

The Official
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of the PFRA



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"WE THOUGHT LIKE CHAMPS"

THE EXECUTIVES

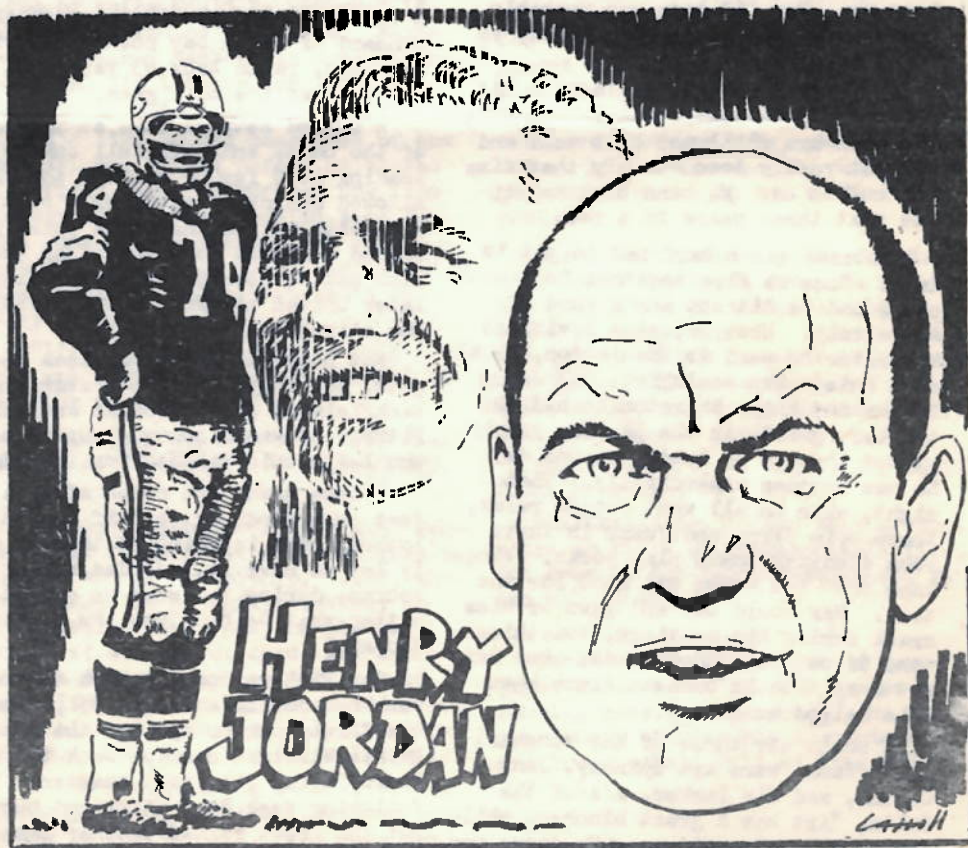
By Stan Grosshandler

"Vince used to tell us, you are paid like executives so you will dress like them, act like them, and have their positive approach," recalled the late Henry Jordan, all-time great Packer defensive tackle. "Vince worshipped success. He enjoyed being with successful people and learning why they were successful. He wanted all his players to succeed.

"Look at fellows like Bob Skoronski, Willie Davis, Max McGee, Fuzzy Thurston, Gary Knafelc, Jerry Kramer, Bob Long, and Ron Kramer. They have all done well since their playing days."

A typical example of a successful ex-Lombardi player was Jordan himself. A graduate of the U. of Virginia, he was drafted by the Browns and after two seasons with them came to the Packers. During his eleven seasons at Green Bay, Henry played on five title teams, was named All-Pro five times, and played in four Pro Bowl games. In the '64 Pro Bowl he was named the Most Valuable Lineman. After his retirement and until his death in '79, Henry was the director of a large Milwaukee Extravaganza called Summerfest and also did T.V. work.

"When I reported to the Packers, Vince asked Jack Vainisi, director of personnel, 'Who the hell is this guy?' When he made the deal with Cleveland, he thought he was getting another man who was much bigger than I.



"He soon realized how quick I was and decided to capitalize on this. He decided to build his front four with a good rusher at end and at tackle, rather than just at the ends. He picked up Willie Davis from Cleveland where he had been an offensive tackle and put

him at left end and myself at right tackle. We were the pass rushers.

"Dave Hanner at the other tackle and Bill Quinlan at end played the run. Hanner was a real inspiration to all of us. 100% effort, 100% of the time! You probably remember how he was back

playing a short time after an appendectomy.

"With this group and later when Lionel Aldridge and Ron Kostelnik replaced Bill and Dave, we got to know each other so well that when any given situation came up we knew exactly what each man would do. Just a look, a nod, or a motion and each man knew his assignment.

