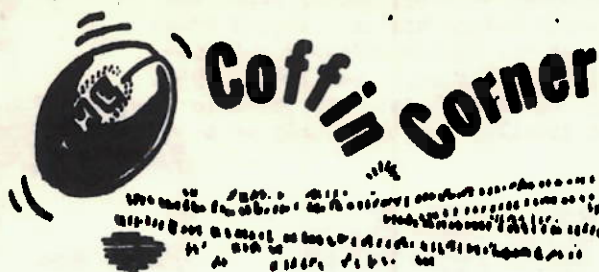


The Official
Newsletter
of the PFRA



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PFRA EXECS MEET

Six committees were named at a meeting of P.F.R.A. officers held in Canton, Ohio, November 2. President Bob Carroll, secretary Joe Horrigan, and treasurer Vic Frolund huddled at the Pro Football Hall of Fame to map out association strategy for the coming year. Vice-president Bob Braumwart was later contacted by telephone.

Chairmen were named for the following committees:

Membership: Joe Horrigan; Publications, Bob Braumwart; Finance, Vic Frolund; Communications, Mike Swanton; Nominations, Tom Nikitas; and Future Planning, Stan Grosshandler.

Anne Monnot, librarian at the HOF, was added to the Membership Committee which has been in effect since June; previously, the officers only manned the committee.

The Publications Committee which will oversee our special year-end publication consists of Braumwart, David Neft, Pete Palmer, David Shapiro, and Bob Van Atta.

At present, Vic Frolund will continue to handle P.F.R.A. finances as a committee of one, the work load being small.

The Communications Committee is particularly interested in ways of placing the P.F.R.A. name before the public. Several suggestions were discussed at the meeting. Committee members are Swanton, Carroll, Horrigan, and Shapiro.

The Future Planning Committee is charged with looking ahead to what P.F.R.A. will and should be doing next year.

Additional members may be named to these committees at the discretion of the chairman.



A tentative schedule for P.F.R.A. business was set at the meeting. A questionnaire for the P.F.R.A. Directory will be sent out with the January issue of The Coffin Corner. The Directory will be mailed on May 1, 1980.

The special year-end publication will be distributed at the annual meeting this summer. Members not attending will receive their copies by mail.

Among the suggestions for publicizing P.F.R.A., the following were considered:

The possibility of purchasing stationery with the P.F.R.A. logo and making it available to members at cost.

Printing a small brochure outlining the aims and objectives of the P.F.R.A. for distribution at sports-related conventions and the Hall of Fame.

Urging members to identify themselves as P.F.R.A. members when writing to newspapers, magazines, etc. concerning pro football items.

In a related thought, members are requested to inform the Corner whenever they come across mention of P.F.R.A. in any of the media.

A new format will be tested for The Coffin Corner with this issue. Members are invited to comment on the change.

WHAT PRICE GREATNESS ?

When former All-Pro Palmer "Pete" Retaliff was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame recently, he revealed what inspired the 1960 Philadelphia Eagles to play so well against Green Bay in the championship game:

"Our wives had already spent the championship money. If we'd lost, all of us would have been bankrupt."

A REAL FAN

PFRA Secretary Vic Frolund fondly remembers one four-day stretch of football-watching back in 1925. On a November Thursday, he watched a high school game in Chillicothe, Ohio. The next day, he was at Newark, Ohio, for another high school contest. Then, on Saturday, he went to Columbus to watch Red Grange play his last college game against Ohio State. On Sunday, he finished up a great four days at Canton watching the Bulldogs play the Columbus Tigers.

Incidentally, Vic was on his honeymoon at the time.

There are — as Harry Truman once remarked — lies, damned lies, and statistics. He might have been talking about George McAfee. Anyone knowing no more about the great Bear runner than his career totals might wonder now he ever got into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. From 1940 to 1950, he gained only 1,685 yards rushing. Sure, he lost almost four years to World War II, but his best rushing season totalled only 474 yards — a month's work for Earl Campbell!

