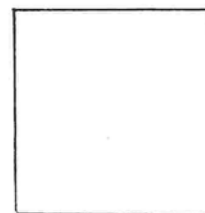
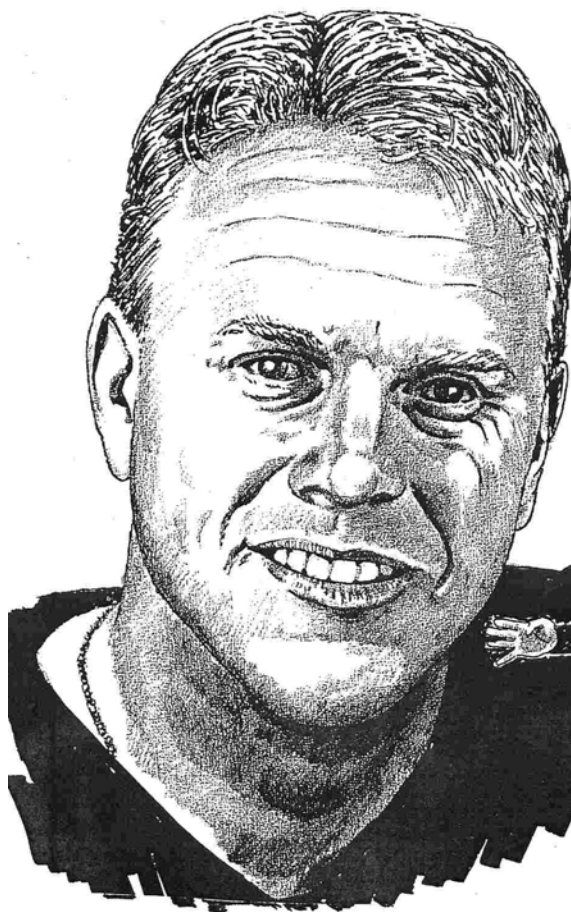


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Boomer
ESIASON

PFRA-ternizing

ATTN: READERS OF OUR WEBSITE

We are looking for people to help with the PFRA website. We have over 1,200 articles from thirty years of *Coffin Corner*. We would like people to write a sentence or two on each article. Something that we can add that is more than just the title and the author. The intent of this project is to give readers a better understanding of the content of the article before they open the file. For example, in the very first issue of *Coffin Corner*, there is an article titled, "The First All-Star Game." We would like to expand on the article. A description as follows would be beneficial to the reader, "Five years after the first recognized pro game, an All-Star team was selected and played the Pittsburgh champs."

If you are interested in helping with this project or have any comments on the PFRA website, please contact Ken Crippen at: Ken_Crippen@profootballresearchers.org (215) 421-6994

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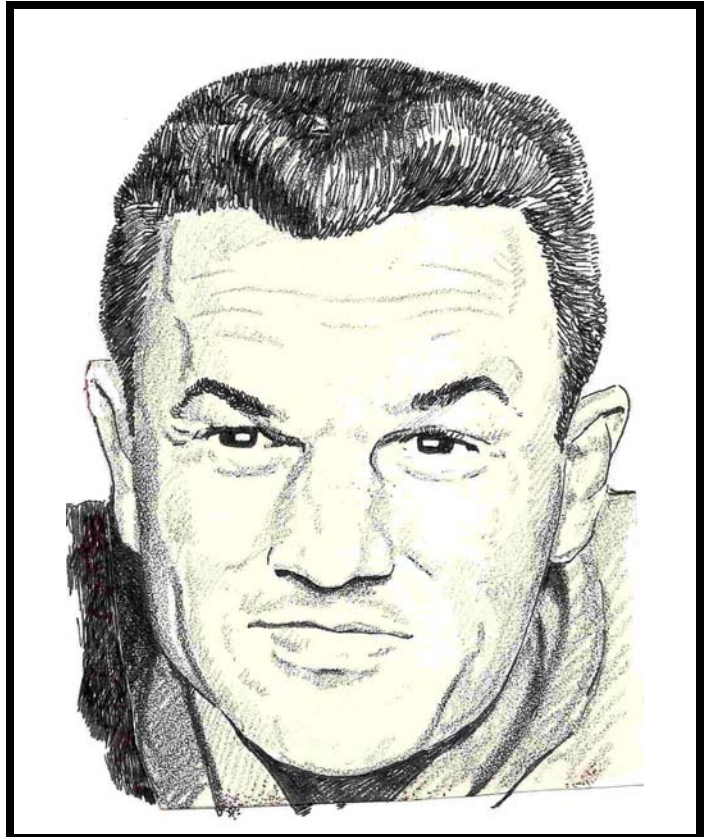
FREE DRAWINGS!

For thirty years, the illustrations for the Coffin Corner have been drawings, not photos. This is because we decided early on that we could not afford to pay rights' fees. Secondly, we have even fewer available funds to pay damages for unlawful use of another's property. Finally, our staff artist was going to draw football players anyway, so we might as well get some use out of him. (His only other published work for the CC was a drawing of a football field from a thousand feet above the 50-yard line. Frankly, a monkey with a ruler could have handled that one.)

Anyway, over the years, his drawings have mounted up. There are more than 1,300 players and coaches now, many of them with more than one depiction. Most of them are retired, but if you have a favorite or two, the odds are pretty good that they're pictured. (Which is not to say that their mother would recognize them. Our staff artist probably

couldn't get work illustrating the phone book's white pages.)

The player's drawings are 3" X 4.5" with one, two, or sometimes four on a page. If you can receive an attachment in Microsoft Word, you'll know how to increase or decrease the size of the drawing. You can have your favorite big enough to be a pin up or small as a postage stamp.



Here's a sample.

So, if you want, you can order as many players as you like (but please hold it to 5 in a week) and I'll send the drawings I have and apologize for the ones I don't. If you can't take a computer attachment, I guess you could put in a buck for postage, but you won't be able to change the picture size.

The price for a player's picture file is free if you are a PFRA member. That's zero for one and nada for five. Free! Of course, if you like the file, you might well consider making a small donation to PFRA to cover the rising cost of printing and postage.

PFRA Committee Report

By Ken Crippen

AAFC COMMITTEE:

The committee would like to thank everyone who helped with the last request to find players. Of that original list, only two players need to be located: Paul Gibson and Tex Williams. There was a rumor that Paul Gibson passed away in 1975, but no documentation has been found to confirm this information. If you happen to have information on Paul Gibson's passing, please contact Andy Piascik at 25 Cartright Street, Bridgeport CT 06604 or to andy@nflhistory.net.

Since that initial request, three more players have been added to the list:

Alfred W. Klug
6/1/20, Milwaukee, WI
Marquette
Bills 46, Colts 47-48

Floyd W. Konetsky
5/26/20, Marianna, PA
Florida
Rams 44-45, Colts 47

Frank Leon Kosikowski
7/23/26, Cudahy, WI
Marquette, Notre Dame
Browns 48

If anyone has information about these players, please contact the committee chair: Andy Piascik at 25 Cartright Street, Bridgeport CT 06604 or to andy@nflhistory.net.

UNIFORMS OF PAST TEAMS COMMITTEE:

The committee has supplied uniform descriptions on NFL uniforms from 1933 through 1958, as well as all four years of the All-America Football Conference. This information has been posted on the PFRA website.

FOOTBALL DICTIONARY COMMITTEE:

Bob Carroll received an inquiry from a publisher overseas, looking for someone to write a football dictionary. I know that several football dictionaries are currently online (John T. Reed's is one of the best <http://www.johntreed.com/fbdictionary.html>), but I would like to know the opinions of the PFRA members as to the quality of those dictionaries. Do you feel that they are comprehensive enough? Do you feel that the PFRA website should contain such a dictionary? Please contact me with your thoughts at

Ken_Crippen@profootballresearchers.org or 215-421-6994. If there is enough interest, a committee could be formed to generate this dictionary. We would also need a volunteer to chair this committee.

HALL OF VERY GOOD COMMITTEE:

It is time for PFRA members to submit their nominations for the Hall of Very Good. Please send up to five nominees to Andy Piascik at 25 Cartright Street, Bridgeport CT 06604 or to andy@nflhistory.net. Once the nominations are received, the committee will pare down the list to 20 candidates. At that point, voting opens up to the PFRA membership. Please have your list of five nominees to Andy by April 15, 2009.

Class of 2008:

Dick Barwegan
Randy Gradishar
Bob Hoernschemeyer
Cecil Isbell
Buddy Parker
Spec Sanders
Jim Ray Smith
Billy Wilson

Class of 2007:

Frankie Albert
Roger Brown
Timmy Brown
Marshall Goldberg
Jim Lee Howell
Glenn Presnell
Dick Schafrath
Jake Scott
Ed Sprinkle
Tank Younger

Class of 2006:

Charley Conerly
John Hadl
Chuck Howley
Alex Karras
Eugene Lipscomb
Kyle Rote
Dick Stanfel
Otis Taylor
Fuzzy Thurston
Deacon Dan Towler

Class of 2005:

Maxie Baughan
Jim Benton
Lavie Dilweg
Pat Harder
Floyd Little
Tommy Nobis
Pete Retzlaff
Tobin Rote
Lou Rymkus
Del Shofner

Class of 2004:

Gene Brito
John Brodie
Jack Butler
Chris Hanburger
Bob Hayes
Billy Howton
Jim Marshall
Al Nesser
Dave Robinson
Duke Slater

Class of 2003:

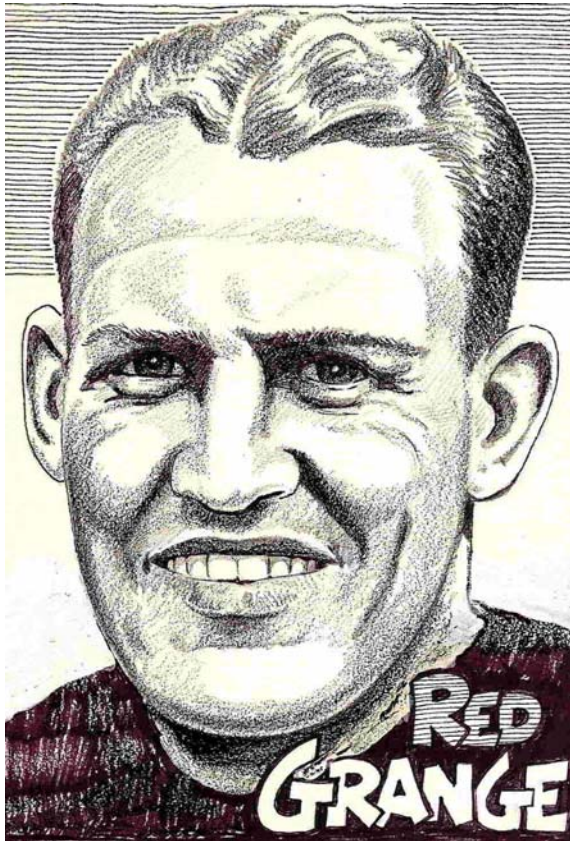
Gino Cappelletti
Carl Eller*
Pat Fischer
Benny Friedman*
Gene Hickerson*
Jerry Kramer
Johnny Robinson
Mac Speedie
Mick Tingelhoff
Al Wistert

*Member of the Professional Football Hall of Fame

Seasons in the Sun

The California winter league of 1927 and '28

By Bob Gill



Conventional wisdom has it that 1946 was the year that big-time professional football finally arrived on the West Coast, when the Cleveland Rams of the NFL moved to Los Angeles and the new All-American Football Conference put teams in L.A. and San Francisco. That's true, up to a point.

But it ignores the little-known fact that Californians got their first real taste of pro football two decades earlier.

It all started with Red Grange. When the Galloping Ghost and the Chicago Bears visited the West Coast in January 1926 on the second leg of a cross-country barnstorming tour, they made their biggest

splash in Los Angeles, where a reported throng of 75,000 at the Coliseum watched them play a team of college standouts featuring Washington University star Wildcat Wilson. A rematch a week later in San Francisco's Kezar Stadium attracted a much smaller but still impressive turnout of 23,000.