"Lombardi always paid attention to details. I had been having good success against Karl Rubke of the 49ers; however, before one of our games with them, Vince came to me and said that I should change my tactics for I had beat him so many times one way that he was probably on to me now.

"Our first division title in 1960 sort of took us by surprise. Suddenly we found ourselves away from our families at Christmas, preparing for this championship game. Something totally new to us!

"We lost to the Eagles but resolved that this would never happen again.

"We won the championship in '61 and knew that we were champs. We thought like champs and felt that no one should beat us. Our '62 team was probably the best of all Lombardi's teams; we only lost one game all year.

"The next two years we lost to the Bears and then to the Colts. We felt that we were still the best team and did not really lose -- only that time ran out on us. We came back to win the next three years in a row.

"Lombardi was a hard man to get to know. Once we flew together in a small plane and he did not say a word the whole trip. However, when I visited him after he went to Washington, he almost cried upon seeing me. In Jerry Kramer and Fuzzy Thurston he had the two best guards in the league; yet he wanted them to be better so one day he was on them unmercifully. That night, when we all went out to relax, there were Jerry and Fuzzy in their room studying their play books. Vince knew that Max McGee was good for the team. Max would sit and yawn or wise crack during his meetings, something none of us would dare to do. But Max got away with it because Vince knew this helped morale.

"I would say three of the toughest men I faced were Art Spinney, Johnny Unitas, and Jim Parker, all of the Colts. Art was a great blocker, while Johnny always scared me. He drove you mad trying to figure out what he would do, and you knew that no matter how unorthodox his choice was he would probably make it work. Jim Parker -- well, I spent two years studying films trying to figure out how to beat him. One day we were playing a game and I

was trying to play injured. After a play Jim walked over to me and said, 'Henry, why don't you get out of here before you get hurt real bad. We play again this year and you'll get another chance at me.' He was some player!"

While most feel that Lombardi's greatest club was the 1962 team, the 1967 team -- his last -- has to have held a special place in his heart. This was the team that overcame injuries, two devastating last-minute defeats, and yet went on to win the second Super Bowl.

The NFL had been divided that year into four divisions. The East had the Capital and Century divisions, while the West had the Coastal and Central.

The Packers' road to the top of the Central was a tough one. They barely tied the Lions in the opener, won their second game on a last minute field goal against the Bears, and lost their fifth game to the Vikings. Standing 4-1-1 near mid-season, they faced the Cards in a Monday night game that was the turning point of the season. The Cards were leading 20-17 and on the Packer one when they elected to take a field goal rather than try for a TD. On the following kickoff an unheard of Green Bay rookie, Travis Williams, raced back 93 yards and the Packers had the ball game.

A second setback came at the hands of the Colts and skillful Johnny U. Leading 10-0 for 54 minutes the Packers allowed Johnny to pass for 6 points. The Colts nuffed the extra point and needed a second touchdown. An onside kick was successful and three plays later Unitas hit Willie Richardson for the clincher.

Not only did Green Bay lose the game, but they lost their starting backfield of Jim Grabowski and Elijah Pitts. It was a sorry group of men who left Municipal Stadium that day.

"Vince never got on us after a defeat or a good win, but if we won and looked lousy in doing so then he really let us have it," Jordan said. "Of course, during the week we got it no matter what we had done the previous Sunday."

The Packers bounced back the next week by scoring a record 35 points in the first quarter against the Browns. Rookie Williams carried back two more kickoffs for TD's that quarter. The following week Bart Starr got hurt, but the great relief pitcher Zeke Bratkowski pitched a shutout of the 49ers. The next victory clinched the division.

They still had to play the Rams who were desperately trying to catch the Colts in their division. Lombardi told the press that his team only knew how

to play one way -- all out. And "all out" it was as they led the Rams 24-2 with only 26 seconds left. Then an "all out" Los Angeles rush blocked a punt and the Rams managed to jam the winning score across.

It was to be the Packers versus the Rams for the Western championship.

Today when a fan thinks of that Packer team, he automatically thinks of that fantastic 17 below game again Dallas and the miracle Starr touchdown or perhaps the clobbering of the Raiders in the Super Bowl. But Jordan believed they played their best game of the year against the Rams in the playoff for the West.

"I remember warming up for that game at County Stadium in Milwaukee. It was 20 degrees, dull skies, and the field rock hard. The Rams were moaning what a lousy day for a game, but all the Packers were running around saying what a great day it was. Our position approach!"