But stats are only one part of the story; in McAfee's case, a very small part. He was, for a time, the most dangerous weapon in football.

They called him "One-Play McAfee" because he was likely to go all the way any time he handled the ball. George Halas traded three experienced linemen to Philadelphia for him after the Eagles made him their number one draft pick in 1940. But, when the Bear owner first saw the former Duke star, he must have wondered whether the reed-thin, 165-pounder would last more than "one lay" in the N.F.L.

The answer came in a practice scrimmage at training camp. Quarterback Sid Luckman called a dive lay and the linebacker saw it coming. "Oh, oh," moaned Halas. That kid will get killed." The kid slipped into the hole on one side and the linebacker crashed in from the other. McAfee gave him a leg, took it away, and was gone.

"I think we've got something here," said Halas.

What they had was a jet-propelled Jewish who could dart through a hole, cut like a high-priced surgeon, keep his balance better than a G.P.A., and be forty yards downfield before a linebacker could shout, "Here he comes!"

In his first pro game, he went 3 yards with a kick-off. McAfee didn't often return kick-offs — teams seldom got the opportunity to do more than once to the Bears in those days. The Bruins of the early 40s were so good they made peanut butter out of the rest of the league and so deep that even a McAfee seldom played more than half the game.

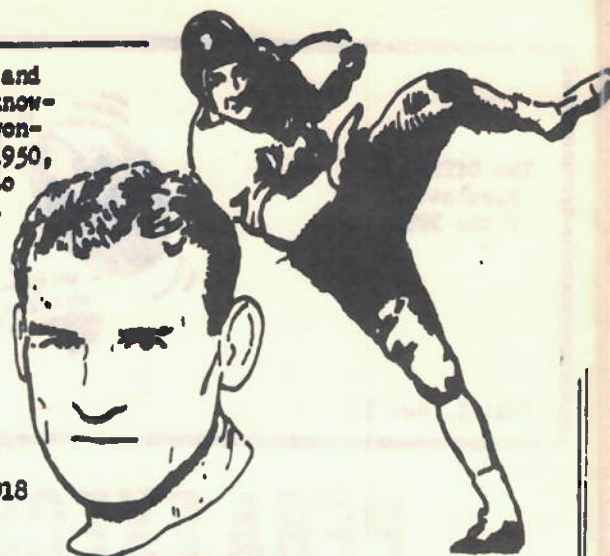
He did return a lot of punts, and at this little specialty he was probably the best who ever lived. It took nearly 30 years and a couple of rule changes before anyone could top his career average per return.

He was literally unstoppable in 1940 and 1941. Other backs began wearing lowcuts in imitation of Mac, but they only resembled him in still photos. In action, he was a blur — a stronger long-distance threat than a collect call from the Ayatollah Khomeini.

KEN MCAFEE

"ONE-PLAY"

Halfback 6-0, 177 Duke
Born: Ironton, O., March 13, 1918
Inducted Hall of Fame 1966



YEAR	TEAM	RUSHING				RECEIVING				SCORING	
		ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	TD	PTS
1940	Chicago Bears	47	253	5.4	2	7	117	16.7	0	3	18
1941	Chicago Bears	65	374	*7.3	6	7	144	20.6	3	*12	72
1942	- 1944: Military Service										
1945	Chicago Bears	16	139	8.7	3	3	85	28.3	1	4	24
1946	Chicago Bears	14	53	3.8	0	10	137	13.7	3	3	18
1947	Chicago Bears	63	209	3.3	3	32	490	15.3	1	4	24
1948	Chicago Bears	92	392	4.3	5	17	227	13.4	2	8	48
1949	Chicago Bears	42	161	3.8	3	9	157	17.4	1	5	30
1950	Chicago Bears	2	4	2.0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0
8 years		341	1685	4.9	22	85	1357	16.0	11	39	234

