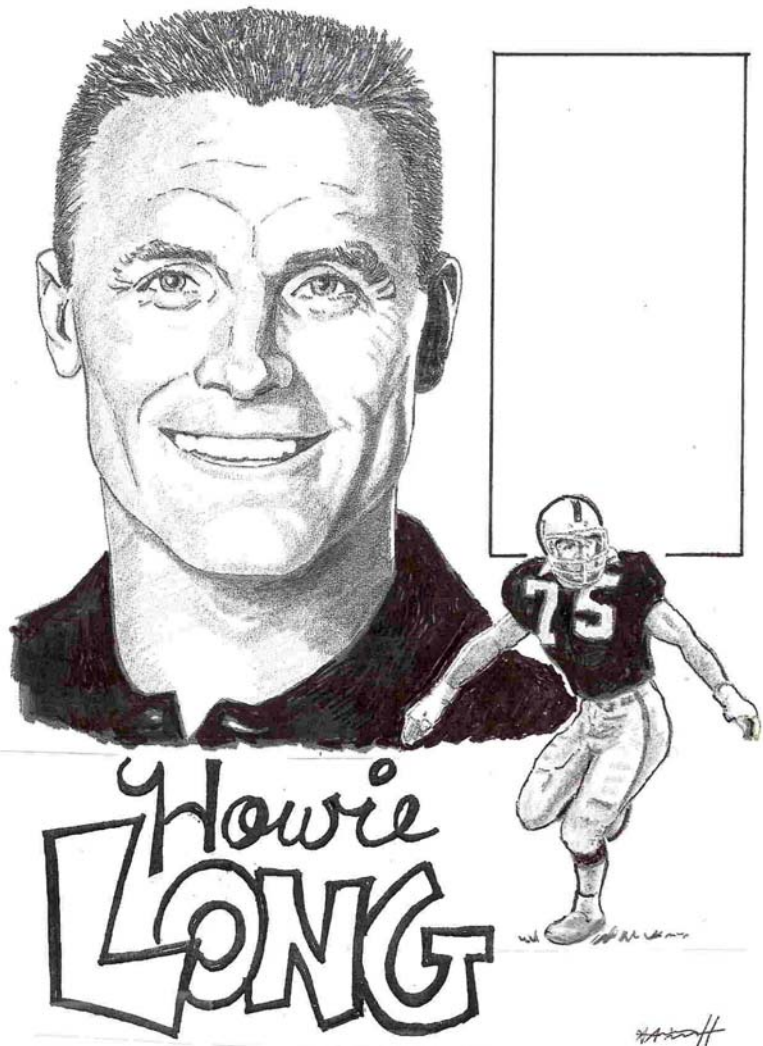


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PFRA-ternizing

While you're surfing, a former PFRA member has opened an interesting website – www.profootballarchives.com/index.html/ It lists by team every game ever played in the NFL, AFL, or AAFC, with the date, score, location, and for the most part attendance. It also has most of that information for most of the exhib – oops – pre-season games ever.

Before you say all that is available other places, let me tell you the part of this site that interests me and then ask you for a **big favor**.

The first part of The Pro Football Archives site is devoted to pre-NFL years – 1910-19. This includes major teams like the 1917 Canton Bulldogs and 1914 Evanston North Ends as well as semi-pros like the 1912 Beloit Iroquois A.C. and the 1916 Hartford City A.A. Many of the major teams are nearly complete, but the little teams that you never heard of have lots of blanks.

A surprising number of cancellations took place in those days, but that doesn't explain the listed games without scores or sites or the astounding number of Sunday afternoons with seemingly no games scheduled.

Frankly, my guess is that most of those little teams had fewer pros than a vote to cut senator's salaries. I'm betting that often eleven local kids got together to serve as dead meat for an established team. In that case, the whole of the team's existence may be that single, one-sided loss.

Nevertheless, the only way we can know for sure is if someone goes and looks.

Now here's the big favor. Look at the yearly team lists for 1910-19 on the site and see if there were teams listed from your town or nearby towns. If you find one or more, see what's missing. Are there large blank spots in the schedule? For example, is there a score from early October and then not another until

mid-November? Is the stadium (or cow field) unknown? Is a score missing?

Now go to your local library (or wherever microfilm of your local newspaper is kept) and start checking game accounts. The best place to start looking for game accounts (or even score listings) once you've settled on a year is the first couple of Mondays in October. Don't forget Thanksgiving Day games.

See how many of the blanks – date, site, opponents, score, attendance – you can fill in. If you find line-ups, copy them down too. There's a place on the site where you can e-mail info to the site's master, but if you're leery of mailing to a stranger, send them to me. I'll pass them on and also send your discoveries to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

And if you end up getting a Coffin Corner article out of it, that's not a bad thing.

--- Bob

THE COFFIN CORNER

Vol. 29, No. 5 (2007)

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REPLACEMENT LEGENDS OF THE FALL

by Mark L. Ford

It's been twenty years since the 1987 NFL strike. The NFLPA went out on strike at midnight on September 22. After the following weekend's games were cancelled, management returned with substitutes. No review of those games would be complete without recalling the nicknames that were bestowed upon the replacement teams by various sportswriters, not all of them clever. A footnote leads to the witty columnist in each case, with Atlanta's Glenn Sheeley leading the way.

Atlanta Fill-Ins ⁽¹⁾

AKA: Atlanta Fallguys

*Quarterback Jeff Van Raaphorst was the son of AFL kicker Dick Van Raaphorst. The four sacks by defensive end Buddy Moor, in three games, were more than any regular player had the other 12.

*The Falcons played all three of their games at home and attracted a total of 41,164 fans, an average of 13,721 per game. Few fans; only one regular crossed the picket line.

*Their 1-2 record during the strike was part of a 3-13 season.

*The defense allowed 24 points per game, which was not as many as the 30 per game allowed by the regular Falcons, who had the NFL's worst defense in 1987.

Buffalo Counterfeit Bills ⁽²⁾

AKA: 3-Dollar Bills, Buffalo Pills

Featuring: Glen Campbell, an offensive lineman, yes ... but not a Wichita lineman

*They scored only 19 points in 3 games, including a 6-3 overtime win, where substitute Todd Schlopy save the day.

*With fifty-six replacements, they were second only to the Vikings.

*Many of the players were Division III standouts from C.W. Post, Liberty, William Penn, Canisius, and Elon, including Johnny Shepherd (Livingston)

Chicago Spare Bears ⁽³⁾

AKA: The Impostors of the Midway, Bearlys, Chicago Bares

Featuring: Quarterback Sean Payton, who later coached the New Orleans Saints and lost the NFC title game to the Bears; Sean McInerney, defensive end from the Arena League's Washington Commandos, who participated in 7 quarterback sacks; Running back Eddie Phillips, a U.P.S. employee and an assistant coach at Simeon High School; Todd Black, receiver and assistant coach at Oak Park High; and Mike Hohensee, former CFL, USFL and Arena quarterback, and a bartender when he was called up.

*Defensive end Steve Trimble was the last Bear to wear #40 and center Mark Rodenhauser the last to

have #51. Those numbers were retired in honor of Gale Sayers and Dick Butkus, respectively.

*Rodenhauser, from the River Grove Cowboys of Chicago's semi-pro Metro League, stayed on after the strike and went on to an NFL career with five teams.

*Fifty players with no NFL experience, including 13 from the inaugural season of the Arena Football League.

*no regular players crossed during the strike.

*The spare Bears held their foes to 29 points in three games.

* The team spent the night in Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium before their first game, to avoid crossing the pickets.



Cincinnati Bungles ⁽¹⁾

*Thirty-eight rookies played on the replacement team

*Running back Pat Franklin, who played 8 games for the Buccaneers in 1986, was the sole replacement with NFL experience.

*Four players-- DB Chris Barber, DE Willie Fears, RB Marc Logan, and LB David Ward played in the NFL after the strike. Logan went on to a long career in the league, playing until 1997.

Cleveland Clowns ⁽¹⁾

AKA: The Tans

*Keith Bosley, linebacker, weighed in at 330 pounds. In his first game, he was penalized for a late hit on an Oiler player ... it came 10 seconds after the whistle was blown.

*Quarterback Jeff Christensen was a bartender at the Cleveland Flats nightclub. Guard Dave Sparenberg and defensive end Aaron Moog were Canadians who had been cut by the CFL.

*The defense permitted only 25 points in 3 games

Dallas Rhinestone Cowboys ⁽¹⁾

AKA: Cow-Scabs, Slowpokes, Cowpokes, Cowgirls,

Dude Ranch Cowboys

*Punter Buzz Sawyer, who was the first Cowboy to ever wear jersey #8. The second was Troy Aikman.

*Seven regulars played in the first game, including Tony Dorsett, Ed "Too Tall" Jones, Danny White and Randy White. Dorsett was advised by his attorney that he would forfeit \$3.2 million dollars, half of the annuity that would pay him after retirement, if he breached his contract.

*Despite having many of its stars, the team lost its final replacement game at home, to Washington, which had no regulars.

Denver Bunkos ⁽¹⁾

AKA: Denver Drones, Denver Geldings

FEATURING: Quarterback Ken Karcher, who replaced John Elway for 3 games had the best passing yardage in the AFC during that time. Darryl Jones made 7 quarterback sacks to lead the replacements. Punter Ralph Giacomaro averaged 42.1 yards per kick, the highest of the replacements. Joe Dudek of Plymouth State, who graced the cover of Sports Illustrated in 1986 as the thinking man's choice for the Heisman, had 154 yards rushing in two games.

*The team featured seven players from Georgia Tech

*Eight regulars crossed the line in the first week, starting with guards Billy Bryan and Dave Studdard.

*6,000 tickets were given away at local high schools to boost attendance. Denver's October 4 home game drew 38,494 for the best attendance that weekend, and a Monday night homestand on October 12 attracted 61,230.

Detroit Paper Lions

AKA: Kittens, Detroit Lyin's

Featuring: Mike Prindle, kicker, was the scoring leader for all replacements with 24 points. Punter Matt Kinzer had a pro career after the strike ... as a pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals and the Detroit Tigers. Receiver Eric Truvillion, an all-star in the USFL, caught a touchdown pass for his only NFL points.

*No regulars crossed in the first two weeks.

*Seven arrests made outside the Silverdome during the first game. The crowd was 4,919 for a 31-27 loss to Tampa Bay, and 8,310 at home for a 37-14 loss to Seattle.

Green Bay Pickups

AKA: "Team B", Slackers, Hackers

*Jim Bob Morris, linebacker, played in the same Kansas City touch football league as Minnesota's Tony Adams. The two met again on October 4, with Green Bay winning 23-16. Quarterback Alan Risher was a stockbroker.

*No regulars played in the first two weeks.

Houston Spoilers ⁽¹⁾

AKA: Low-grade Oilers, Pinch Oilers

*Tackle Charles Agee and linebacker Scott Stoghton were both counselors on Death Row at the Texas State Penitentiary in Huntsville, and executed their

plays well. Running back Eric Cobble was a teacher at the Texas School for the Blind.

*Punter Steve Superick (not "Superkick"-- he averaged 33½ yards per punt) was the golf pro at Sea Pines Country Club on Hilton Head Island. *Kicker John Dietterich was 6 for 6 on field goal attempts.

*DE Rayford Cooks and TE Mark Gehring stayed after the strike.

*Eight regulars played in the final game.

**Indianapolis Dolts**

AKA: Indianapolis Revolts

*Linebacker Bill Benjamin, an Indianapolis police officer, registered a sack.

*Backup quarterback Gary Hogeboom crossed, starter Jack Trudeau didn't.