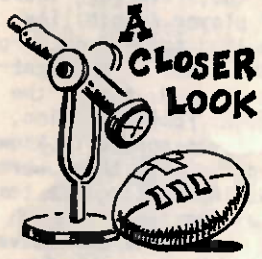
The Rams scored first on a Roman Gabriel to Bernie Casey pass, and the both teams settled down to a bitter struggle. The first break went to the Rams on the first play of the second period when Chuck Lanson intercepted a pass and returned it to the 10. The Rams were on the five when Jordan broke through and threw Gabriel for a seven-yard loss. A penalty moved them back another five, and so they brought in their crack kicker Bruce Gossett. But Dave Robinson crashed in a block the kick. A little later Packer Tom Brown ran a punt back 39 yards to set the stage for "the most beautiful run of the season." Against the Fearsome Foursome of Deacon Jones, Merlin Olsen, Roger Brown, and Lamar Lundy, young Travis Williams started off right tackle, threw a head and shoulder fumble to the middle and then headed for the end zone flag 46 yards away. He made it!

Willie Wood returned a short field goal attempt 44 yards and Starr hit Carroll Dale for TD two. An 80 yard march culminated in a six yard blast by Chuck Mercein. Mercein, picked up in midseason by the Pack after the Giants and Redskins had dropped him, played like a superstar. Williams scored a fourth TD on a one-yard blast.

In all, Henry Jordan threw Gabriel for four of his five losses. The Rams quarterback could complete only 11 of 31 passes. Meanwhile, the Packers logged 163 yards and completed 17 of 22 passes.

The fans carried Travis Williams the field.

After this game, the Ice Bowl and then the Super Bowl were almost anticlimactic, according to Jordan.



THE TORONTO ARGONAUTS TO WORLD WAR I



By Robert Sproule, in association with
Bob Braunwart and Bob Carroll

Greater Toronto is the twelfth largest metropolitan area in North America above the Rio Grande. Over the years, it has supported many amateur and professional football teams, but none so long-lasting as the Toronto Argonauts. Formed in 1874 as an amateur rugby team, the Argonauts are the oldest major-league football team in North America.

This article is intended to recount the history of the Double Blue through the First World War and also to introduce American readers to the early history of Canadian football.

Pre-League Play

The Argonauts were not the first non-college football team organized in Canada, but they are the oldest such team which still survives. The team was formed in September 1874, just four months after the famous Harvard-McGill match, as an adjunct to the Toronto Argonaut Rowing Club. The team was intended to provide off-season activity for the scullers, in order to keep them in shape for the next competitive rowing season.

The first season consisted of a series of games with a team in Hamilton, Ontario, but in 1875 a loosely organized proto-league was formed with additional teams from Guelph, London, Port Hope, St. Catharines and Stratford (all in Ontario).

In 1882 the traditional rugby scrum was abandoned in favor of a scrimmage in which the ball was put into play by the foot of a player known as the "centre scrim". So that he could more easily maintain his balance while trying to pass the ball back with his foot (and simultaneously fend off charging opponents), he was assisted by a "scrim support" on each side. These players actually held the centre scrim in a vertical position while he put the ball into play.

The O.R.F.U. Years

Honest-to-goodness league organization had to wait until the 1883 season. (This is still nearly forty years before the city teams in the United States became organized into a league.) That year representatives of the Argonauts, the University of Toronto, Upper Canada College and Trinity College met in Toronto and organized the Ontario Rugby Football Union. The Canadian Rugby Union had been formed the previous year. Until 1958 it sponsored the postseason interleague tournament which determined the Canadian national champions. William H. Merit of Toronto was the first president of each of the unions.

In two playoff games with the University of Toronto at the end of the 1883 season, the Argos won the O.R.F.U. championship series 23-3, making them the first champions of any organized football league in North America. They then went on to defeat Ottawa City of the Quebec Rugby Football Union 9-7 for the first Dominion championship.

In 1884 the Argonauts blasted the University of Toronto 24-4 in a two-game league championship series, but in the Dominion championship game they lost 30-0 to the Montreal Football Club.

Playing a five-game schedule in 1885, the Argos needed a late-season win over the University of Toronto to get into the title game, but Varsity proved too strong, stopping the Scullers 33-0.

Toronto was completely dominant in the O.R.F.U. the next season, as they won all four games. They encountered a surprisingly strong Ottawa College team in the title game, losing 13-1. Eighteen eighty-seven was a bad year for the Argos, as they were eliminated by a strong Trinity College team. The following year proved no better as the Argos won only two of five games. However, in 1889 they played only two games and

won them both. Stratford fell 45-0 and the Hamilton Football Club was trounced 46-0. Halfback Gordy Muntz scored four tries against Hamilton. In the 1889 title match Ottawa College stopped the Double Blue 17-2.

