

The Official
Newsletter
of the PFRA

THE Coffin Corner

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"I was a little on the quiet side," Morris Badgro admits today, "but when the referee blew his whistle it was football for the next 60 minutes."

That statement pretty well sums up Red Badgro's career in pro football. A quiet, self-contained man — some would say he lacked color — playing a position that had not yet become a glamorous one, but playing it supremely well. So well, in fact, that he was voted an all-league and four times between 1930 and 1934.



A native of the state of Washington, he was considered one of the most gifted all-around athletes ever to come from the West Coast. Standing 6'1" and weighing 195 pounds, he was a large man, though hardly a behemoth, in that distant age. At the University of Southern California, he starred in football, basketball and baseball. In the opinion of many, he could have played any of them professionally, but in 1927 he opted for his favorite — football.

He joined Red Grange's New York Yankees. There he paired at end with another West Coast redhead, future Pro Football Hall of Famer Red Flaherty. With all that "Red Power," the Yankees got away to a flying start, winning their first three starts. Then THE redhead, Grange, went down with a leg injury and the rest of the season turned into a downer. The Yankees finished toward the bottom of the NFL standings, a new experience for Badgro who had enjoyed winning seasons at USC under Howard Jones and Gus Henderson.

"In 1928 and '29, I decided to give baseball a good try with the

St. Louis Browns in the American League. I played for Tulsa in 1928 and then went up to St. Louis for the next two seasons." Red was a fast outfielder, hitting .284 in his rookie year, but again he'd cast his lot with a loser. The Brownies were famous for their years of frustration in baseball.

"I then decided I liked football so much I would play again, but in the meantime the Yankees had broken up so I signed with the Giants in 1930." Red was an instant hit at the Polo Grounds as New York made a valiant run after defending champion Green Bay. At the end of the season, he was named to the unofficial all-league team.

The next year the NFL named an official team for the first time and again Red was chosen, creating one of those oddball trivia questions that point up the coincidences in sport: name two former St. Louis Browns baseball players who were picked on the first official all-NFL team. Answer: Badgro and Chicago Cardinal fullback Ernie Nevers, a Brownie pitcher from 1926 through 1928.

Red Flaherty joined the Giants in 1931, giving New York the best pair of matched, redheaded, West Coast ends in the history of the game. Flaherty took all-league honors in 1932 and then Badgro returned to the mythical all-star eleven in 1933 and 1934.

He still regards his four all-league selections as his top pro football thrill. "Being picked right along with the greatest players of all time ... Red Grange, Mel Hein, Johnny Blood, Mike Michalske, Cliff Battles, Bronko Nagurski!"

Badgro fit comfortably with these future Hall of Famers. There are those who will tell you that the NFL never produced a better two-way end than Red, pointing out that even Don Hutson had to slide into the backfield on defense.

All that Red lacked, in spite of his nickname, was "color," that indefinable something that translates into box-office appeal. When old timers swap stories, they are more likely to talk about the swashbuckling of Johnny Blood or Nagurski's sheer physical presence. "You've gotta have a gimmick," goes the old saw, but Red's only gimmick was playing his position brilliantly.

The Bears' Bill Hewitt, Badgro's only serious contemporary challenger to the title of best two-way end, had his idiosyncrasy of playing without a helmet, making it easy for fans to spot him by his blonde hair.

Badgro kept his red locks under a helmet. Yet, for all his flair, not even Hewitt was named all-NFL more often than the Giants' star.

Badgro's reputation was earned primarily as a blocker and defender, skills that win ball games rather than headlines, but he was a fine receiver when he got the chance. In those days, most teams didn't throw as many passes as some individual players catch today, and Red's top mark of 16 caught in 1934 may seem tiny to a modern fan. However, it should be remembered that no one grabbed any more in that season.

He specialized in the key pass -- the one that set up or scored the big touchdown. Undoubtedly, his most spectacular reception came in a 1933 game against arch-rival Green Bay. The Giants held a slim lead in the third quarter when tailback Harry Newman unloaded a long pass toward New York's Dale Burnett. Packer fullback Clarke Hinkle was there and, as both jumped for it, the ball bounded away. Badgro had left his pattern as soon as the pass was thrown. He swooped in, grabbed the ball before it touched the ground, and stepped across the goal line to seal a victory for New York.

