

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

P.F.R.A. is proud to announce the publication of its newest media guide. Bob Gill and Tod Maher have completed their account of the 1936-1937 American Football League. The big (8½" x 7") 52-page book is packed with rosters, game information, statistics, and much more.

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It was a nice place to live,
but you wouldn't want to
visit there – not if you
owned a football team –
because it was

THE TOWN THAT HATED PRO FOOTBALL

By Bob Braunwart & Bob Carroll

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER/MAGAZINE OF P.F.R.A.



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Leo Lyons always insisted that Rochester, N.Y., could have been "another Green Bay." Lyons, you'll remember, was the manager of the Rochester Jeffersons during their six-year (1920-1925) stay in the National Football League, and he never stopped believing that his home town could have duplicated Green Bay's feat of playing successful David to the NFL's metropolitan Goliaths. When pressed, Lyons would temper his faith by adding that Rochester needed only "more time, money, and fans."

With all due respect to Leo Lyons, one of the authentic heroes of the league's early days, anywhere could have been "another Green Bay" with enough time, money, and fans. The point is the Wisconsin city came up with the necessities and Rochester didn't. In fact, among the league's foremost lessons in its first half-dozen years was that Rochester was a pro football wasteland.

Of course, many small cities failed to make it in the NFL. Muncie, Columbus, Evansville and a dozen others lacked great players, fielded bad teams, and failed to draw. Rochester was something special. The Jeffersons were a terrible team and failed to draw flies precisely because they had some big stars.

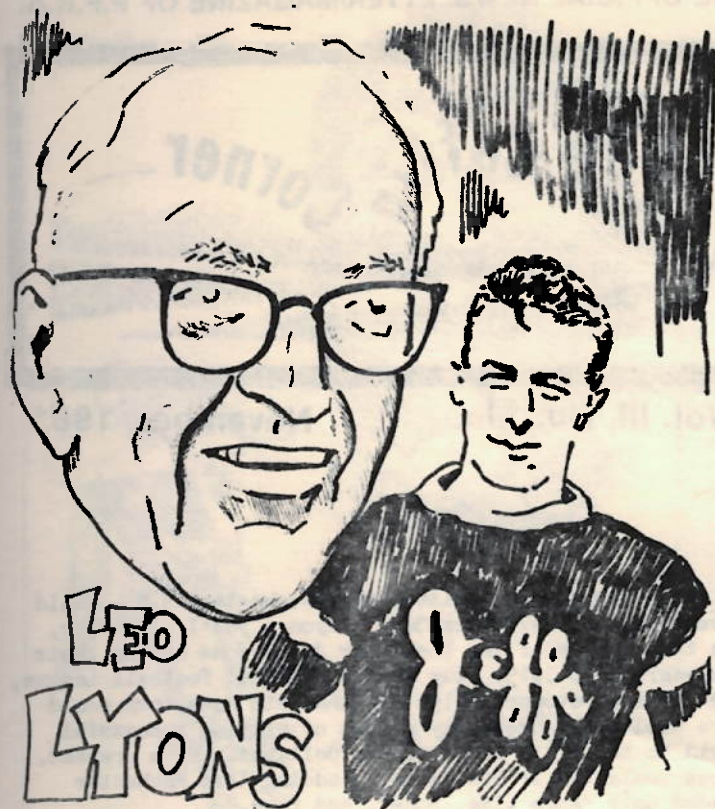
To understand that paradox, we need to take a look at Rochester's football history.

In 1908, when Leo Lyons joined the Jeffersons as an enthusiastic 16-year-old end, Rochester virtually brimmed with football activity. In addition to a whole gaggle of sandlot teams like the Jeffs, the University of Rochester fielded a team of indifferent quality. The biggest games each season were played by the town's two high schools. Huge crowds turned out to watch the schoolboys play. The annual meeting between the schools was the highpoint of the grid season, talked about endlessly for weeks before the game. Betting was rampant and play was for blood.

