

MERCER TOP MARINE POINT-SCORER

By John Gunn

Mike Mercer got quite a kick out of pro football.

Elroy "Crazylegs" Hirsch scored 396 points as a pro, Ernie Nevers, 301 points. But they weren't the Marines that scored the most points in the NFL, All-America Conference or 1960s' AFL.

It was Mike Mercer, who kicked 102 field goals and 288 extra points for the Vikings, Raiders, Chiefs, Bills, Packers and Chargers from 1961-70.

Hirsch played for Wisconsin and Michigan (plus Lejeune in 1944), but Mercer attended Minnesota, Florida State, Hardin-Simmons and Northern Arizona. He played for the 5th Marines at Camp Pendleton in 1957.

[see correction below]

Seven others scored at least 200 points: Jim Mutscheller, Pat Harder, Ray Poole, MacArthur Lane, Hugh Gallarneau, Joe Geri (Lejeune 1944) and Bob Schnelker. And with four 2001 touchdowns, Mike Anderson of Denver moved up to 114 points.

Those who scored 60 or more points included:

Mike Mercer K, 119 G, Minnesota 1961-62, Raiders 1963-66, Kansas City 1966, Buffalo 1967-68, Green Bay 1968-69, San Diego 1970, 102 FGs, 288 XP, 594 points

Elroy "Crazylegs" Hirsch RB-E, 127 G, Rockets 1946-48, Rams 1949-57, 66 TDs, 396 points

Ernie Nevers FB, 54 G, Duluth Eskimos 1926-27, Cardinals 1929-31, 38 TDs, 7 FG, 52 XP, 301 points

Jim Mutscheller E, 95 G, Baltimore 1954-61, 40 TDs, 240 points

Pat Harder FB, 86 G, Cardinals 1946-50, Detroit 1951-53, 38 TDs, 228 points

Ray Poole E-K, 71 G, Giants 1947-52, 9 TDs, 27 FG, 86 XP, 1 safety, 223 points

MacArthur Lane RB, 133 G, Cardinals 1968-71, Green Bay 1972-74, Kansas City 1975-78, 37 TDs, 222 points

Hugh Gallarneau RB, 52 G, Bears 1941, '45-47, 35 TDs, 210 points

Joe Geri TB-HB, 48 G, Pittsburgh 1949-51, Cardinals 1952, 12 TDs, 18 FGs, 78 PATs, 204 points

Bob Schnelker E, 105 G, Philadelphia 1953, Giants 1954-60, Minnesota 1961, Pittsburgh 1961, 34 TDs, 204 points

Julie Rykovich HB, 83 G, Buffalo 1947-48, Rockets 1948, Bears 1949-51, Washington 1952-53, 32 TDs, 1 XP, 193 points (Lejeune 1944)

Cloyce Box E-HB, 57 G Detroit 1949-50, '52-54, 32 TDs, 192 points

Cliff Battles FB-TB-WB, 60 G Boston 1932-36, Washington 1937, 31 TDs, 1 PAT, 1 FG, 190 points

Essex Johnson RB, 112 G, Cincinnati 1968-75, Tampa Bay 1976, 31 TDs, 186 points

Jacque MacKinnon FB-TE, 118 G, Chargers 1961-69, Raiders 1970, 22 TDs, 2 XP, 134 points

Joe Scott HB-E-KR, 51 G, Giants 1948-53, 22 TDs, 132 points

Lafayette "Dolly" King E, 50 G, Buffalo 1946-47, Rockets 1948, Hornets 1949, 20 TDs, 120 points

Mike Anderson RB, Denver 2000-01, 19 TDs, 114 points

Herb Travenio K, 17 G, San Diego 1964-65, 20 FG, 50 XP, 110 points

Joe Arenas HB-KR, 84 G, San Francisco 1951-57, 18 TDs, 108 points

Rob Goode FB-HB, 59 G, Washington 1949-51, '54-55, Philadelphia 1955, 18 TDs, 108 points

Ken MacAfee E, 63 G, Giants 1954-58, Philadelphia 1959, Washington 1959, 18 TDs, 108 points

Volney "Skeets" Quinlan HB-KR, 49 G, Rams 1952-56, Cleveland 1956, 16 TDs, 96 points

Ed Brown QB, 154 G, Bears 1954-61, Pittsburgh 1962-65, Baltimore 1965, 15 TDs, 1 FG, 1 PAT, 94 points

Al Carmichael HB, 84 G, Green Bay 1953-58, Denver 1960-61, 14 TDs, 84 points

Chuck Fenenbock TB-HB-WB, 61 G, Detroit 1943, '45; Dons 1946-48, Rockets 1948, 14 TDs, 84 points

Ralph Heywood E, 58 G, Rockets 1946, Detroit 1947-48, Boston 1948, Bulldogs 1949, 13 TDs, 78 points

Chuck Malone E, 84 G, Boston 1934-36, Washington 1937-40, '42, 13 TDs, 78 points (Lejeune player-assistant 1944)

Leo Elter FB-HB, 73 G, Pittsburgh 1953-54, Washington 1955-57, Pittsburgh 1958-59, 11 TDs, 66 points

Brad Hubbert RB, 38 G, Atlanta 1967-70, 11 TDs, 66 points

Jim Musick FB, 33 G, Boston 1932-33, '35-36, 8 TDs, 1 FG, 14 XP, 65 points

Charlie Conerly QB, 161 G, Giants 1948-61, 10 TDs, 4 PATs, 64 points

Erich Barnes DB-KR, 177 G, Bears 1958-60, Giants 1961-64, Cleveland 1965-71, 10 TDs, 60 points

Eddie LeBaron QB, 134 G, Washington 1952-53, '55-59; Dallas 1960-63, 60 points, 9 TDs, 6 XP, 60 points

Correction:

In our third issue this year, John Gunn had an article about ex-marines who'd scored beaucoup points in the NFL. Mike Mercer was number one followed by Elroy Hirsch.

However, the recent death of kicker-linebacker Jim Martin reminded John that Martin had been inadvertently omitted and his 434 points actually placed him second.