Typically, Red is prouder of a defensive play he made against Hinkle in another game. New York had just taken a narrow lead when the Packer star broke loose on the kickoff. "He had a blocker in front of him and I was the only New York player between him and the goal," Red recalls. "Hinkle was one of the greatest ball carriers Green Bay ever had." Nevertheless, Badgro managed to ward off the blocker and dump Hinkle to save the game.

Plays like this led New York coach Steve Owen to pick Red as one of his all-time Giant ends, first on an imaginary eleven-man team in 1946 and later on an expanded 23-player squad given in Owen's biography, *My Kind of Football*. Badgro was Owen's kind of player: "He could block, catch passes and would be sick for a week if we lost a ball game."

In his book, Owen recalled an incident that challenges Badgro's quiet image:

"Red Badgro ... was one of the few fellows who could talk through a game without getting in trouble. He knew how to do it. Red had to block on big Turk Edwards, a great tackle with the Redskins...."

"Badgro told Edwards funny stories to keep him laughing and in good humor, so he wouldn't think too hard about playing football. In one game Red had Turk well under control when I sent in a rookie at right halfback. The kid didn't know how to talk. He got fresh and finally hit old Turk

right on the chin.

"I took him out and put Dale Burnett back in the position. On the first play Turk rammed into our backfield and stretched Burnett's neck about a foot and a half. When he came to, Dale asked what was happening with Edwards. Badgro said: 'That kid came in here and riled him, and now we are in for it.'"

Red's modest comment: "Turk Edwards and I were real good friends and I will say that no one 'handled' him very much. I just thought maybe by trying to keep him in good humor he could be a little easier to play against."

The Giants had great teams during Badgro's best years, appearing in the first three NFL Championship Games. As a matter of fact, Red caught the first touchdown pass ever thrown in a championship game, a 29-yarder from Newman in the second quarter of the 1933 game. But that contest also gave Red his most frustrating experience on a football field. With only seconds to go and Chicago in front, 23-21, Newman threw a pass to Red. Only Red Grange stood between Badgro and a Giant win, but Grange was one of the surest tacklers in football. Badgro made ready to lateral to Mel Hein, who was coming up fast behind him. Grange, who later described this as his toughest moment in football, seemed to have only two choices -- tackle Badgro and let Hein score or go after Hein and let Badgro score. Instead, he took a third option -- he tackled the ball and Badgro at the same time. As Hein looked on helplessly, the two redheads went down in a heap and time ran out.

In 1936, Badgro retired from playing to take a job coaching the Syracuse team of the new American Football League. It was not a happy experience. "Syracuse went broke the second week of the season," Red remembers. "As I was still in the East, I decided to play in the NFL one more year." Brooklyn had obtained his option during the winter, so in his first game back Red found himself facing his old New York Giant mates.

He proved he was far from washed up -- the *Times* described him as "superb" on defense -- as he led a lacklustre Dodger team to a startling 10-10 tie.

After leaving pro ball, Red spent many years as one of the most respected end coaches in the country, first under Lou Little at Columbia and later at Washington U. He was known for his ability to take ordinary physical specimens and turn them into all-stars.

Today, he lives in quiet retirement in Kent, Washington.



Joe Horrigan has announced that the Pro Football Hall of Fame has acquired a list of about 180 men who played minor league football between 1955 and 1978 and who later graduated to the NFL or AFL. If any member needs this for his research, he should write to Joe at the Hall (2121 Harrison Ave. N.W., Canton, O. 44708).

* * *

Some P.F.R.A. members are still steaming over the comment made during the Super Bowl that modern players hit harder than the old timers. Tom Nikitas sends along this quote from Robert Smith's Illustrated History of Pro Football concerning a 1920s game by the old Rochester Jeffersons: "First Frank Matteo, the tackle from Syracuse, broke an elbow. Then Charlie Strack the Colgate guard, split his collarbone. Then ... prize end, Gene Bedford, who had starred for Southern Methodist, had his thighbone broken in a crush."

Several other members have written to remind us of rough play and even deaths resulting from early games.

We are not taking sides. As far as we're concerned, football never was nor (we hope) ever will be a game for sissies.

It is true that today's players are bigger and faster, and in the modern game, it may be that they tend to build up more momentum because of the wide open play. Also, we can savor each hit with isolated, slo-mo, instant replay, and this probably colors the modern fan's thinking.