*With St. Louis, Indianapolis had the fewest number of replacement players (27)

Kansas City Cheaps ⁽¹⁾

AKA: Subordinates, Chefs

*No regulars in first two weeks. Safety Kevin Ross was the first to cross the line.

*The team had 103 points scored against them in 3 games for the worst defense during the strike, including a 42-0 loss to Miami.

*Those 3 losses helped give them an abysmal 4-11-0 finish.

Los Angeles Masqueraiders ⁽⁴⁾

*Linebacker Keith Browner, who appeared on Monday Night Football on October 5. After being cut, he appeared on MNF again, this time for the L.A. Raiders.

*Eight regulars crossed the picket line in the first week, including defensive end Howie Long and quarterback Marc Wilson. There were 18 by the third game.

Los Angeles Also-Rans ⁽⁵⁾

AKA Scams, Shams, Hams, Ewes

*The initial team had ten players from the 1985 USC Trojans.

*Cullen Bryant, who rushed for the Rams from 1973 to 1982 and later starred in the USFL, had one carry for 2 yards.

*Lineman Alvin Wright, was the first to cross, followed

by nine other regulars prior to the first game. By Game Three, 23 Rams had crossed the picket line.

Miami Dol-Finks ⁽⁶⁾

AKA: Miami Dol-phonies

*Running back John Tagliaferri and Al Wring had played in the FIAF (the Italian Football Federation).

*Tight end Rich Siler broke his ankle in a game in Seattle. When he removed his helmet, he was recognized by a Miami officer who had been watching the game on TV, and arrested on his return home for an outstanding warrant for 2nd degree murder. Another tight end, Willie Smith, was later convicted of manslaughter

*No regulars in first game, one in second

Minnesota Vicarious Vikings ⁽³⁾

AKA Strikings, Tykes, Hornless Vikings, Scabbage Patch Kids

* Tony Adams, who had been an MVP for the World Football League, was a 37 year old quarterback who had been playing for "The James Gang" in a touch football league in Kansas City. He missed the Chicago Fire offensive line. He was sacked 118 times in three games. Receiver Ron Daugherty was an advertising copywriter.

*Thirteen minor league players were on the team, mostly from the Chicago Metro Football League. Daugherty, Phil Micech (DE), John Scardina (OT) and Brett Wilson (RB) were all Racine Raiders.

*Minnesota had the most replacements with 57 players, and 24 of those played all three games

*The team scored only 33 points in three games.

*The home game against Green Bay, usually a 60,000+ ticket seller, had fewer than 14,000 for a 23-16 loss.



New England Expatriates ⁽¹⁾

AKA: New England Turncoats

*Running back Chuck McSwain, brother of striking Patriot defenseman Rod McSwain, was one of only 7 players with prior NFL experience.

*Bob Bleier, quarterback, completed less than 36% of his pass attempts.

*Kicker Tony Franklin and six others crossed the line for the first game.

New Orleans Taints ⁽⁷⁾

AKA New Orleans Sinners, Aints, St. Elsewheres

*Eleven former USFL players joined former Philadelphia Stars' coach Jim Mora. STAR/Saints were Scott Woerner (DB), Jon Sutton (CB), Jeff Rodenberger (RB), Vic Harrison (WR), Tim Riordan, Larry McCoy (LB), Antonio Gibson, Sam Mills, Chuck Commiskey, Herbert Harris

*Joe DeForest, linebacker, was a logistics engineer at NASA.

*Ten regulars played in the first game. After the team beat the L.A. Rams 37-10, fans chanted "Stay on strike!"

New York Midgets ⁽⁸⁾

AKA New York Dwarves, New York Punks

*Ten minor leaguers from the Connecticut Giants, the 1986 champs of the Continental Interstate Football League

*No regulars in first two games; The team went 0 for 3.

New York Nyets ⁽¹⁾

AKA New York Jests

*Linebacker Ken Rose had flunked tryouts with the Tampa Bay Bandits, the L.A. Raiders, the Saskatchewan Roughriders, and, until the strike, the Jets.

*Mark Gastineau and Joe Klecko were the first to cross; Eight regulars played in the final game

Philadelphia "III-Eagles" ⁽³⁾

AKA: Imitation Eagles, Ersatz Eagles, Beagles, Pigeons

*Scott Tinsley, quarterback. Never drafted in the NFL, but he had 637 yards passing in 86 attempts, making him the top quarterback for the replacements. Receiver Otis Grant, a Rams veteran, had 280 yards receiving during the strike, and was a veteran of the Rams. Gary Bolden, later known as pro wrestler "Stagger Lee" was a defensive tackle. Jerry Diorio and Bob Frasco played pro ball in Italy for the Stassi Doves and the Milano Frogs, respectively.

*In the first game against the Chicago Bears, the Teamsters Union organized a convoy of three dozen semi-trucks to circle Veterans Stadium. Only 4,074 people showed up.

*Coach Buddy Ryan described his substitutes as "the worst bunch of guys together we've ever seen as football players", and added, "I'd trade mine with anybody, sight unseen." He was right ... his replacements went 0-3, giving the Eagles a 7-8 record and a losing season.

*Fourteen of the replacements were from small schools, including-- Jim Angelo (Indiana University of Pennsylvania); Chris Gerhard (East Stroudsburg); Chris Johnson (Millersville); Michael Kullman (Kutztown); Jay Repko (Ursinus); and Mike Ulmer (Doane College).

Pittsburgh Stealers

*The Pittsburgh Press asked readers to suggest names for the replacements, and "stealers" was the overwhelming choice. Offerings included the Alloys,

the Rooney Tunes, and the Slag.

*Quarterback Reggie Collier and kicker David Trout had both been stars in the USFL. Defensive back Russell Hairston had scored the first points in the Arena Football League's first game;

*Ben Lawrence, a Yellow Pages salesman, went home after playing one game as a guard, saying, "I fulfilled a dream. I played a game in the NFL."

*Mike Webster, Hall of Fame center, didn't honor the strike and praised the substitutes. Eleven players crossed for final game

St. Louis Fraudinals ⁽⁷⁾

AKA: St. Louis Green Cards

*Mark Royals, who had six punts for 222 yards in his lone game for the Cards, went to the Eagles the following week. Royals worked his way to a spot on the Tampa Bay team in 1990 and began a long NFL career. Peter Noga, younger brother of striking Cardinal Niko Noga, wore Niko's number for all three games. He returned an interception 60 yards for a TD.

*Keith Radevic played center in 3 games while his brother Scott Radevic was on strike against the Bills.

*St. Louis had thirteen of their regulars in the first game, but still lost to the all-replacement Redskins.

*Its 27 replacements were the fewest in first week; by week two there were only 17, and only twelve were left for the final replacement game-- but the team still finished 1-2.

San Diego "Re-Chargers"

AKA: San Diego Dischargers

*Quarterback Rick Neuheisel, later the controversial head coach at the University of Washington and offensive coach at Cleveland, had 367 yards passing.

*Like the Redskins, the team functioned entirely with replacement players during the strike, and still went unbeaten-- including a defeat of the Raiders, with 17 regulars.

*Of its 30 replacements, 14 had NFL experience

San Francisco Phoney-Niners

AKA: San Francisco Fatty Niners

*Linebacker Keith Browner, who appeared on Monday Night Football on October 5. After being cut, he appeared on MNF again, this time for the L.A. Raiders. Defensive end Greg Litter played October 4 for the 49ers, October 11 for the Eagles. Linebacker James Johnson played for the 49ers and the Chargers.

*Roger Craig crossed the line on October 2, but did not play.

*After the first game, eleven regulars crossed, including Joe Montana, Dwight Clark, and Joe Cribbs

*With most of their stars, they went 3-0 and scored 100 points.

Seattle "Sea-Scabs" ⁽⁶⁾

AKA: Seattle Chickenhawks

*Five of the replacements (DB Tony Blue, DB Harvey Allen, NT Charles Wiley of the '86 team and RB Michael Morton and OT Ron Scoggins from '81) had

played for Nevada-Las Vegas.

*Eight regulars played in the final game

Tampa Bay Buc-Its ⁽⁹⁾

AKA: The B-Bucs, the Easybucs

*Eleven of the players were former Tampa Bay Bandits-- QB John Reaves, C Chuck Pitcock, OT Reggie Smith, WR Steve Carter, RB Greg Boone, DB Tim King, LB Fred McCallister and Sankar Montoute, DE Rufus Brown and Walter Carter, DT Charles Riggins. Safety Mike Quinn had been the USFL defensive player of the year in 1984 *Receiver Steve Carter replaced receiver Gerald Carter and got his number, 87. Steve caught one pass, Gerald caught 38.

*Tampa's replacement line allowed Reaves to be sacked only once

*No regulars played until the final game

Washington Scabskins ⁽¹⁰⁾

AKA the Deadskins, Redscabs, Redscums

*Receiver Anthony Allen set a club record for most yards receiving in a game, whose 88 yard TD pass from Ed Rubbert was the NFL record for the year. Lionel Vital averaged 115 yards rushing per game. The offensive line permitted only one sack in three games. On the other hand, defensive end Steve Martin made five sacks in three games.

*Guard Frank Frazier was at first assigned Dexter Manley's #72 but wore #76 by game time.

*Composed entirely of replacements during all three games, the team went unbeaten, defeating St. Louis (with 13 veterans) and Dallas (which had many of its regular starters).

*In the first game, a crowd of 5,000 outside the parking lot booed whenever cheers were heard inside.

*Anthony Allen registered 25.9 yards per carry during the strike. Against regular competition in 1988, that dropped to 9.6 yards per carry.

*The 2001 film The Replacements, starring Keanu Reaves and Gene Hackman, was inspired by the Washington team.

Washington, San Francisco and San Diego all went 3-0 in the strike. The Redskins, who went unbeaten without a team composed entirely of replacements, went on to a 42-0 Super Bowl win over Denver. San Diego finished 8-7 and missed the playoffs, while the 49ers were beaten in the playoffs by Minnesota, which had gone 0-3 during the strike.

(1) Glenn Sheeley, Atlanta Constitution

(2) Jim Russell, Indianapolis News

(3) Don Pierson, Chicago Tribune

(4) Mark Heisler, L.A. Times

(5) Chris Dufresne, L.A. Times

(6) Larry Dolman, Miami Herald

(7) Dave Lagarde, N.O. Times-Picayune

(8) Mike Celizic, Bergenfield (N.J.) Record

(9) Tom Zucco, St. Petersburg Times

(10) Sports Illustrated

“I WAS A 3rd DOWN MAN”

By T.J. Troup



The New York football Giants secondary needed to be upgraded after higher expectations created a disappointing second place finish to Cleveland in the eastern conference race in 1957. As such the Giants traded with the Baltimore Colts for their 5th pick in the draft, Bobby Joe Conrad (of Texas A & M) and he was to join the excellent safety duo of Jimmy Patton and Emlen Tunnell. Before Conrad ever joined the Giants he represented the college all-stars at Chicago in August of '58. Conrad was part of an outstanding group of future pros and contributed 4 fg's in a 35-19 upset win over the league champion Detroit Lions. However, Bobby Joe Conrad never did play for New York as they traded him to the Chicago Cardinals.