It came as a shock then in April of 1910, when in simultaneous assemblies at the high schools, the respective principals announced that henceforth the schools would cease playing football. Too many injuries, too much betting, and too much "unseemly conduct!"

Deprived of high school football, Rochester fans switched to the sandlotters. 1910 saw a bonanza for the semi-pros. In addition to bigger crowds, the sandlot teams gained player windfalls as many potentially fine high school players joined them.

1910 was also the year that Leo Lyons took over as manager of the Jeffersons. The team responded by winning the local sandlot championship with an 11-0 victory over the Scalpers, another neighborhood eleven.



From the start, Lyons poured his heart and soul into the Jeffersons. He was much more than just a player-manager. One job description had him as the team's "travel agent, ad man, ticket hustler, doctor, road secretary, mentor, marriage counselor, recruiter and financier." The role of financier was perhaps the most heart-breaking of all, for even though the Jeffs became the town's leading team during the years before World War I, Leo never saw a season when he didn't throw more money into the pot than he took out.

The annual games with the Scalpers drew well, of course. Occasionally, other local teams could bring out good crowds, but when outsiders visited the Jeffs, Rochester fans ho-hummed and stayed home. Their interest was primarily parochial. They cared not for good football; they just wanted to watch "their boys."

Although many of the locals were quality players — Bob Argus, Dutch Irwin, and Henry McDonald, to name a few — Lyons had a different vision. He saw the Jeffs becoming a national power, studded with former college stars, and contending with the best pro teams in the country.

In 1917, he arranged a game at Canton, Ohio, against Jim Thorpe's famous Bulldogs. It's worth noting how the two sides looked at the game because it shows how far the Jeffersons had to go.

For the Bulldogs, the game was no more than one of several routine warm-ups before the big games against Massillon. The Jeffs were even mislabeled in the Canton press as the "Syracuse 47th Infantry," apparently because some of Lyons' players were in the service and "Syracuse" sounded better at the gate. Either way, it was just another work-out for Thorpe's 'Dogs.

For the Jeffersons, it was the most important game they had ever played. Alas! it also became the most one-sided defeat they'd had — 41-0!

Lyons was totally impressed with the Bulldogs and their leader. He later recalled that he "didn't get a

hand on Thorpe all day." That was hardly surprising because, according to lineups in the Canton newspapers, Leo didn't actually play in the game. But his point was not how good Leo Lyons was, it was how great Thorpe was. And how much better the Bulldogs were than the Jeffersons. If he wasn't already convinced, Lyons knew from that day on that his team could only be competitive with the big pro teams by importing quality stars instead of relying on local talent.

As he left the field at Canton, Lyons fell into conversation with Thorpe. "Jim," he said, "someday this game will draw like professional baseball." A thought struck him. "We should form a league."

For Thorpe and anyone else connected with Canton football, the idea was hardly novel. Some folks had been talking league since 1904. But to Lyons the thought was a revelation, one that he would believe in and work for during all the rest of his life.

After the "war year" of 1918, Lyons began moving his team toward the big time, expanding his schedule and importing a few players. 1919 saw the strongest Jefferson team to date. They were easy 20-0 winners in the annual game with the Scalpers.

During the summer of 1920, Leo received word that the plunge into a league was about to be made in Ohio. Although he couldn't personally be at the August 20 organizational meeting at Canton when the Bulldogs, Akron, Dayton and Cleveland laid the foundation, he sent word that he was in all the way and was, in fact, counted as "present by letter."

On September 17, when western teams such as Decatur, Hammond, and Rock Island joined the Ohio Quartet at Canton for the meeting the NFL regards as its formative get-together, Leo was there, along with Thorpe, George Halas and the other pioneers. His Jeffs were charter members of the league. Indeed, they pre-dated Green Bay by a full season.