Naturally that kind of success got the attention of local promoters, and by the next fall they had organized a minor league of their own called the Pacific Coast Football League. It included four teams: in order of finish, the Hollywood Generals, the Oakland Oaks, the San Francisco Tigers and the Los Angeles Angels. Most of the players had experience at West Coast colleges, but none of them had anywhere near the star power of Wilson, let alone Grange, and attendance averaged something like 3,500.

The PCFL season was just the prelude, though, to the main attraction.

In January 1927 Grange and Wilson returned, bringing with them the teams they'd starred for in the 1926 AFL: Grange's New York Yankees and Wilson's Wildcats, who had nominally represented Los Angeles. This time they were joined by two NFL teams – the Duluth Eskimos, featuring Ernie Nevers, and the Los Angeles Buccaneers, featuring Brick Muller – to form what was in essence a California winter league.

The Duluth team – usually called Nevers' Eskimos on the coast – reached California in late December, and played four games against PCFL teams before the big-time opposition arrived. On Dec. 18, in San Francisco, they blanked the California All-

Stars (a combination of the PCFL's Oakland and San Francisco teams) 19-0, as Nevers booted a field goal and threw a touchdown pass to Johnny Blood. The game attracted a small crowd estimated at 2,500 to 3,000.

A week later, on Christmas Day, the Hollywood Generals, undefeated PCFL champs, surprised the Eskimos and 8,500 spectators at Los Angeles' Wrigley Field by handing the visitors a 6-3 loss. Nevers' field goal in the first quarter gave his team an early lead, but he missed five other attempts later in the game, any one of which would have allowed his team to escape with a tie.

The very next day, back in San Francisco, 3,000 fans saw Nevers' team take it on the chin again, this time by a score of 9-7, as the California All-Stars avenged their earlier defeat.

Having dropped two games in a row to minor leaguers, the Eskimos finally got back on track with a workmanlike 10-0 victory on Jan. 2 in the rubber match with the All-Stars, this one played in Sacramento. Nevers scored all of his team's points in a game played before 5,000 fans.

A week later two other big-time teams finally got into action in California. Muller's Californians – the name local papers generally used for the erstwhile Buccaneers – kicked off their "second season" with a 19-0 verdict over Nevers' Eskimos before a crowd of 8,000 in San Francisco. After a scoreless first half, Bull Finch returned a fumble 71 yards for the game's first score, and Bob Fitzke tallied two fourth-quarter touchdowns, one on the ground and one on a pass from Tut Imlay.

This game, coming on the heels of the two earlier losses, spelled the end of the winter season for Nevers' team.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, close to 10,000 fans saw Wilson's Wildcats trounce the Hollywood Generals 28-7. The PCFL champs took an early 7-0 lead after blocking a punt on

the Wildcats' five-yard line, but Wilson's crew took over after that. Despite the presence of the Washington All-American, the Los Angeles *Times* declared Jimmy "Rabbit" Bradshaw the star of the game. He passed for one touchdown, set up the final score with back-to-back runs of 20 and 16 yards, and had a punt return for another score called back on a penalty.

On Jan. 16, a crowd of almost 20,000 turned out to see Red Grange's Yankees make their first appearance on the coast, but the redhead was overshadowed by Tut Imlay, who threw for one TD and ran 33 yards for another as Muller's Californians rolled to a surprising 30-6 victory. Besides his long touchdown run, Imlay also broke loose for a gain of 40 yards in the first quarter and 30 yards later on. No points resulted from either play, though in the latter case Muller's men reached the Yankees' four-yard line before the drive stalled.

Grange's best efforts were a 23-yard run from scrimmage and a 35-yard kickoff return, but the *Times* reporter wasn't impressed with the Yankees; he believed they had "too many stars" and not enough teamwork.

The Yankees' teamwork improved a lot over the next week, or maybe their star power was just too much for the Hollywood PCFL team. Whatever the explanation, Grange's gridders cruised to a 48-6 win, as Eddie Tryon and Roy "Bullet" Baker led the way with two touchdowns apiece. Grange scored one himself, on a five-yard run.

Up the coast in San Francisco, Wildcat Wilson threw for two touchdowns to lead his team to a convincing 17-0 victory over Muller's Californians before a good crowd of 11,000.

Having won two in a row, by an average margin of 19 points, Wilson's team should've been in the running for the California championship, if this had been an official league. Instead, it disappeared altogether, as the promoters apparently thought Muller's

team – which, after all, was called the Californians – had more appeal for local fans. And of course there was no dropping Red Grange's team, since his name was still believed to mean magic at the box office.



BRICK MULLER

As a result, Grange's and Muller's squads faced off on Jan. 30 for the final game to be played that winter in Los Angeles, and 10,000 fans saw the Yankees win 14-0. Perhaps ironically, though, the stars were two new additions from the now-disbanded Wildcats: Rabbit Bradshaw and Wildcat Wilson himself, who threw for one TD apiece to account for all the scoring. Grange's best moment came on a long return of an interception that almost added another score late in the fourth quarter.

The hard-hitting nature of this game had to impress anyone who wondered whether the players took the "winter league" seriously. Ferocious tackles put Wilson and Grange out of action for about a quarter each, and at one point Muller's shoulder was pulled out of its

socket. Brick lived up to his nickname, though, staying in the game after a trainer popped the shoulder back into place.

A week later the Grange and Muller aggregations staged a rematch in San Francisco, this time with an added twist: The winners were to get 70 percent of the proceeds.

After a poor showing in the previous game, Muller's team added Ernie Nevers and Johnny Blood from the now-idle Duluth team, and the move paid off. Trailing 6-0 in the fourth quarter, Nevers plunged for the game-tying touchdown and then booted the decisive extra point for a 7-6 victory. Despite rain, a crowd of 8,500 watched the conclusion of the winter's gridiron entertainment.

With attendance consistently in five figures, the winter league had proved successful for all involved, so in January 1928 it returned for another go-round, but with a slightly different cast. One team returned pretty much intact: Grange's Yankees, now members of the NFL. Grange, though, had suffered a bad knee injury that fall that eventually caused him to sit out the 1928 season, and at this point he was no longer the star on his own team, though still the biggest gate attraction.

Wildcat Wilson had spent the 1927 season with Providence in the NFL, but for the winter league he led a new version of Wilson's Wildcats, including a few Steam Roller players plus a collection of West Coast stars.

The Duluth Eskimos had fallen on hard times in 1927, winning only one game during the NFL season, so Ernie Nevers' squad was reinforced this time with more stars from West Coast colleges, the best-known being Tut Imlay. The resulting amalgamation was known as the Nevers-Imlay Giants.

Between them, the Wildcats and Giants employed most of the players who had made up Muller's Californians a year earlier. That team's place on the winter circuit was taken by the Cleveland Bulldogs, led by Benny

Friedman, easily the best passer yet in the college or professional ranks. In keeping with the "star system" on the coast, this team was known as Friedman's Bulldogs during its California sojourn.

In the winter season opener, played in San Francisco on Jan. 2, a Monday, to avoid competition with the Rose Bowl, Wildcat Wilson's touchdown run in the fourth quarter gave his squad a 6-0 win over Grange's team before a crowd of 5,000.

The next Sunday, in Los Angeles, 10,000 fans saw the Wildcats top the Yankees again, this time 7-0, by virtue of an 82-yard interception return in the fourth quarter by Rabbit Bradshaw. It was Bradshaw's second long run of the game, following an earlier return of a punt for 53 yards. Verne Lewellen stood out for the Yankees, booting several punts out of bounds deep in enemy territory. In addition, Lewellen nearly connected with Eddie Tryon for a game-tying touchdown, but Tryon couldn't hang on to the ball when he collided with a box seat railing that cut off part of the end zone.

Meanwhile, the Bulldogs and Giants faced off in San Francisco before another slim turnout of 5,000. Nevers got his team off to a quick start, intercepting one of Friedman's passes in the first quarter and then plunging for a touchdown. The 6-0 lead held up until the fourth quarter, when Tiny Feather picked off a Nevers pass and returned it for the tying score. Friedman's extra point gave the Bulldogs the lead, and Feather ran for another TD a few minutes later to make the final score 13-6.

Friedman's passing in his West Coast debut left much to be desired, as he completed just six of 21, with five intercepted. But a week later, playing in San Francisco again before an even more disappointing crowd of 2,500, he completed 15 passes, one of them good for a touchdown to Ossie Wiberg, in leading his team to a 12-6 victory over Wilson's Wildcats. Friedman also stood out as a ball carrier, scoring the game's first TD on a 31-

yard run and later getting away for 58 yards. Wilson got his team close with a 59-yard scoring dash in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough.

That same Sunday, in Los Angeles, a crowd of 10,000 watched Grange's Yankees beat the Nevers-Imlay squad 7-0 in a game that was rather short on thrills. The contest was decided in the second quarter, when Mike Michalske blocked a punt by Nevers deep in his own territory, and Bo Molenda went over from three yards out for the touchdown, then booted the extra point to conclude the scoring.

Things perked up on Jan. 22, again in L.A., when the Bulldogs and Yankees hooked up in what the *Times* called "as fine a game as anybody could ask for," and "best of the local pro series." The Bulldogs opened the scoring in the second quarter, moving downfield on Friedman's passing (16 of 24 for the game) before Feather went over from a yard out. Friedman added the extra point. A short time later, Molenda got Grange's eleven on the board with a short plunge, but he missed the conversion, leaving the Bulldogs holding a one-point advantage at halftime.

In the third quarter Grange got away for a 27-yard run, but Molenda missed a field goal that would have given the Yankees the lead. He got another chance, though, in the game's final minutes after Grange had thrown to Wes Fry for a 25-yard gain. A few plays later Molenda dropped back to the 27-yard line to attempt a game-winner, and this time his kick was good.

With very little time left, Friedman moved his team downfield quickly with a 30-yard completion and runs of 11 and 15 yards, but a 15-yard penalty for holding killed the drive, and the Yankees escaped with a 9-7 victory.

That was the weekend's only action, because rain in San Francisco washed out a matchup between Wilson's Wildcats and the Nevers-Imlay team.

All four teams were back in action on Jan. 29, but not one of them managed a victory. The Bulldogs and the Wildcats battled to a scoreless tie in Los Angeles, while up the coast the Yankees and the Nevers-Imlay squad finished in a 13-13 deadlock.

Nevers threw two touchdown passes in the latter game, one to Johnny Blood and another one late in the fourth quarter, but emerged as something of a goat because he missed the extra point after the final TD, which would have given his team a victory. The Yankees' Bo Molenda had also missed a conversion attempt after plunging over for the game's first touchdown. Only 2,500 showed up for the winter's last game in San Francisco, where attendance had been poor throughout.

Meanwhile, Wilson's team had all the best of it against Friedman & Co., but the Wildcats were stopped four times inside the Bulldogs' ten-yard line, once after Wilson had picked off one of Friedman's passes and returned it 65 yards. The game's decisive sequence took place in the final three minutes, starting with a pass from Wilson to Brick Muller for a 35-yard gain that put the ball on the Bulldogs' two-yard line. On the very next play, Wilson's fumble was scooped up by Frank Kelley, who returned it 98 yards for an apparent touchdown. But the officials ruled that Tom Cobb, a tackle on Friedman's team, was offsides, and the Wildcats got the ball back.

Unable to push it over for a TD, on fourth down Wilson sent Dick Reed back to attempt a field goal from 12 yards out. But it sailed wide, and both teams and 7,000 spectators went home on that indecisive note.

As the teams left the field, Bulldog coach Roy Andrews, still irate over the offsides call, slugged referee Bill Lopez. Lopez announced in the next day's paper that he intended to press charges, but Andrews was back on the sidelines for the winter league's finale on Feb. 5, when the Yankees and Bulldogs faced off in a rematch of the Jan. 22 game that had received such rave reviews. Close to 10,000

fans turned out to see what the *Times* described as a "red-hot struggle."

The Bulldogs got on the board first with an 88-yard drive, highlighted by a 35-yard pass from Friedman to Carl Bacchus that moved the ball to the Yankees' five-yard line. Three plunges by Ernie Nevers, who had joined Friedman's club for the occasion, took care of the last five yards.