YEAR	TEAM	PUNT RETURNS				INTERCEPTIONS				PUNTING	
		NO	YDS	AVG	TD	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	NO	AVG
1940	Chicago Bears	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	39.0
1941	Chicago Bears	5	158	31.6	*1	6	78	13.0	0	12	35.8
1942	- 1944: Military Service										
1945	Chicago Bears	1	8	8.0	0	1	7	7.0	0	2	31.0
1946	Chicago Bears	1	24	24.0	0	3	18	6.0	0	-	-
1947	Chicago Bears	18	261	14.5	0	1	49	49.0	0	2	35.5
1948	Chicago Bears	*30	*417	13.9	1	2	35	17.5	0	1	18.0
1949	Chicago Bears	24	279	11.6	0	6	76	12.7	1	-	-
1950	Chicago Bears	*33	*284	8.6	0	2	31	15.5	0	-	-
8 years		112	1431	12.8	2	21	294	14.0	1	39	36.9

Career Kickoff Returns: no. 11, yds 265, avg. 24.1, td 2

Then it was World War II and the navy for almost four years. When he returned near the end of the 1945 season, everyone wondered if he still had it.

After four days of practice, he went in against the Steelers for a little "exercise."

"Take it easy, George," Halas warned. "You're not ready to play."

"I understand, Coach," said Mac. "I'll take it easy."

He exercised for twelve minutes, running the ball only five times. The result was 105 yards and three touchdowns.

Too bad he was rusty!

Injuries limited McAfee to three games in 1946, and after that he was primarily used on defense. The Bears had plenty of runners, but

somebody had to get them the ball. Naturally, they let George do it. He still ranks high on the all-time Bear charts as a pass interceptor.

The simple truth was that McAfee could do anything on a football field except the halftime show. His reputation was as a runner, but he was also a superior defender, a dangerous left-handed passer, and a competent punter. Does he belong in the Hall of Fame? Does pepperoni belong on pizza?

Since McAfee's retirement after the 1950 season, more runners have been labeled "great" than soups have been labeled "Heinz." Where does that leave "One-Play?" Halas has a stock answer: "The highest compliment you can pay a ball carrier is just to compare him to McAfee."

PART I: 1920-32

ALL-AMERICAN FLOPS!

By Bob Braunwart & Bob Carroll

The All-American college star who flops as a pro has been a cliché since Michigan's Willie Heston fell on his face with Canton against arch-rival Massillon back in 1905. From the time the N.F.L. was formed (as the American Professional Football Association) in 1920, there have been quite a few All-Americans who failed to live up to their reputations when they turned pro. Indeed, one sometimes has the feeling that the bigger the college reputation, the smaller the professional achievement. But, is that impression accurate?

This is the first of a series of articles tracing the success of college All-Americans in professional football during various PF eras.

The first N.F.L. era in most histories is the period from 1920 to 1932. Therefore, we have chosen to check the careers of those players named to reputable All-American teams from 1919 to 1931 inclusive.

For a list of All-Americans, we used the Ronald Encyclopedia of Football which lists first team A-A picks during the years in question for the following teams: Walter Camp (1919-24), Frank Menke (1919-20), All-American Board (1924-31), International News Service (1924-31), Associated Press (1925-31), Collier's (1925-31), and United Press (1925-31).

From 1919 to 1931 inclusive, a total of 223 different names appeared on the All-American roll. Many players were named for more than a single year, i.e. Red Grange in 1923-24-25.

The simplest test of success for a pro is that he play in a game; the next test is that he keep playing. Using Pro Football: The Early Years (Neft, Cohen, et. al.), the 223 All-Americans were checked to see (1) if they played in the N.F.L. and, (2) if so, for how many seasons.

The chart below shows the results of the survey. Note that the number of All-Americans in a given year indicates only those named for the first time. For example, only 8 All-Americans are listed for 1922 when only Walter Camp picked a team because three other Camp selections, Brick Muller of California, Frank Schwab of Lafayette, and Eddie Kaw of Cornell had been named the year before.