After their first winning season in this decade in 1956, the Cardinals anticipated contending for a division title in 1957. When you lose 7 of your final 8 games ...one would expect changes, and the first change at the close of the '57 season was the hiring of Frank "Pop" Ivy to be head coach. The Cardinals drafted Conrad's Texas A & M teammate and Heisman trophy winner John David Crow in the first round. Pop Ivy envisioned an exciting, productive double wing offense, and an improved defense for the 1958 season. Strangely enough the Cardinals did not begin their season in either Chicago or New York, but in Buffalo NY at Civic Stadium and were crushed by the Giants 37 to 7. The home opener at Comiskey Park on Saturday night October 4th was much more to the

Cardinals liking as they whipped Washington 37 to 10. Bobby Joe kicked his first field goal as a pro, and Pop Ivy's double wing gained 531 total yards. This was the high point of the season though as the Cardinals sunk to last place in the eastern division. Conrad was a starter his rookie season in the secondary and played along side future Hall of Famer Dick "night train" Lane. On December 13th, 1958 at Pitt Stadium Bobby Layne bombed the Cardinals for 409 passing yards in a 38-21 Steeler victory, yet this was a historical day for Bobby Joe Conrad as he intercepted Layne 3 times ...thus he became the only Cardinal in team history to record a 3 interception game, and score at least 50 points in a season.

The 1959 season was the Cardinals last in Chicago, and another last place finish, yet opening day on September 27th at Soldier Field was an outstanding success. Maybe Conrad just needed to see the burgundy jersey's of the Redskins, as he recorded his only 100 yard rushing game of his career with 140 yards on just 11 carries. Bobby Joe broke a 35 yard scoring run in the second quarter, and a 56 yarder in the 3rd quarter. Conrad also caught a td pass in the 4th quarter. Conrad's 25 points scored in the game were the 4th most in Cardinal history at that time. Bobby Joe continued to return kicks, while also running the ball, catching passes out of the backfield, kick field goals, and for the only time in his career ...throw a td pass (to Joe Childress) for 52 yards in a 45-24 victory over the Steelers. For the second consecutive year the Cardinals would play the Giants in a different city; this time at Metropolitan Stadium in Minneapolis. Rookie corner Billy Stacy returned a punt 74 yards for a touchdown in the 3rd quarter, and after Conrad's extra point; the Cardinals led 14-13. The Giants exploded for 17 unanswered points to take a commanding lead. Bobby Joe Conrad would again add to the record book when he returned a New York punt 69 yards for a touchdown in the 4th quarter as the Cardinals became the first team in league history to return 5 punts for a touchdown in a season (4 returns & 1 block).

Three years of bringing in young talent, and working in the double wing brought renewed enthusiasm and a winning season in St. Louis.

After winning just 5 of the previous 32 games the Cardinal victory in the Los Angeles Coliseum on Friday evening September 23rd was a joyous occasion. Cardinal passers (King Hill & John Roach) threw five touchdown passes (two to John David Crow, and three to Sonny Randle), while Conrad kicked two field goals, five extra points, and returned a Ram kick-off 65 yards to set up one of the touchdowns. The 4-4 Cardinals journeyed to Griffith Stadium on November 20th, 1960 and defeated the Redskins for the second time in three weeks (first time the Cardinals had ever beaten Washington twice in one season). The Cardinals had now outscored Washington 70 to 21 in the two victories as John David Crow gained 241 yards rushing, Sonny Randle caught 6 touchdown passes, and all league safety Jerry Norton tied a league record by intercepting 6 passes against a specific opponent. Conrad continued to kick extra points, return kicks, and play some offense, but he was not a featured part of the offense. After routing the Giants opening day in 1961 in New York by using Jerry Norton and Larry Wilson on the safety blitz the Cardinals went into a tailspin as they lost 7 of their next 10 games. Pop Ivy resigned with two games to go, and the 1961 season was a huge disappointment. When Bobby Joe Conrad caught a pass against the Lions on November 12th it did not seem all that significant, yet looking back it was very important as Conrad continued to catch at least one pass every game for 94 consecutive games and set a team record that still exists today, 46 years later. By this time in his career Conrad no longer returned kicks, or kicked extra points and field goals ...he was the starting flanker and was bound and determined to become one of the best in the league (he recorded his first 100 yard receiving game against Washington late in the season, and his only two touchdowns).

Wally Lemm returned to the Cardinals in 1962 after winning the AFL title with the Houston Oilers. Coach Lemm believed in Conrad, and though the 1962 season was also a disappointment; the season ended on a high note as the Cardinals outscored the Cowboys and Eagles 97 to 55! To illustrate how much the Cardinal passing game improved throughout the '62 season; quarterback Charley Johnson completed 30 of 59 for 688 yards in the two above mentioned games.

The eastern conference race in 1963 was one of the most exciting in league history as four teams fought till the last game of the year to decide who would go to the championship. All four teams split

their games with the other three contending teams. The Giants were a veteran team that had won back to back eastern division crowns. The Browns had a new coach in Blanton Collier, and the greatest running force in league history in Jim Brown. The Steelers had closed strong in 1962 to finish second in the east, and were primed under Buddy Parker to finally win a division title. For the first time in years the Cardinal draft helped the team as twelve rookies made the team, many of which became starters early in their careers or contributed in key roles off the bench.

With only five weeks remaining, the standings were as follows: Giants 7-2, Browns and Cardinals 6-3, and Steelers 5-3-1. The most important early season victory came at Busch Stadium against Pittsburgh on October 13th as the Steelers jumped out to a 20-3 4th quarter lead (Pittsburgh had already beaten the Cardinals earlier in the season). Sandwiched around a Steeler field goal were two touchdown catches by tight end Jackie Smith (who would have his greatest day with 9 receptions for 212 yards). Let Bobby Joe Conrad describe the fateful winning drive. "The Steelers were in a prevent defense and every time you went down the field there were black shirts all around you. It was fourth down and eleven yards to go on the Steeler 28 yard line with ten seconds left. We weren't using any set plays, just trying to get clear and hope Charley would spot you. I ran a slant in and didn't expect to have the ball thrown to me. I figured Charley would go to the sideline and try to stop the clock. But I turned, put my hand up and Charley spotted me. I was clear for just a second and Charley got the ball to me. Then we got a break. Two Steeler defensive backs covering me bumped into each other and I bumped the third one, saw the endzone and went for it. I was a third down man, a short yardage receiver".

Now on November 17th, 1963 the Cardinals are in Cleveland to take on the Browns who have not lost to the Cards in their last 12 meetings. Jim Brown explodes for a 59 yard touchdown run, but late in the 4th quarter is the next time Cleveland scores as St. Louis wins 20-14 to move into second place by themselves and set up the showdown with the Giants. Charley Johnson is one his way to throwing a team record 28 touchdown passes, and on this day he completes his last 10 passes. November 24th, 1963 was the day a pall fell over the nation, and the NFL with the death of JFK, but Rozelle deemed we should play, and in Yankee Stadium the Cardinals rallied

from a 10-3 deficit to defeat the Giants 24-17. Bobby Joe Conrad put his team into a first place tie with a three yard touchdown grab. Finally, after six years of hard work and dedication, Conrad was on his way to stardom as he would lead the NFL in receptions with 73. Though they did not sustain the win streak, St. Louis had proven they could compete with the best in the league. What would 1964 bring?

After ten weeks of the '64 season the Cardinals and Browns had distanced themselves from the rest of the east. Cleveland would lose to the Packers in week eleven, so the Cardinals could close the gap with a win over the Eagles. Bobby Joe Conrad again rose to the occasion by catching 5 passes for 110 yards and two touchdowns ... the first just before the half when after catching a short pass, and breaking away on one of his patented cuts to elude the Philadelphia secondary to give the Cardinals a 17-6 lead, and his second a 52 yard leaping one handed reception on the sideline to put St. Louis ahead for good. Sunday December 6th at Busch Stadium and the Cards must beat the Browns to win the division. Conrad scores one of the three Cardinal second quarter touchdowns in a 28-19 victory setting up the climatic weekend. Cleveland clinched the division title on the final Saturday with a decisive win over the hated Giants. St. Louis showed immense pride with a thrilling 36-34 victory over the Eagles as the lead changed 7 times. The Cardinals and Eagles set a league record with 47 points in the second quarter.

Bobby Joe Conrad was not able to defend his receiving championship as Johnny Morris of the Bears set a new standard with 93 receptions as he finished fourth. Conrad faced double coverage for the first time in his career as Sonny Randle was injured for the final seven games of the season. During the past three seasons (1962-1964) three receivers dominated the reception battle. Future Hall of Famer Bobby Mitchell caught 201, Johnny Morris caught 198, and Conrad caught 196. More important than the receiving title, Bobby Joe Conrad was chosen for his first and only pro bowl. For finishing in second place in the eastern conference, the Cardinals earned the right to play the Lombardi Packers in the play-off bowl in Miami, and were victorious.

We jump to 1966; Coach Wally Lemm has left the Cardinals to return to the Oilers, and defensive coach Charlie Winner is in charge. St. Louis is a veteran team that is lead by five men would will

play together for over 100 games together as Cardinals, and earn pro bowl berths along the way. Linebackers Dale Meinert and Bill Koman, free safety Larry Wilson, guard Ken Gray, and of course Bobby Joe Conrad. Nine weeks into the season the Cardinals are in first place with a 7-1-1 record, but the injuries to so many key starters took their toll, and again dropped St. Louis out of the running for the division title.

October 22nd, 1967 and the Cardinals are at home trailing the Eagles 14-3 at the end of the first quarter. St. Louis explodes for 45 unanswered points and victory as Bobby Joe Conrad catches 8 passes for 115 yards (his first 100 yard reception game in over a season). Even though they are now 4-2 and tied for first, the '67 season was not meant to be for the Cards, and they stumble home 6-7-1.

Bobby Joe Conrad is about to enter his 11th season as a Cardinal and never missed a game, and many folks around the league believe this is going to finally be the Cardinals year. October 27th and we are in St. Louis and the Cards are trailing the fledgling Saints 7-3 when Jim Hart completes a short pass to Jackie Smith. Smith breaks a tackle and heads upfield near the sideline; as the Saints pursue, Conrad hustles across and makes the block enabling Smith to score and put the Cardinals ahead to stay. With the victory St. Louis is now 4-3, and cannot afford a loss if they want to close the gap on the Browns. November 10th and we are again in St. Louis and the Steelers lead the Cards 21-14 in the third quarter when Bobby Joe Conrad will make the longest reception of his career with an 80 yarder to tie the game. Conrad catches 5 passes for 133 yards in this game; his last 100 yard receiving game and become the first Cardinal to have fourteen 100 yard receiving games in a career. Though the Cardinals defeat Cleveland on the last day of the season it is for naught as the Browns again win the division title.

Bobby Joe Conrad will not return to St. Louis for the 1969 season (he plays 8 games in a reserve role with Dallas). All players want to play in a championship game, but not all players get to ...and Bobby Joe Conrad is one of those players. Upon retirement Conrad returned to his hometown of Clifton, Texas, and life as an officer in Federal Land Bank. Still, he remains one of the most valuable Cardinals in history for his versatility, and is the only player in league history to intercept three passes in a game and later lead the league in receiving.

BEST POINT DIFFERENTIALS

By Andy Piascik

When football fans talk about the best or most dominant single season teams in the game's history, it's a given that winning the championship is the most important criterion. The second most important factor is probably a team's win-loss record. Probing a bit below the surface, strength of schedule may also come into play. A weak schedule is the argument that is often used against the 1972 Dolphins as the best team ever despite their 17-0 record, as the combined record of the teams they defeated in the regular season was quite weak.

Another measure that can be useful is average point differential. If a team goes through a season winning lots of games by comfortable margins, it's likely to be in first place and in contention for the championship. However, it doesn't always work out that way. An excellent differential can make a team appear better than it was if it beat up on weak teams but lost the most important games of its season (like, say, the 1934 Lions).