It was still 6-0 in the third quarter when the Yankees finally mounted a threat. Grange passed to Red Badgro for a 35-yard gain, and a few plays later Molenda got loose for a 37-yard run to pay dirt and then booted the conversion to give his team the lead.

Late in the fourth period another Yankee drive stalled at the Bulldogs' ten-yard line. On a fake field goal, Molenda's pass was almost intercepted by Tiny Feather, but after the ball trickled off Feather's fingertips, the Yankees' Jim Lawson snagged it at his shoe tops and sprinted into the end zone to give Grange & Co. a 13-6 lead, which stood up until the final gun sounded.

That marked the end of California's two-year experiment with winter football, and it's not hard to see why. For one thing, attendance in 1928 was down from a year earlier, especially in San Francisco. For another, Red Grange and Ernie Nevers both sat out the 1928 NFL season, so neither of the two biggest stars was in playing shape – or affiliated with any big-time team – by January 1929. Benny Friedman and Wildcat Wilson both had all-pro seasons in the NFL in 1928 and might have been available again for games on the coast, but apparently the idea of just two teams playing each other a couple of times didn't have enough financial appeal.

For two years, though, the participants in the winter league had created their own unique chapter in pro football history.

LEFT WINGERS

By John Maxymuk



One of the standard data items in any baseball reference book is the handedness of each batter and fielder because it plays such a significant role in how that player performs. By contrast, handedness matters for only one position in football, quarterback, and thus is unrecorded and nearly impossible to find. While researching my history of the quarterback position (*Strong Arm Tactics*), I attempted to uncover all left handed quarterbacks who have appeared in the NFL. With the establishment of the T formation as the base pro offense in the 1940s, left-handed quarterbacks were extremely rare. For several years in the 1950s and 1960s, there were no left handed quarterbacks in the NFL. However, since 1969, there has been at least one southpaw signal caller in each season.

5'10" Frankie Albert was a struggling left-handed tailback in the lackluster single wing offense of the 1-7 1939 Stanford Cardinal when Clark Shaughnessy arrived in Palo Alto and introduced the revolutionary T formation to college football. Behind the sleight-of-hand ball-handling skills of

Albert, Stanford improved to 10-0 and won the Rose Bowl in 1940 to prove the efficacy of the T. Albert was the number one draft choice of the Chicago Bears in 1942 and would have been the first left-handed NFL quarterback—as Sid Luckman's backup—had not World War II intervened. Because Albert went into the service, Brooklyn's 5' 11" Allie Sherman became the first left-handed professional T formation quarterback on the 1943 Steagles. He played four more years as a backup with the Eagles before signing on as an assistant coach under Steve Owen to teach the T he had mastered to the A formation Giants. After a stretch coaching in Canada, Sherman returned to New York as their head coach in the 1960s.

Meanwhile, Albert signed with the brand new San Francisco 49er franchise in the All-America Football Conference after the War and became the first star left-handed quarterback. Albert was known for his fakes and bootlegs and threw 88 touchdown passes in the four seasons of the AAFC. Albert stayed with the 49ers for their first three seasons in the NFL, once the two leagues merged, and then spent one final year in Canada as probably the first left-handed quarterback in the CFL. The third southpaw quarterback of the 1940s was 5'10" Ernie Case who was a number one pick of the Green Bay Packers, but signed instead with the fledgling Baltimore Colts of the AAFC. The undersized Case had led the UCLA Bruins to the Rose Bowl in 1946, but had little success in the pros, throwing just eleven passes in his only season.

When Albert retired after 1952, no left-handed quarterback remained in the NFL. Although Boston University's Harry Agganis could have filled that void when the Cleveland Browns drafted him in the first round that year, this lefty instead signed to play baseball with the Red Sox before tragically dying young. He is in the College Football Hall of Fame. The only lefty to join the NFL in the 1950s was West Virginia's Fred Wyant who got to throw just two passes for the 1956

Washington Redskins. Wyant played with future NFL stars Sam Huff, Chuck Howley, Bruce Bosley and Joe Marconi as a Mountaineer and later served 27 years as a league official.

After a seven-year gap, the next lefty, Heisman Trophy winner Terry Baker, was drafted by the Rams in 1963. Baker was a single wing tailback who could not pass well enough to play quarterback, run well enough to play halfback or get open enough to play end and flopped at all three positions in Los Angeles. Two other college lefthanders were drafted and switched positions during the 1960s. Ernie Kellerman from Miami of Ohio became a defensive back for the Browns from 1966-73, and Bobby Duhon of Tulane became a runner and defensive back for the Giants from 1968-72. At the end of the decade, Bobby Douglass of Kansas was drafted by the Bears in the second round of 1969. Douglass was 6'4" and 225 pounds and, it was said, could throw the ball through a brick wall if he could only hit the wall. He was better noted for setting a quarterback rushing record with 968 yards in 1972, and he averaged 6.5 yards per carry rushing but only 5.5 yards per pass over his ten-year career with four teams. Since Douglass arrived, not a season has passed without at least one left-handed quarterback active in the NFL.

Although he was originally drafted in 1968, Alabama's Kenny "Snake" Stabler got his first chance to play for the Raiders in 1970. The deadly accurate Stabler had also been drafted as a pitcher by both the Mets and the Astros, but chose football and went on to have a very successful 15-year career in Oakland, Houston and New Orleans. In Super Bowl XI against the Vikings, Stabler became the first left-handed signal caller to win a championship. Always the gunslinger, Kenny threw 194 touchdowns but is also the all-time leader among southpaws in throwing interceptions with 222.

Other lefthanders to arrive in the 1970s were less effective. Jim Del Gaizo of the Dolphins, Packers and Giants is more remembered for his mutton chop sideburns than his completed passes. He had the lowest completions percentage of any lefty who threw at least 100 passes (42.7%). Dennis Morrison was the fifth quarterback used by the struggling 1974 49ers and completed just 41.2% of his 51 passes in his one and only season. The well traveled David Humm backed up fellow lefty Stabler in Oakland and also played

for the Colts and Bills, but completed only 46% of his passes. The final lefty to emerge in the decade was Jim Zorn on the expansion 1976 Seattle Seahawks. Zorn was a free agent who had tried out for Cowboys and Rams before getting a chance to play in the Great Northwest. Zorn was not a great quarterback, but his scrambling style was ideally suited to the hectic pace of a brand new team and gave Seattle fans exciting play and a presentable offense in short order.

The next lefthander to join the league was Southern California's Paul McDonald in 1980. McDonald quarterbacked the Trojans to two Rose Bowl wins and the 1978 National Championship, but found things tougher in the pros where he began as Brian Sipe's backup in Cleveland. When Sipe jumped to the USFL in 1984, McDonald threw just 14 touchdowns to 23 interceptions as a starter and was replaced the following year by rookie Bernie Kosar. While McDonald was failing in Cleveland, Boomer Esiason was beginning his All-Pro career in Cincinnati and Hall of Famer Steve Young was turning pro in the USFL. Esiason would eventually throw for more yards (37,920) and touchdowns (247) than any other left-handed quarterback. Young, of course, would flounder in Tampa, but excel once traded to San Francisco. With the 49ers, Young won a Super Bowl and would finish his career with the highest completion percentage (64.3), passer rating (96.8) and rushing yardage (4,239) of any lefthander. One of Esiason's backups, southpaw Erik Wilhelm, was drafted by the Bengals in 1989 and spent eight seasons in the NFL, but threw just 133 passes in that span. Wilhelm threw twice as many passes in his one season of Arena football in 2001.

The 1990s brought one star in Mark Brunell and a flurry of mediocrities with little to distinguish them. Jeff Carlson was the third quarterback on the 1990-91 Buccaneers that won just nine of 32 games and then capped his career as the fourth quarterback for the 2-14 1992 Patriots. 6'6" Scott Mitchell was enriched by free agency and once threw 32 touchdowns for the Lions, but was noted for his propensity to fold under pressure and bounced around to four teams over eleven years. USC's Todd Marinovich threw away his potential to drugs and immaturity. Will Furrer was the first Virginia Tech left-handed quarterback to make the league in 1992, but only spent one year in Chicago and one in Houston, throwing two

touchdowns and 10 interceptions. Doug Nussmeier was one of five quarterbacks to flub his opportunity on Mike Ditka's rudderless 1997 Saints. Tony Graziani spent three seasons as a backup in Atlanta before landing in the Arena League where he has been a star for several seasons. Cade McNown was one of three flops in the heralded 1999 draft in which five quarterbacks were chosen in the first round. Two of those flops, McNown and Tim Couch, both dated *Playboy* Playmate of the Year Heather Kozar, but because Akili Smith failed without dating Kozar, no causality was clearly established.

In the meantime, Mark Brunell began in 1994 as Brett Favre's backup in Green Bay before being traded to the expansion Jaguars and becoming a notable star in his own right. The scrambling Brunell reminded some of Steve Young and led both the Jags and Redskins to playoff berths. He is one of three southpaws to accumulate over 30,000 yards passing, has thrown 182 touchdowns and has been sacked a lefty record of 389 times through 2007.

In the opening decade of the 21st century, left-handed prospects have struggled to prove themselves. Brock Huard and Matt Lytle both were drafted in 2000 and both are out of the league. Michael Vick became the first black quarterback and first lefthander ever taken first in the NFL draft in 2001. His suspended career interspersed spectacular runs and passes that only he could achieve with scattershot throws and bad decisions that recalled Todd Marinovich. Sadly, some of his off-field decisions were even worse. Dave Ragone had a short-lived career as a backup in Houston. Tampa's Chris Simms has had injury problems that make it less and less likely he will ever emulate his father's success in the NFL. Arizona's Matt Leinart is striving to separate himself from the two previous USC southpaw quarterbacks who failed in the NFL, and Giants' backup Jared "Hefty Lefty" Lorenzen is trying to prove that there is a place in the league for a 300-pound quarterback.

Green Bay and Tampa have employed the most left-handed quarterbacks over the past 65 years with four a piece, but none of them succeeded in those two bay towns. San Francisco, also by the bay, can claim the most left-handed success in history with Frankie Albert in the 1940s and Steve Young in the 1990s. Meanwhile, three teams, the Vikings, Broncos and Chiefs, have never used a

lefty in a game, although Georgia Tech's David Greene was on the Chiefs roster in 2007. With Florida's legendary Tim Tebow on the horizon as the next potential great NFL left-handed quarterback, it seems there will always be a steady stream of southpaws trying to make their mark in a right-handed league.

Table 1
Left-Handed QBs Drafted in First Round

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------|
| Frankie Albert | Bears | 1942 |
| Ernie Case | Packers | 1947 |
| Harry Agannis | Browns | 1952 |
| Terry Baker | Rams | 1963 |
| Boomer Esiason | Bengals | 1984 |
| Steve Young | Bucs | 1985 |
| Todd Marinovich | Raiders | 1991 |
| Cade McNown | Bears | 1999 |
| Michael Vick | Falcons | 2001 |
| Matt Leinart | Cardinals | 2006 |

Table 2
Left-Handed QBs Drafted Who Never Played in NFL

| Player | College | NFL | Year | Rnd |
|-----------------|---------------|----------|------|------|
| Harry Agannis | Boston Univ. | Browns | 1952 | 1st |
| Dean Schneider | USC | Giants | 1952 | 22nd |
| John Furman | Texas El Paso | Browns | 1962 | 4th |
| John Furman | Texas El Paso | Broncos | 1962 | 4th |
| Bob Biletnikoff | Miami | Jets | 1967 | 17th |
| Kim King | Ga. Tech | Steelers | 1968 | 14th |
| Rick Leach | Michigan | Broncos | 1979 | 5th |
| Brian Buckley | Harvard | Patriots | 1981 | 11th |
| Mike Shula | Alabama | Bucs | 1987 | 12th |
| Josh Heupel | Oklahoma | Dolphins | 2001 | 11th |

Table 3
Left-Handed Runners Who Threw at Least One Pass

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Joe Laws | Packers |
| Bull Doehring | Bears |
| Mike Sebastian | Eagles |
| Sam Francis | Bears |
| George McAfee | Bears |
| Jim Gillette | Rams |
| Curt Mecham | Dodgers |
| Ken Stofer | Bills (AAFC) |
| Buddy Young | Colts |
| Lynn Chandnois | Steelers |
| Tony Minisi | Giants |
| Ron Bull | Bears |
| Gale Sayers | Bears |
| Donny Anderson | Packers |
| Bobby Duhon | Giants |
| Sherman Smith | Seahawks |

HORSES, TRUCKS AND ROCKETS

By Tracy Thibeau

In 1939 NFL President Joe Carr died and Carl Storck filled in temporarily. That year, the league offered the job to Arch Ward, the sports editor of the *Chicago Tribune*. He turned the job down then and once again in 1940. Ward was one of the country's most respected sportsmen. Ward felt that football, like baseball, should have two leagues so he organized the AAFC.