Eighteen ninety and 1891 were low years for the Argonauts as other teams in the schedule proved too strong and the Scullers were eliminated after the first two or three games. The games in the 1880's and 1890's were elimination games to determine the top two teams for the title match. A.H. Campbell, Jr., former Argo player and Toronto's representative to the C.R.U. was elected president of that organization in 1891.

In 1892 the scoring system was modified. Four points were awarded for a try (touchdown), two for a goal from a try (convert), five for a goal from a drop kick (field goal), four for a goal from a flying kick or a free (penalty) kick, two for a safety touch and one for a rouge, touch-in-goal or deadline kick (single).

The Argonauts fielded a strong team in 1892. They were 4-0-0 in league play, including a 94-0 victory over the London Rugby Club. This is the largest score ever recorded in a Canadian senior game, and the thirteen touchdowns also constitute a record. It was in this game that Jimmy Parkyn scored an all-time record 43 points on two tries, ten converts, one field goal and ten singles. Nevertheless, the team again lost in the playoffs, this time 15-1 to Hamilton.

Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario was the problem in 1893 as they dispatched the Argonauts 28-3 and 27-7 in the playoff series. Billy Wood retired after the 1893 season. He held the team career scoring record with 84 points until Lionel Conacher surpassed that in 1921.

In 1894 and 1895 the Argonauts and a Hamilton entry were the only O.R.F.U. members and Hamilton won the championship both years. Games were shortened to 80 minutes from 90 minutes in 1895.

Halfback J. Cartwright rushed for four touchdowns in a game against Hamilton and Male had four in another game, but the University of Toronto Varsity later eliminated the Argonauts 43-6 and 18-16 in the 1896 playoffs. Pud Kent, who was later to coach the team, joined as a player in 1897.

The Argonauts' next postseason appearance was not until 1900, when they lost to the Ottawa Rough Riders 20-12. The outstanding performance of this season was by Pug Hardesty, who was later to gain fame with the Calgary Tigers of 1911. Against Hamilton October 18, Pug ran 12 times for 180 yards, including one 75-yarder. He scored 12 points in a 27-12 victory over the Tigers.

Controversy and Change

The O.R.F.U. was down to two teams (Toronto and Ottawa) again in 1901, when the Hamilton Tigers dropped out midway through the season. Apparently a dispute over player eligibility was involved in Hamilton's withdrawal. The Argonauts compiled a 5-1 record, only to lose 30-15 to Ottawa College in a two-game playoff series.

In 1902 one of the earliest of many disputes over professionalism in Canadian football occurred. Two of Ottawa's players were suspended and one was actually expelled for being "professional sportsmen". There was no evidence that the three had played football for pay, but they had apparently received compensation as baseball or hockey players. In spite of their weakened team, the Ottawa Rough Riders were able to win the Canadian senior championship in 1902. Toronto had another bad year, winning only one game in three.

More disputes over professionalism before the beginning of the 1903 season led to the temporary collapse of league organization. The Double Blue played exhibitions only, beating a team called the "Torontos" 40-1 for the city championship. Eddy Hamber scored four times in the game. There was no Dominion championship series.

In 1904 the value of a try was increased from four to five points and the convert was decreased from two to one in the Ontario Union. Hamilton rejoined after an absence of two and one-half years.

Hamilton won the league championship, but there were no further playoffs, since each of the three eastern football unions played to a different set of rules and only Hamilton was willing to compromise. The Tigers had offered to play Ottawa City, the Quebec Union champions, one half under each set of rules, but Ottawa declined. Later this was to become a common means of compromising on the rules between east and west and even between Canadian and U.S. teams.

Laurie Boyd retired this year after twenty seasons with the Scullers (1885-1904), still the team record. Toronto finished in second place with two wins and three losses.

Nineteen five was a controversial year in Canadian football. The Ontario Rugby Football Union unilaterally adopted the so-called "Burnside rules" this year. Named for Thrift Burnside, former captain of the University of Toronto team and the proposer of the rules changes, the Burnside rules made sweeping modifications in the direction of American football. The major changes included the following: Teams were reduced from fifteen to twelve men per side. The "snap-back" system was introduced in place of the scrimmage system (in which the ball was heeled backward by the centre scrim); consequently, the two scrim supports were among the positions eliminated.

Additionally, a team was now required to make ten yards in three successive downs or lose possession of the ball, and the offensive side was required to have only six men (instead of eight) on the line of scrimmage when the ball was put into play. The system of scoring was changed so that all

goals (by placement, drop kick, flying kick or free kick) were worth two points. The throw-in from the sidelines was abolished.

Ottawa Rough Riders had by now left the O.R.F.U. for the Quebec Union, where they won the 1905 championship. Hamilton won out over Toronto for O.R.F.U. honors, but was banned from the playoffs because of the Canadian Rugby Union's pique over the Ontario Union's rules changes.