On the other hand, there have been outstanding teams with great differentials and great records like the 1948 Bears and 49ers that got bested in the standings by another team that was just a little better. There's actually overlap between these categories; the 1934 Lions fit into the latter about as well as the former. Then there are teams like the 1949 Browns that dominated but suffered a blowout loss along the way. Such a loss lowers a team's differential significantly and perhaps clouds how good they actually were.

Here are the 50 best single season point differentials from 1933 through 2006:

1.)	Bears	1942	26.55
2.)	Bears*	1941	22.64
3.)	Browns*	1946	20.43
4.)	Oilers*	1961	19.36
5.)	Eagles*	1949	19.17
6.)	Packers*	1962	19.07
7.)	Bears	1948	18.67
8.)	Colts	1968	18.43
9.)	Eagles*	1948	18.33
10.)	Rams*	1999	17.75
11.)	Vikings	1969	17.57
12.)	Cowboys	1968	17.50
13.)	49ers	1948	17.43

14.)	Raiders	1967	16.79
15.)	Redskins*	1991	16.31
16.)	Vikings	1998	16.25
17.)	Bears*	1985	16.13
18.)	Browns*	1947	16.07
19.)	49ers	1949	15.75
20.)	Raiders	1968	15.71
21.)	Browns	1953	15.50
21.)	49ers*	1984	15.50
23.)	Bears	1934	15.38
23.)	Packers*	1996	15.38
25.)	Dolphins*	1972	15.29
26.)	Steelers*	1975	15.07
27.)	Rams	1973	15.00
28.)	Browns	1951	14.92
29.)	Colts*	1958	14.83
30.)	Cowboys	1966	14.71
31.)	Bears*	1943	14.60
32.)	Steelers	1976	14.57
33.)	Browns*	1954	14.50
33.)	Colts	1964	14.50
35.)	Rams	1967	14.43
36.)	Rams	2001	14.38
37.)	Chiefs	1968	14.36
38.)	Browns*	1948	14.21
39.)	Cardinals	1948	14.08
40.)	Vikings	1975	14.07
41.)	Browns*	1949	14.00
41.)	Colts	1967	14.00
43.)	Eagles	1945	13.90
44.)	Browns*	1950	13.83
45.)	Dolphins*	1973	13.79
46.)	Lions	1934	13.77
47.)	49ers	1987	13.73
48.)	Vikings	1970	13.71
49.)	Eagles	1944	13.60
50.)	Redskins	1939	13.45

There are 21 champions (*) on the list and 12 other teams that made it to the Championship Game/Super Bowl. All 50 finished with a winning percentage of at least .700. Seven did not make the playoffs, headed by the 1948 Bears at #7, who finished 10-2 but second behind the Cardinals. Of those seven, all but the 1967 Colts are from before the expansion of the playoffs.

The 1972 Dolphins are here, although perhaps not surprisingly, they're down the list a bit at #25. What is surprising is that the 1962 Packers are

the only Green Bay team from the 1960's on the list. Eight Cleveland teams from 1946-55, on the other hand, make the top 50: four from the AAFC and four from the NFL. Parity makes its mark as only eight teams are from after 1976.

Five different teams from 1948 are here: three from the NFL and two from the AAFC. In no other season are there as many as three teams from the same league. Both the 1948 and 1949 49ers are in the top 20 even though they finished in second place both years. Although Philadelphia's great run of the Van Buren/Wistert/Pihos era is not thought to have begun until 1947, both the 1944 and 1945 Eagles are on the list. Like San Francisco, however, both of those Philadelphia teams finished second. At 7-3, the 1945 Eagles have the lowest winning percentage of the 50.

Mention should be made of the ten pre-1933 teams whose differentials rank with the best of all time. Five of those teams were crowned with the NFL title by finishing atop the standings in the days before the Championship Game:

1.)	Canton*	1923	18.92
2.)	Cleveland*	1924	18.78
3.)	Rock Island	1922	18.14
4.)	Pottsville	1925	17.92
5.)	Frankford	1924	15.50
6.)	Buffalo	1921	15.17
7.)	Giants	1929	15.07
8.)	Packers*	1931	14.57
9.)	Canton*	1922	14.08
10.)	Giants*	1927	13.61

Best point differential does not correlate to championships more than having the best record. The team with the best overall regular season record goes on to win the championship more often than the team with the best differential by a factor of about 7 to 5. However, if we compile a list of every team that finished 12-2 or better from 1933 through 2006 (57 in all) and compare them to a list of the same size of teams with the best differentials, we find that the two groups win championships with almost exactly the same frequency.

Using point differential as a measure certainly adds credence to the notion that the Bears of the early 1940's were the best team of all time. Perhaps the best way to break it down is this: wire to wire, Chicago's 1941 squad was the best ever, while in 1942 the Bears had the best regular season of all time.

JACK HINKLE

By John Maxymuk

Adapted from *Eagles By the Numbers*, Camino Books, 2005.

When the Seahawks Shaun Alexander lost the rushing title by one yard to the Jets Curtis Martin in 2004, it brought Jack Hinkle back into the news because in 1943 he lost the rushing title to the Giants Bill Paschal by that same 36 inches. Alexander was upset because he didn't get the ball enough in Seattle final game; Hinkle was upset because he says the league didn't give him credit for a long run he had against the Giants. Hinkle claimed that the longest run listed in the newspaper for that October 24th game in the Polo Grounds was 20 yards, but that he ripped off one alternately said to be 33, 34, 37, 45 or 47 yards. He did have a 37-yard run that was noted in the *New York Times* account of the October 9th home game against the Giants in which the Steagles fumbled a record 10 times. After an Eagle protest, the league's official scorer ruled that nothing was missing from Hinkle's totals. Whether it's faulty memory or faulty stat-keeping, no one will ever know. The controversy, though, keeps Jack's name alive 60 years later.

Hinkle was a cousin of Green Bay Hall of Fame fullback Clark Hinkle and attended Syracuse University where he called signals as the blocking back in a backfield that included Olympic sprinter Marty Glickman. Jack could run, catch and kick the ball, but mostly what he did was block. He signed with the Giants in 1940 where he competed for a backfield spot with George Muha the brother of future Eagle Joe Muha. Neither one made the team, but Hinkle was sent to the Giants farm team in Jersey City. When injuries struck the big boys in November, he was recalled. In 1941, Jack signed with the New York Americans of the third American Football League and was a blocking back for former All Americans Tommy Harmon and John Kimbrough.

The Eagles signed Hinkle the next year, and the story goes that as compensation to the Americans, Eagles playboy owner Lex Thompson arranged a date with starlet Lana Turner for one of the Americans executives. Hinkle joined the Army Air Corps, but was given an honorable discharge due to ulcers and joined the Steagles in 1943. He led the Giants Paschal 571 yards to 480 going into New York's last game of the season, but Paschal gained 92 in the mud against Detroit and took the rushing title.

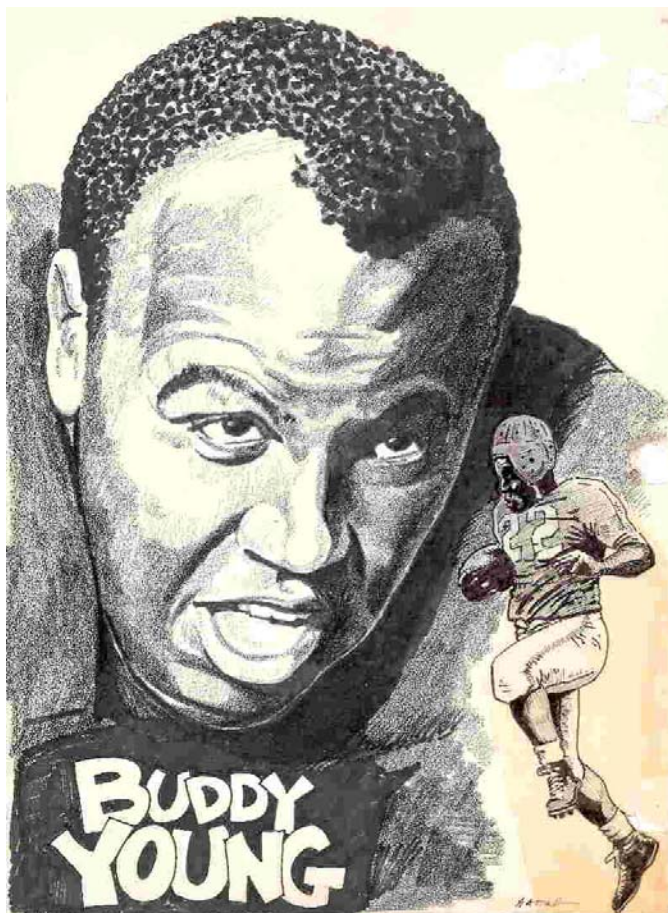
Finally given a chance to carry the ball, the 6'1" 215-pound Hinkle was a precursor to Steve Van Buren as a speedy big back. Unfortunately for Jack, Van Buren arrived in Philly the next year. Hinkle was the team's second leading ball carrier in 1944 and then suffered a serious shoulder separation in 1945 and was never the same player again. He was released during the 1947 season and later coached at Drexel for over a decade before entering the business world.

JACK HINKLE - HB-DB-BB-LB

RUSHING	GM	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
1940 NYG	3	0	0	---	0
1941 Phi	1	0	0	---	0
1942	Military Service				
1943 Phi-Pit	10	116	571	4.9	3
1944 Phi	10	92	421	4.6	2
1945 Phi	3	11	40	3.6	0
1946 Phi	10	18	33	1.8	0
1947 Phi	3	1	2	2.0	0
Total	40	238	1067	4.5	5

The 1947 College All-Star Game: Truly A Young Man's Game

By Ed Gruver



Most football fans remember the College All-Stars' shocking 20-17 humbling of Vince Lombardi's NFL champion Green Bay Packers on August 2, 1963 in Chicago's Soldier Field.

The All-Stars' startling victory represented the eighth and final time the collegians would beat the champions of pro football in the Chicago Charities College All-Star Game that began in 1934 and culminated in 1976.

Yet while the '63 All-Star Game represented the College All-Stars' final moment of victory over their pro counterparts, it was not the most memorable of a series started by Chicago *Tribune* sports editor Arch Ward as a diversion to the Great Depression that engulfed much of America in the 1930s. (Ward also started major league baseball's All-Star Game in 1933 for the same purpose - to help Americans forget their

troubles).

On August 22, 1947, the rivalry between the College All-Stars and champions of pro football reached its zenith when a record crowd of 105,840 packed Soldier Field. Turned away were some 2,000 additional fans hoping to watch firsthand a coaching showdown between Notre Dame legend Frank Leahy and Chicago's "Papa Bear", George Halas.

The 1947 meeting marked the fifth between the Bears and the All-Stars. After a scoreless tie in 1934, the Bears won in 1935, '41, '42, and '44. Chicago posted shutouts in two of those games and won by a combined margin of 87-34. Yet while the Bears' average victory over the All-Stars was 21-8, their 1944 meeting resulted in a 24-21 final that was the closest of the previous four

That fact, combined with the All-Stars' 16-0 victory over the Los Angeles Rams in the 1946 game - billed as the "million dollar game" for the revenue brought into the Chicago area by a game that attracted a then-record crowd of 97,380 fans - could have served as an omen of what was to come in 1947.

Still, few could foresee the Bears falling to the collegians. Halas had built a dynasty in Chicago, winning three NFL titles in four years and five titles in a span of 11 years.

The Bears were in their "Monsters of the Midway" heyday, and had beaten the New York Giants 24-14 in the 1946 NFL title game in New York the previous December.

The Bears boasted exceptional talent in Sid Luckman, Clyde "Bulldog" Turner, George McAfee, Joe Osanski, Ken Kavanaugh and Ed "The Claw" Sprinkle. Chicago scored an NFL-best 289 points in 1946. Their famous "Monsters of the Midway" defense was renowned for its rugged play, as personified by Sprinkle and his shattering hits.