For his 1920 schedule, Lyons recruited eight big college stars, including large Lou Usher of Syracuse and triple-threat Jim Laird of Colgate. But when he couldn't guaranty that he'd get them all to Canton, Bulldog manager Ralph Hay cancelled a game Lyons had proudly scheduled in September. Counting all their games, the Jeffs won more than they lost in 1920, but they dropped the only game they played against a league team — 17-6 to the Buffalo All-Americans. It was the first of six straight losing league records for Rochester.

During the next half-dozen years, Lyons put many famous college stars into red Jefferson jerseys. Army All-American Elmer Oliphant, Syracuse great Joe Alexander, and one of the best backs who ever lived, Ben Lee Boynton of Williams, were perhaps the best known, but plenty of other competent pros, famous in their day, were induced to perform for the Jeffs.

Yet, Rochester fans remained unimpressed. The more outside stars Lyons packed into his lineup, the fewer fans turned out for his games. At the same time, crowds for local sandlot teams increased. Clearly, Rochester wanted to see its own.

Although he was enamoured by big college reputations, Lyons' own favorite player was an area lineman who never got past the fourth grade. Blonde Hank Smith could play tackle, guard, or center as well as any star with All-American credentials.

Lyons was caught in a bind. He knew he needed outside stars to secure games with other NFL teams. Hank Smith just didn't make it in Chicago! But those same stars were turning off the local fans. More and more, the Jeffersons became a road team.

Curiously, despite some individual heroics, the imported stars tended to hurt the Jeffersons' performance, too. Most

of them would not show up until the day of a game. Some of them never appeared at all. As a consequence, team play was impossible. The Jeffersons probably would have won more often with a well-practiced crew of local players.

There were other problems. Near the end of the 1920 season, while an unusual large crowd awaited the kickoff of a Jeffs-Scalpers game, Lyons was confronted with a strike among some of his locals, apparently over the heavy salaries the imports were receiving. Only when local boy Bob Argus stood up and shouted, "There's a big crowd waiting out there and I'm going out and play like hell!" could the team be induced to take the field. Not surprisingly, the final Jeffs-Scalpers game, later that same season, was played — by agreement — with locals only.

As his team's fortunes plummeted, Lyons worked all the harder to turn things around. He even added field maintenance to his other duties: "I used to put lime on on the field, raid construction sites for 2 x 4's to put up crossbars." Nothing helped.

"The thing that used to bother me most," he said later, "was seeing rich people sitting in the complimentary ticket section — people who could have saved the team with just a little financial support. In the end, I couldn't even give tickets away.

"Baseball and boxing were real big, and even those phony wrestlers outdrew us sometimes. Semi-pro football was very popular. One game between the Oxfords and the Russers drew 14,000 people. The players were all local kids, and that's what people wanted to see. Our largest home crowd was 8,000 for a game against Cleveland. The average was 1,200-1,500 at 85 cents a head."

Lyons figuratively lost his shirt and literally lost his house while trying to keep the Jeffersons afloat. He made a good living in the paint business, but his heart was in pro football. "I invented a paint for lining highways in the early 1920s, but was so busy hopping around lining up players and opponents that I never got around to getting a patent. Someone else did and made millions." Lyons loved pro football, but it didn't return the affection.

In 1925, he made a last-ditch effort to turn the team into a drawing card by offering America's foremost college football star, Red Grange, \$5,000 per game. Grange signed with the Chicago Bears instead. Perhaps it was just as well. From the way lesser stars turned off Rochester, Grange's arrival might have caused the whole town to move to Poughkeepsie. Ironically, the day Grange signed with the Bears, the Jeffersons played — and lost — the final game of their existence, bringing their final NFL record to 1-23-2.

Although Rochester was finished with pro football, Lyons wasn't. He still showed up regularly at NFL meetings, always ready to swap stories or talk over old times. Perhaps, at first, he hoped to re-establish the Jefferson franchise, but eventually the meetings became the chief link with the happiest time of his life.

Other teams dropped out of the NFL and new owners arrived. Lyons was one of the old guard who could explain what had happened when the league was beginning. As George Halas said, "His loyalty to the NFL never wavered." Eventually, the league named him its unofficial historian.