In 1944, John L. Keeshin was awarded the Chicago AAFC franchise, saturating the local market. Keeshin put up most of the \$250,000 investment in the Rockets himself. Chicago was clearly a Bears town. They annually outdrew the Cardinals by two to one. Even Cardinals owner, Charlie Bidwill, was considered to be a Bears fan. There was evidence that the Cardinals were planning to move to San Francisco to compete for that market with the AAFC's Forty-Niners. In the end, Bidwill teamed up with Halas to run the AAFC out of town.

Native Chicagoan, Jack Keeshin, founded Transcontinental Freight Lines in 1915. At the time, he was only 14 years old and delivered freight by horse and wagon. Twenty years later, his company was the largest motor carrier in the country.

In 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt sent him to China to assist in the building of the Burma Road. The winding thoroughfare stretched 717 miles through steep mountainous jungle terrain and opened up commerce between Burma and China. In 1942, Keeshin was accused of hiring thugs to beat up unionists. But the charges were dropped.

Shortly after he returned from China, Keeshin, along with a few other investors, bought Chicago's Sportsman's Park, a half-mile racetrack. The track was wildly popular, and profitable, because it was located close to the

inner city and accessible by bus and streetcar. The Chicago crime syndicate had murdered one of Sportsman's Park's previous owners, Edward J. O'Hare, for being a police informant. Keeshin was allowed to purchase O'Hare's stock. Sportsman's Park was situated alongside Hawthorne Park, a racetrack administered by Charlie Bidwill.

Chicagoan Benjamin F. Lindheimer was an official of Arlington Park and also served at the Washington Park racetrack. Lately, Lindheimer had been attempting to buy at least part of the Bears or Cardinals but was rebuffed by both Halas and Bidwill.

Lindheimer became part of a group that included Don Ameche, Bing Crosby, Pat O'Brien and Louis B. Mayer and financed the Los Angeles Dons in the AAFC. Keeshin told the press: "The names connected to the Los Angeles club will stand as evidence of the financial stability of the All-American Football Conference. Every club in the league is operated by men whose aggregate wealth runs into millions of dollars."

In the NFL, the football team was the primary source of income for many of the men who owned franchises.

"We're going to give Chicago the finest team possible," he said. "If I wasn't determined to do this, I wouldn't have entered the field. The public will decide whether there is room for another team. It's up to us to make that answer in the affirmative"

"We're going into air freight after the war," he said. "There will be opportunities for our players to begin building for the day when their athletic career is over. We will sign this type of boy on a year round basis. I am sure this plan will be followed by the operators of

other teams in the conference, most of whom are men high in industries. This will present a real opportunity for college men.”

During this era, the pay that pro football players made was not enough to sustain them year round. In 1949, a survey said that 64% of pro football players had off-season jobs. Keeshin would promptly admit to anyone that he knew nothing about running a football team. He said that he would hire someone to be both coach and general manager and that he would give this chosen person a free hand at running the team. Keeshin also said that he planned to play his games on Wednesday nights.

On November 1, 1945, Keeshin shocked the nation when, at age 45, he stepped down as the largest individual truck operator in the country. The *Tribune* said: “He attributed his action to impossible labor demands.” Keeshin also cited rising costs of maintenance. He said the company had lost \$230,000 in the last two years.

“My action was made necessary,” said Keeshin, “by my belief that only in this way could I help save the system and draw attention to the critical situation of the trucking industry. The Keeshin system apparently has been selected as the guinea pig in the effort of the workers to obtain the increases demanded. Therefore, I have resigned.”

A union representative commented: “We don’t know why Keeshin quit but it sure as hell had nothing to do with us. It’s a phony.” The company stock had recently been diving. Keeshin said, “It may be worth nothing now that I’ve left. But I don’t want to be the richest man in cemetery. I want to have some fun.”

In early 1946, Keeshin began receiving threatening letters. One of the envelopes letters contained a bullet. The note said: “Be alert. The next one will be in your body.”

In February his house was broken into. The gunman, a man with a slight build and a

southern drawl, roused three maids and tied their hands with apron strings. He ordered them to take him to their employer. He did not mention a name. He told one of the women to knock on his bedroom door and tell him the furnace was out of order.

Keeshin answered the door and his wife screamed at the sight of the gunman. Jack reacted quickly and threw a blanket over the man. When he punched the man on the jaw, the intruder hit the wall so hard it cracked the plaster and he dropped his gun. Keeshin tried to grab the gun but his hysterical wife got in the way. The gunman retrieved his own weapon and retreated out the window that he came in through.

Although the police in River Forest thought the motive was robbery, Keeshin confided to friends that he thought that someone was trying to make his murder look like a robbery attempt. The *Tribune* stated: “Close associates said Keeshin had no quarrels with anyone in connection with his football enterprise or other business pursuits.”

The AAFC procured, persuaded or pilfered 109 players away from the NFL. The Bears and Cardinals each lost twelve men.

The man Keeshin hired for his head coach and general manager was former Northwestern coach, Dick Hanley. Lt. Col. Hanley had been coaching the El Toro Marines football squad. They were one of the best in the military and Keeshin signed seventeen players from that team too. Some of the players on El Toro had previous commitments to play in the NFL but Lt. Col. Hanley threatened to give them duty assignments at godforsaken locations if they didn’t stay with him.

Hanley showed Bob Dove, a former Notre Dame end, a map of the South Pacific. “Now see here,” said Hanley, “Do you know what this island is? Tarawa. Here’s Iwo Jima. See this Island? It’s got a number on it-Number Seven. See these islands up here? They

don't have a name or a number, Bob. If you don't sign this contract with me, your ass is going to be on those islands and they may never find you again."

Bob Dove had been offered \$1800 to play for the Redskins in 1946 but Keeshin gave him \$5,250 for three years with \$500 raises each season. Dove was also given a job in the off-season for a large Chicago trucking company. Even though Dove jumped over to the Cardinals in 1948, he continued to work at the trucking company for five years.

Hanley told Elroy "Crazy Legs" Hirsch that unless he signed with the Rockets, he might be sent to China with the occupational forces. Arch Ward's column said that Hirsch "had been saying some harsh things about John L. Keeshin, who has already paid Hirsch \$900 on his pro contract." The *Tribune* reported: "Asked about reports that Hirsch had rebelled at joining the team, Keeshin commented: 'When I say a player is signed he's signed. And I say that Hirsch will be with us next year.'" Hirsch received \$6000 for the season, a \$1000 bonus and called it "the biggest athletic mistake of my life."

Another recruit, who was on his way to becoming the starting halfback, was Bill McArthur. He could run the 100-yard dash in 9.5 seconds and might have been an Olympian if the event had been held in 1940. In an intra-squad game, he had his leg broken so severely that it had to be amputated. "What a hell of a short career that was!" McArthur joked as he was carried off the field.

The football season began with five home games in a row at Soldier Field. All of the home games were played at night except one. There was one Wednesday, two Friday and three Saturday night games. One game was scheduled on Sunday afternoon, September 29, because the Bears were in Green Bay and the Cardinals had to wait until Monday to play at Comiskey Park. The White Sox were using the place right up until that Sunday.

The Rockets opening day crowd at Soldier Field was 51,962. They averaged over 31,000 for their first five home games, but slipped to 19,000 for their last two. The Rockets tried avoiding the freezing wind off the lake by scheduling the last home game by the 2nd of November. The team sometimes would wear big parkas with a drawstring around their face.

Dick Hanley and Jack Keeshin had a personality clash. Before the kickoff of game three, on a Wednesday night, it was announced that three players would be coaching the team instead of Hanley. The unemployed Hanley sat on the bench with his assistants, Ernie Nevers and Pat Boland, for the first half. During half time, Keeshin released the statement: "Within the past several weeks, Dick Hanley has repeatedly submitted his resignation. On the last occasion-today- I accepted it."

Hanley said he was fired. He told Keeshin, "If you think you can get someone to do the job better, go ahead." Hanley also took credit for the substitutions and maneuvers in the final seconds that won the game that night. He even showed up for practice on Thursday, "to live up to his contract," he said.

Keeshin held court and took a secret poll of the players. They voted 32 to 1 to oust Hanley. One of the players was quoted as saying that the team unanimously thought that Hanley's double-wing system was too antiquated for the modern game.

"All this came out of the blue," said Ernie Nevers. Ernie presumed that he would be fired too. The future Hall of Famer had experienced a heartbreaking setback recently.

Back in 1926, about the time the college star left school and turned professional, he got married. The two newlyweds were inseparable. That spring, Ernie was signed to pitch for the St. Louis Browns. Not only did his contract allow him to leave in September to play football, he had a rare clause in it that

allowed his wife to travel with the team. Only established star pitcher Urban Shocker of the Yankees had one of those. She accompanied him to football training in Minnesota too.

During the war, Ernie could have easily stayed out of the fight. He had almost every bone in his body broken, including his neck, playing football. But Ernie became an officer in the Marines. His ordinance unit went missing for months in the South Pacific. After they were rescued, Never's weighed about 100 pounds. He returned to the states only to find that his beloved bride had died in his absence.

Keeshin tried to hire Sid Luckman of the Bears as player/coach and offered him \$25,000 a year for three to five years. Luckman turned him down. Halas was livid and publicly accused Keeshin of using "hoodlum tactics" in trying to secure Luckman's services. So Keeshin brought a slander suit against Halas for \$250,000.

On October 29, 1946, in mid-season, Keeshin made headlines when he sold his interest in Sportsmans Park to Cardinal's owner Charlie Bidwill and one of his business partners for a million dollars. The stock Keeshin had purchased in 1940 for \$28 a share had recently been valued at \$250. Keeshin dropped the price and sold at \$175 a share.

Keeshin's attorney told the press that he had reached his decision: "because he wanted to be relieved of burdens and responsibilities connected with the operation of Sportsmans Park in order to enable him to devote all his time to the Chicago Rockets and other business activities." At the time, the track was more popular than ever with an average daily attendance of 10,000 and a handle of \$775,000.

That same day, with a 3-3-2 record and six games remaining, Keeshin abandoned his three-man player/coach system. He appointed Pat Boland his head coach and reinstated Ernie Nevers as backfield coach. The team's final record was a respectable 5-

6-3. They finished last in the AAFC's strong western division.

Attendance was adequate. The Rockets averaged about 35,000 per home game. The Bears still managed to draw over 40,000 at almost every home game. The Cardinals only scheduled four home games in 1946. The first one, a Monday night game, drew 14,667, the attendance for the last three Sunday games averaged over 36,000.

The Bears won the NFL championship in 1946.

At the end of only one season, Keeshin sold out. He sold the Rockets to a group led by Jim Crowley, who resigned his position as commissioner of the AAFC in order to complete the sale.

"I couldn't get Crowley with a coaching offer alone," said Keeshin. "He agreed to accept the job only if he gained control of the club." Keeshin went on, "I have other business interests that require more time than I have been able to devote to them the last two years because of my attention to football."

The Rockets spat and sputtered in 1947. The team record was 1-13. Each of their last two home games drew less than 6000 fans. They played a game in Brooklyn that only drew 2,960. The Cardinals won the NFL championship. The league absorbed the team at the end of the season and the franchise was under new ownership again in its third year. In 1948 they averaged less than 15,000 fans at home games. The Cardinals repeated as conference champs but lost the playoff to Philadelphia. In 1949 they were renamed the Hornets, but they still had no sting, and are now just a footnote in football history.