Leahy countered with a bevy of young stars — Doc Blanchard and Heisman Trophy winner Glenn Davis of Army, the famed "Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside" backfield combination that had made the Black Knights a national power; Illinois' Claude "Buddy" Young, the

"Bronze Bullet" who went on to become a future All-Star with the All-America Conference's New York Yankees; and Georgia's Charlie Trippi, who later starred in the Chicago Cardinals' famous "Million Dollar Backfield" and helped the team claim an NFL title in 1947.

The collection of present and future NFL stars brought the largest crowd at the time to watch an NFL game into Soldier Field for the 14th Annual College All-Star Game. Unfazed by either the record crowd or by the awesome reputation of their opponent, the College All-Stars scored on their first series of the game.

Notre Dame quarterback George Ratterman struck quickly when he fired a 31-yard pass through the steamy night air to Young. Trippi followed by pounding out 19 yards on an off-tackle run. Notre Dame's Jim Mello finished the surprisingly easy scoring drive with a cutback run over left tackle from six yards out.

The Bears broke through to block the point-after attempt by UCLA's Ernie Case, but the College All-Stars scored again before the first quarter was over.

Ratterman ignited a second scoring march with another big pass play to Young, this one covering 41 yards. The gain had come with the All-Stars backed up in the shadows of their own goal post by the Bears defense.

Preparing to punt, Ratterman instead faked a kick and tossed a short pass to Young in the left flat. Young carried to the Chicago 46, and on the next play, Ratterman connected with Fighting Irish teammate John Zilly on a scoring pass that capped a 92-yard drive. Case made good on his PAT attempt and Leahy led the stunned Halas, 13-0

Case later added a 29-yard field goal to close the scoring at 16-0. Shockingly, the Bears' high-powered offense did not advance beyond the All-Stars' 30-yard line the entire night.

Young was named the game's MVP following a performance that saw him gain 73 yards and electrify the large crowd with three big plays.

He was clearly the difference in the two teams, and, as the All-Stars' little big man, confounded the Monsters of the Midway.

Just 5-foot-4 and 175 pounds, Young owned outstanding quickness and acceleration. At Illinois, he had won the 100- and 220-meter dashes, tied the world record for the 45- and 60-yard dashes, and was the AAU's 100-meter champion.

Sportscaster Bill Stern called Young "the fastest thing in cleats," and as a freshman he was named to several All-America teams. Despite his smallish size, he

shocked teammates and opponents alike by refusing to wear hip or thigh pads and donned a pair of shoulder pads so small that Baltimore Colts defensive end Gino Marchetti later said "you wouldn't let your son wear (them)."

Young believed that uniform padding slowed him down, yet he also refused to wear a helmet with a protective face mask.

On New Year's Day 1947, he helped the Illini rout UCLA 45-14 in the Rose Bowl and was named Co-Player of the Game.

Tearing up the UCLA Bruins was one thing; tearing up the Chicago Bears was another. But Young's game-breaking speed — he ran the 100 in 9.4 seconds — made him the fastest man in football, and his ability to juke defenders and accelerate past them left the NFL champs grasping at air

No one expected Young succeed to such an extent against Chicago's fearsome defense, but he, Trippi and Ratterman carried out Leahy's game plan to perfection.

Trippi and Ratterman figured in two of the notable oddities of this game. Due to restrictions in manpower during World War II, eligibility rules were relaxed and several players appeared in more than one game. Trippi and guard Dick Barwegan, for instance, played in the 1943, '44, '45 and '47 All-Star Games, and Trippi set a record in 1948 by playing in his fifth College All-Star Game, this time as a member of the NFL champion Chicago Cardinals

One other oddity of this game was that while Ratterman started for the College All-Stars in 1947, he was not the starting QB that season for Notre Dame. That honor belonged to Johnny Lujack, an underclassmen who went on to win the Heisman in 1947.

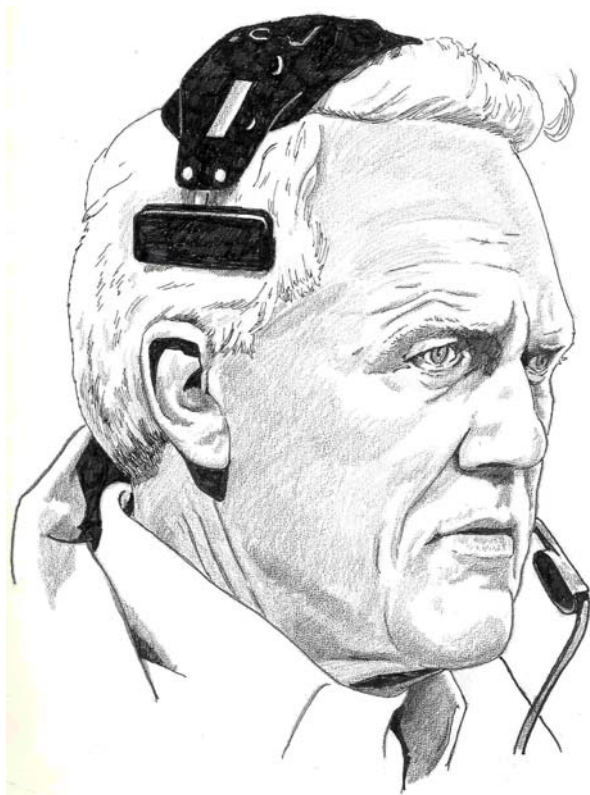
In the eyes of most football experts of the time, Ratterman was not the second- or even third-best college QB in the nation that season. But because he knew Leahy's offensive system, he was selected to start ahead of fellow QBs Ernie Case, Tommy Mont, Ben Raimondi and Arnold Tucker.

The day after the game, the *Chicago Tribune* ran a banner headline across its front page: **105,840 See All-Stars Win.**

No one had seen it coming. No one, perhaps, except the Bronze Bullet, who made certain that the 1947 College All-Star Game truly was a Young man's game.

When Bill Walsh Became Bill Walsh

By Michael D. Parker



There is an oft-shown film clip of Hall of Fame coach Bill Walsh from early in his career with the San Francisco 49ers. The short scene features the not-yet-worshipped Walsh teaching young QB protégé Steve DeBerg at the blackboard. A younger Walsh. A not-yet-completely-white-haired Walsh. A different Walsh.

A seemingly insignificant moment? Certainly.

Well, maybe.

There are two different ages of Bill Walsh's career. There is the pre-1981 Walsh, and the post-1981 Walsh. This clip from NFL Films, though hardly momentous, provides a brief look into the world of Bill Walsh before he was the renowned genius we all know from post-1981.

This clip has been shown probably dozens of times through the years. And many a staunch admirer of Walsh has probably passed over it as simply something that the folks at NFL Films can use to demonstrate Walsh's particular area of

expertise a la the famous Lombardi clip at the blackboard, drawing up the Packer Sweep. Remember? "What we get is a seal here, and a seal here, and we run this play in the alley," Lombardi said.

And so maybe that is why we see that clip of Walsh at the blackboard. But this isn't the same Bill Walsh that walked the sidelines in Super Bowl XXIII against former pupil Sam Wyche in his last game as 49er head coach. There is a major difference between the film clip Walsh and THE Walsh. You know, 3 Super Bowl titles. Hall of Fame. Blah blah blah. But where did that all come from? Where/when did Walsh become Coach Bill Walsh? What does this short segment show about the man that has become so famous?

First of all, Bill Walsh is *left* handed.

But what, you say, does that have to do with his coaching acumen?

Bill Walsh is more artist than scientist. We hear the name Gillman or Walsh or Belichick and we think mad scientist locked in a dungeon laboratory inventing the latest formula for attacking their opponent. And they *have* invented those formulas.

But Walsh was looking for artistry. It wasn't so much formula as it was striving for artistic perfection.

Lombardi wanted a machine. Walsh wanted synergy.

Somewhere in the brain, on the right side apparently (according to the experts), is the part that aims for art. And it is said that southpaws demonstrate more right brain activity than the rest of us righties.

So is that why Walsh's offense has lasted all these years? Possibly. Because unlike strictly logical offenses, there is no systematic way to defend art.

But there is more.

In the clip, the pre-1981 Walsh doesn't speak in absolutes like Lombardi. "I don't know what's going to happen to him," he tells his young QB in the clip. "But, I do know the change-up will give them trouble coming on the weakside of the formation."

Remember again the Lombardi clip. Lombardi had it figured out. He had the defense figured out. And he knew how a defense would have to defend it. Lombardi taught it, and then honed it in practice until those five up front were like a machine. And Taylor and Hornung just had to time it up ... and then 'run to daylight.'

Walsh taught adjustments.

There was also something from the clip that you don't see in the post-1981 version of Walsh: meekness.

His voice was confident, yet mild. And that was because he had not yet proven to the NFL world—and maybe even to himself—that these ideas for both offense and team management that he is now revered for would work the way he could only then hope for.

This all changed in 1981. The Dallas game. But not THAT Dallas game. If you remember, the NFC Championship game in January of 1982 was the 2nd time the Cowboys and 49ers had faced each other that season. In the first meeting, San Francisco thoroughly beat Dallas and showed the league that they were no longer the pushovers they had been for most of the previous decade. Their record was a promising, but not spectacular, 3-2 going into the regular season home game with Dallas.

Tom Landry was one of the all-time greats—the greatest ever, in my opinion, over the course of a multi-generational* reign as coach. Only the beginning and end of his time leading the Cowboys were they a team that wasn't considered contenders.

So that 45-14 49er victory represented a major shift not only in NFC dominance, but also in the reputation of Walsh from promising to preeminent. His theories had, indeed, proven true. And, for Walsh, vindication was sweet.

There had been some questions both in the minds of the league, and in Walsh himself,

stemming from less-than-stellar recommendations from Paul Brown, with whom Walsh had apprenticed for in Cincinnati from 1968 until Brown retired and appointed not Walsh but Bill Johnson in 1975.

And so at that time in the mid 70s, these theories Walsh had burning in his heart and mind would have to wait. Mind you, these are the same theories that we now know and have admired for years, and are still being refined and adapted to suit today's NFL by Walsh disciples and groupies. But even as late as the middle of the 1980 season—his second leading San Francisco—Walsh was doubting himself as a coach, and even at one point planned to resign at the end of the 1980 campaign.

Thank heavens he didn't.

But where did these grand theories come from? Where did this play that Walsh diagrammed for the folks at NFL Films come from?

Walsh would be the first to tell you that much of what he is credited as bringing to the professional game is in fact a fusion of many ideas and systems that he picked up along the way, along with answers to issues and questions that came as he was able to try his theories out.

Walsh has said that the system was refined as he went along from his first opportunity as a young and impetuous high school head coach through his years running the 49er dynasty and then back for one last hurrah at his beloved Farm, when he came out of his NFL retirement to finish making the Cardinal at Stanford the team he had initially intended it to be 25 years earlier when he was first head man there.

So where did this all come from?

Boxing.

Walsh boxed. And even when he eventually gave it up for coaching and family, he always drew on those experiences as a source for his developing philosophy. The artist Walsh learned from the 'Sweet Science' about not being out-hit. About being tough and beating your opponent to the punch. About the importance of quickness and intelligence over brute strength. About fighting and fighting and waiting patiently for your opponent to crack. Remember Walsh shadow boxing in the

freezing cold at Soldier Field on the sidelines before the NFC Championship against Chicago in January of 1989? There was more to that than just keeping warm.

Just as there was more that influenced Walsh than just boxing.