As an historian, Lyons was understandably limited by his own participation in events. It could make for a one-sided view. As a consequence, the Rochester Jeffersons loom much larger in many pro football histories than their record warrants. After all, in six years they managed only a single victory, that against the bedraggled Columbus Panhandles in 1921. Yet, one popular history devotes five pages to the Jeffs, but barely mentions the Providence Steamroller, the 1928 champions!

ROCHESTER'S RAGGED NFL RECORD

1920

Oct. 31 at Buffalo All-Americans 6-17

1921

Oct. 16 at Chicago Staleys 13-16
Oct. 23 at Buffalo All-Americans 0-28
Oct. 30 at Akron Pros 0-19
Nov. 20 home Columbus Panhandles 27-13

1922

Oct. 12 at Akron Pros 13-13
Oct. 15 at Chicago Bears 0-7
Oct. 22 at Rock Island Independents ... 0-26
Oct. 29 at Racine Legion 0-9
Nov. 30 home Buffalo All-Americans 0-21

1923

Oct. 7 at Chicago Cardinals 0-60
Oct. 14 at Rock Island Independents ... 0-56

1924

Sep. 27 at Frankford Yellow Jackets ... 0-21
Oct. 5 home Akron Pros 0-3
Oct. 12 home Columbus Panhandles 7-15
Oct. 19 at Buffalo All-Americans 0-26
Oct. 26 at Cleveland Bulldogs 0-59
Nov. 16 at Columbus Tigers 0-16
Nov. 22 home Buffalo Bisons 0-16

1925

Sep. 27 at Canton Bulldogs 7-14
Oct. 4 at Buffalo Bisons 0-0
Oct. 25 at Green Bay Packers 13-33
Nov. 1 at Providence Steamroller 0-17
Nov. 11 at New York Giants 0-13
Nov. 15 at Pottsville Maroons 6-14
Nov. 22 at Detroit Panthers 0-20

Courtesy of David S. Neft, et.al., Pro Football:
The Early Years.

And, although his memory was exceptional, it was not perfect. Somehow, he "remembered" the league starting at a meeting in Canton in 1919 — a full year before the traditional date! He remembered it so completely that several respected historical works actually list 1919 as the NFL's first year. Dubious researchers have hunted in vain for any confirmation and have concluded not only did such a meeting not take place, in point of fact, it could not have taken place. Lyons had simply — and quite humanly — confused some later meetings that he did actually attend.

But, on balance, Leo served well as an historian, keeping alive memories of the league's formative years and aiding many researchers immeasurably. He was a tireless campaigner for the establishment of a Pro Football Hall of Fame and a regular visitor and contributor of memorabilia once the Hall opened.

Both before and after his death in 1976, he was nominated for membership in the Hall. If love of pro football, willingness to work, and courage in adversity were the only criteria, he would have been a charter member. But realistically, it is difficult to identify any real contribution to the game that would set him above a dozen or so other team owners. He was too busy in the hopeless task of trying to sell pro football to Rochester to become a major figure in NFL history.

Now, if he had only lived in Green Bay

LIONEL CONACHER:

Canada's Answer to Jim Thorpe

By Bob Braunwart and Bob Carroll

In 1950, while the Associated Press in the United States was selecting Jim Thorpe as the greatest football player and the greatest male athlete of the half century, a select Canadian panel of sports reporters and broadcasters was honoring Canada's native son, Lionel Pretoria Conacher, with the same impressive titles.

There were other parallels in the lives of these two superb athletes. Although Conacher was a few years younger than Thorpe (he was born in 1901, Thorpe in 1888), their careers overlapped considerably. Thorpe entertained American spectators for more than twenty years from 1907 to 1929; Conacher starred in Canadian sports from 1916 to 1937.

Both were all-around athletes excelling, it seemed, in any sport to which they set their minds -- Thorpe in track and field, football and baseball, Conacher in football, lacrosse, hockey, baseball, wrestling and boxing.