Year	NO. AA	Pro Seasons					% Pro
		0	1	2-3	4+		
1919	14	3	4	4	3		78.6
1920	17	9	2	3	3		47.1
1921	10	4	3	1	2		60.0
1922	8	7	1	0	0		12.5
1923	10	7	0	2	1		30.0
1924	18	11	4	3	0		38.9
1925	17	12	2	1	2		29.4
1926	22	16	3	2	1		27.3
1927	18	11	1	4	2		38.9
1928	25	17	2	2	4		32.0
1929	22	16	2	2	2		27.3
1930	21	15	2	0	4		28.6
1931	21	12	3	4	2		42.8
Tot.	223	140	29	28	26		37.2

The most obvious item on the chart is that almost two-thirds of the college All-Americans of the period did not play in the N.F.L. at all! Given the shaky financial structure of many teams during this era, it seems most likely that any player with a big college rep could have found a spot on some team's roster on publicity value alone, if he had wanted to.

Therefore, we can safely make the statement that most college All-Americans did not flop with the pros; instead, they chose not to play.

Reasons varied. Some AA's chose to begin lifetime careers. For some the money, often less than \$100 per game, was insufficient. The most widely accepted reason is that pro football playing was not respectable.

There is a widely held belief that when Red Grange signed to play pro ball late in 1925, he made professionalism respectable. But a glance at the chart shows that the percent of AA's turning pro actually went down after 1925. From 1919 to 1925, 41 of 94 AA's (43.6%) turned pro.

From 1926 to 1931, 42 of 129 AA's (32.6%) turned pro.

Included among the many AA's who never appeared in the N.F.L. were Charles McGuire, Chicago, 1920-21; Frank Schwab, Lafayette, 1921-22; Harry Kipke, Michigan, 1922; Homer Hasle, Rutgers, 1923-24; George Pfann, Cornell, 1923; Bennie Oosterbaan, Michigan, 1925-26-27; Tom Hamilton, Navy, 1926; Wes Fessler, Ohio State, 1928-29-30; George Ticknow, Harvard, 1929-30; Frank Carideo, Notre Dame, 1929-30; Bobby Dodd, Tennessee, 1930; and Marjhy Schwartz, Notre Dame, 1930-31.

The second highest group of AA's (29) are those who played only one year in the N.F.L. The immediate reaction for an observer is to brand these as the flops. Some were, of course. Ed McGinley, for example, was a fine 180-pound tackle with Penn, but the New York Giants had to replace him with a heavier lineman before they could win any games in 1925. However, old news clippings indicate that many played well for a single pro year and then retired. Belford West, Colgate, 1919; Brick Muller, California, 1921-22; Jim Crowley, Notre Dame, 1924; Babe Connaughton, Georgetown, 1926; and Jack Riley, Northwestern, 1931, are only a few who would have been welcomed back for a second pro season.

Many of the AA's who played two or three seasons — Bob Higgins, Penn State, 1919; Ben Boynton, Williams, 1919-20; Charley Berry, Lafayette, 1924; Ed Weir, Nebraska, 1924-25; Wildcat Wilson, Washington, 1925; Gibby Welch, Pitt, 1927; and Herman Hickman, Tennessee, 1931 — were pro successes.

Certainly, we may regard any AA with a pro career of four or more seasons during this era as having been successful. Eight of this group achieved the ultimate pro success by being named to Pro Football's Hall of Fame: Wilbur Henry, W. & J., 1919; Red Grange, Illinois, 1923-24-25; Ernie Nevers, Stanford, 1925; Ken Strong, N.Y.U., 1928; Dutch Clark, Colorado College, 1928; Bronko Nagurski, Minnesota, 1929; and both Turk Edwards and Mel Hein, Washington State, 1931.

In summary then, the All-American flop was a rarity rather than the rule in the N.F.L.'s earliest era. Most of the big college names disdained to play for pay, but those that chose to play usually did well.



THOSE NEW RECORDS WHAT DO THEY PROVE?