However, none of these have any bearing on the spirit or determination with which the game is played. And, as any coach will tell you, spirit and determination are what hitting is all about.

* * *

P.F.R.A. is happy to welcome two new members, Chuck Parazich (of Youngstown, O.) and Rich Bysina (of Chicago, Ill.) to its ranks.

* * *

Dr. Joe Kopcha, who was the subject of an article in last month's Corner writes that he has a new pastime that certainly merits a chuckle.

The good doctor is printing and marketing special hard-cover books. These are labeled "Highlights in the Sex Life of (and then you pick the name that you want printed there; i.e. Joe Horrigan)." Also on the cover it says, "Authentically Described and Accurately Illustrated."

Of course, when you open up the book, all the pages are blank!

* * *

The wide range of interests that P.F.R.A. members enjoy is of constant amazement here. At least three; Joe Kopcha, Steve Vasiliou, and Bob Carroll; have performed many roles on the stage. Perhaps one fine day we may open on Broadway with the "P.F.R.A. Follies."

Bernie McCarty publishes a newsletter on comic books.

Tony Cusher enjoys stamp collecting and is an old movie buff.

Rufus Cartman likes to make his own furniture.

Steve Murfin is a jogger.

Pete Palmer is strong on science and science fiction.

Lee Ballinger is a weightlifter.

Jim Stewart is wild about dobermanians.

Larry Setaro goes for bicycling.

* * *

Al Spacagna has come up with a statistical oddity. He says that if you count all the regular season games and all the playoff games (including the Miami Playoff Bowl), three teams each have 300 wins. These are the Cleveland-Los Angeles Rams, the Boston-Washington Redskins, and the Chicago-St. Louis Cardinals. The last one depends in part upon just what is or is not counted as an official league game for the Cards in the early 1920s.

* * *

A constantly fascinating subject is athletes who made good in more than one sport. As the article on Red Badgro points out, Red and Ernie Nevers both played major league baseball.

A number of lists of Baseball/Football stars have been compiled, but P.F.R.A.'s Milt Roberts reminds us of a star who is usually left off.

Fred Merkle is infamous, of course, for his "bonehead" play that supposedly cost the New York Giants the 1908 pennant. (In defense of Fred, he was simply following the practice of the time when he failed to touch second on a Giant hit, thus nullifying a New York win.) But Fred was anything but a "bonehead." Indeed, he was a very intelligent player who went on to have a very good career in baseball.

However, what many people don't know is that Merkle was a star pro football player before he became a baseball star. Fred played for the Toledo A.A. team during the period that Milt Roberts calls "The Unglamorous Years" of pro football. The Toledo team was one of the better independent teams in Ohio long before Jim Thorpe even played football. Merkle was an outstanding halfback.

* * *

We are happy to announce that several members have taken advantage of our offer of The Canton Collection (Thorpe, Guyon, Henry, Lyman and Chamberlin). As we pointed out, the proceeds go into the P.F.R.A. Treasury and, in effect, help pay for the Annual. We have suggested to several of the purchasers of the Collection, that they pick a couple pages of the Annual and call them "their own."

* * *

P.F.R.A. has lost a good friend. Bruce Trachsel of Norwin Print-N-Go passed away recently. He had printed The Coffin Corner since December of 1979.

Bruce was always interested in the activities of our organization and took special care to see that the Corner was attractive.

We extend our sympathy to his family.

THE TAYLORVILLE SCANDAL

By Bob Braunwart & Bob Carroll

Strange as it may seem, a semi-pro football game played in central Illinois once knocked Green Bay out of the National Football League. Although the Packers proudly proclaim their membership in the league as continuous since 1921, there was a five month period in 1922 when the Wisconsinites were persona non grata around the N.F.L.

Mostly, it was because the football world found out what had happened out there in Taylorville, Illinois.

This is how the Associated Press reported the story:

"Chicago, Jan. 28 -- (A.P.) -- The bitter rivalry between two country towns, which became so acute that approximately \$100,000 was bet on a football game, was the real cause of the athletic scandal which resulted in the disqualification last night of nine University of Illinois athletes and which threatens to reach into Notre Dame university.