Lionel first played organized football in 1912 with a Toronto junior team, the Capitals. Canadian football was different then from what it is today. There were fourteen players a side and a touchdown was worth only five points (as it had been in the U.S. before the 1912 season).

Lionel played middle wing (tackle) with the Capitals in 1912-15. They won the city championship each of these years. Lionel continued to play in the junior ranks with various Toronto teams through 1918.

By this time he was also active in other sports. In 1916 he won the amateur light-weight wrestling championship of Ontario.

In 1919 he was moved out of the line, playing halfback on the Ontario Rugby Football Union intermediate champion Capitals. He was also a defenseman on the Toronto Canoe Club junior hockey team, Canadian champions that year. And he also found time to play amateur lacrosse and baseball.

Lionel entered the big leagues in 1920 when he joined the Toronto Rugby Club in the senior division of the O.R.F.U. His new team won the union championship and went on to meet the Interprovincial Rugby Football Union ("Big Four") champion Toronto Argonauts in the eastern semifinals.

The playoff game resulted in one of many heated disputes in Canadian football during this period. In the second half the Torontos scored a touchdown, which according to the referee was unearned. Under the rules in force at the time, this meant it was worth only three points, not five. Only the unearned variety was to be awarded for a touchdown resulting from a fumble behind the goal line.

Conacher's team protested the ruling. This was understandable, since the final score would have been 7-6 in the favor of the Argonauts if the score was unearned, 8-7 in favor of the Torontos if earned. The Canadian Rugby Union, which conducted the interleague playoffs, was unable to establish the precise nature of the score and ruled that the second half of the game would have to be replayed.

One week after the initial encounter the Argonauts, carrying a 2-0 lead into the second half, finally dispatched the persistent Torontos, outscoring them 3-2 in the replayed second half and winning the game 5-2. The two extra quarters had not only confirmed the Argonauts' victory, but also caused a one-week delay in the Grey Cup game.

In order to retain his amateur eligibility, in 1920 Lionel turned down an offer of \$3,000 to play for the Toronto St. Patrick's hockey team. He did continue senior amateur competition in hockey, lacrosse and baseball, however, and he won the 1920 Canadian amateur light heavyweight boxing title.

Apparently the Argonauts liked what they saw in the eastern final that year, because by 1921 they had recruited Conacher. In his first game with the team he scored 23 of the Argos 27 points and "had as much fun as a



pickeral in a minnow pond." He led the Big Four in scoring with 85 points, including 14 touchdowns. This accomplishment is even more remarkable when you consider that the Argos played only a six-game schedule in those days.

The Argonauts swept through all regular-season opposition (they were 6-0-0, scoring 167 points to 35 for their opponents) and then met the University of Toronto Varsity and Parkdale Canoe Club in the eastern playoffs. Victories in those games put them in the Grey Cup, where they defeated Edmonton Eskimos 23-0. This was the first Grey Cup game ever played between the eastern and western champions. Lionel scored fifteen of the Argonauts' points.

The following year in an early-season game in Montreal, Allan Arless, one of the local players, was killed while attempting a tackle. Although Lionel claimed afterward that he was not the ball carrier on the play, at least one sportswriter thought that he was. A few weeks later the Argos played a benefit game in Montreal, raising \$12,000 for Arless' widow.

Lionel was captain of the Argonauts this season. The team went undefeated again, although they were tied once. In six regular-season games, Conacher rushed for 950 yards! In one game against Ottawa he carried eight times for 215 yards. Talk about a pickeral in a minnow barrel!

He also set a season record (still current, although Canadian teams now play sixteen games rather than six) by scoring 33 singles, including eight on 25 punts in another game versus Ottawa.

The team defeated Toronto Parkdale in the semi-final but lost a 12-11 squeaker to Queen's University in the eastern final. The defeat was at least partially attributable to Lionel's uncharacteristically poor showing -- he fumbled seven times.

