jack Pardee is a survivor.

He survived what he called a "hardscrabble" life growing up in Texas. He survived Bear Bryant's legendarily tough program at Texas A & M to become an All-American at Linebacker and Fullback. He survived at a relatively small size to star at linebacker in the NFL for 15 years. He survived cancer surgery in 1965 to return to football. He survived a hellish first year coaching the Florida Blazers to the championship gain of the WFL.

And he has thrived. In college, he was an All-American and Academic All-American and was good enough to be named to several Halls of Fame.

As a pro linebacker, he was the quintessential "coach on the field", using his smarts and toughness to compensate for a lack of size to have a long, productive career.

After a year as an assistant with the Redskins, he took over as head coach of the WFL's Florida Blazers in 1974 and took a team that had missed who knows how many paychecks to the league title game.

"I heard stories and I couldn't believe one man could inspire that kind of respect," said Doug Buffone, who would play for Pardee with the Bears, "then I met Jack and I believed. The man is a master motivator."

Many of his players echoed the same sentiments over the years, and that was reflected in the results. He led the Bears to the playoffs in 1977 and was named NFC Coach of the Year. He repeated the honor with the Redskins in 1979. He led the Houston Gamblers of the USFL to the playoffs in both his seasons there. Joining the Oilers in 1990, he piloted Houston to four straight playoff appearances and their first AFC Central Division title in 1991.

Jack Pardee has survived. He has survived Bear Bryant, fifteen years in the NFL, cancer, and the wild and crazy WFL, a league that could have driven any man from the game. But a man like Jack Pardee could only see the positives of his experiences in the Wiffle.

"At least," he joked after being hired by the Bears, "I won't have to worry about the cleaner coming to repossess our uniforms at halftime."

## Jack Pardee

Pardee, John Perry

LB 6'2 225

College: Texas A&M

High School: Cristoval [TX]

Born: April 19, 1936, Exira, IA

Drafted: 1957 Round 2 Los Angeles Rams

Year	Team	Gm	INTERCEPTIONS			
			INT	YDS	TD	Fum
1957	LARm	12	0	0	0	0
1958	LARm	12	0	0	0	0
1959	LARm	12	0	0	0	1
1960	LARm	8	1	10	0	0
1961	LARm	13	1	2	0	0
1962	LARm	14	0	0	0	0

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1963	LARm	14	2	5	0	0
1964	LARm	14	1	32	0	0
1966	LARm	14	2	0	0	0
1967	LARm	14	6	95	2	0
1968	LARm	14	2	75	2	0
1969	LARm	14	1	19	0	0
1970	LARm	14	1	9	0	0
1971	Was	14	5	58	1	0
1972	Was	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		196	22	305	5	1