By David Shapiro

I won't go into how I feel about sports media hyping: that would be like asking the current head of the W.C.T.U. how she feels about the consumption of alcohol. But the constant pounding today by the sports media is reminiscent of a Hollywood campaign of a couple of decades ago centered around the self-serving claim that "Movies are better than ever!" In this case, the runners are better than ever, the passers are better than ever, the kickers are better than ever, the game is better than ever, etc. etc. etc. Maybe. But let's look at just one aspect of the situation -- team offensive records.

The table below reflects the following procedure:

1. All the offensive team seasonal data of an absolute nature (total yards gained rushing, total number of punts, total number of penalties, etc.) were recast on the basis of the same number of games per year, regardless of the number actually played, essentially on a per game basis. The data of a relative nature (average yards gained per passing attempt, average yards gained per punt return, etc.) were not modified since number of games played per season would not be relevant statistically or arithmetically when dealing with ratios. All

the results involving data of a relative nature were identified in the table with asterisks.

2. The data for each team for each offensive statistical category were processed to determine the year in which the highest (or lowest where appropriate) occurred, that year then being designated as the record year -- e.g. the year in which each team's record for each of the offensive statistical categories was set. Where the high (or low) for a specific team in a specific category occurred in more than one year, the earliest year was designated as the year of record since tying a record is not breaking it.

The bulk of the table deals with percentage distribution. For example, of the 28 team records involving total first downs, none was set between 1933 and 1939 that has not been broken since, 7.14% of those set in the forties have still not been exceeded, 17.86% of those set in the fifties have still not been broken, etc.

As is usually my attitude, I try to refrain from imposing my own conclusions on others; I much prefer to present the mechanics and the findings and let others interpret the work as they choose. However, I'd like to point to two elements of the table which I find particularly interesting: what happens to the results when one eliminates from consideration all records involving the field goal and what happens when one weights the data (as he must considering the number of years each team has been in existence).

When one eliminates from consideration all records relating to the field goal, the decade of the thirties loses 2 records; the forties, 0; the fifties, 7; the sixties, 28; and the seventies, 47.

In order for the table to make sense, some weighting procedures had to be devised and utilized for two

(Text continued on page 6)

Percentage Distribution by Decade of Pro Football Offensive Team Records

	'33-'39	'40-'49	'50-'59	'60-'69	'70-'78
First Downs					
Total	0.00	7.14	17.86	25.00	50.00
by Rushing	0.00	7.14	21.43	10.71	60.71
by Passing	0.00	0.00	25.00	50.00	25.00
by Penalties	0.00	10.71	7.14	28.57	53.57
Rushing					
Attempts	10.71	7.14	14.29	0.00	67.86
Yards	3.57	14.29	14.29	10.71	57.14
*Average Yards/Attempt	3.57	3.57	17.86	42.86	32.14
Touchdowns	3.57	21.43	7.14	21.43	46.43
Passing					
Attempts	0.00	0.00	32.14	46.43	21.43
Completions	0.00	0.00	21.43	42.86	35.71
*Completion %	0.00	3.57	10.71	14.29	71.43
Gross Yards	0.00	3.57	25.00	53.57	17.86
*Average Yards/Attempt	3.57	7.14	7.14	50.00	32.14
*Average Yards/Completion	7.14	14.29	10.71	50.00	17.86
Times Tackled Passing	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.71	39.29
Yards Lost Passing	0.00	0.00	10.71	57.14	32.14
Net Yards	0.00	0.00	21.43	57.14	21.43