The field goal was changed to four points in 1906. Toronto finished the season with three wins, two losses.

The Big Four

Hamilton Tigers had withdrawn from the O.R.F.U. for two and one-half seasons in 1901-1903 and Ottawa Rough Riders quit to join the Q.R.F.U. in 1905. In part, at least, these deci-

sions had been made because of the O.R.F.U.'s strict interpretation of the ban on professionalism.

The Argonauts, too, favored a loose interpretation of player eligibility rules, and so, in 1907 teams from Toronto and Hamilton of the O.R.F.U. and Montreal and Ottawa of the Q.R.F.U. formed the Interprovincial Rugby Football Union, or "Big Four" as it was popularly known. The nickname was apt, since these were the four powerhouse non-collegiate teams in all of Canada at the time. Among other things, the new league effectively eliminated the Q.R.F.U. from any further Dominion championships, although the Quebec winners continued to challenge for awhile.

The I.R.F.U. had abandoned most of the O.R.F.U.'s Burnside rules, returning to fourteen-man teams and heeling the ball rather than snapping it back. Burnside's suggestions eventually worked out in 1921, but it was a long, hard struggle.

The first ever Big Four game was played Oct. 5, 1907 between Toronto and Montreal at Montreal, and it resulted in the new league's first dispute over professionalism.

Ernie Russell of Montreal had been prohibited from playing by the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union because he was considered a professional hockey player. After arriving for the game however, the Argonauts discovered that Montreal intended to play Russell in spite of the ban. The C.A.A.U. had threatened to suspend every player of either team if he played, so Toronto held a team meeting to decide whether to participate. They voted to play the game as the "Torontos" rather than as the "Argonauts", but the subterfuge did them no good -- the C.A.A.U. suspended every player in the game. The Big Four, however, counted the game and the C.A.A.U. eventually had to back down.

Peter Flett of the Argonauts led the league in scoring with 29 points, although he played in only four league games. On Oct. 19 at Hamilton he rushed for 195 yards and also punted 25 times. Toronto, however, finished last in the inaugural season.

In 1908 the value of a field goal was reduced to its present value of three points. Hamilton Tigers won the Big Four and went on to defeat Toronto Amateur Athletic Club and the University of Toronto for the Dominion championship. The Argonauts finished in a tie for third at 1-5-0. Mert Kent kicked a team record twenty single during the season.

In 1909 Earl Grey, then Governor-General of Canada, donated a silver trophy to be competed for by amateur football teams throughout Canada. The University of Toronto Varsity won the Grey Cup the first three years in succession, in 1911 beating the Argonauts 14-7.

Ross Binkley, phenomenal kicker for the Argos, played with them in 1910-13. He led the Big Four in scoring in his first season with 34 points on two converts, six field goals, and fourteen singles. In 1911 he kicked a 52-yard field goal against Hamilton, and in 1913 he also took on the duties of head coach. "Big Train" Smirle Lawson, former University of Toronto Varsity star, also joined the team in 1911. In 1963 he was elected to the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.

A game with Ottawa Nov. 9, 1912 produced the greatest punting duel in the history of football. Toronto punted 41 times for 1300 yards and Ottawa 48 times (37 by Eddie Gerard) for 1460 yards. The Argonauts also had 14 fumbles, 7 of which they lost. Nevertheless, they won the game 23-11 and then went on to repeat as Big Four champions. They beat Toronto Varsity in the eastern semi-finals before losing to Hamilton Alerts in the Grey Cup game, 11-4.

Nineteen thirteen was something of a disappointment for Argonaut fans, the team ending with an even split and dropping to third place. They participated in the I.R.F.U.'s first tie game, a 10-10 contest with Ottawa. No one knew quite what to make of the tie -- because of the single point, ties have always been less common in Canada than in the U.S. -- so the game was replayed at the end of the season. Toronto won 30-12, bringing their season record to 3-3-1.

1914: Argos Cop the Grey Cup

In 1914 Toronto and Hamilton each finished with 5-1-0 records. Toronto had lost to Hamilton 20-5 at home, but then went on to win 7-5 at Hamilton. In a playoff to determine the league's representative in the eastern finals, the two teams played to a 9-9 draw. The following week Toronto was finally able to eliminate the Tigers, 11-4. The game was decided on kicks, with Jack O'Connor's two field goals winning for the Argonauts. O'Connor set a new seasonal scoring record with 44 points. The team also broke or tied several scoring marks during their six-game schedule: most points (145); most touchdowns rushing (12); most touchdowns on fumble recoveries (7); and most converts (12).