Also this year Leo Dandurand, manager of the Montreal Canadiens, offered Conacher \$5,000 plus help in setting up his own business if he would turn pro. Once again he declined.

He was still active in amateur baseball, hockey and lacrosse. He was forced to weather a scandal when he and a teammate were accused of point shaving in a hockey game. The Ontario A.A.U. suspended his entire team, the Aura Lees, on "serious charges of infringement of amateurism," but the Canadian A.A.U. absolved the players.

Also this year Lionel boxed a four-round exhibition with Jack Dempsey.

His second season with the Argonauts was

also his last. While he played for them, the team was 15-1-1 in regular-season and playoff competition, winning one Grey Cup.

In 1923 he moved to the United States and enrolled in Bellefonte Academy, a prep school just outside of Pittsburgh. He was older than the other students, but he had some academic deficiencies to make up before he could apply to a university. However, he was eligible for the football team, and did play.

In 1924 he played for Duquesne University, also in Pittsburgh. The following year he interrupted his football career to play professional hockey. He continued to play in the N.H.L. with Pittsburgh, New York, Montreal and Chicago every season through 1936-37, twice playing for Stanley Cup winners.

In 1926 he played professional baseball as an outfielder for the Toronto Maple Leafs of the International League. His team won the pennant and the Little World Series.

The following year he was an assistant football coach at Rutgers University. In 1931 he added his third professional sport when he played for the Montreal Maroons in the International Indoor Professional Lacrosse League. (Indoor lacrosse was also known as "box lacrosse" or "boxla.") In 1932 he also wrestled professionally, winning 26 matches and losing none.

Conacher was now a professional in four sports and consequently ineligible to play Canadian football, which was still exclusively amateur.

So in 1933, ten years after he had last been active in the sport, Conacher organized the first professional football league in Canada. He played halfback and captained the Toronto entry, the Crosse and Blackwell Chefs. The team was named for its sponsor, a food products company.

The Chefs played teams from Rochester and Buffalo. There was also a professional team in Montreal for the first time this season, but whether or not they met the Chefs on the field is not clear.

In 1934, now in his mid-thirties, Lionel continued to play for the Toronto pro team. Because of a change of sponsors, it was known this year as the "Wrigley Aromints." This was his last season in football, although he continued to play in the N.H.L. for several more years.

In May 1954, while a member of the Federal Parliament, Conacher was stricken by a heart attack in the course of a softball game between the M.P.'s and the press. Just fourteen months earlier Jim Thorpe had died.

In 1963 Lionel Conacher was chosen one of the charter members of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.

TOUCHDOWN!

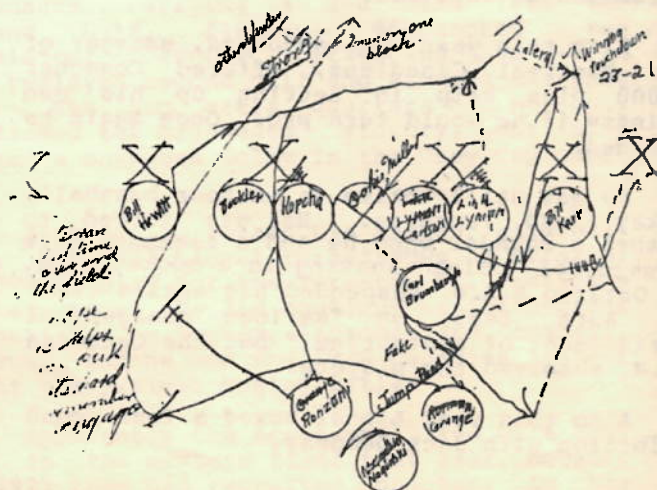


While researching the 1933 NFL Championship Game for his book *Pro Football's Ten Greatest Games*, author John Thorn received a diagram of the winning play from Jules "Zuck" Carlson, former All-League guard with the Chicago Bears and a participant in the game. Carlson's diagram is reproduced here.