**Percentage Distribution by Decade of Pro Football Offensive Team
Records--continued**

	'33-'39	'40-'49	'50-'59	'60-'69	'70-'78
Touchdowns	0.00	10.71	17.86	50.00	21.43
Passes Intercepted	3.57	14.29	25.00	42.86	14.29
*% of Attempts Intercepted (lowest)	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.14	67.86
Punts					
Number	7.14	17.86	7.14	21.43	46.43
*Average Yards/Punt	0.00	7.14	7.14	64.29	21.43
Punt Returns					
Number	0.00	7.14	25.00	3.57	64.29
Yards	0.00	32.14	7.14	10.71	50.00
*Average Yards/Punt Return	0.00	35.71	3.57	28.57	32.14
Touchdowns	0.00	14.29	25.00	35.71	25.00
Kickoff Returns					
Number	0.00	3.57	14.29	53.57	28.57
Yards	0.00	3.57	14.29	53.57	28.57
*Average Yards/Kickoff Return	0.00	3.57	7.14	50.00	39.29
Touchdowns	0.00	14.29	17.86	46.43	21.43
Interception Returns					
Number	3.57	17.86	17.86	42.86	17.86
Yards	0.00	17.86	14.29	35.71	32.14
*Average Yards/Interception Ret'n	0.00	3.57	3.57	35.71	57.14
Touchdowns	0.00	21.43	7.14	50.00	21.43
Penalties					
Number	0.00	21.43	10.71	3.57	64.29
Yards	0.00	14.29	21.43	14.29	50.00
Fumbles					
Number	7.14	25.00	7.14	21.43	39.29
Number Lost	0.00	17.86	17.86	28.57	35.71
Points					
Total	0.00	14.29	7.14	50.00	28.57
PAT Attempts (Kicking)	0.00	17.86	14.29	39.29	28.57
PAT's Made (Kicking)	0.00	17.86	10.71	35.71	35.71
FG Attempts	3.57	0.00	7.14	46.43	42.86
FG's Made	0.00	0.00	7.14	35.71	57.14
*% FG Attempts Made	3.57	0.00	10.71	17.86	67.86
Safeties	3.57	14.29	7.14	42.86	32.14
Recapitulation					
All Records, Number	18	131	168	452	491
All Records, %	1.43	10.40	13.33	35.87	38.97
Absolute Records, Number	13	109	146	344	368
Absolute Records, %	1.33	11.12	14.90	35.10	37.55
*Relative Records, Number	5	22	22	108	123
*Relative Records, %	1.79	7.86	7.86	38.57	43.93
Exclusive of FG Records					
Number	16	131	161	424	444
%	1.36	11.14	13.69	36.05	37.76
Weighted Distribution					
Midpoint of Decade	1936	1944.5	1954.5	1964.5	1974
1978-Midpoint	42.0	33.5	23.5	13.5	4.0
Number x (1978-Midpoint)	756.0	4388.5	3948.0	6102.0	1964.0
%	4.41	25.58	23.01	35.56	11.45

BOOKS

Two PF books are big this fall. P.F. and Halas on Halas. Certainly the memoirs of two great coaches make worthwhile reading for any PFMA member.

We recently had the pleasure of perusing a third book, one that may get less play in the book reviews, but that we enjoyed immensely.

Richard Whittingham is a fine writer and his The Chicago Bears: An Illustrated History (Rand-McNally) has a stronger text than is usually found in "illustrateds." Of course, any history of the Bears is largely the story of George Halas, but for the Bruins first decade, at

least, the story includes Halas' partner, Dutch Sternmann. Whittingham went to the Sternmann family to find material on the Bears' early years that was new -- at any rate, new to this reader.

The pictures include a booklet we hadn't seen before. Altogether, an excellent job.

While we're on the subject, this is a good place to mention that PFMA member Pete Palmer has the latest revision of Treat's encyclopedia out. He's added quite a bit of new material to this standard work.

We'd hate to have to choose from among Palmer's book, the two-volume Neft-Cohen encyclopedias, and NFL Properties' Official Encyclopedia History as to which is most fascinating. Fortunately, we don't have to choose -- we have them all in our home library, and they are all well-dog-eared from use.

-- The Editor



BIG FOOT

When Philadelphia's Tony Franklin belted a 59-yard field goal against Dallas in a Monday night game, observers were reminded of other monstrous field goals. Glenn Presnell's 54-yarder in 1934 stood as the NFL record for nineteen years. The following account, from the pages of the Ironton (Ohio) Evening Tribune on the occasion of "Presnell Day," was submitted by Tom Nikitas.