Like Marv Levy. Yes, that Marv Levy. Only he wasn't yet THE Marv Levy. But, at any rate, Levy was head coach of the Cal-Berkeley Bears, and hired Walsh to be, of all things, defensive coordinator. So Walsh, in the early 1960s was able to learn what makes a successful offense from some of those great Pac-8 conference teams—but from a defensive perspective. The things that would later make Levy a great coach with Buffalo—things like communication and emphasizing the overlooked aspects of football, such as special teams play—may have rubbed off on Walsh then.

From Cal, Walsh went to archrival Stanford (ironically) to work for John Ralston. Ralston was another tremendous influence on Walsh. His responsibilities grew to include a great deal of administrative duties. So, it might have been at Stanford that he learned the keys of running an organization.

Or it might have been the time he spent with Al Davis, starting in 1966. Davis was—and is—a proponent of the forward pass. The Raiders of that era believed in stretching defenses vertically. By so doing, they gave the runners a greater chance to run. Through that experience with Oakland, Walsh also was able to learn at the projector of Sid Gillman, one of the great offensive innovators in football history. So maybe Walsh's system and success stem from Davis's philosophy to pass to set up the run, or his commitment to bringing in players to fit HIS vision of excellence.

Or it could have been Gillman, with his attention to detail and logical approach to game planning. Gillman built on the lessons that Walsh took from his old college coach Bob Bronzan, who Walsh says taught him the importance of having meticulous plans and notes.

For Gillman, it wasn't beating your opponent physically. He was looking for more of a mental thrashing. Gillman also was a pioneer in studying and breaking down the opponents

game films. Perhaps it was in a planning session with Sid that Bill first saw the light.

Walsh also learned during this time—possibly from Gillman—an appreciation for many of the antique philosophies that were making a comeback to the pro game. Walsh became a big advocate of the old T-formation that had been a staple of the Stanford Cardinal many years before. The modern T had been re-introduced and popularized in the NFL by noted thinker Clark Shaughnessy. Walsh saw the symmetry of the backfield as a way to run the Power Sweep, which he loved, while still allowing the backs to figure into pass protection schemes.

Unlike Davis and Gillman, however, Walsh saw the advantage of throwing passes to the backs, instead of just the wide receivers, and allowing them to make plays in space. The fact that the RBs are so wide in their initial alignment in the modern T gives them a distinct advantage working against LBs in pass routes that attack a defense horizontally. Teams playing a Walsh designed offense in the future had to defend all eligible receivers from sideline to sideline, from the backfield to the end zone.

Or it certainly could have been his time with Paul Brown in Cincinnati where Walsh became Walsh. And even though their working relationship eventually ended on sour terms, Walsh always appropriately acknowledges Brown as being a major influence in his coaching career.

Early in his time in Cincinnati, after Walsh had proved himself worthy of it, Brown turned the reigns of the Bengal offense over to him. And while the credit for the offense's success and league-wide notoriety wasn't always passed down to him from the man at the top, Walsh still recognized how fortunate he was to be able to coordinate an offense for such a luminary in the football world.

It was at this time that Walsh began his practice of scripting plays, and he was also beginning to practice during the week specific situations that came up in the course of a normal game. Facing Pittsburgh's famed Steel Curtain defense twice a year certainly helped him to see all the different situations he would need to be ready for in the future.

He also learned at this time the importance of modifying his system to suit the strengths of his personnel. We remember Joe Montana and Steve Young from Walsh's later 49er years, but Walsh

learned how to adapt to what his players were able to do while coaching on the banks of the Ohio River.

The first real Bengal triggerman under Walsh was veteran journeyman Virgil Carter, who could be considered a poor man's Montana. Carter was undersized but intelligent, with an average arm and some athletic ability. Carter provided some great experimental time for Walsh to work through many of the ideas that had been brewing in his head since his days running the Berkeley defense, and then in watching Al Davis run the Oakland Raiders. But with Carter's lack of arm strength he wasn't able to implement the Raider system, which required play-action and much more deep passing.

With Cincinnati's expansion team status, there wasn't the offensive talent to match up with the great defenses they faced. Ball-control became a factor as well. Walsh became perhaps the pioneer of a passing game that emphasized short passing in order to manage the clock and keep the ball away from the opponent's offense. Walsh resorted to use more of Carter's resourcefulness and athletic ability, a great precursor to the days when a young Montana was manning the helm in San Francisco for a not-yet-fully-loaded 49ers squad.

Then came Greg Cook. According to Walsh and others, he had it all. He would have been the greatest ever.

If not, of course, for injuries. But a shredded shoulder early in his career was never properly fixed, and he was just a shooting star. But Walsh learned still more from Cook. Like how to utilize a QB's talents to the fullest, when you DO happen to have one with a lot of talent.

When Ken Anderson came out of tiny Augustana, Walsh was able to take Anderson's natural athletic ability (like Cook) and functional intelligence (like Carter) and build an entire offense around a player for the first time. Anderson proved to be the cornerstone of those early Bengal teams, and is perhaps one of the greatest QBs that people never mention. So Walsh was able to put players in place around Anderson to build the offense, just like he would later do with Montana.

On a cold November day in 1974, the Walsh-led Bengals offense won a very tough game against

a Pittsburgh team that was only two months away from officially starting their reign as team of the 70s. Kenny Anderson completed a then-record 20 of 22 passes for 227 yards. Suddenly the league saw first hand that a team can beat a juggernaut defense with ball control passing.

But then, in 1975, Brown stepped away. Walsh expected to be named as his replacement. When he wasn't, Walsh knew it was time to move on.

Even though Brown did his best to stifle his career move, Walsh made it to San Diego, where head coach Tommy Prothro put him in charge of exceptional talent Dan Fouts. He had to put in place a whole system from scratch. He had to adapt to the talents of his young passer. Two more lessons. Even though the time together was short, both Walsh and Fouts remember those years as great learning experiences for each of them.

After leaving San Diego and the NFL for Stanford (Part II) as head coach in 1977, Walsh got the opportunity to finally put it all in place. He had complete control. Not only was he running the offense, but he could finally make personnel decisions with players and staff. He implemented the lessons he had learned with Davis and Brown, along with some of the lessons from Levy and Ralston about coaching college football in the Bay Area of the Pac-8. And he was happy on the Farm.

But, in 1979, the 49ers were looking for a coach. Something inside of Walsh wanted to prove that Paul Brown and some of the other legends in the league had been wrong about him.

Now back to the relatively meaningless shot of two men at the blackboard. A widely seen clip of Walsh with his then-hope-for-the-future DeBerg.

He is drawing up with his left hand a play unlike anything in the league at the time, complete with routes by receivers reading the contours of the coverage and then crossing the middle looking for holes in the zone, and the backs checking for pass protection responsibilities before getting out into the pass pattern. He speaks very softly, almost humbly, but with confidence. Confidence in the *system*.

Then a short time—and a Bay Area beating of America's Team—later, confidence in *himself*.

And then the rest? History.

SEND IN THE ADVERBS!

Anonymous

Everyone knows football lingo has invaded the real world.

For instance, these days you no sooner figure how something ought to get done than someone calls your scheme a “Game Plan.” All you’re trying to do is move that ’93 Toyota off the lot, but identifying your intention to print a lower price on the windshield with one of the NFL’s magnificent struggles somehow adds importance to your action. And, when you screw up and let that kid with a nose ring test-drive the Toyota around the block, you’ll hear the term “fumbled” whispered by the other salesmen while the crew tows the car out of that swimming pool. Alas, the Toyota’s “on the DL” and you just hope Mad Larry doesn’t send “the Turk” to tell you to come see him “and bring your bow tie.”

We *all* can talk football as football. But can we talk real life as football?

In reviewing the real-world word-game films I hear a tendency with some role players toward abandoning the pocket to try to make something out of nothing. In an open field, they make rookie mistakes, sometimes with tragic results.

I heard about an executive who described his company as “in the red zone.” Investors, believing the exec’s business was on the verge of a breakthrough, bought stock – only to discover that what the exec meant was the red *ink* zone. The disappointed stockholders are presently considering a class-action suit against Monday Night Football. I don’t really believe this story; I read it on the internet. But it *could* happen the way everyone and his brother tosses football metaphors around like flare passes in the Bill Walsh Bowl.

There are more examples of football lingo in real-world communication than X’s and O’s in the George Halas Playbook, but unless we’re no-shows at Life, we ought to get our heads into the game. Here’s a mini-camp of football terms and how they fit into real-life commentary.

Blitz – v. To attack fiercely, as in “Microsoft really blitzed Apple.” From an aggressive pass rush that includes one or more linebacker. Originally short for German *blitzkrieg*, a rapid armored attack popular in Europe during the late 1930s. In football, the term replaced “red dog” (from God knows what) because it was more fun to say.

Blue-chip – adj. Of high value, as in “blue-chip prospect.” Originally from poker, the designation has spread from football to other sports to just about anything that can be ranked. One may also refer to “red-chip” whatevers when the value, though considerable, is nevertheless lower than that of a blue-chipper. Beware of plaid-chippers. No one knows how they’ll end up.

Breakaway – v., adj. To suddenly outdistance competitors, as in “Pingles Purple Peppermint Patties experienced breakaway sales this quarter.” While breakaways in football usually indicate some high quality work, such is not necessarily true in the real world where popularity is more important. Hence, a television show like Fox’s recent *America’s Greatest Cases of Diarrhea* received higher ratings than a quality program like *George Blungh: 17th Century Potmaker* on PBS.

Bring in the chains – v. To take a close look, as in “Let’s bring in the chains on this proposal.” You might say we’re “bringing in the chains” on football terms.

Chip shot – n. A task easy to accomplish, as in “This report is a chip shot.” The term originally came into public discourse from a golf term for a short plunk at the green; it is now as likely to be thought of as an easily-made field goal in football. Don’t confuse this with “cheap shot” which is doing something nasty and mean to an unsuspecting opponent without expectation of punishment. You know, like when you get a tax bill.

Clothesline – v. To stop the opponent in his tracks, as in “Our new, lower-priced model really clotheslined the field.” Technically this is a tackle made by holding one’s arm out stiffly at shoulder level and allowing an opponent to run into it with his head above your arm and the rest of him, from his collarbone down, below your arm. At a minimum, he will talk like Brando in *The Godfather* forever after.

Dump off – v. To get rid of an unwanted or unpleasant task to an underling, as in “Mr. Bigbucks dumped off the speech before the Podunk Ladies Reading Circle to his company Veep.” In a football game, a quarterback who feels he is about to be sacked dumps off the ball to a nearby player in hopes of exchanging an imminent long loss for a shorter one. In the real world, we spend half our working time being dumped off on and the other half looking for “dumpees” that we can dump off on.

Flag – v. To call attention to an error, often resulting in punishment, as in “Old Lady Glutz flagged Timmy for spitballing.” When one is flagged, the proper response is an equal mix of shame, remorse, and fierce determination not to be caught the next time.

Gamer – n. A gutsy fool who will gut it up and play through pain, as in “Flonce was a gamer who suffered cliches in silence.” Being a gamer is even more macho than having scars on one’s chin, missing teeth, and a leaning nose. It’s also more conducive to a post-playing broadcast career.

Gang tackle – v. Many workers attack a problem together, as in “The engineers gang tackled the question of how to get the X-943 back from Mars.” This is probably more effective in designing an aircraft carrier than in repairing a watch.

Hear footsteps – v. Betray nervousness at the possible outcome of a situation, as in “Whenever Mercander thought of spending twenty years in prison, the footsteps he heard brought out torrents of flopsweat.” Such footsteps are similar to the proverbial “writing on the wall.” The scariest footsteps are in old tombs and the scariest writing is an invoice that starts “Have you forgotten?”