"A group of citizens of Carlinville, Ill., it was learned today, decided last fall to financially 'clean out' the rival town of Taylorville, Ill., by obtaining 10 college stars to play on their football team, and with victory apparently assured, to bet the limit on the annual contest between the two elevens. But Taylorville learned of the plan, obtained nine college stars for its own team and not only defeated Carlinville, but won close to \$50,000 by covering every Carlinville bet made, thus beating the rival town at its own game.

"Ten Notre Dame players were in the Carlinville lineup, according to statements by citizens of that town, while the nine Illinois men disqualified last night played on the Taylorville eleven.

"In the Carlinville line-up, according to persons associated with the team, were Gus Desch, member of the American Olympic team, and world champion 440-yard hurdler; Chester Wynne, selected by some as All Western conference fullback, and John Mohardt, All-American selection of several football writers. All played on the Notre Dame eleven last fall.

"In 1920 Carlinville won from Taylorville, 10 to 7, at Carlinville. Taylorville at the time loudly boasted that next year, with their team on its home ground, there would be a different story.

"Several Carlinville people then conceived the 'safe betting' idea of filling their lineup with college stars. Overtures were made to Notre Dame men, according to backers of the Carlinville team, and it was agreed to pay the ten men \$200 each plus their expenses.

"The persons who arranged the affair passed the word to their friends to bet the limit. These friends went to the bank, the family stocking and the cupboard to bring forth, in some cases, the savings of years. A special train was hired and a band taken along on the trip to Taylorville. Farmers from all the nearby towns arranged to join the pilgrimage and in nearly every case a well filled wallet was taken along. The clinching of the game became a common gossip on the street corners, in the grocery stores and wherever persons gathered.

"But each person who received the 'confidential' information apparently passed it on to another friend, for gradually the word spread through Macoupin and Montgomery counties into Taylorville. At the same time Taylorville received word that Carlinville was ready to back its team with the family jewelry if necessary.

"Consternation spread through Taylorville at the idea of sending their team against nationally known college players. Then, a few citizens decided to seek a little college aid themselves. Quietly the word was passed around not to fear Carlinville -- that a means of defeating their rivals' plans had been found.

"When the time for the game came, a group of Carlinville citizens began checking up over in one corner of the field. They found that their citizens had bet close to \$50,000. Over in another section some Taylorville citizens reached the same conclusion.

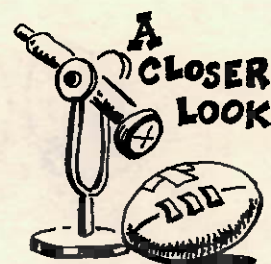
"When the Carlinville eleven came on the field the visiting rooters rose to cheer.

"What are we yelling for? That's the Taylorville team," said a Carlinville woman.

"Oh no, that's Carlinville," replied a Taylorville policeman.

"I guess I know our boys and not one of those fellows is from Carlinville," indignantly replied the woman.

"Taylorville in the first half used its regular home town team. At the end of the half Taylorville led 7 to 0. Then out on the field trotted nine stars from the University of Illinois. They had been held under cover for the first two periods.



"Little Sternaman ran circles around the Carlinville ends. Jack Grangle plunged through the line and Larry Walquist forward passed for big gains. The game ended with Taylorville winner 16 to 0, fifty thousand dollars in cash to the good, and Carlinville out an equal sum."

Other news stories followed. One proclaimed the scandal rivaled that of the baseball "Black Sox."

Dick Simpson, manager of the Taylorville team, readily admitted hiring the Illinois team, but because he "did not want to get any college players in bad" he would not say whether or not he had paid them. The Illinois players said he hadn't.

The Big Ten coaches unanimously praised the suspensions of nine Illinois players. Even Illini coach Bob Zuppke called it a good thing, no doubt through tightly clenched teeth.

The Taylorville coach had an interesting point of view. He insisted that the Illinois players were already professionals, having been hired by the university. Illinois, he said, "fired them when they played for someone else."

At South Bend, Johnny Mohardt denied playing for Carlinville, and suggested that the small towners had been duped into hiring some non-football-playing Notre Damers. He offered an interesting piece of proof. How could nine Illinois players, coming off a so-so 3-4-0 season, have licked ten Fighting Irish, fresh from a 10-1-0 year? Even more, who would believe the Taylorville farm boys could lead Notre Dame 7-0 at the half? He had a point.