Jack Keeshin remained in Chicago for the rest of his life and operated smaller, local transportation companies. He always remained close to influential men in the transportation industry. He died in Chicago, in 1983, at the age of 81.

HANFORD DIXON

By Roger Gordon

Originally published in the Orange and Brown Report



College graduation was not far off. Just a few more months and Hanford Dixon would have his degree. Dixon's collegiate football days were done, too. Less than a month earlier, he and his University of Southern Mississippi teammates had defeated McNeese State in the Independence Bowl.

With time to kill on an early January Sunday, Dixon decided to take in an NFL game on television. It happened to be the Red Right 88 polar playoff between the Oakland Raiders and Cleveland Browns. Watching the Raiders and Browns slip and slide in one-degree weather that felt like 37-below because of the wicked winds was enough for Dixon to make a declaration.

"Man, there's no way I'm playin' for that team (the Browns)," Dixon said at the time. "There's guys [in the stands] with no shirts on! Those guys are insane!"

It is understandable that Dixon felt that way at the time. After all, the Alabama native had played a grand total of three football games in the state of Ohio – all while at Southern Miss – and two of them were in Cincinnati, one in September and the other in October.

"And then eight months later," Dixon laughs, "here I am playing for that team, the Browns."

The Browns selected Dixon in the first round of the 1981 NFL Draft. The rookie was in awe during his first training camp, at Kent State University, the Browns' final summer at KSU.

"I think my locker was between Brian Sipe's and Greg Pruitt's," Dixon recalls. "(Pruitt and Sipe) wouldn't even let me talk to them. When they said something to *me* it was,

'Rookie, shut up!' I was just happy that they even talked to me! It was just all part of the rookie thing."

It did not take long for Dixon to acclimate himself. Before he knew it, he was the Browns' starting right cornerback.

Although the Browns had losing records in three of Dixon's first four years, the foundation for a solid defense was being built. Besides Dixon, other newcomers to the unit that already included stud Clay Matthews were guys like Eddie Johnson, Chip Banks, Tom Cousineau, Carl Hairston and Don Rogers.

However, it was an acquisition the Browns made in the spring of 1984 that was, as Dixon puts it, "the final piece to the puzzle."

That player was Frank Minnifield. The fiery cornerback joined the team the day after playing in the USFL Championship Game as a member of the Arizona Wranglers.

"You know how sometimes you have something and you just need one more thing to complete it? Well, Minnifield was it."

"Minnie' and I, we just clicked," Dixon says. "There were no two corners better prepared for each game than the two of us. We studied film at home, and we knew everything about the wide receivers we covered – their moves, how many steps they took ... hell, we knew when they went to the bathroom and how long they were in there!"

Dixon's slight size advantage over Minnifield generally dictated that he cover the bigger wide receivers.

"The coaches let us decide," says Dixon, who stood 5-foot-11, 195 pounds. "We knew exactly what we were going to do and how we were going to cover the receivers. We didn't even go to the huddle, we just went to our positions."

Although many corners played bump and run at the time, the Browns' dynamic duo perfected the scheme with a different twist.

"A lot of cornerbacks would start to run before they got the jam," Dixon explains. "We stayed in the jam because we knew if we missed the jam, we were fast enough that we'd catch up."

The result? A five-year run from 1985-89 in which the "Corner Brothers" were unmatched by any other cornerback

tandem around. Not coincidentally, the Browns began winning, too, after more than a decade of less-than-stellar play. Five playoff berths. Four AFC Central Division titles. Three AFC Championship Games. Only Superman – er, John Elway – denied Dixon and the Browns from advancing to the Super Bowl.

“When we played Denver in the championship game,” Dixon says, “they seemed to have their best games. It wasn’t meant to be.”

Although the “Denver Dilemma” is what most fans remember, it was an agonizing playoff defeat to Miami that fueled the fire behind the heartbreak of the late-’80s. The Browns finished just 8-8 in 1985, yet won the weak Central and a shot at Dan Marino and the high-powered Dolphins. The young Browns looked to be in command, up 21-3 in the third quarter. They failed to hang on, though, and fell 24-21. The Corner Brothers were now on the national radar, though, as Dixon and Minnifield held the vaunted “Marks Brothers” – Mark Duper and Mark Clayton – to one reception between the two.

“To be honest,” Dixon says, “I think we were noticed before that. I guarantee you, Duper and Clayton knew what they were in for before that game.”

Had they hung on against the Dolphins, the Browns would have actually hosted New England – a team they beat during the regular season – in the AFC Championship Game. Dixon not only believes the Browns would have defeated the Patriots, he is convinced they could have won Super Bowl XX.

Against the big, bad Bears?

“Hell yeah!” he shouts. “It’s the Super Bowl!”

Dixon left the Browns after the 1989 season due to a personality conflict with Bud Carson. He caught on with the Super Bowl champion 49ers in 1990 but tore his quadriceps in training camp before retiring.

Dixon was named to numerous All-AFC defensive teams in 1986 and ‘87, and was picked for the Pro Bowl from 1986-88. He totaled 26 interceptions in his career, including a career-high three on Dec. 19, 1982, that helped the Browns to a crucial 10-9 triumph over Terry Bradshaw and the Pittsburgh Steelers in a Cleveland Stadium quagmire.

These days, the 49-year-old Dixon is the owner of, and a broker for, Avalor Cleveland Realty. In addition, he co-hosts Browns pre-game and post-game shows on WOIO Channel 19. He also hosts a Browns post-game shout-out on WTAM AM 1100.

Dixon, an avid golfer and traveler, resides in Westlake with his wife of 20 years, Hikia, and their three children – Marva, 18, Hanna, 16, and Hanford, Jr., 15.

Hanford and Hikia manage a non-profit organization called Right Path Foundation, a martial arts school in Westlake. This summer will mark the sixth annual Right Path Foundation “Top Dawg” Celebrity Golf Classic at Dorlorn Golf Club in Columbia Station. All proceeds from the martial arts school and the golf tournament go to The Right Path Children’s Charitable Foundation.

Besides being one of the finest cornerbacks – defensive backs, actually – in Browns history, Dixon also was one of the most colorful characters ever to don the Orange and Brown. He, along with Minnifield, were the originators of the famed “Dawg Pound” that was born nearly a quarter of a century ago and is still going strong today in the more contrived version at Cleveland Browns Stadium.

One day at training camp in 1984 at Lakeland Community College, Dixon and Minnifield, taking notice that the team lacked a strong pass rush, began barking – yes, barking – at the defensive linemen.

“We wanted to get them going,” Dixon, who quickly became known as “Top Dawg,” recalls. “We wanted them to be the dogs and to look at the quarterback as the cat. The whole thing was meant for the defensive line, but at Lakeland the fans were so close to the playing field that they just took it over and took off with it.”

And how.

Little did the Browns’ corners know that their woofing would be the start of quite possibly the largest, loudest, longest-running canine commotion this side of the motion picture *101 Dalmations*. During the next ten-plus seasons at the old stadium, and on into the new era, legions of fans have barked and dressed like ... well ... dogs. Some have even *eaten* like canines, feasting on dog biscuits!

“Everybody on a team needs something to identify with,” Dixon says. “That was the thing for us. This Dawg thing was just right on time.”

Dixon swells with pride that, all these years later, the Dawg Pound is alive and well.

“I’m really excited about it,” he says.

Dixon believes families should be able to attend Browns games without being subjected to antics from drunken fans. However, the former Brown admits today’s version of the Dawg Pound is a bit too contrived, and that the rules and regulations throughout Cleveland Browns Stadium are a dash too rigid.

“Football’s still football, and fans are still fans,” he says. “You’ve got to let the Dawgs be Dawgs.”

SHOWING THE FACTS UNDER THE FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

By Dr. Gregory Selber

Glorifying Texas football has almost become hackneyed these days, especially with the success of the various *Friday Night Lights* productions stemming from H.G. Bissinger's original book. And if you ask any resident of the Lone Star State, they'll tell you with much exuberance about the state religion: football, and particularly the high school version.

But does the product really stack up with all the accolades and hyperbole? The truth is, the main trouble constructing an all-time team out of those players who were born in Texas is deciding which great ones to leave off the roster. Once you add in all the players who went to Texas colleges but not state high schools, the task becomes nearly impossible.

Bottom line: Texas comes by its reputation for football excellence naturally, tall tales and big talk notwithstanding.

THE TEXAS TEAM

Compilation of athletes with the Lone Star Connection reveals that the fantasy squad would be incredible on defense, especially tackle and the secondary, and equally fabulous at running back and wide receiver. The weak spots, if they can be termed thus, are on the offensive line and at linebacker.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACK: SAMMY BAUGH

From Sweetwater in West Texas, he played high school ball at Temple in the central part of the state, and led TCU to a national championship in 1935. Threw for 21,886 yards after getting picked by the Washington Redskins in 1937, with 187 touchdown passes. Also one of the finest punters ever, averaging 45.1 lifetime and setting an NFL mark with his 51.4 clip in 1940. Won two NFL titles (1937 and 1942) and led the league in interceptions with eleven in 1943. He played in six Pro Bowls and was All-Pro four times, making the Hall of Fame in 1963.

Backups: Hall of Famer **BOBBY LAYNE** (1967) of Dallas and The University of Texas; won three titles with the 1950s Detroit Lions, amassing over 26,000 yards passing and 2,451 rushing. **Y.A. TITTLE**, from Marshall in East Texas, played at LSU and went on to a Hall of Fame career (1971) mainly with the 49ers and Giants. Had over 33,000 yards, including over 3,000 twice.

RUNNING BACK: EARL CAMPBELL

The "Tyler Rose" won the Heisman Trophy in 1977 at Texas and the Rookie of the Year with the Houston Oilers the next season. Crunched for 9,407 yards in his career with 74 TDs, gained 1,934 yards in 1979 and was a Hall choice in 1991.

RUNNING BACK: ERIC DICKERSON

Out of high school power Sealy in south central Texas, Dickerson was awesome at SMU and then gained 1,808 yards as a rookie for the Los Angeles Rams in 1983. Set the NFL record with 2,105 yards the next season, and for his career, passed 1,000 eight times on the way to 13,259 rushing yards. Six Pro Bowl appearances and five All-Pro seasons.

Backups: **THURMAN THOMAS**, Sugarland Willowridge product who played at Oklahoma State, gained 12,074 yards rushing and 4,458 more receiving, played in four Super Bowls and led the league in yards from scrimmage from 1989-92. Hall of Fame inductee in 2007. **OLLIE MATSON**, from Trinity, Texas, played college ball at San Francisco Univ. Hall inductee of 1972 was all-purpose star with 5,173 yards rushing and 3,285 more in catches. Returned nine kicks for TDs in career that spanned from 1952-66 with four teams. **BILLY SIMS**: set all kinds records at Hooks HS in East Texas, won the Heisman at Oklahoma, and ran for over 5,000 yards for Detroit before a career-ending knee injury. **LADAINIAN TOMLINSON** (Rosebud, TCU) Has over 10,000 yards rushing and 3,375 receiving so far.

WIDE RECEIVER: LANCE ALWORTH

From Houston, he went north as a flanker for Arkansas, and from 1962-72, caught 542 passes for an 18.9

average and 85 scores, mainly with San Diego. Set the NFL record with 1,602 yards receiving in 1965 and played in seven Pro Bowls. Hall of Fame: 1978.

WIDE RECEIVER: CHARLEY TAYLOR

Big (6-3, 210) guy from Grand Prairie, near Dallas, went to Arizona State. Was at one point the all-time leading receiver, with 649 grabs and 79 career TDs. Eight-time Pro Bowler had his best year in 1966, with 72 catches for 1,119 yards; also rushed for 1,488 yards lifetime. Hall member circa 1984.

Backups: **RAYMOND BERRY**, SMU star from Corpus Christi on the Texas coast, had been the leader in all-time catches before Don Maynard and Taylor caught him. The ultimate hands-possession receiver, he caught 631 passes for 9,275 yards and made the Hall in 1973. **TIM BROWN**: Dallas native who won the 1987 Heisman for Notre Dame, and ended a great NFL career with 1,094 catches for 14,934 yards. Had 1,000 nine times and also made four return TDs, appearing in nine Pro Bowls. **DON MAYNARD** (Crosbyton, UTEP) 633 catches for 88 TDs, 1,000 yards five times for Jets, Hall in 1987. **DOAK WALKER** (Dallas, SMU) 4,059 yards from scrimmage, 534 points with '50s Lions, Hall in 1986.

