AFL FIRSTS

By Larry Bortstein Originally published in the Denver *Post*

Here are American Football League "firsts" from the initial regular-season game in the history of the league, Denver Broncos at Boston Patriots, Friday night, September 9, 1960:

FIRST QUARTER:

First coin toss -- won by Boston, which elected to defend south goal.

First Kickoff -- by Tony Discenzo, Boston, from own 40 to Bronco end zone.

First kickoff return -- by Bob McNamara, Denver, who reversed to Al Carmichael, who carried to Denver 17.

First play from scrimmage -- Carmichael, Denver, five-yard run from Denver 17 to Denver 22.

First running play -- see previous entry.

First first down -- Dave Rolle, Denver, on pitchout from Frank Tripucka, 15 yards, from Denver 25 to Denver 40.

First first down, rushing -- see previous entry.

First punt -- George Herring, Denver, 26 yards, from Denver 45 to Boston 29. Ball downed by Denver, no return.

First attempted pass -- Butch Songin, Boston, to Walt Livingston, incomplete. Play nullified by Denver offside penalty.

First official attempted pass -- Songin, Boston, to Oscar Lofton, incomplete.

First penalty -- 15 yards, Denver, for roughing Tommy Greene, Boston, on attempted punt.

First first down, penalty -- Boston, from Boston 39 to Denver 46, see previous entry. First complete pass -- Songin, Boston, to Jim Colclough, one yard, from Denver 41 to Denver 40.

First first down, passing - Songin, Boston, to Colclough,, six yards, from Denver 40 to Denver 34.

First scoring play -- 34-yard field goal, Gino Cappelletti, Boston.

First punt return -- McNamara, Denver, two yards, from Denver 37 to Denver 39.

SECOND QUARTER:

First touchdown -- Carmichael, Denver, 50 yards on pass from Tripucka. Carmichael caught ball in right flat, reversed his field and went down the left sideline on first play of quarter.

First extra-point attempt -- Gene Mingo, Denver, good.

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 2, No. 11 (1980)

First touchdown pass -- Tripucka, Denver, see above.

First touchdown reception -- Carmichael, Denver, see above.

First pass interception -- Goose Gonsoulin, Denver, intercepted pass by Songin at the Denver 17 and returned 17 yards to the Denver 34. Songin attempted pass at Denver 40.

THIRD QUARTER:

First touchdown, punt return -- Mingo, Denver, 76 yards.

First extra-point attempt missed -- Mingo, Denver, wide.

FOURTH QUARTER:

First scoreless period, both teams -- Fourth period.