On Wednesday of the following week the

Argos met O.R.F.U. champion Hamilton Rowing Club. Going into the third quarter Toronto held a slim 5-3 lead, when

...on the Toronto 25 yard line, McKelvery of Hamilton punted into the goal for a sure point. Everett Smith caught the ball 20 yards deep and ran it out to his 30 yard line. As he was tackled, he lateraled to Clad Murphy who took a few steps and ran into the arms of McKelvery. The two tugged at each other for about ten yards and finally Murphy broke free and scored . . . a 130 yard punt return!

Toronto scored again and held on to defeat the Rowing Club 16-14.

In the 1914 Grey Cup game the Argos scored on two University of Toronto fumbles and led 14-0 at the half. The final score of 14-2 game them their first Grey Cup -- a fitting conclusion to one of their finest seasons ever!

* * *

Such then is the early history of the Toronto Argonauts. From a means of keeping the rowing team in shape after the summer months to the senior football championship of the Dominion, the club produced many great players and many exciting moments. It was a part of Canadian football from the beginning and made no small contribution to establishing the game among players and spectators alike.

True, the Toronto Argonauts were the team that had the most ups and downs, but as one player put it around the turn of the century, "Hamilton would win by great scores, but Toronto was always tough and the final score was never settled until the final whistle."

All things considered, the Argonauts are not only the oldest city team on the North American continent, but also one of the most illustrious.

Sources

Toronto World, Globe, Empire, Star and Telegramme; Hamilton Spectator; Ottawa Citizen; Montreal Devoir.

Canadian Football by Frank Cosentino (1969); 100 Years of Canadian Football by Gordon Currie (1968); The Grey Cup Story by Jack Sullivan (1971); Toronto Argonauts 1979 Fact Book.

O.R.F.U. Scoring Summaries 1883-1906 and Big Four Scoring Summaries 1907-1919 vol. 1, by Bob Sproule (unpublished).

* * *

OPINION

The Steelers' Super Bowl victory over the Rams has sparked another round of "Best-Ever" boasting by fans in Western Pennsylvania and equally loud disagreement from other parts of the country. Steeler fans -- some of whom never saw a pro game until Terry Bradshaw was a veteran -- are busily proclaiming their favorites as superior to any team that ever played before.

In Green Bay, they're convinced that Pittsburgh is all wet and that the unofficial "Best-Ever" Title belongs with the Lombardi teams of the 60's. Miami puts in a claim for Shula's teams of the early 70's. Others ask about the Monsters of the Midway or the Otto Graham-led Browns.

Your editor lives near Pittsburgh (and readily admits that he roots each Fall for the Steelers). A few days ago he was nearly lynched for treason when he innocently remarked that he wasn't completely convinced that the Steelers are the foremost team in the history of the universe.

While a few acquaintances, who were obviously Steeler fans first and friends only second, stood around and muttered menacingly, I hastily tried to explain. The game changes, I said. One must consider "the state of the art" or "the talent in the room."

An ominous buzz told me I hadn't made my point.

The mark of the "Best-Ever," I said, is not the number of Super Bowls or Pro Bowl selections or even popular Coke commercials. In choosing the all-time top team, one should consider more than whether they won or lost; the question is how they played the game. By that I mean, how superior was the team to the other teams of the time?

The Steelers won four Super Bowls, I was reminded.

Yes, but the 1958 Colts had no Super Bowl to win! I shouted.

Who?

Look, I said, times change. Is Carter a better President than Lincoln just because he knows about atomic energy?

Do you want to talk politics?

No, I'm trying to make a point. A modern jet pilot can fly rings around the Wright brothers, but who made the more important contribution to aviation? The Steelers may be the best team today, but yesterday -- under different circumstances -- another team may have been better. You have to consider the situation.

Why do you hate the Steelers?

Let's talk about the Pirates, I said.