OFFENSIVE LINE**CENTER: CLYDE "BULLDOG" TURNER**

Drafted by the Chicago Bears in 1940 out of tiny Hardin-Simmons in West Texas, the versatile lineman from Plains ended up a seven-time All-Pro. Along with being the center and anchor of a Bears' dynasty that won three titles, Turner was a fine linebacker, leading the league in interceptions with eight in 1942. Backup: **FORREST BLUE** (Marfa, in West Texas, played at Auburn), two-time All-Pro with the San Francisco 49ers.

GUARD: GENE UPSHAW

Out of Robstown in South Texas, Upshaw was a superstar at Texas A&I in Kingsville and a first-round choice of the Oakland Raiders in 1967. He played in 217 games, making eight Pro Bowls, and started in the first Super Bowl. Elected to the Hall of Fame in 1987, he later became the leader of the NFL Players Union.

GUARD: Take your pick from among **HARLEY SEWELL** (St. Jo, UT) four-time All-Pro from 1953-63 with the Lions; **OX EMERSON** (Douglass, UT) 1931-38 with Lions, won 1935 title, made All-Pro five times;

RILEY MATHESON (Shannon, UT-El Paso), 14 INT with Rams and five-time All-Pro from 1939-48.

TACKLE: FORREST GREGG

From tiny Birthright, Texas, Gregg starred for SMU and then joined the Green Bay Packers in 1956, and was part of the great line that led the Packers to five world titles. A seven-time All-Pro who played in nine Pro Bowls, Gregg finished up his career with the 1971 Dallas Cowboys and later became a successful coach. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1977.

TACKLE: WINSTON HILL

This mainstay of the Jets line played at Texas Southern after a stellar career at Seguin High School in Central Texas. At 6-4, 270, he dominated the defense for 14 seasons from 1963-77, making the Pro Bowl eight times and winning a title in 1968.

Backup tackle: **RICHMOND WEBB**, a first-rounder by Miami in 1990 out of Texas A&M by way of Dallas. Seven Pro Bowls and two All-Pro years, 1992 and 1994.

TIGHT END: RILEY ODOMS

The Luling (Central Texas) native played for Houston in college and caught 396 passes for the Denver Broncos from 1972-83. He was the fifth pick in the draft in 1972 and his best season was 1978 (54 catches for 829 yards). All-Pro in 1974-75 and was in four Pro Bowls.

DEFENSE**TACKLE: JOE GREENE**

He was 6-4, 275, and came out of Temple to attend North Texas State; was the first choice of the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1969. Made ten Pro Bowls and won four world titles, making the Hall in 1987.

TACKLE: BOB LILLY

From tiny Olney in North Texas, he was a stud for TCU and the leader of the Doomsday Defense from 1961-74, making All-Pro seven times and playing in two Super Bowls. Elected to the Hall in 1980.

TACKLE: BUD McFADIN

Unknown star who played before television era, came out of UT to start for the Rams and later the Denver Broncos and Houston Oilers. Played from 1952-65, making the All-Pro squad in 1954-55 before retiring in 1956. Came out of retirement to become one of the

toughest linemen in the new AFL, with three All-Pro years from 1960-62.

END: BUBBA SMITH

Though some feel he never lived up to his potential, the native of Beaumont on the coast was a mammoth presence at 6-7, 265, and enjoyed a standout year in 1971, making All-Pro for the champion Baltimore Colts.

LINEBACKER: MIKE SINGLETARY

Houston-born, he went to Baylor and then to the Chicago Bears, where he made ten Pro Bowls, seven All-Pro units, and was a champ with the 1985 Bears. He had 19 sacks, seven INTs and recovered 12 fumbles; elected to the Hall in 1998.

LINEBACKER: TOMMY NOBIS

San Antonio native won a national title for the Texas Longhorns in 1963, then was the first pick in the draft by the original Atlanta Falcons in 1966. Five-time Pro Bowler who labored in obscurity for some bad teams.

Backups: Schulenberg's (Central Texas) and Texas Tech's **E.J. HOLUB**, a mainstay of the Kansas City Chiefs in the 1960s; five-time Pro Bowler. **ZACH THOMAS**: Has made over 1,000 tackles in the NFL, mainly with the Miami Dolphins. Originally from Pampa, in West Texas, played collegiately at Texas Tech.

SECONDARY: KEN HOUSTON

Hall of Famer from Lufkin in Central Texas, starred at Prairie View and then for the Oilers and Redskins, 1967-80. Returned nine of his 49 lifetime picks all the way, including a record-setting four in 1971. Made an astounding twelve Pro Bowls and was still a great player into his mid-30s.

DARRELL GREEN

Class of 2008, the NFL's Fastest Man came from Houston to attend Texas A&I, where he was Little All-America. Played for 20 seasons in the pros, with 54 interceptions and three Super Bowl appearances. Seven Pro Bowls all told.

MIKE HAYNES

From Denison near the Oklahoma border, he went out to Arizona State like Charley Taylor, and became a New England Patriot in 1976. Made eight INT and averaged 10.4 on punt returns as a rookie, and would make 46 career picks with NE and the Raiders. Nine trips to the Pro Bowl, Hall election in 1997.

NIGHT TRAIN LANE

From the state capital of Austin, he played at a Nebraska junior college before bursting on the NFL scene with a record 14 interceptions (for 298 yards and two TD) in 1952 with the Rams. He collected 68 career picks, was elected to the Hall in 1974, and was also a fearsome tackler.

YALE LARY

Perhaps the most versatile, Hall of Famer (1979) made 50 interceptions and averaged 44.3 in 503 punts with the Lions from 1952-64. Led the NFL in punting three times and averaged better than 45 yards in five of seasons (48.9 in '63) and added three punt-return scores. Fort Worth boy who played at A&M and won three NFL titles.

MEL RENFRO

Houston product went to play at Oregon, and from 1964-77 intercepted 52 passes; in 1964, he was a dominant rookie with seven picks and league-leading yardage on returns. Ten Pro Bowls, Hall election in 1996.

EMMITT THOMAS

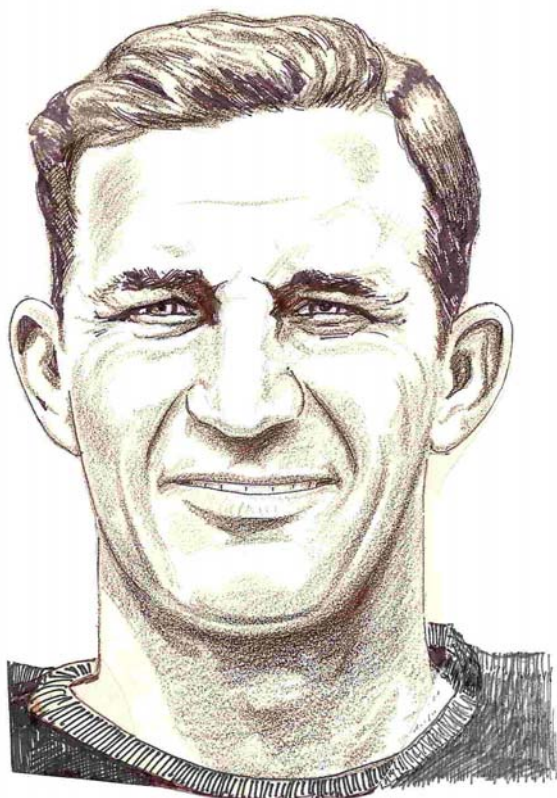
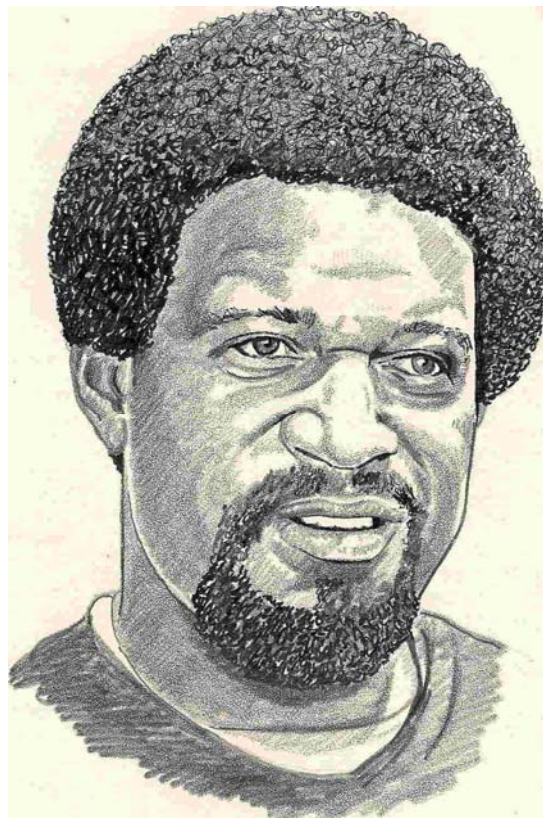
From Angleton on the coast, he joined Green in the Hall in 2008, after a stellar career with the Chiefs from 1966-78. Made 58 picks lifetime, good for five touchdowns. From Bishop College, played in Super Bowl I as a rookie.

JIMMY JOHNSON

Dallas kid who made the grade at UCLA, played 16 years for the 49ers with 47 INT; also caught 34 balls for 627 yards in 1962. Four-time All-Pro and Hall member, 1994.

KICKER: Laneville native **MARK MOSELEY**, from Stephen F. Austin, 346th pick of 1970 draft, became one of the best, making 20 field goals six times, 30 once, and scoring 100 points three times, including 161 in 1983 when he was the league MVP.

PUNTER: **SHANE LECHLER**, from Sealy like Dickerson, has averaged 46.5 yards for his career since 2000, out of A&M. That includes a whopping 49.1 last season, 2007.