To set the scene: it's late in the fourth quarter and the New York Giants hold a 21-16 lead. But the Giants have turned conservative in their offense, and the Bears stop them. Thorn describes the action:

"Strong drops into deep punt formation. In the face of a mighty rush from ends Hewitt and Karr, Ken shanks the kick out of bounds at his own 46 — a mere eight yards from scrimmage. Can New York's defense hold again?

"Brumbaugh returns to the game in place of Corbett, and on first down takes a pass from Molesworth for nine. On second down Nagurski bulls his way up the middle for four, putting the ball on the 33. Less than two minutes remain to be played. Grange, a superior blocker, comes in for Molesworth. Brumbaugh lines up not under the center, Ookie Miller, but behind right guard Zuck Carlson. He takes the snap, fakes a handoff to Red, then slaps the ball into Nagurski's belly. Bronko lowers his head, aiming for the middle again, but instead of proceeding through the hole, he straightens up, leaps, and lobs the ball to Hewitt some ten yards downfield. Hewitt takes two steps, with Burnett on his heels. But before Hewitt can be thrown down, he laterals to Karr, who races toward the right corner chased by Strong and Newman. One or the other should nail him at about the 8 — but out of nowhere comes Ronzani to throw himself in front of the two Giants and knock them both 'right on their cans,' as he will say after the game. Karr trots into the end zone as the fans yell themselves silly. The Bears lead 22-21. Halas lets Ronzani try the meaningless PAT. Gene boots it through."



When Detroit's Eddie Murray booted a 53-yard field goal against the Bears on Monday Nite Football (Oct. 19), did you notice that it was only the second longest in Lion history? And did you notice who has held the record at 54 yards ever since 1934? None other than P.F.R.A. member Glenn Presnell, that's who!

* * *

Another P.F.R.A. member, Dr. Joe Kopcha, was a great guard in his days with the Bears, but he never had a performance that was more "all pro" than what he did last August. Here's how staff writer Debbie Krieter described it in the Hobart (Ind.) Gazette:

Commendations are in store for two Hobart residents, Dr. Joseph Kopcha and Fred Sontag, who saved the life of the two-year-old Heather Evans Aug. 25, when she stopped breathing in the back seat of her mother, Judy Evans', car. Mayor Calvin Green intends on awarding the two men the Citizens Commendations Award, perhaps at the next City Council meeting, for their humanitarian deed in the saving of a small child's life.

Mrs. Evans told the Gazette this week she was driving down LaSalle St. when she heard a gurgling sound coming from the back seat of the car. When she turned around to check on the noise, she was horrified to find her daughter blue from lack of oxygen.

Panic stricken, she pulled off the road and began to administer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. She saw a red truck coming up the street and, desperately needing help, motioned to the driver, who they later found out was Fred Sontag, to help her little girl.

Taking turns giving the life-saving oxygen to the breathless child, Sontag flagged down another passing car. This good samaritan was Dr. Kopcha.

Luck was with this little girl when the two men gave no thought to the possible repercussions if she died, but instead gave their all to the helpless little girl in her fight for life.

While Dr. Kopcha administered aid to Heather, Sontag made the necessary phone calls to the fire department and the girl's father Billie Evans.

The story normally ends with the person being taken to the hospital. In this case both Sontag and Dr. Kopcha called to check on the progress of little Heather, who might not have lived had it not been for their quick thinking and kind hearts.

Dr. Kopcha even visited Heather in her room the next day to see for himself how the child was doing. Much to his delight, he found Judy Evans feeding her daughter in a high chair.

Heather, since then, has been found to be epileptic. She also has a mild form of spina bifida. Her parents still don't sleep soundly at night for fear their daughter will have another attack where she stops breathing, but they thank God for two caring men who gave their daughter another chance at life.

* * *

Incidentally, Kopcha received a pleasant surprise recently when a patient brought him a program from the Chicago Bears' 1935 charity game against the College All-Stars. Kopcha, who starred for the Bears, realized for the first time that he had played against a future President of the United States. Star Michigan center Gerald Ford played for the All-Stars.