Key – n., v. – A thing that indicates where the whole mess is heading, observing such things, or giving such things undue attention, as in “If we key on the Senator’s sex life, we’ll be high-fiving in the end zone on election day.” Actually, except for the name, there’s nothing new here. We’ve always looked for keys. When a caveman saw a sabertooth tiger smile, he knew this wasn’t a good time to pet him.

Playbook – n. The choices available in making one’s game plan, as in “Actually, Nunzio, homicide is not in my political playbook.” One should always distinguish between a game plan, which is a selection of those options that will help achieve a goal, and a playbook, which has every possible option but no discrimination. A game plan is the Packers; a playbook is the Bengals.

Pocket – n. A comfortable place not to be abandoned for some wildass idea, as in “Interesting suggestion, Fitzdrummond, but I think we’ll stay in the pocket on this and skip painting the horses blue.”

Ring bell of – v. To put in a dazed condition, as in “Chip-It’s new commercials really rung Acme’s bell.” Ringing the bell – good; getting one’s bell wrung – bad. If one’s bell is wrung too often, one tends to hear bells when no one is ringing them.

Straightarm – v. To fend off an opponent aggressively, as in “Camping on the Senator’s porch all night enabled the *Tribune* to straightarm the *Daily News* with a more lurid headline today.”

Super Bowl – n. The ultimate contest, as in “Timmy crushed Kevin in the Super Bowl of tiddley-winks.” Saddam didn’t understand this when he spoke of “the Mother of all Battles.” General Schwartzkopf skipped motherhood and stuck with football metaphors and you saw who won.

Swivel-hip – v. To dazzle, usually as a way to avoid or hide a pitfall, as in “Ann Marie’s plan swivel-hipped the board with predicted benefits while she kept the costs until the end when everyone had fallen asleep.”

Triple-threat – n. Someone with many talents (no one ever seems to worry if there are more than three), as in “History teaches da Vinci was a real triple-threat, but, in perspective, Raphael was one-dimensional.” In Hollywood, a Writer-Director-Producer is either a triple-threat or an actor whose last film made an obscene amount of money.

This smattering of football metaphors wouldn’t fill Matte’s Wristband, but we note our editor is loading his gun to end the game. We’re into the two-minute drill where we cram all kinds of quotations from Freud, Shakespeare, Jung, Spinoza, Adler, and Nixon together to show the cosmic significance and deep societal meanings behind our use of football metaphors.

At least I hope that gun is only for ending the game. On second thought, we’ll just close. The Spinoza quote isn’t that good anyway.

ANONYMOUS WHO?

Who wrote this article? Someone with a lot of patience.

After our computer failure earlier this year, we were scrambling through back-up discs and stacks of manuscripts, trying to get things back together. One of the things we found was this article on football language. No author’s name was attached. By the time I came across it, I couldn’t be sure whether it had come in before or after the crash. My memory was a complete blank (a state I’ve accomplished to perfection more and more often of late).

I e-mailed a couple of regular Coffin Corner contributors, but none of them claimed authorship. Oh, well, I decided, just let it sit for a while and the author will send me a “Dear Stupid” e-mail, as in “Dear Stupid, why haven’t you published my wonderful article?”

But, as I said, “Anonymous” is patient. More so than I. So I’m publishing the article now and await my “Dear Dummy” e-mail revealing the author.

RECENT BOOKS BY PFRA WRITERS

THE BEST SHOW IN FOOTBALL: The 1946-1955 Cleveland Browns, Pro Football's Greatest Dynasty

By Andy Piascik

Documents the great Cleveland Browns teams of 1946-55 when Otto Graham and company won four AAFC titles (1946-49) and played in six straight NFL championships from 1950-55, winning three.

*** *Lanham, Maryland: Taylor Trade Publishing, 2007. Pp. xv, 396. Illustrations, appendices, index. \$24.95 hb.*

THE COLUMBUS PANHANDLES: A Complete History of Pro Football's Toughest Team, 1900-1922

By Chris Willis

How future NFL president Joe Carr combined the six Nesser brothers and free train travel to produce one of the most legendar and feared NFL teams.

*** *The Scarecrow Press, Inc.. 2007, pp 408. \$35.00 (PFRA Discount \$29.75).*

OUTSIDERS:

Minor League and Independent Football 1923-1950

By Bob Gill, et.al.

A unique work, for the first time, find the full records of the important minor league and independent teams and players during the years when the NFL was growing up.

*** *St. Johann Press. 2007, Pp. 408. \$45.00.*

MINOR LEAGUE FOOTBALL 1960-1985

Standings, Statistics, and Rosters

By Bob Gill

with Steven M. Brainerd and Tod Maher

Details minor league football's second "Golden Age," from the formation of the United Football League thru the World Football League and ending with the demise of the USFL

*** *Amazon.com*

HISTORY OF THE ALL-AMERICA FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

By David A. Bene

The story of a league that failed but made a huge impact. Includes stats, line scores, and photos.

*** *Contact: dandjbene@juno.com /*

AMERICA'S GAME: The Epic Story of How Pro Football Captured a Nation

By Michael MacCambridge

The account begins just before World War II and presents "a thorough, admirably researched account of football's rise to its present eminence."

*** *Paperback, \$27.95, Amazon.com*

LAST TEAM STANDING:

How the Steelers and the Eagles--"The Steagles"--Saved Pro Football During World War II

By Matthew Algeo.

Exhaustively researched and well-written, this is a must for anyone interested in the NFL during World War II..

*** *Hardcover, \$19.76, Amazon.com*

COACHING FRESHMAN & JUNIOR VARSITY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL.

By John T. Reed.

Win more games. Useful for both beginning and veteran coaches.

*** (2007). \$34.95. It can only be ordered from by Web site www.johntreed.com.

TAILGATING, SACKS, AND SALARY CAPS

How the NFL Became the Most Successful Sports League in History

By Mark Yost

A mix of sports history and business analyses covers how the NFL grew, where it is today, and what it is likely to become.

*** Hardcover, \$16.47, Amazon.com

FOOTBALL STARS OF SUMMER

A History of the College All-Star Football Game Series of 1934-1976

By Ray Schmidt

Answers all those questions you want to know about this fabled, annual affair. The rosters alone are worth the price.

*** Hardcover, \$59.34, Amazon.com

THE ESPN PRO FOOTBALL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Edited by Pete Palmer, et.al.

The successor to Total Football II. Includes some new features (and about nine more years of stats and player demographics).

***Sterling Publishing, \$24.95 (\$16.47 on Amazon.com)

KEEP A-GOIN': THE LIFE OF LONE STAR DIETZ

By Tom Benjey

Biography of a legendary Native American coach.

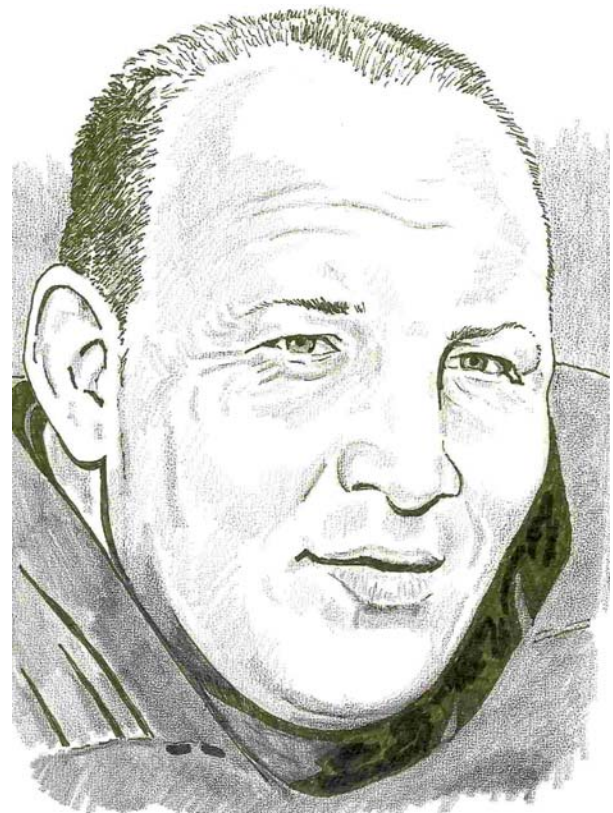
*** Benjey Media (see ad in Classifieds) Softcover \$19.95, Hardcover \$32.95 (PFRA Discount 5%).

ROCKIN' THE ROCKPILE: The Buffalo Bills of the American Football League.

By Jeffrey Miller

Two time AFL Champs. Kemp, Gilchrist, Saban, Shaw, Dubenion and the rest!

*** Published by ECW Press (Toronto). Price: \$34.95. Available on Amazon.com. Also available at Barnes and Noble stores throughout New York. 577 pages. Foreword by Billy Shaw.



Billy Shaw

TURMOIL VS. TRIUMPH: The History of the Syracuse Athletic Association Football Team (1890-1900)

By [Kenneth R. Crippen](#)

Through hardships and glory, the Syracuse Athletic Association football team battled to win multiple championships between 1890 and 1900, forever changing the world of independent football in Syracuse, New York.

*** 190 pages, Paperback, \$16.95, Hard cover \$26.95, eBook \$6.00. Books can be ordered online at http://www.iuniverse.com/bookstore/book_detail.asp?isbn=0-595-45663-4 or by calling 1-800-AUTHORS

PFRA COMMITTEES

By Ken Crippen

The Hall of Very Good Committee is still taking nominations for the next class. Send no more than ten nominations to Andy Piascik at the address below. Keep in mind, that the nominating process is different from previous years, so please get your nominations to Andy as soon as possible. The committee will choose the final list of nominees from your suggestions.

The Western New York Committee is continuing to work on the AAFC project. It is a book, detailing the history of the 1946-1949 Buffalo Bills/Bisons. Work is expected to be completed sometime next year. Interviews with players and player families have already begun and will continue for the next several months.

The Central New York Committee is proud to announce the publishing of *Triumph vs. Turmoil: The History of the Syracuse Athletic Association Football Team (1890-1900)*. The book is now available through the publisher at: http://www.iuniverse.com/bookstore/book_detail.asp?isbn=0-595-45663-4 or by calling 1-800-AUTHORS. It will also be available through Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com sometime in late September or early October.

Hall of Very Good Committee:

Committee Goal: To solicit and sort through nominees, to prepare all HOVG-related materials for *Coffin Corner* and to prepare write-ups on the nominees.

Contact Information:
Andy Piascik
25 Cartright St.
Bridgeport, CT 06604
andy@nflhistory.net

Membership Committee:

Committee Goal: To find ways to make it easier for PFRA members to contact each other and to know who is working on what research.

Contact Information:
John Fenton
11184 Hendrix St.
Philadelphia, PA 19116
(267) 235-2164
jffenton@comcast.net

Pre-NFL Pro Football Committee:

Committee Goal: To research all semi-professional and professional games played prior to 1920. This would include line scores, game summaries and rosters.

Contact Information:

Roy Sye
708 W. Braeside Drive
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
(847) 577-1442
syeroy@wowway.com

Team Radio and TV Commentators Committee:

Committee Goal: To document the play-by-play announcers, analysts and field reporters for every single broadcast of NFL and AFL games (regular season and post season) from 1939 to the present.

Contact Information:

Tim Brulia
14 Altoona Avenue
Enola, PA 17025
(717) 728-9739
coolbrul@yahoo.com
tbrulia@state.pa.us

Uniforms of Past Teams Committee:

Committee Goal: To document every uniform design and color (helmets, jerseys, pants and socks) for each NFL, AFL and AAFC team from 1933 to the present.