Eventually, the Taylorville scandal faded from the sports pages. Had it appeared a month earlier or a few days later, it is unlikely that Green Bay's tenure in the N.F.L. would have been interrupted. Such was not the case. In fact, the timing was exquisite. On the very day that the story broke, the National Football League owners were assembled in Canton, Ohio, for their annual winter meeting. It was more than a coincidence that the Canton Evening Repository placed its story of the suspensions at Illinois (headlined: "Illinois Hangs the Can on Nine for Semi-Pro Playing") dir-

ectly below its story of the league meeting (headlined: "Pro Football Moguls Here Today to Thresh Out Many Problems for Next Season").

One of the problems was how to stop teams from playing (and paying) players with college eligibility left. This practice had been outlawed on the books ever since the league was first organized in 1920, and the rule had been scrupulously obeyed -- whenever convenient. Allegedly -- hell, actually -- several NFL teams had refused to be inconvenienced during 1921 and had hired themselves college boys.

It was this practice that made the pros as popular with college coaches as acme at the junior high. At a meeting in New York earlier in January, the college coaches had vowed to pen drastic legislation that would somehow doom the pros. Few really believed the coaches would go that far (and no one knew how they might accomplish such a thing), but when they came to Canton the pro owners were in a mood to placate the colleges.

Then word arrived of the Taylorville scandal. The situation was ripe for over-reaction.

Ironically, one of the teams accused of playing a college man was the host of the meeting -- Canton. Notre Dame's great guard, Heartley "Hunk" Anderson had been spotted in a couple of Bulldog games near the end of the previous season, playing under an assumed name (the league also had a rule about playing under fake monickers). However, Ralph E. Hay, the Bulldog manager, facetiously explained that Anderson had only played in exhibition games, and, besides, he'd already been ruled a professional for other transgressions when he joined Canton. The N.F.L. decided to avoid any hint of bad manners; they would not slap down their host.

Next came Philadelphia.

Well, explained Manager Leo Conway, his team had not even been an N.F.L. member in 1921 and was only now applying for a franchise. Besides, their collegian -- All-American Glenn Killinger of Penn State -- had signed a baseball contract before he played for Philadelphia and so he was already a professional too. So there!

There was a lot of sense in that, decided the N.F.L. owners. Perhaps they didn't even consider the possibilities of lucrative Philadelphia crowds as they voted Conway aboard. (Unfortunately, Conway was not able to put a team on the field in 1922, and the N.F.L. had to wait until 1924 when the Frankford Yellowjackets joined the league to gain a member in Philadelphia.)

So far the N.F.L. was 0 for 2 in sacrificing lambs. Still, some kind of show was necessary, especially in view of Taylorville.

The owners took a dinner break at Bender's Restaurant, and when they all went back to resume the meeting at the Courtland Hotel, everyone no doubt had a bellyful of Bender's food and the search for a scapegoat.

The matter was dispensed with quickly. J.E. Clair of the Acme Packing Company, the boss of the Green Bay Packers, took the floor. Yes, the Packers had indeed fielded college players in 1921. Yes, they were from Notre Dame (again!). Absolutely, they had played under assumed names. No, there were no extenuating circumstances. Yes, the Packers were heartily sorry. And, yes, they asked permission to withdraw from the National Football League. That permission was voted quicker than you could say "Packer Backer." Mr. Clair was returned his \$50 -- the price of an N.F.L. franchise in those days -- and the Packers had been officially punished.

The N.F.L. had thunderingly upheld the sanctity of college amateurism.

News stories of the meeting -- based on interviews with owners -- stressed the league's firm stand against seducing amateurs. That didn't stop the N.F.L. from getting its first big-city, eight column, newspaper headline two days later

when Chicago University coach Amos Alonzo Stagg sounded off in the Windy City. The Herald and Examiner headed the story "Stagg Says Conference Will Break Professional Football Menace."

By June, the heat had lessened considerably. Enough so that Green Bay coach Earl "Curly" Lambeau could walk into the "Menace's" summer meeting at Cleveland and plop down \$50 to put the Packers back in the N.F.L.

No one asked any embarrassing questions, like who was more likely to have been responsible for those illegal Fighting Irish in 1921 -- owner J.E. Clair or Notre Dame alumnus Lambeau?

Curiously, no other N.F.L. team has ever been forced to turn in its franchise for playing college men although incidents were reported as late as 1930. On the other hand, no one has yet come forward with proof that Green Bay's five month exile from the N.F.L. was a put-up job, conveniently timed to shore up the league's honor. Most likely, it was just what it looked like -- a simple case of panic.