1 PIC = 10,000 WDS

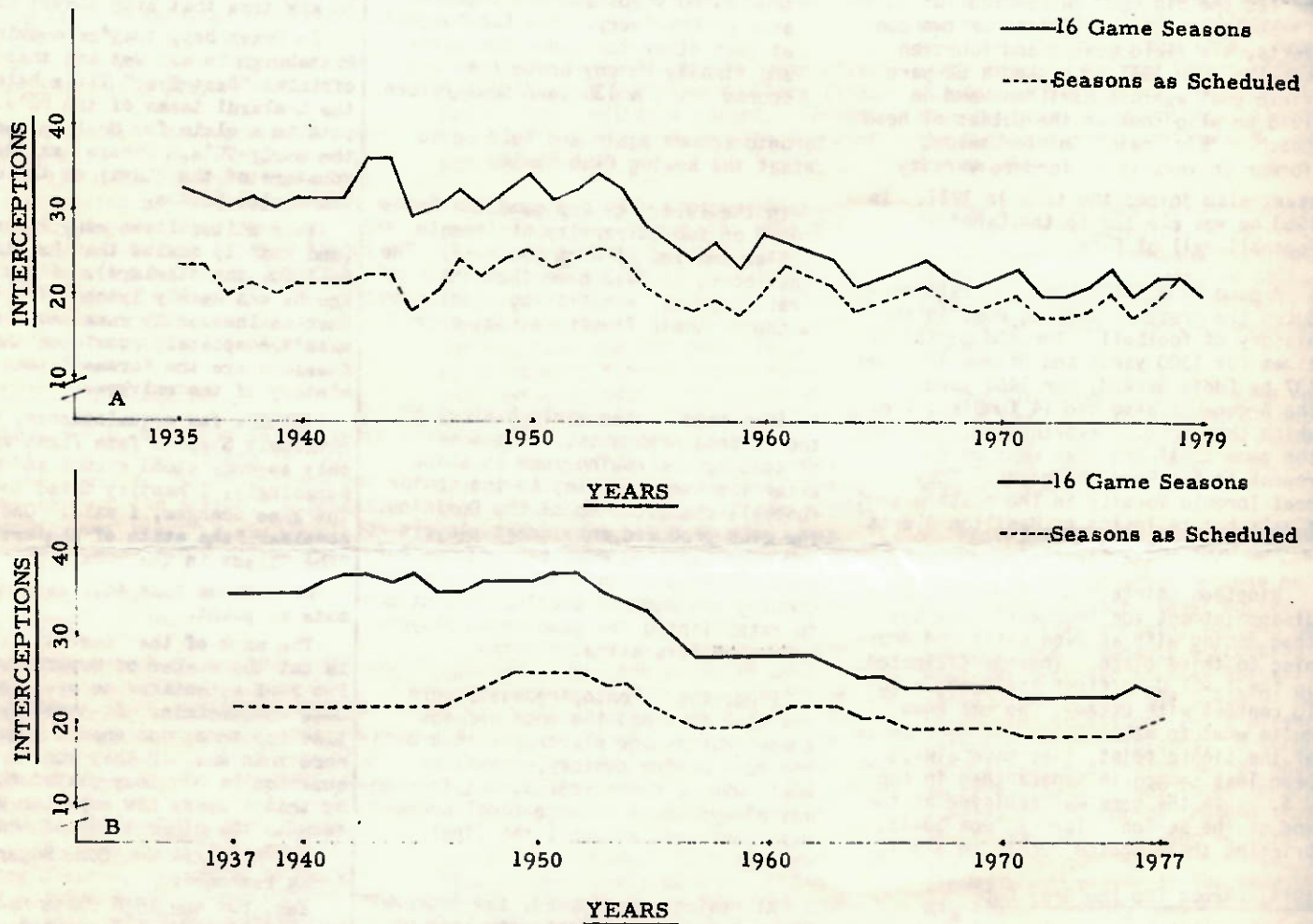


Chart I--Average Number of Pass Interceptions Per NFL Team, 1935-1979

By David Shapiro

This chart (and others to follow in later issues) is intended to counteract three deplorable characteristics of contemporary sports journalism -- hyping, superficiality, and non-objectivity -- which, in concert, produce a distorted imagery instead of scientific reality.

Chart I deals with absolute values -- pass interceptions. It is constructed in two parts -- an "A" and a "B". In A, the values are plotted as they actually occurred (dashed line labeled "Seasons as Scheduled") and after the adjustment necessary to make them arithmetically equivalent to 16-game seasons (solid line labeled "16-Game Seasons"). In B, the series are the same as in A except that each one is in the form of a 5-year moving average (intended to allow the forest to be seen instead of the trees -- a sort of trend line).

I'm going to let you interpret the chart. After all, I've already expended more than ten thousand words.

Saturday, June 21, and Sunday, June 22, are the dates set for the annual P.F.R.A. meeting at Canton. The schedule of activities and seminars is not yet finalized, and any member wishing to reserve time to present a research project to the membership should contact Joe Horrigan, 218 Wise St., N.E., N. Canton, O. 44720.

Joe is also looking into the possibility of reduced rates at a comfortable local motel. This may depend on how many members plan to attend and how soon they let Joe know.

It is anticipated that many members will arrive in Canton the evening before the meeting and plans are under way for an informal but convivial "get-together."

* * *

Members should receive their Membership Directory about the end of May. Regretfully, a few members neglected to return their directory questionnaires. However, the majority of members responded with full and interesting information.

* * *

Speaking of members, P.F.R.A. is happy to welcome Charles R. Gill (of Takoma Park, Md.) and Dennis L. Tanis (of Grand Rapids, Mich.) to our ranks.