**SAMMY BAUGH****GENE UPSHAW****PLAYER DEATHS IN 2008**

| Player | Pos | College | Career | Born | Died | Ag |
|---------------------|------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Agee, Mel | DE-OT | Illinois | 1991-95 Ind, Atl | 11-22-1968, Chicago, IL | 06-15-2008, Lawrenceville, GA | 39 |
| Allen, Carl | HB | Ouachita Baptist | 1948 BknA | 08-25-1920, Hensley Twp., OK | 11-07-2008, Benton, AR | 88 |
| Allen, Lou | T | Duke | 1950-51 Pit | 07-12-1924, Gadsden, AL | 04-17-2008, Greensboro, NC | 83 |
| Andros, Plato | G-T | Oklahoma | 1947-50 ChiC | 11-28-1921, Oklahoma City, OK | 09-22-2008, Norman, OK | 86 |
| Atwood, John | HB | Wisconsin | 1948 NYG | 01-27-1923, Janesville, WI | 07-13-2008, Houston, TX | 85 |
| Avinger, Butch | FB | Alabama | 1953 NYG | 12-15-1928, Beatrice, AL | 08-20-2008, Birmingham, AL | 79 |
| Bacon, Coy | DE-DT | Jackson State | 1968-1971 LARm, SD, Cin, Was | 08-30-1942, Cadiz, KY | 12-22-2008, Ironton, OH | 66 |
| Barnard, C.W. "Hap" | E | Cent. Oklahoma | 1938 NYG | 03-03-1915, Ovalo, TX | 06-29-2008, Garland, TX | 93 |
| Baugh, Sammy | QB | TCU | 1937-52 Was | 03-17-1914, Temple, TX | 12-17-2008, Rotan, TX | 94 |
| Beatty, Ed | C | Mississippi | 1956-61 SF, Pit | 04-06-1932, Clarksdale, MS | 06-07-2008, Mandeville, LA | 76 |
| Berezney, Pete | T | Notre Dame | 1947-48 LA-A, BalA | 11-14-1923, Jersey City, NJ | 10-13-2008, Olean, NY | 84 |
| Bolden, Leroy | HB | Michigan State | 1958-59 Cle | 08-24-1932, Wabash, AR | 10-31-2008, Roanoke, VA | 76 |
| Bookout, Billy | DB | Okla. A&M | 1955-56 GB | 01-01-1932, Choice, TX | 10-10-2008, Bedford, TX | 76 |
| Bowman, Bill | FB | Wm. & Mary | 1954-57 Det, Pit | 09-22-1931, Birmingham, AL | 02-07-2008, Greeneville, TN | 76 |
| Buzynski, Bernard | LB | Holy Cross | 1960 Buf | 05-03-1938, Lockport, NY | 09-11-2008, Winter Haven, FL | 70 |
| Caesar, Ivan | LB | Boston College | 1991 Min | 01-07-1967, St. Thomas, Virg. Is. | 04-28-2008, Orlando., FL | 41 |
| Carothers, Don | E | Bradley | 1960 Den | 05-13-1934, Moline, IL | 09-19-2008, Wilson, NC | 74 |
| Case, Pete | G | Georgia | 1962-70 Phi, NYG | 12-27-1940, Dayton, OH | 12-18-2008, Cyumming, GA | 68 |
| Casey, Tim | LB | Oregon | 1969 ChiB, Den | 02-29-1944, Portland, OR | 02-15-2008, Portland, OR | 63 |
| Callin, Tom | LB | Oklahoma | 1953-59 Cle Phi | 09-08-1931, Ponca City, OK | 06-07-2008, Seattle, WA | 76 |
| Chesser, George | RB-P | Miss., Delta St. | 1966-67 Mia | 09-11-1942, Starkville, MS | 11-12-2008, Starkville, MS | 66 |
| Cooper, Thurlow | TE-DE | Maine | 1960-62 NYT | 03-18-1933, Augusta, ME | 02-14-2008, Portland, ME | 74 |
| Cornish, Frank | C-OG | UCLA | 1990-95 SD, Dal, Min, Jac, Phi | 09-24-1967, Chicago, IL | 02-22-2008, Southlake, TX | 40 |
| Coutre, Larry | HB | Notre Dame | 1950, 1953 GB, Bak | 04-11-1928, Chicago, IL | 05-19-2008, Boca Raton, FL | 80 |
| Cox, Norm | QB-TB | Texas Christian | 1946-47 ChiA | 09-22-1925, Albany Twp., TX | 04-28-2008, Monahans, TX | 82 |
| Crowley, Joe | E-B | Dartmouth | 1944-45 Bos | 04-06-1919, Boston, MA | 01-22-2008, Scituate, MA | 88 |
| Davis, Milt | DB | UCLA | 1957-60 Bal | 05-31-1929, Muskogee, OK | 09-29-2008, Elmira, OR | 79 |
| Davis, Wayne | DB | Indiana state | 1985-90 SD, Buf, Was | 06-17-1963, Cincinnati, OH | 03-16-2008, Auburn, GA | 44 |
| Dawson, Mike | DT | Arizona | 1976-84 StL, Det, KC | 10-16-1953, Dorking, Eng | 03-14-2008, Tucson, AZ | 54 |
| Day, Eagle | QB | Mississippi | 1959-60 Was | 10-02-1932, Columbia, MS | 02-22-2008, Nashville, TN | 75 |
| DeMao, Al | C | Duquesne | 1946-53 Was | 02-29-1920, New Kensington, PA | 02-01-2008, Glen Burnie, MD | 87 |

| Player | Pos | College | Career | Born | Died | Ag |
|--------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----|
| Dial, Buddy | FL | Rice | 1959-66 Pit, Dal | 01-17-1937, Ponca City, OK | 02-29-2008, Houston, TX | 71 |
| Dimancheff, Babe | HB | Butler, Purdue | 1945-52 Bos, ChiC. ChiB | 09-06-1922, Indianapolis, IN | 10-17-2008, | 86 |
| Dooley, Jim | E-FL | Miami (FL) | 1952-61 ChiB | 02-08-1930, Stoutsville, MO | 01-08-2008, Lake Forest, IL | 77 |
| Drulis, Al | FB-BB | Temple | 1945-47 ChiC, Pit | 08-30-1921, Girardville, PS | 09-23-2008, Cherry Hill, NJ | 87 |
| Dukes, Mike | LB | Clemson | 1960-65 Hou, Bos, NYJ | 03-16-1936, Louisville, KY | 06-16-2008, Beaumont, TX | 72 |
| Elliott, Lenvil | RB | NE Missouri St. | 1973-81 Cin, SF | 09-02-1951, Lexington, MO | 10-12-2008, Richmond, MO | 57 |
| Ellis, Roger | LB | Maine | 1960-63 NYT | 02-01-1938, Boston, MA | 05-14-2008, Brewer, ME | 70 |
| Elter, Leo | FB-HB | Duq.; Villanova | 1953-59 Pit, Was | 10-21-1929, Shaler Twp., PA | 08-23-2008, Shaler Twp., PA | 78 |
| Enderle, Dick | G | Minnesota | 1969-76 Atl, NYG, SF, GB | 11-06-1947, Breckenridge, MN | 09-04-2008, New York, NY | 60 |
| Erickson, Bud | C | Washington | 1938-39 Was | 04-10-1916, Seattle, WA | 04-14-2008, Carnano Island, WA | 92 |
| Evans, Chuck | RB | Clark, Atlanta | 1993-2000 Min, Bal | 04-16-1967, Atlanta, GA | 10-12-2008, Sparks, MD | 41 |
| Evans, Dick | E | Iowa | 1940-43 GB, ChiC | 05-31-1915, Chicago, IL | 05-26-2008, Sarasota, FL | 91 |
| Evans, Ray | OG-T | Texas-El Paso | 1949-50 SF-A, SF | 01-10-1924, Electra, TX | 04-25-2008, Salem, OR | 84 |
| Faulkner, Jack | Coach | Miami (O) | 1962-64 Den | 04-04-1926, Youngstown, OH | 09-28-2008, Newport Beach, CA | 82 |
| Faverty, Hal | LB-DE-C | Wisconsin | 1952 GB | 09-26-1927, Hammond, IN | 07-21-2008, Sequim, WA | 80 |
| Frerotte, Mitch | OG | Penn State | 1987-92 Buf | 03-30-1965, Kittanning, PA | 06-11-2008, Kittanning, PA | 43 |
| Gambold, Bob | QB | Washington St. | 1953 Phi | 02-05-1929, Longview, MA | 10-25-2008, Chandler, AZ | 80 |
| Gay, Billy | DB | Notre Dame | 1951 ChiC | 11-12-1927, Chicago, IL | 04-08-2008, Lockport, IL | 80 |
| Goddard, John | DE | Marshall | 2005 Ind | 05-11-1981, San Diego, CA | 06-15-2008, Jacksonville, FL | 27 |
| Grandelius, Sonny | RB | Michigan State | 1953 NYG | 04-16-1929, Muskegon Hgts, MI | 04-25-2008, Beverly Hills, MI | 79 |
| Grimsley, John | LB | Kentucky | 1984-93 Hou, Mia | 02-25-1962, Canton, OH | 02-06-2008, Missouri City, TX | 45 |
| Groom, Jerry | T-C | Notre Dame | 1951-55 ChiC | 08-15-1929, Des Moines, IA | 02-29-2008, Sarasota, FL | 78 |
| Haines, By | HB | Washington | 1937 Pit | 11-30-1914, Bend, OR | 03-09-2008, Bellevue, WA | 93 |
| Hanner, Dave | DT | Arkansas | 1952-64 GB | 05-22-1930, Parkin, AR | 09-11-2008, Tarpon Springs, FL | 78 |
| Hardaway, Buddy | OT | Okl. State | 1978 SD | 12-12-1954, Seguin, TX | 04-19-2008, Seguin, TX | 53 |
| Harper, Darrell | HB | Michigan | 1960 Buf | 06-18-1938, Detroit, MI | 01-19-2008, Commerce, MI | 69 |
| Headrick, Sherrill | LB | TCU | 1960-68 DalT, KC, Cin | 03-13-1937, Waco, TX | 09-10-2008, Ft. Worth, TX | 71 |
| Hekkers, George | T | Wisconsin | 1946-48 MiaA, BalA, Det | 02-18-1923, Milwaukee, WI | 02-06-2008, Waukesha, WI | 84 |
| Hickerson, Gene | OG | Mississippi | 1958-73 Cle | 02-15-1935, Trenton, TN | 10-20-2008, Olmsted Falls, OH | 73 |
| Higgins, Jim | OT | Xavier | 1966 Mia | 01-20-1942, Cincinnati, OH | 09-28-2008, Cincinnati, OH | 66 |
| Hilgenberg, Wally | LB | Iowa | 1964-79, Det, Min | 09-19-1942, Marshalltown, IA | 09-23-2008, Lakeville, MN | 66 |
| Holovak, Mike | FB | Boston College | 1946-48 LARm, ChiB | 09-19-1919, Lansford, PA | 01-27-2008, Ruskin, FL | 88 |
| Holmes, Ernie | DT-NT | Texas Southern | 1972-78 Pit, NE | 07-11-1948, Jamestown, TX | 01-17-2008, Lumberton, TX | 59 |
| Howard, Bobby | DB | CalPoly;SDiegoSt | 1967-79 SD, NE, Phi | 11-19-1944, Tallulah, LA | 04-07-2008, San Diego, CA | 62 |
| Jansante, Val | E | Duquesne, Villa. | 1946-51 Pit, GB | 09-27-1920, La Belle, PA | 10-01-2008, Monongahela, PA | 88 |
| Jeter, Bob | DB | Iowa | 1963-73 GB, ChiB | 05-09-1937, Union, SC | 11-20-2008, Chicago, IL | 71 |
| Jones, Gene | LB | Rice | 1961 Hou | 10-18-1936, Woodson, TX | 01-03-2008, Houston, TX | 71 |
| Jones, Tyrone | LB | Southern U. | 1988 Pho | 08-03-1961, St. Marys, GA | 06-10-2008, St. Marys, GA | 46 |
| Karras, Johnny | HB | Illinois | 1952 ChiC | 01-29-1928, Chicago, IL | 11-06-2008, Hinsdale, IL | 80 |
| Kassulke, Karl | DB | Marq.; Drake | 1963-72 Min | 03-20-1941, Milwaukee, WI | 10-28-2008, Eagan, MN | 67 |
| Kiel, Terrence | DB | Texas A & M | 2003-06 DD | 11-24-1980, Lufkin, TX | 07-04, 2008, San Diego, CA | 27 |
| Kimmwll, J.D. | DR | Army; Houston | 1955-58 Was, GB | 09-30-1929, El Paso, TX | 11-24-2008, Houston, TX | 79 |
| Klotovich, Mike | WB | St. Mary's (CA) | 1945 NYG | 08-15-1917, Copperton, UT | 04-17-2008, San Mateo, CA | 90 |
| Knutson, Gene | DE | Michigan | 1954-56 GB | 11-10-1932, Beloit, WI | 02-09-2008, Cassopolis, MI | 75 |
| Kofler, Matt | DB | San Diego St. | 1982-85 Buf, Ind | 08-30-1959, Longview, WA | 12-19-2008, El Cajon, CA | 49 |
| Konz, Kenny | DB | LSU | 1953-59 Cle | 09-25-1928, Weimar, TX | 02-05-2008, Alliance, OH | 79 |
| Krol, Joe | DB | Western Ontario | 1945 Det | 07-20-1919, Hamilton, CA | 12-16-2008, Toronto, CAN | 89 |
| Kuzman, John | T | Fordham | 1941-47 ChiC, SF-A, ChiA | 06-29-1915, Coaldale, PA | 01-29-2008, Boonton, NJ | 92 |
| Lawson, Odell | RB | Langston | 1970-74 Bos, NE, NO | 12-30-1947, Ponca City, OK | 02-14-2008, New Orleans, LA | 59 |
| Leggett, Earl | DT | LSU | 1957-68 ChiB, LARm, NO | 03-05-1933, Palatka, FL | 05-15-2008, Jackson, MS | 74 |
| Luna, Bobby | DB | Alabama | 1955, 1959 SF, Pit | 03-25-1933, Lewisburg, TN | 03-14-2008, Franklin, TN | 74 |
| Lund, Bill | HB | Case Western | 1946-47 Cle-A | 10-27-1924, Silver Lake, OH | 10-10-2008, Chagrin Falls, OH | 84 |
| Lynch, Dick | DB | Notre Dame | 1958-66 NYG | 04-29-1936, Oceanside, NY | 09-24-2008, Queens, NY | 72 |
| Magliolo, Joe | LB | Texas | 1948 NY-A | 10-17-1922, Galveston, TX | 07-31-2008, Houston, TX | 85 |
| Mallouf, Ray | QB | SMU | 1941-49 ChiC, NYG | 07-11-1918, Sayre, OK | 06-06-2008, Dallas, TX | 89 |
| Manzini, Bap | C | St. Vincent | 1944-48 Phi, Det | 08-27-1919, Monongehela, PA | 05-09-2008, Belle Vernon, PA | 89 |
| Margarita, Bob | HB | Brown | 1944-46 ChiB | 11-03-1920, Boston, MA | 07-28-2008, Stoneham, MA | 87 |
| Martin, Jack | C | Princeton, Navy | 1947-49 LARm | 04-10-1922, Flint, MI | 01-08-2008, Moraga, CA | 85 |
| McGibbony, Charlie | TB | Ala. Cent. Ark. | 1944 Bkn | 10-23-1915, Pine Bluff, Ark | 03-24-2008, Conway, AR | 92 |
| McHale, Tom | G-T | Maryland, Cornell | 1987-95 TB, Phi, Mia | 02-25-1963, Gaithersburg, MD | 05-25-2008, Wesley Chapel, FL | 45 |
| Mergen, Michael | DT | Ill.Wesl.San Fran. | 1952 ChiC | 02-13-1929, Cicero, IL | 10-11-2008, Lakeport, CA | 79 |
| Mildrin, Jack | DB | Oklahoma | 1972-74 Bal | 10-16-1949, Kingsville, TX | 05-22-2008, Oklahoma City, OK | 58 |
| Miller, Clark | DE | Utah State | 1962-70 SF, Was. LARm | 08-11-1938, Oakland, CA | 11-05-2008, Paso Robles, CA | 70 |
| Mims, Chris | DE-DT | Tennessee | 1992-99 SD, Was | 09-29-1970, Los Angeles, CA | 10-15-2008, Los Angeles, CA | 38 |
| Mitcham, Gene | OE | Arizona State | 1958 Phi | 05-18-1932, Phoenix, AZ | 10-27-2008, Phoenix, AZ | 76 |