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 in Detroit's Briggs Stadium probably could have cared less. The weather was too pretty to worry and just right for a professional foot-

THE LONGEST FIELD GOALS

63	Tom Dempsey, N.O. vs Det., 11/8/70
59	Tony Franklin, Phi. vs Dal., 11/12/79
57	Don Cockroft, Cle. vs Den., 10/29/72
56	Bert Rechlar, Bal. vs Bears, 9/27/53
55	George Blanda, Hou. vs S.D., 12/3/61
	Tom Dempsey, N.O. vs L.A., 10/5/69
	Jan Stenerud, K.C. vs Den., 10/4/70
	Bob Thomas, Bears vs L.A., 11/23/75

ball 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 on the Detroit 46-yard line, 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 pro football.

But here was this kid back to kick, and here came the ball back to holder Ace Gutowsky, and, my gosh, there it went, right through

A CLOSER LOOK - continued

persons at least; most of the teams currently in existence began to play after 1939 (it would be impossible for any of their team records to predate that year) and a record that has lasted, say 40 years, should be given more weight in terms of impact or importance than one which has withstood the assaults of only, say 10 years. There are probably many weighting procedures one could justifiably use in a case such as this. I chose to use one derived (philosophically, anyway) from the area of mechanics -- force is equal to weight times length of lever arm (or some such wording). The last section of the table (Recapitulation) concentrates all the records of the thirties in the year 1936, all the records of the forties in the year 1944.5, etc. The lever arm for each decade was obtained by calculating the number of years between the midpoint of each decade and 1978, the last year for which we have any team records. The force for each decade was obtained by multiplying the two.

On an unweighted basis, the decade of the seventies accounted for 38.97% of all the records. After weighting, that decade accounted for only 11.4%. Is football really better than ever?

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 young Nebraskan walked off the field with a 3-0 win.

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

** The June issue of The Coffin Corner carried Tom Nikitas' article on the Ironton Tanks in which it was pointed out that the Tanks defeated both the Bears and the Giants in exhibition games during the 1930 season. Tom has since checked into those contests and learned that the big gun in the Ironton attack was Glenn Presnell, the great back from Nebraska. Tom is seeking further material on the Nebraskan, and would appreciate hearing from members. Write: Thomas S. Nikitas, 24 Whitman Ave. Syosset, N.Y. 11791.



- ** The P.F.R.A. All-Time Cleveland Brown Team provided a couple of variations from the team named in the promotion sponsored by the operators of Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers of Northeast Ohio.

The team named by P.F.R.A.:

Receivers

Dante Lavelli, 1946-1956
Paul Warfield, 1964-69, 76-77
Gary Collins, 1962-1971

Offensive Tackles

Dick Schafrath, 1959-1971
Mike McCormick, 1954-1968

Offensive Guards

Gene Mickerson, 1958-60, 62-73
Abe Gibrón, 1950-1956

Center

Frank Gataki, 1946-1956

Quarterback

Otto Graham, 1946-1955

Running Backs

Jim Brown, 1957-1965
Marion Motley, 1946-1953

Defensive Ends

Len Ford, 1950-1957
Paul Wiggin, 1957-1967

Defensive Tackles

Bob Gain, 1952, 54-64
Jerry Sherk, 1970-

Linebackers

Jim Houston, 1960-1972
Vince Costello, 1957-1966
Bill Willis, 1946-1953

Defensive Backs

Erich Barnes, 1965-1971
Bernie Parrish, 1959-1966
Tommy James, 1948-1955
Warren Lahr, 1949-1959

Punter

Horace Gillon, 1947-56

Placekicker

Lou Groza, 1946-59, 61-67

Kick Returner

Leroy Kelly, 1964-1973

Generally, the P.F.R.A. choices indicated longer memories for members than for those who voted in the Wendy's promotion. In all cases where there were differences P.F.R.A. chose the earlier star.

