

1940: THAT WONDERFUL YEAR

(As summarized in the *New York Times*, Dec. 22, 1940)

The year of 1940 will not easily be forgotten in the growing history of professional football. This past season ever will be remembered for one reason, the 73-0 massacre of the Washington Redskins by the Chicago Bears, one of the greatest teams, amateur or professional, in the annals of the gridiron sport.

This score in the championship play-off gave the campaign a smash climax. Prior to that there had been nothing unusual about it. Crowds were larger throughout the National Football League than they had been in the past, but that was merely following a trend. In recent years the tendency ever has been upward, unofficial estimates for the 1940 campaign reaching 1,295,217, a new record. [Ed.: The final figure turned out to be 1,063,025, a drop of about 8,000 from 1939.]

As the season developed the Redskins were the standout troupe. With Slingin' Sammy Baugh pitching forwards with unprecedented efficiency, the Washington team won seven straight and seemed on the verge of a runaway in the East.

But the team had reached too early a peak. It started downhill in November with a loss to the ever-improving Brooklyn Dodgers, won from the Bears 7 to 3, and then was routed by the New York Giants 21 to 7. The race tightened up and it was only by staggering past the Philadelphia Eagles in the final, 13 to 6, that Washington reached the play-offs.

This was a mistake. In the west the Bears and Packers had run neck and neck, with Chicago always a step in front. And so it went right to the last engagement. Then came the play-off, with a capacity crowd of 36,034 in Griffith Stadium paying a record net gate of \$102,280 to watch the slaughter.

The Monsters from the Midway were so wrought up over having lost to the Redskins four weeks before that they played with a fury rarely seen. This was a perfect football machine at its very best.

In fifty-six seconds the Bears scored. George McAfee rocketed through for 7 yards and Bill Osmanski swept 68 more for a touchdown. Washington was stunned but struck back. The Redskins reached the 26, had a touchdown pass dropped and never were in the ball game thereafter.

Sid Luckman, the old Blue from Columbia, engineered an 80- yard drive that was a quarterbacking masterpiece and he scored himself. It was his artful handling of plays that caused George Halas, the owner-coach of the Bears, to stamp him as the standout man on his team.

By the half-time intermission the Bears had a 28-0 lead and in less than a minute of the second half they had intercepted a pass for another seven points. Then came the deluge. It was a record score, not only in play-offs but in the history of the league.

Jock Sutherland of Pitt made his debut in the league. He coached the Dodgers, and they not only beat the Giants for the first time in ten years but also finished ahead of the New Yorkers for the first time in history.

The Giants, reorganizing their backfield, never hit stride until they toppled the Packers and Redskins in succession near the end of the campaign. But then they were beaten by

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the Dodgers -- paced by the peerless Ace Parker -- in the game that clinched second place in the East.

The season was also noteworthy for an attempt to revive the American Football League, a six-team circuit. The New York Yankees were the local club, operating in Yankee Stadium before very small crowds. Columbus won the title.

In the American Association the Jersey City Giants and the Wilmington Clippers met in the play-off. Jersey City won.

EASTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT.	PTS-OPP
Washington Redskins	9	2	0	.818	245-142
Brooklyn Dodgers	8	3	0	.727	186-120
New York Giants	6	4	1	.600	131-133
Pittsburgh Steelers	2	7	2	.222	60-178
Philadelphia Eagles	1	10	0	.091	111-211

WESTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT.	PTS-OPP
Chicago Bears	8	3	0	.727	238-152
Green Bay Packers	6	4	1	.600	238-155
Detroit Lions	5	5	1	.500	138-153
Cleveland Rams	4	6	1	.400	171-191
Chicago Cardinals	2	7	2	.222	139-222

Championship Game: Chicago Bears 73, Washington 0

1940 ALL-NFL

	OFF	AP	UP	NYN
E- Don Hutson, GB	1	1	1	1
Perry Schwartz, Bkn	1	1	-	1
Jim Poole, NY	-	-	1	-
T- Bruiser Kinard, Bkn	1	1	1	1
Joe Stydahar, ChiB	1	1	-	1
Jim Barber, Was	-	-	1	-
G- John Wiethe, Det	1	1	1	1
Danny Fortmann, ChiB	1	1	-	1
Steve Slivinski, Was	-	-	1	-
C- Mel Hein, NY	1	1	1	1
Q- Ace Parker, Bkn	1	1	1	1
H- Sammy Baugh, Was	1	1	1	1
Whizzer White, Det	1	1	1	1
F- Johnny Drake, Cle	1	1	1	1