Today, the Green Bay Packers are a healthy anachronism -- the last of the N.F.L.'s small town teams. For the record, neither Taylorville nor Carlinville ever asked for a franchise. The Carlinville folks probably couldn't scare up the \$50.

FOOTNOTES

The Taylorville Scandal was the biggest of the accusations of professionalism that shook more than one campus during the winter of 1922. By early February, two west coast college players and twenty-two mid-western college players had been declared ineligible for professional play, and several others were under a cloud. In many cases, of course, the athletes were not really being punished in that they had completed their football careers and were not "out for" other sports.

Next to Taylorville, the most notorious case occurred on December 4, 1921, when Hunk Anderson, Hec Garvey and Ojay Larson, all of Notre Dame, played for Green Bay against arch-rival Racine, not yet a member of the NFL. Despite Racine's non-league status, this was apparently the game which led to Green Bay's ouster from the league.

During the 1922 season, the Chicago Bears topped the league in censured players, showing Hunk Anderson, Garvey, Larson, Joe Sternaman and Laurie Walquist on their roster. Chet Wynne put in the season at Rochester, and Johnny Mohardt and Eddie Anderson played for the Cardinals. Jack Grangle joined the Cards in 1923.

Mohardt and Gus Desch were exonerated of playing in the Taylorville game, but then Johnny admitted to being in the Racine lineup against Green Bay on December 4.

This didn't seem to bother anyone when Racine was admitted to the NFL, along with Green Bay, during the summer of 1922.

All of this casts some strange shadows on Green Bay's unusual ouster and easy re-entry. The authors feel that there is a great deal more information needed. Some of our Green Bay enthusiasts may like to find out what was said in Wisconsin at the time.

1968

WAS A STORYBOOK YEAR
IN PRO FOOTBALL...

NFL 1968 FINAL STANDINGS

WESTERN CONFERENCE

COASTAL DIVISION	W	L	T	Pct
Baltimore Colts	13	1	0	.929
Los Angeles Rams	10	3	1	.769
San Francisco 49ers	7	6	1	.538
Atlanta Falcons	2	12	0	.143

CENTRAL DIVISION	W	L	T	Pct
Minnesota Vikings	8	6	0	.571
Chicago Bears	7	7	0	.500
Green Bay Packers	6	7	1	.462
Detroit Lions	4	8	2	.333

Conf. Playoff: Balt. 24, Minn. 14

EASTERN CONFERENCE

CAPITOL DIVISION	W	L	T	Pct
Dallas Cowboys	12	2	0	.857
New York Giants	7	7	0	.500
Washington Redskins	5	9	0	.357
Philadelphia Eagles	2	12	0	.143

CENTURY DIVISION	W	L	T	Pct
Cleveland Browns	10	4	0	.714
St. Louis Cardinals	9	4	1	.692
New Orleans Saints	4	9	1	.308
Pittsburgh Steelers	2	11	1	.154

Conf. Playoff: Cleve. 31, Dal. 20

NFL Champ.: Balt. 34, Cleve. 0

1968 NFL ALL-LEAGUE

OFFENSE

- E- Bob Hayes, Dallas (AP)
- E- John Mackey, Balt. (AP, UPI)
- E- Paul Warfield, Cleve. (UPI)
- T- Ralph Neely, Dallas (AP, UPI)
- T- Bob Brown, Phila. (AP)
- T- Bob Vogel, Balt. (UPI)
- G- Gene Hickerson, Cleve. (AP, UPI)
- G- Howard Mudd, S.F. (AP, UPI)
- G- Mick Tingelhoff, Minn. (AP, UPI)
- Q- Earl Morrall, Balt. (AP, UPI)
- B- Leroy Kelly, Cleve. (AP, UPI)
- B- Gale Sayers, Bears (AP, UPI)
- B- Clifton McNeil, S.F. (AP, UPI)

