

BIG FOOT

[From the Ironton, O., *Evening Tribune*]
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Threatening political clouds were gathering under the Nazi Swastika in Germany and President Franklin D. Roosevelt was doing his best to pull America out of the Depression in the fall of 1934.

It wasn't exactly a happy time nationally or internationally, but a Sunday afternoon crowd which gathered at Green Bay's City Stadium probably could have cared less. The weather was too pretty to worry and just right for a professional football game between the Detroit Lions and the Green Bay Packers.

So the crowd submerged itself in the fortunes of the game and wasn't disappointed. The teams gloriously butted heads for almost the whole first half without causing the scorekeeper so much as a moment's work.

Then with time running out and its offense still stymied by Green Bay's defense, Detroit gambled. On fourth down, with the ball at midfield, the Lions decided to let a curly haired halfback from Nebraska try a field goal. The implications of such a decision sent a buzz through the crowd. After all, these were the days before Lou Groza made the long distance field goal the most dependable scoring play in football.

But here was the kid back on his own 46-yard-line to kick, and here came the ball back to holder Ace Gutowsky, and, my gosh, there it went, right through the uprights.

The second half was almost a carbon copy of the first, so at the end of the game, Detroit and the curly haired Nebraskan walked off the field with a 3-0 win.

"It was just one of those desperation things," Presnell recalled, "and it just happened to stand up."

Presnell's 54-yard field goal on October 7, 1934, stood up as the NFL record for 19 years until 1953.