1940 LEAGUE LEADERS

SCORING	TD	XP	FG	PTS
Don Hutson, GB	7	15	0	*57
Johnny Drake, Cle	*9	2	0	56
Dick Todd, Was	*9	0	0	54
Ace Parker, Bkn	5	*19	0	49
Clarke Hinkle, GB	3	3	*9	48
Ward Cuff, NY	3	9	5	42
Jim Johnston, Was	7	0	0	42
Bob Masterson, Was	4	15	1	42
Moose Mulleneaux, GB	7	0	0	42
Pug Manders, Bkn	6	0	0	36
Whizzer White, Det	5	2	0	32
John Hall, ChiC	5	0	0	30
Don Looney, Phi	5	0	0	30
Dick Riffle, Phi	5	0	0	30

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Ray McLean, ChiB	4	1	0	25
Gary Famiglietti, ChiB	4	0	0	24
Cecil Isbell, GB	4	0	0	24
Armand Niccolai, Pit	0	6	6	24
Bob Seymour, Was	4	0	0	24
Dwight Sloan, Det	4	0	0	24
Jack Manders, ChiB	0	17	2	23
Vic Spadaccini, Cle	3	5	0	23

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Whizzer White, Det	*146	*514	3.5	5
Johnny Drake, Cle	134	480	3.6	*9
Tuffy Leemans, NY	132	474	3.6	1
Banks McFadden, Bkn	65	411	*6.3	1
Dick Todd, Was	76	408	5.4	4
Clarke Hinkle, GB	109	383	3.5	2
Ray Nolting, ChiB	78	373	4.8	1
Joe Maniaci, ChiB	84	368	4.4	2
Parker Hall, Cle	94	365	3.9	1
Marsh Goldberg, ChiC	87	325	3.7	2
G. Famiglietti, ChiB	93	320	3.4	4
Pug Manders, Bkn	80	311	3.9	5
Ace Parker, Bkn	89	306	3.4	3
Howie Weiss, Det	79	298	3.8	3
H. McCullough, ChiC	52	278	5.3	3
Andy Uram, GB	71	270	3.8	1
Cecil Isbell, GB	97	270	2.8	4
Walt Nielsen, NY	73	269	3.7	1
George McAfee, ChiB	56	258	4.6	2
Jim Johnston, Was	84	256	3.0	3

PASSING	ATT	COM	YARD	TD	IN
Baugh, Was	177	111	*1367	*12	10
Parker, Bkn	111	49	817	10	7
Isbell, GB	150	68	1037	9	12
Luckman, ChiB	105	48	941	4	9
O'Brien, Phi	*277	*124	1290	5	17
Miller, NY	73	35	505	3	7
Herber, GB	89	38	560	5	7
Price, Det	66	33	456	3	7
Hall, Cle	183	77	1108	6	16
Watkins, Phi	85	28	565	1	3
White, Det	80	35	461	0	11
McCullough, ChiC	116	43	529	4	*21
Patterson, Pit	117	34	529	3	15

RECEIVING	PC	YDS	AVG	TD
Don Looney, Phi	*58	*707	12.2	4
Don Hutson, GB	45	664	14.8	*7
Jim Johnston, Was	29	350	12.1	3
Jim Benton, Cle	22	351	16.0	3
Vic Spadaccini, Cle	22	276	12.5	2
Wayne Millner, Was	22	233	10.6	3
Perry Schwartz, Bkn	21	370	17.6	3
Dick Todd, Was	20	402	20.1	4
Lloyd Cardwell, Det	20	349	17.5	1
Charley Malone, Was	20	222	11.1	0
Bob Masterson, Was	18	283	15.7	4

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Red Ramsey, Phi	17	143	8.4	0
Moose Mulleneaux, GB	16	288	18.0	6
Gaynell Tinsley, ChiC	16	165	10.3	1
Les McDonald, Phi-Det	15	309	*20.6	0
George Platukas, Pit	15	290	19.3	2
Ed Justice, Was	15	170	11.3	2
Ward Cuff, NY	15	121	8.1	2
Jim Lee Howell, NY	14	255	18.2	2
Chuck Hanneman, Det	14	228	16.3	0