DEFENSE

- E- Carl Eller, Minn. (AP, UPI)
- E- Deacon Jones, L.A. (AP, UPI)
- T- Merlin Olsen, L.A. (AP, UPI)
- T- Bob Lilly, Dallas (AP, UPI)
- LB-Dick Butkus, Bears (AP, UPI)
- LB-Mike Curtis, Balt. (AP, UPI)
- LB-Chuck Haley, Dallas (AP)
- LB-Dave Robinson, G.B. (UPI)
- H- Lem Barney, Det. (AP, UPI)
- H- Bob Boyd, Balt. (AP, UPI)
- S- Larry Wilson, St.L. (AP, UPI)
- S- Eddie Mearns, L.A. (AP)
- S- Willie Wood, G.B. (UPI)



First-

THERE WAS HEIDI. WHEN NBC DECIDED TO SWITCH TO A SCHEDULED MOVIE OF THE CHILDREN'S CLASSIC - CUTTING OFF THE OAKLAND-NEW YORK JETS GAME WITH A MINUTE & FIVE SECONDS REMAINING - THE JETS WERE IN FRONT 32-29. IRATE FANS REALLY LIT UP THE NETWORK'S SWITCHBOARD WHEN THE RAIDERS RALLIED FOR TWO "OFF-CAMERA" TD'S TO WIN 43-32!

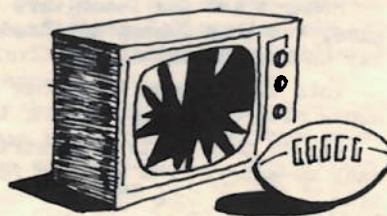
FOREVER AFTER, THIS CONTEST WOULD BE KNOWN AS "THE HEIDI GAME."

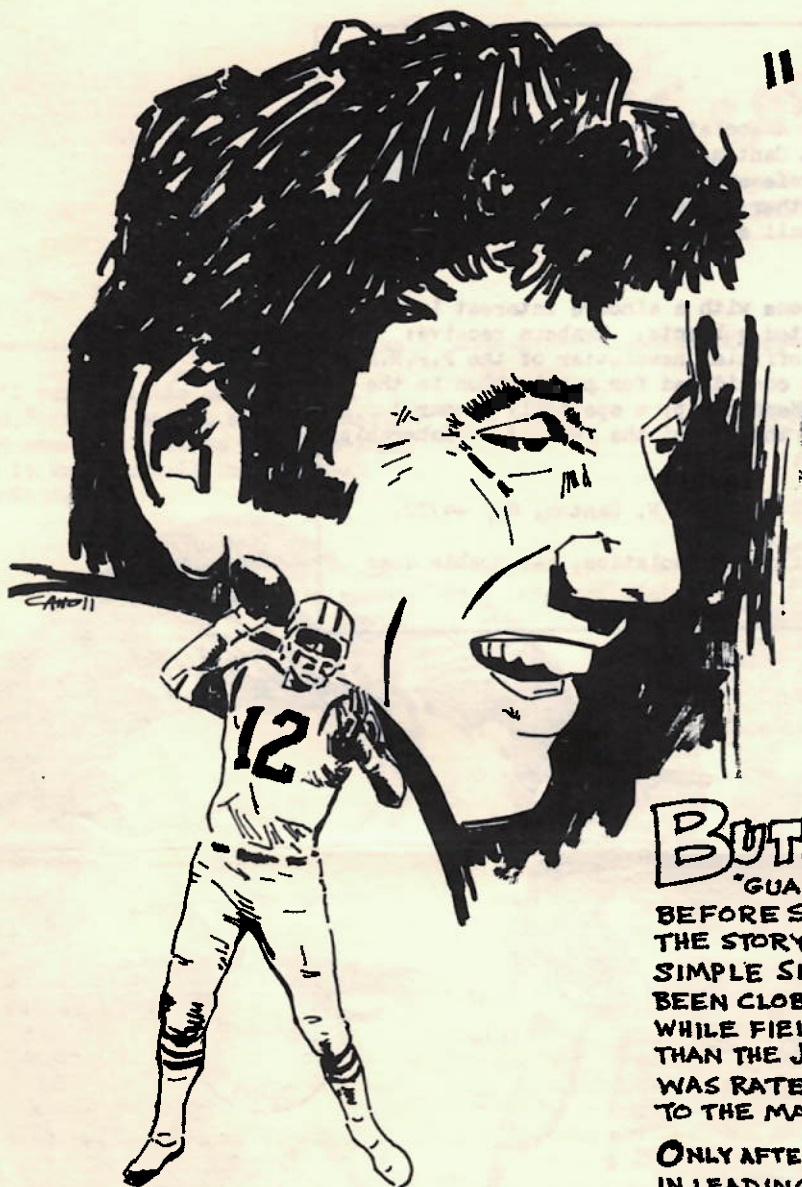
THEN - Earl MORRALL

ADDED A TOUCH OF CINDERELLA. THE VETERAN QB HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO BACK UP JOHN UNITAS AT BALTIMORE, BUT, WHEN JOHNNY U. WENT OUT WITH AN INJURY, MORRALL STEPPED IN. HIS FANTASTIC 26-TOUCHDOWN PASS SEASON EARNED HIM THE NFL'S MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARD.