P.F.R.A. chose Mike McCormick at offensive tackle over Doug Dicken, Abe Gibrón at guard over John Wooten, Paul Wiggin at defensive end over Bill Glass, Bob Gain at defensive tackle over Walter Johnson, Bernie Parrish at defensive back over Thom Darden, and Horace Gillon as punter over Don Cockcroft.

One cautionary note: a number of P.F.R.A. members did not vote at all. Whether through oversight, inability to reach a decision, modesty, or apathy these members let those who did cast ballots speak for them. It took 34 years before an all-time Brown team was chosen. Members will next have a chance to vote in 2013.

- ** John Hogrogian writes that he is still at work on his Stapleton research. Additionally, he's seeking info on the Louisville Breaks.

- ** P.F.R.A. welcomes new members Don Andrews (Ontario), Art Daley (Wisconsin), Herbert Furlow (New York), John Gurn (California), J. Thomas Jabbe (New Jersey), Thad Johnson (Louisiana), KNOX Radio (Missouri), Wellington T. Mara (New Jersey), Tom Metters (Ohio), and Michael J. Walsh (New York).

- ** Despite all the effort put into researching the first pros in the last few years, Tony Cusker has come up with an addition. He writes: "There is on record a pro football game played between the Racine A.A. and a group of players from Chicago in October 1894. The game ended in a scoreless tie." Apparently both sides used paid players. Pudgy Haffelfinger was in the Chicago lineup.

- ** Bernie McCartney who writes for a suburban Chicago newspaper admits that his first football love is the college game. For several years now, Bernie has been collecting old Saturday sports sections and storing up accounts of college games and stars. Although Bernie has already contributed one story to The Gaffer

Gaffer ("The Day They Clobbered the Break," September issue), he says he is severely limited on producing pro stories, whereas he could come up with "hundreds" of college stories.

This leads the Gaffer to try to clarify one point. The P.F.R.A. Constitution states that "Membership shall be open to those who have a sincere interest in the history of professional football or RELATED SUBJECTS." The question is just where to draw the line. College football, in general, is a related subject, if only because the two games are played with the same basic equipment. Yet, a story on the Ohio State-Michigan series will not find its way into the Gaffer. The connection with pro ball is just too vague. On the other hand, we would seriously consider a story on former Buckeye Tom Matte's career as an Ohio State quarterback. The reason is that Matte, after several years as a running back, was pressed into emergency QB-service in 1965 because of injuries to Baltimore's first and second quarterbacks. Wearing a wristband to remind him of the plays, Matte led the Colts to a Western Conference Playoff. Mostly, he ran with the ball. Still, we would like to know just how good he was a QB he was at O.S.U.

When choosing stories to publish, the Gaffer will be guided by the "Matte Rule" as to just what is and what is not a "related subject."

- ** Incidentally, several members who profess to love college ball more are among our most consistent contributors.
- ** Perhaps there is some deep psychological relationship between pro football and fine art. Several former pros have turned to painting, and now we note an oddity in P.F.R.A. Mike Swanton is a fine artist who has had some of his work reproduced nationally. Steve Vasilion is head of the art department at Wheeling College. And, as you know, your editor consistently marks the pages of the Gaffer with his doodlings. We wonder if any other members combine an interest in pro football and art.

ABOUT PFRA:

The Professional Football Researchers Association was founded as a non-profit organization on June 22, 1979, at Canton, Ohio. The purpose of the association is to foster the study of professional football as a significant social and athletic institution. It further hopes to establish an accurate historical account of professional football and to disseminate research information.

Membership in P.F.R.A. is open to anyone with a sincere interest in the history of professional football or related subjects. Members receive: twelve issues of The Coffin Corner, the official newsletter of the P.F.R.A.; the opportunity to submit material to be considered for publication in the newsletter; an end of year Directory of Membership; a specially prepared association publication to be offered at the end of the year at a membership discount; and a P.F.R.A. Membership Card.

To join, write to P.F.R.A./ 218 Wise St., N.E./ N. Canton, O./ 44720.

To help defray operational expenses of the association, reasonable dues of \$12 per year have been set.

The Coffin Corner
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