| Player | T Pos | McNeese: So.Miss College | 1949 SF-A Career | 10-23-1928, DeRidder, LA Born | 11-26-2008, Ormond Beach, FL Died | 90 Ag |
|---------------------|-------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Morgan, Joe | T | McNeese: So.Miss | 1949 SF-A | 10-23-1928, DeRidder, LA | 11-26-2008, Ormond Beach, FL | 90 |
| Morris, Bobby | HB | USC | 1947 NYG | 03-09-1925, Torrance, CA | 06-18-2008, San Luis Obispo, CA | 83 |
| Norris, Jack | E | W.Mary, Marylnd | 1932 SI | 05-18-1909, Lancaster, PA | 05-18-2008, El Cajon, CA | 99 |
| Nutter, Buzz | C | VirginiaTech | 1954-65 Bal, Pit | 02-16-1931, Summersville, WV | 04-12-2008, La Plata, MD | 78 |
| Patrick, Mike | P | Mississippi State | 1975-78 NE | 09-06-1952, Austin, TX | 04-27-2008, Biloxi, MS | 55 |
| Pellegrini, Bob | LB | Maryland | 1956-65 Phi, Was | 11-13-1934, Yatesboro, PA | 04-11-2008, Marmora, NJ | 73 |
| Perini, Pete | FB | Ohio State | 1954-55 ChiB, Cle | 02-10-1928, New Village, NJ | 09-11-2008, Fountain Hills, AZ | 80 |
| Peters, Floyd | DT | San Francisco St | 1959-70 Cle, Det, Phi, Was | 05-21-1936, Council Bluffs, IA | 08-18-2008, Reno, NV | 72 |
| Pine, Ed | LB | Utah | 1963-65 SF, Pit | 07-13-1940, Reno, NV | 08-01-2008, Reno, NV | 69 |
| Poole, Ray | DE | N.Car; Miss | 1947-52 NYG | 04-15-1921, Gloster, MS | 04-02-2008, Jackson, MS | 86 |
| Postus, Al | TB | Villanova | 1945 Pit | 09-21-1920, Philadelphia, PA | 08-24-2008, Media, PA | 87 |
| Price, Cotton | TB | Texas A&M | 1940-46 Det, Mia-A | 05-31-1918, Bridgeport, TX | 09-24-2008, Lubbock, TX | 90 |
| Rauch, Johnny | QB | Georgia | 1949-51 NYB, NYY, Phi | 08-20-1927, Philadelphia, PA | 06-10-2008, Oldsmar, FL | 80 |
| Rich, Herb | DB | Vanderbilt | 1950-56 Bal, LARm, NYG | 10-07-1928, Newark, NJ | 03-28-2008, Nashville, TN | 79 |
| Richards, Perry | OE | Detroit Mercy | 1957-62 Pit,Det,ChiC,StL,Buf,NYT | 01-14-1934, Detroit, MI | 07-16-2008, Taylor, MI | 74 |
| Sacrinity, Nick | QB | Wake Forest | 1947 ChiB | 06-10-1924, Reidsville, NC | 04-16-2008, Eden, NC | 82 |
| Sazio, Ralph | T | William & Mary | 1948 Bkn | 07-22-1922, Avellino, Italy | 09-25-2008, Burlington, Ont. | 85 |
| Schneidman, Herm | BB | Iowa | 1936-40 GB, ChC | 11-22-1912, Rock Island, IL | 08-12-2008, Quincy, IL | 95 |
| Schnellbacher, Otto | DB | Kansas | 1948-51 NY-A, NYG | 04-15-1923, Sublette, KS | 03-10-2008, Topeka, KS | 83 |
| Schulte, Rick | G-T | Illinois | 1987 Buf | 01-24-1963, Chicago, IL | 06-14-2008, Tempe, AZ | 45 |
| Scott, Jack | DT | Ohio State | 1960-61 Buf | 04-12-1936, Ashland, KY | 11-19-2008, Decatur, IL | 72 |
| Siegert, Herb | G | Ill.Wesl.; Illinois | 1949-51 Was | 01-10-1924, Pana, IL | 09-26-2008, Pana, IL | 84 |
| Small, Gerry | DB | San Jose State | 1978-84 Mia, Atl | 08-10-1956, Washington, NC | 09-28-2008, Sacramento, CA | 52 |
| Stefik, Bob | E | Niagara | 1948 Buf-A | 10-08-1923, Madison, WI | 04-09-2008, Niagara Falls, NY | 84 |
| Stautberg, Jerry | G | Cincinnati | 1951 ChiB | 04-06-1929, Cincinnati, OH | 12-07-2008, Baltimore, MD | 70 |
| Strand, Eli | G | Iowa St. | 1966-67 Pit, NO | 02-11-1943, Mt. Vernon, NY | 01-02-2008, Bronxville, NY | 64 |
| Sutton, Ed | RB | No. Carolina | 1957-60, Was, NYG | 03-16-1935, Sylva, NC | 09-20-2008, Redwood City, CA | 74 |
| Tomasic, Andy | TB | Temple | 1942-46 Pit | 12-10-1917, Hokendauqua, PA | 11-27-2008, Allentown, PA | 91 |
| Trask, Orville | DT | Rice | 1960-62 Hou, Oak | 12-03-1934, Pueblo, CO | 11-12-2008, Houston, TX | 73 |
| Ulinski, Harry | C | Kentucky | 1950-56 Was | 04-04-1925, Ambridge, PA | 04-20-2008, St. Matthews, KY | 73 |
| Upshaw, Gene | OG | Tx A&M-Kingsv'le | 1967-81 Oak | 08-15-1945, Robstown, TX | 08-20-2008, Truckee, CA | 63 |
| Vucinich, Milt | C | Stanford | 1945 ChiB | 11-01-1920, San Francisco, CA | 12-14-2008, San Mateo, CA | 88 |
| Wantland, Hal | DB | Tennessee | 1966 Mia | 07-09-1944, Columbia, TN | 04-08-2008, Knoxville, TN | 63 |
| Wendryhoski, Joe | C | Illinois | 1964-68 LARm, NO | 03-01-1938, West Frankfort, IL | 11-05-2008, Twin Lakes, WI | 69 |
| Wharton, Hogan | OG | Houston | 1960-62 Hou | 12-13-1935, Granbury, TX | 10-08-2008, Sugar Land, TX | 72 |
| White, Dwight | DE | Tex A&M-Comm. | 1971-81 Pit | 07-30-1949, Hampton, VA | 06-06-2008, Pittsburgh, PA | 58 |
| Whitley, Curtis | C | Clemson | 1992-97 SD, Car, Oak | 05-10-1969, Lowgrounds, NC | 05-11-2008, Fort Stockton, TX | 39 |
| Williams, Brooks | TE | North Carolina | 1978-83 NO, ChiB, NE | 12-07-1954, Baltimore, MD | 01-28-2008, Siesta Key, FL | 53 |
| Yablonski, Ventan | FB | Ford., Columbia | 1948-52 ChiC | 03-04-1922, Worcester, MA | 03-01-2008, Naperville, IL | 84 |
| Young, Glenn | DB | Purdue | 1956 GB | 12-22-1930, Woodstock, IL | 04-13-2008, Springfield, MO | 77 |
| Young, Willie | OT | Alcorn State | 1971-73 Buf, Mia | 11-23-1947, Jefferson, MS | 09-03-2008, Jackson, MS | 61 |
| Zawadzkas, Jerry | TE | Columbia | 1967 Det | 01-03-1946, Torrington, CT | 09-03-2008, Albuquerque, NM | 62 |



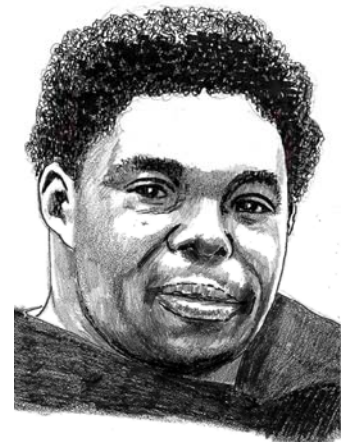
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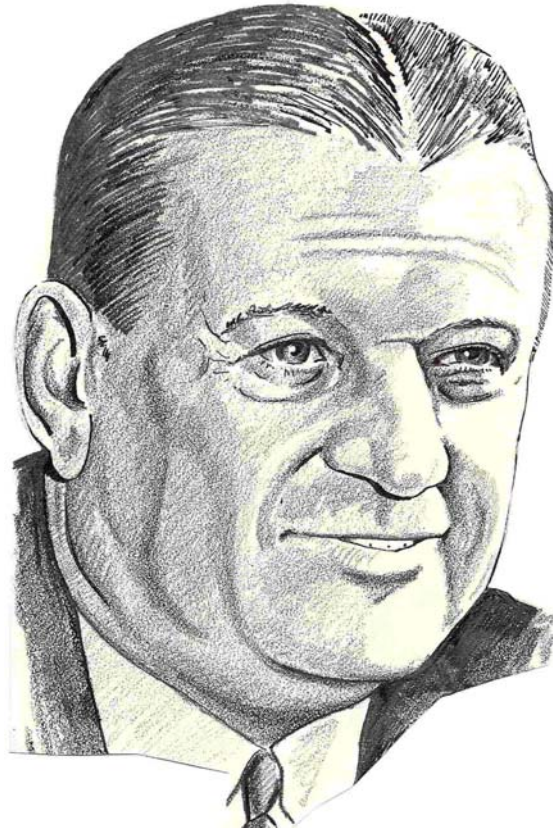
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