Contact Information:

Tim Brulia
14 Altoona Avenue
Enola, PA 17025
(717) 728-9739
coolbrul@yahoo.com
tbrulia@state.pa.us

All-Pros and Awards Committee:

Committee Goal: To generate a complete listing of All-Pro teams from all sources. For the Awards Committee: generate a complete list of all AP and UPI awards and the voting for each of them.

Contact Information:

John Hogrogian
580 84th Street
Apt. 3-I
Brooklyn, NY 11209
(718) 680-1710
jhogrogia@msn.com

or

John Turney
2615 18th Street
Alamogordo, NM 88310
jturney@totacc.com

Stadiums Committee:

Committee Goal: To document and publish information on all stadiums used by professional football teams. The stadium Committee has started and is concentrating on the stadiums in use since 1946. This would include all AAFC, NFL and AFL teams. For each stadium, the committee would like to gather the following:

- A) An aerial view
- B) An exterior view (a view taken of the stadium at street level)
- C) An interior view (a view taken from the stands)
- D) An action view (a view of a game being played in the stadium, which shows both players and some portion of the stadium from the field level)

Along with this information, factual data on each stadium will be compiled. This data would include construction dates, dates of use, anecdotal history, etc. The committee would also like to work on stadiums from other eras (pre-1946), but they will start with post-1946 stadiums. The goal of the committee is to compile a book to be published.

Contact Information:

Bill Pepperell
3427 Overland Drive
Holiday, FL 34691
(510) 776-5649
billpepperell1@yahoo.com

Andy Hernandez
andyhdz@gmail.com

Empire Football League Committee:

Committee Goal: To research and document the history of the semi-professional Empire Football League.

Contact Information:

Dave Burch
1016 Irving Ave.
Endicott, NY 13760
(607) 748-7140
EmpireFoot@aol.com

Western New York Committee:

Committee Goal: To research and document all amateur, semi-professional and professional teams that played in the Western New York Area. The committee would like to publish an encyclopedia when the research has been completed.

Rochester Jeffersons Subcommittee:

Subcommittee Goal: To publish a book on the complete history of the Rochester Jeffersons. This book will contain scores, rosters, game summaries and biographies of all of the players.
<http://www.RochesterJeffersons.com>

Contact Information:

Ken Crippen
740 Deerfield Road
Warminster, PA 18974
(215) 421-6994
<http://www.wnypfra.org>
Ken_Crippen@billsbackers.com

Central and Northern New York Committee:

Committee Goal: To research and document all amateur, semi-professional and professional teams that played in the Central and Northern New York Area. The committee would like to publish an encyclopedia when the research has been completed.

Contact Information:

Ken Crippen
740 Deerfield Road
Warminster, PA 18974
(215) 421-6994
<http://www.wnypfra.org/CNY/>
Ken_Crippen@billsbackers.com

Ken Crippen is responsible for oversight of the PFRA Committees. If you would like to help out with a committee or if you want to form your own committee, contact him at: Ken_Crippen@billsbackers.com.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, go back and check the Hall of Very Good Committee so you can send in your (up to) ten nominees for this year's class. We're hoping to expand the Hall both in participation and excellence.

Remember, we're not looking for players on the verge of entering the Pro Football Hall of Fame, so forget the recently retired and those who made the "final 15" in the last few years. When a H of VG player is elected to the HOF, he loses his position on the H of VG. That's happened three times.

We want to honor those fine players who at this point seem unlikely to be elected to the HOF but nevertheless played well above the norm. Players who have been retired for 25 years are likely choices.

This is an important PFRA honor, but only if a significant portion of the members take part in the nomination and voting.

IT'S UP TO YOU!

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED: "The Second American Football League Fact Book" and "The Unofficial 1940-41 American Football League Guide," both by Tod Maher and Bob Gill. Charley Hall, 1410 Lake Pointe Way #9, Centerville, OH 45459, hallbuckete@Sbcglobal.net

2007 Cuts and Keeps (covers 2006 season). Registry of nearly 2500 rookie and first year NFL, CFL and Arena players with bio data and career transactions; Big, definitive, comprehensive 444 pages. \$75 plus \$5 postage. For researchers, pro personnel, and serious students of football. Sports Information and Research, 1515 Radcliff Ct. Visalia, CA 93277.

Old Pro Football Films (1944-1969) are now available on ultra high-quality video and DVD! Call 1-800-603-4353 for FREE LISTING of over 50 different titles! Doak Ewing, 1126 Tennyson Lane, Naperville IL 60540. www.raresportsfilms.com

TAR – The Autograph Review -- \$14.95 annually, 6 editions. Special to PFRA members for new subscriptions 5/\$9.95. Payable to JW Morey, 305 Carlton Road, Syracuse, NY 13207. Publishing 18 years – Addresses, info.helpful@researchers... Try us.

WANTED: Game films or highlight films from Washington Redskins games 1970-76, especially need 1974 Miami Dolphins game. John Jacob / P.O. Box 4155 / Merrifield, VA 22116 / (703) 909-6395.

EARLY AMERICAN & CANADIAN 'FOOTBALL': BEGINNINGS THRU 1883-84. Mel Smith / 1st Books Library 2959 Vernil Pike / Bloomington, IL 47404

Need the following NFL team photos from the 1950s to complete my research: 1950, 1953-1957 Baltimore Colts; 1950-51 NY Yanks; 1952 Dallas Texans; 1953 NY Giants; 1957 Redskins; 1951 Bears; 1951 Lions; 1958 Rams. Michael Lemongello / 5 Brookline Ave. / East Hanover, NJ 07936. Tel. 973-428-3752. Fax 973-844-1433.

LOOKING for AFL video/film footage, 1960-1969. Please contact John via e-mail at jcrart@sbcbglobal.net.

"Pride & Poise: The Oakland Raiders of the American Football League is the most takes a definitive look into the formation and turbulent early history of the American Football League." For info please visit www.raidershistory.net.

FOOTBALL BOOKS FOR SALE: My latest catalog lists over 300 football books for sale, including over 100 priced at \$10 or less. Biographies, histories, pictorials & more, plus a special section of guides, programs & miscellaneous memorabilia. Catalog also includes books on basketball, boxing, hockey & sports in general. PFRA members receive a 10% discount off all orders. To receive catalog send \$3 to R. Plapinger, PO Box 1062, Ashland, OR 97520, call (541) 488-1220, or E-mail baseballbooks@opendoor.com. Catalog fee is refundable with 1st order. If there are specific books you seek, but you don't want to order the catalog, please feel free to write (SASE guarantees response), call (11am – 10pm EST) or e-mail.

WANTED: Any Philadelphia Eagles items from 1933-43. Programs, contracts, wire photos, newspapers, etc. Photo copies work but I may ask to buy the original if it is for sale. Also interested in 1902 Athletics, Frankford Yellowjackets, 1926 Quakers, Allentown Demons and Bethlehem Bulldogs. E-mail Steve at homebuilder@epix.net

"Keep A-go'in': the life of Lone Star Dietz" by Tom Benjey. Softcover \$19.95, hardback \$32.95, s&h \$6.00. Put PFRA on order for a 5% discount. Benjey Media / 546 E. Springville Rd. / Carlisle, PA 17015. 717-258-9733 voice / 717-243-0074 fax / www.LoneStarDietz.com

Cleveland Brown A to Z by Roger Gordon. 500 A to Z items on Browns history. 7x10 h/c. 230 pgs. Nearly 150 b/w photos. Signed copy: money order \$24.95 to: Roger Gordon, Box 2443 North Canton, OH 44720. For more information, call 330-371-1661 or e-mail gordon425@yahoo.com.

Collage/Poem: "Glory of the Black and Gold" (Steelers first 4 Super Bowls) or "Seven Blocks of Granite, the Golden Rams of Yesteryear" (Fordham Football Golden Years, 1929-42). For a copy of illustrated color collage poem, 8 1/2 x 11 \$5, 11 x 17 \$10, laminated add \$5, plus \$2.50 shipping. Send check or money order to: Victor Mastro, 1907 Narragansett Ave., Bronx, NY 10461.

Researcher's Delight on thousands of rookie and first-year pro players of NFL, NFL Europe, CFL, and Arena of 2006 season with their career transactions. After 20 years, now on Internet. Please look: www.cutsandkeeps.com / 2005 season disc and publication available. Unique, [comprehensive and definitive information for quick facts.](http://www.cutsandkeeps.com)

WANTED: Information on the backgrounds of the players on the rosters of the 1917-1926 Akron Pros and Canton Bulldogs teams. Specifically interested in where they worked and where they lived. Please contact Lee at (805) 981-8678 or speedylee@sprynet.com

FREE FULL-LENGTH FOOTBALL BIOGRAPHIES! More than 30 biographies of top football stars are available free of charge at JockBio.com. Also, great deals on gridiron memorabilia. PFRA members get free shipping! **VISIT WWW.JOCKBIO.COM AND GET A LIFE!**

WANTED: Stadium views of venues used in the regular or post-season, from 1946 to the present, by the AAFC, AFL, and NFL. Aerial, exterior, and interior views needed. Postcards, photos, clips from programs and magazines, etc., are all desirable. Will purchase or trade from my collection. Contact Bill Pepperell at 3427 Overland Dr., Holiday, FL 34691, or billpepperell1@yahoo.com

BOOK: "McKay's Men: The Story of the 1979 Tampa Bay Buccaneers," published by Seaside Publishing of Palm Harbor, FL. Written by Denis Crawford, 218 pages with photos. Tell how John McKay led the Bucs from 0-26 to the brink of a Super Bowl in just two short years. Contains first hand accounts from Lee Roy Selmon and Doug Williams. Book is available for \$14.95 (plus S&H) at seaside-publishing.com or call (888) 352-2665.

FOR SALE: A 10-minute documentary commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of modern American football and the single-wing. Carlisle played Villanova at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 26, 1906 in what was called "the first important game to be played under the new rules" on Indian Field at Carlisle Barracks. Cost for the DVD is \$9.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling (PA residents add 6% for sales tax – even on the shipping). Order through www.TuxedoPress.LoneStarDietz.com or send a check or money order to: Tuxedo Press, 546 E. Springville Rd., Carlisle, PA 17015.

NEW STEAGLES BOOK: "Last Team Standing: How the Steelers and the Eagles – 'The Steagles' – Saved Pro Football During World War II" by Matthew Algeo is now available in bookstores and from Amazon.com and other online booksellers. Based on interviews with every surviving member of the team, it tells the incredible true story of the 1943 merger of the Steelers and the Eagles, includes eight pages of photographs. For more information, visit www.steagles.com

Have you taken care that your Coffin Corner classified ad will run in the next issue? Two runnings = \$5

Reprints of Pop Warner's Single-Wing Trilogy. Follow the early evolution of the single-wing:

1908-10 correspondence course offense pamphlets from Warner's "A Course in Football for Players and Coaches" with introduction and analysis by Tom Benjey, \$10

Warner's 1912 book "A Course in Football for Players and Coaches," \$15

Warner's 1927 book "Football for Coaches and Players," \$17.

All 3 books for \$35 from: www.LoneStarDietz.com or Tuxedo Press, 546 E. Springville Rd, Carlisle, PA, 17015.

No S&H for PFRA members.

Wanted: Any individuals that are interested in writing about the great game of football. If you have a desire to write game previews, feature articles, draft profiles and are interested in the chance to conduct interviews with players of today and tomorrow, then footballdialogue.com is the place for you. It's not a pay position yet but it's a great chance to have fans, media, and football die-hards read your stuff. If this sounds appealing to you, send me an e-mail at Patrick@footballdialogue.com and we can discuss it further.