* * *

It's time to nominate officers for next year. Once again, Tom Nikitas will chair the election committee. Any P.F.R.A. member may nominate any other member for the offices of president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer. Nominations are to be sent to Thomas S. Nikitas, 24 Whitman Ave., Syosset, N.Y. 11791.

* * *

Kudos are due P.F.R.A. member Bob Van Atta for his recent article "Indiana County Pioneer Pro Footballers" (on Lawson Fiscus and John K. Brallier) which has been published in the Indiana Heritage Magazine, published by the Indiana County (Pa.) Historical and Genealogical Society. Bob continues to be the unchallenged authority on the early days of pro football in Greensburg and Latrobe.

* * *

P.F.R.A. member Larry Bortstein is in the midst of researching an interesting article. He writes:

"For the Sunday magazine of the Denver Post, Empire, I'm putting together an in-depth piece on the first AFL game ever played -- Broncos at Patriots, at Boston U., Friday night, September 9, 1960. The piece should be completed by mid-July for publica-

tion the first week in September.

"I have researched some material here and written to the Patriots for other stuff. But maybe the P.F.R.A. membership is the best place to go for this type of material.

"I'm looking for all that I can get on the first game, a copy of a program (or a duplicate), newspaper accounts, play-by-play, names of broadcasters who aired the game, opening starting lineups, etc. I also am trying to contact as many of the men who played in the game as possible. Looking at first-year rosters for both teams isn't enough. I am trying to find the men who were in uniform that first night. For example, Lionel Taylor, who went on to lead the AFL in receiving that first year, didn't even join the Broncos until the third game. For that matter, he'd be easier to contact than most of the other guys anyway, since he's on the Rams coaching staff.

"If any members know where some of these pioneers are, address and phone, that would be extremely helpful. Any photos, clips, and all that kind of thing would be great. All of this type of thing would be returned if the sender wanted them back. Maybe a Boston-area member has some of the material I'm looking for in his collection of materials.

"I'd like to get some idea of how the AFL was viewed before it played its first game. I know no one from Denver newspapers traveled East for the game, since the AFL was considered a very minor event here at that time, one that likely wouldn't last very long.

"I'll appreciate all the help I can get on this, and look forward to hearing from members."

Writes: Larry Bortstein, 8937 Field Street #57, Broomfield, Colo. 80020.

* * *

An idea suggested by P.F.R.A. member Jeff Morey could prove extremely useful to our membership. Jeff, who publishes The Autograph Review, an interesting bi-monthly newsletter aimed at autograph, card, and memorabilia collectors, has volunteered to establish a central file of addresses and obituaries of football stars for P.F.R.A. Here is how he explains it:

"When one collects stamps, coins, picture cards, and the like, one thing is for certain. They are not unique. Thousands of some type were issued. That is why researching of football history, or the history of any sport is interesting, as everything is different.

"Records and statistics are important to us, but another field of

interest is available to you. Where are the personalities who helped make the NFL over the years? (Also the other leagues.) Does anyone care where they live now and what they are doing?

"Associated with this is the collecting of their pictures and autographs. What good is a biography or statistic without a picture to relate to you who that personality was? And to see a sample of a player's handwriting brings the whole portfolio together.

"How many people have ever preserved a photo of Fred Enke, Gene Gedman, Ken Kavanaugh or Bowden Wyatt? The cursive writings of these and other personalities is an integral part of sports research.

"Sadly, but equally important is the documentation of the deaths of the stars of yesterday. Steve Suhey and Carl Karilivacz are two that come to mind. Stars in their own right, but probably ignored nationally when they were called to a greater game.

"As publisher of The Autograph Review, I have found that there is some interest in locating former football players. Perhaps now is the time for a central location to be created to record the whereabouts of these former players, and to keep a record of the deaths of known personalities. If you can contribute to this, please let us know. If you are seeking personalities, perhaps we can help you to find the party."

Larry Bortstein's appeal for the addresses of players from the first AFL game shows that such a central file could be quite useful. Although it is the policy of TAR to publish addresses of stars, Jeff has agreed that footballers' addresses gained through P.F.R.A. will not be published.

Writes: Jeffrey W. Morey, 305 Carlton Road, Syracuse, N.Y. 13207.

Realistically, it may take several years to build up a respectable file, but once it has been established, we can all benefit.

* * *

David Neft's collection of newspaper accounts of pre-1935 games is showing excellent progress. He is graciously sharing his accounts with the Pro Football Hall of Fame and P.F.R.A.

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Tony Cusher (Box 96, Reeder, N.Dak. 58469) is researching All-American college players. He has most of the well-known lists, but if you happen to have an odd-ball or little-publicized list in your possession, you might drop Tony a line. He'd appreciate it.

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.

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