* * *

The Corner received an intriguing note from John Duxbury, author of the always-interesting "Your Question Please" column in the Sporting News:

As a football researcher from time-to-time, I've discovered there's a great need for a couple of lists which might be compiled by a P.F.R.A. group:

- (1) A list of all the players who have played in the modern era (since the addition of U.S. players) in the Canadian Football League. I know several CFL press guides have all-time lists, but the CFL tells me there is no overall list. At present, there's no quick way to check on whether someone played in the CFL.
- (2) A similar list for the World Football League. Instead of waiting 30 years, I think it would be much easier to compile this list now, while former WFL players, coaches, club officials, etc. are still alive to help.

* * *

And, speaking of things that someone ought to look into, when did the New York Giants join the NFL? 1925? Well, maybe not!

Some new evidence unearthed by John Hogrogian seems to indicate that a team from New York was a league member in 1921. It is believed that this was a club led by Charley Brickley, the old Harvard All-American. They were sometimes known as "Brickley's Giants." Apparently, they played most of their games on the road, as a December meeting with Jim Thorpe's Cleveland team is identified as their first home game (at the Polo Grounds). It is likely that the "Giants" played two or three league opponents earlier in the year.

If anyone would like to follow up on this, the Corner will be happy to hear from him.

* * *

A hearty P.F.R.A. welcome to the following new members:

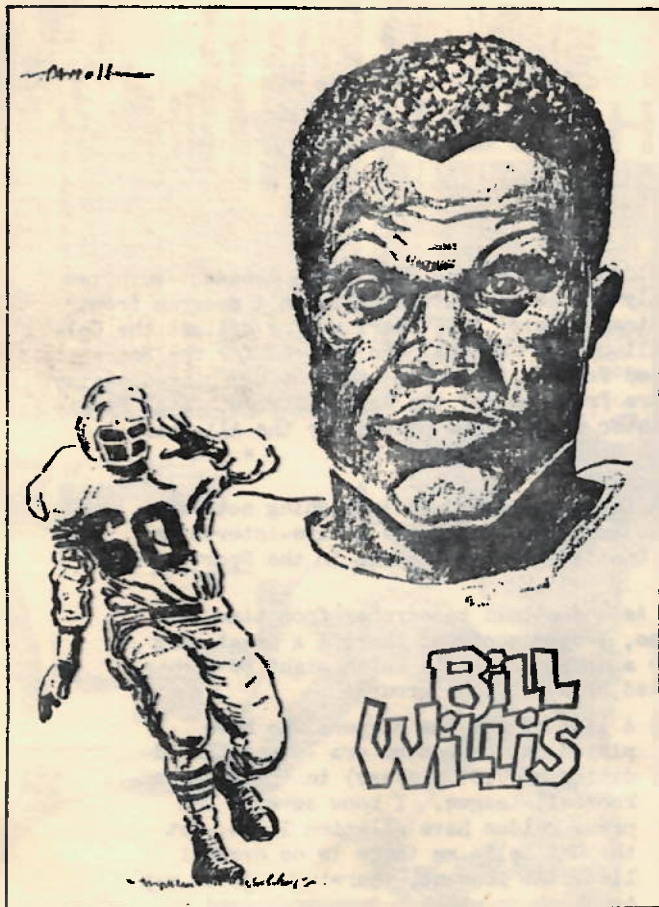
John W. Docke, 39 Hawthorne St., Rutherford, N.J. 07070.

Robert Friedman, 2213 No. Wannamaker Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19131.

Peter Marchant, 64 Chapel Woods West, Williamsville, N.Y. 14221.

* * *

And, finally, does anyone know for sure why they called that team the Dayton Triangles?



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/magazine of the P.F.R.A.; the opportunity to submit material to be considered for publication in the newsletter/magazine; 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 \$15 per year have been set.

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