MORE IMPORTANT, HE GUIDED THE COLTS TO A 13-1-0 MARK DURING THE REGULAR SEASON AND VICTORIES IN BOTH THE DIVISIONAL PLAY-OFF & THE NFL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.

WITH THAT RECORD, THE COLTS RATED AS ONE OF THE TOP TEAMS EVER TO PLAY IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE.





"WE ARE GOING
TO WIN
ON SUNDAY,
I GUARANTEE
YOU!"

Broadway Joe
NAMATH

BUT 0000 WHEN THE JETS' QUARTERBACK
"GUARANTEED" A VICTORY THREE DAYS
BEFORE SUPER BOWL III, SOME FANS THOUGHT
THE STORYBOOK SEASON WAS ENDING ON A
SIMPLE SIMON NOTE. AFTER ALL, THE AFL HAD
BEEN CLOBBERED IN THE FIRST TWO SUPER BOWLS
WHILE FIELDING TEAMS CONSIDERED STRONGER
THAN THE JETS. QUITE PROPERLY, NEW YORK
WAS RATED A THREE-TOUCHDOWN UNDERDOG
TO THE MAGNIFICENT COLTS.

ONLY AFTER HE'D GONE 17 FOR 28 WITH 206 YARDS
IN LEADING THE JETS TO A 16-7 VICTORY — A WIN
THAT SHOWED THE AFL HAD GAINED PARITY WITH
THE NFL — WAS NAMATH RECOGNIZED FOR WHAT
HE REALLY WAS . . . JACK THE GIANT KILLER!

AFL 1968 FINAL STANDINGS

EASTERN DIVISION	W	L	T	Pct
New York Jets	11	3	0	.786
Houston Oilers	7	7	0	.500
Miami Dolphins	5	8	1	.385
Boston Patriots	4	10	0	.286
Buffalo Bills	1	12	1	.077

WESTERN DIVISION	W	L	T	Pct
Oakland Raiders	12	2	0	.857
Kansas City Chiefs	12	2	0	.857
San Diego Chargers	9	5	0	.643
Denver Broncos	5	9	0	.357
Cincinnati Bengals	3	11	0	.214

Div. Playoff: Oak. 41, K.C. 6

AFL Champ.: N.Y. Jets 27, Oak. 23

SUPER BOWL III: N.Y. Jets 16, Balt. 7

1968 AFL ALL-LEAGUE

OFFENSE

WR-Lance Alworth, S.D. (AP, UPI)
WR-George Sauer, Jets (AP, UPI)
TE-Jim Whalen, Bos. (AP, UPI)
T-Ron Mix, S.D. (AP, UPI)
T-Jim Tyrer, K.C. (AP, UPI)
G-Walt Sweeney, S.D. (AP, UPI)
G-Gene Upshaw, Oak. (AP, UPI)
C-Jim Otto, Oak. (AP, UPI)
Q-Joe Namath, Jets (AP, UPI)
B-Paul Robinson, Cin. (AP, UPI)
B-Hewitt Dixon, Oak. (AP, UPI)

DEFENSE

E-Gerry Philbin, Jets (AP, UPI)
E-Rich Jackson, Den. (AP, UPI)
T-Buck Buchanan, K.C. (AP, UPI)
T-Dan Birdwell, Oak. (AP, UPI)
MB-Willie Lanier, K.C. (AP)
MB-Dan Connors, Oak. (UPI)
LB-George Webster, Hou. (AP, UPI)
LB-Bobby Bell, K.C. (AP, UPI)
C-Miller Farr, Hou. (AP, UPI)
C-Willie Brown, Oak. (AP, UPI)
S-Dave Grayson, Oak. (AP, UPI)
S-Johnny Robinson, K.C. (AP, UPI)

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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