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By Emil Klosinski

Perhaps there has been no one involved in more of football's history as a player and as a coach than Hunk Anderson.

For four years, during Notre Dame's rise to national prominence under Knute Rockne, Hunk was a first string guard, and after graduation he became Rockne's assistant coach. Hunk was also an important cog for the Chicago Bears in two distinct eras of that team's existence — when they were just beginning and during their dynasty years of the forties.

Many who recognize the name Hunk Anderson, may remember him stigmatically as Rockne's successor who presided over the first losing football season in Notre Dame's history. Seldom mentioned, however, is the fact that Notre Dame had decided to deemphasize her football program by cutting scholarships in half and eliminating funds for recruiting. Unknown to most scribes and buffs are the contributions Hunk made to the game as an innovator while coaching the lines and setting up defenses.

Hunk has been enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame for his stellar play on two of Rockne's first undefeated Notre Dame teams — 1919 and 1920. He is also the only interior lineman of any major college team to score three touchdowns in one game, a feat he performed against Purdue in 1920. Thus far, the Pro Football Hall of Fame has not tapped Hunk for enshrinement, although his greatest contributions to the game of football came with the pros.

Hunk was a "bridge" connecting the old and modern eras of football. Most experts date the modern era from when the Bears modernized the T-formation, but there were other elements involved which assisted that final result, namely:

- (1) The shape of the ball was changed in 1934 to accommodate the passing game,
- (2) Rules were promulgated to favor the offense and passing,
- (3) Upon his first retirement from coaching, George Halas employed Ralph Jones as coach of the Chicago Bears, and
- (4) In 1940, Halas hired Hunk Anderson as the Bear's line coach.

Some scribes have erroneously credited Clark Shaughnessy exclusively for modernizing the T-formation, apparently because he worked in liason with Halas in 1939 and kept in contact with the Bears after accepting the coaching job at Stanford where he also used the T. However, both Halas and Anderson minimized Shaughnessy's role. According to Halas, Clark's contribution was the signal calling system and the counter-play — on which Hunk later changed the blocking assignments to enhance its effectiveness.

Of course, in those days, college teams were in the forefront of attention with sportswriters and fans. Shaughnessy's success with the T-formation at Stanford



A
HUNK
OF
HISTORY

HUNK
ANDERSON

gave substance to the myth of its creation by Clark. However, Halas has always given Ralph Jones the credit for modernizing the T-formation. Jones split the ends wider than usual, sent flankers out wide, and put backs in motion. The direct hand-back snap from the center was also Jones' idea, but improved by quarterback Carl Brumbaugh and perfected in 1940 by Halas and staff.

Hunk Anderson's role in the T-formation's development was that of an accoucher. With the T already modernized by the aforementioned technicians, one ingredient was grossly lacking — new methods of blocking.

It must be noted that the T-formation never reached its potential until 1940, when Hunk joined the Chicago Bears. He replaced the "coil-spring," a lunging charge by the linemen, by introducing the sprinters' stance with a running charge and emphasis on center of gravity. For quick openers, Anderson perfected the stand-up obstruction block. Backs could burst through holes created by alignment before the obstructed defensive man could react.

When the Chicago Bears massacred the Washington Redskins, 73-0, in that memorable 1940 championship game and Stanford subsequently beat Nebraska in the Rose Bowl, the T-formation's explosiveness thereby was

brought to the attention of the coaching fraternity, and, one by one, they began adopting the T-formation.

* * *

George Halas calls Hunk the "greatest line coach who ever lived."

Knute Rockne's opinion was: "No one knows more about line play or can teach it better than Hunk Anderson."

* * *

Anyone who has followed the history of pro football will remember the "Monsters of the Midway," as the Bears were called in their dynasty years. The 1940 Bears are still considered by some to be the greatest team of all time. That line and the lines that followed during those Chicago championship years of the forties were molded by Hunk.

The most famous line of all football history and one that has been called "pound for pound, the greatest" was the Seven Mules of Notre Dame, the crew that paved the way for the immortal Four Horsemen in 1924. That he taught his pupils well can be documented by Frank Leahy's success as line coach at Fordham in the 1930s. The Seven Blocks of Granite gained almost as much fame as the Seven Mules.

Although putting a line together and coaching a lineman's techniques on both offense and defense was Anderson's prime duty, he also had charge of setting up defenses from week to week. Gloomy Gus Henderson of the Detroit Lions, for whom Hunk worked in 1939, called him "The Master of Defense." George Halas was even more emphatic: "When it came to line play or defense, Hunk was a genius."

Anderson was also a great innovator. He fathered the maneuver that is now called "blitzing." Over forty years after Hunk put it into the defensive playbook, blitzing is still part of every team's repertoire. Although the sportscasters use the term "blitzing," many will recall the term "red dog." That's what Hunk called it. Red meant "be alert" and dog meant "to hound the quarterback." Fred Vanzo of the Detroit Lions was the first to red dog in 1939 against the Chicago Bears.

In that game, the Bears with the "modernized" T-formation were able to amass a paltry 56 total yards. Hunk threw a five-man line with blitzing linebackers against the Bears. Although Ray Morrison had used a five-man line at Vanderbilt on third and long yardage situations in 1925, in all his days of football, Halas had not seen a five-man defensive line. Both the colleges and pros used the six and seven-man lines. On a seven-diamond and a 6-3-2 defense, there was a roving center who had the liberty of assisting on either side or up the middle. He would usually hit through the spot vacated by a pulling guard or tackle, and sometimes he'd nail a tailback for a loss. But in those days, the linemen were committed to protect a certain amount of territory over their positions and to penetrate. Therefore the roving center (or a back playing the rover) was a prime pursuer. As Hunk put it: "In those days, a linebacker was a reactor. What I did was to make the linebacker initiate the action, not react to it."

Hunk first used the red dog against Southern California in 1931. Steve Banas was the blitzer and he only did it when Ernie Pinckert was in the tailback spot. Hunk also toyed with it later when he coached North Carolina State, but it never became a part of his playbook until he joined the Detroit Lions.

Because Hunk manacled the Bears so efficiently and Halas couldn't fathom as to what happened, George hired Hunk away from the Lions. The first thing Hunk had to do upon being hired was to write a report on how he'd defended the Bears the previous year. The

scrap of paper on which he initially scribbled the red dog is in a private sports museum in Pittsburgh.

* * *

While defense was Hunk's forte, he did innovate on offense. Ken Rappoport, the Associated Press writer, recently wrote: "When Hunk Anderson took over Notre Dame's head coaching job, he made many progressive changes in the Notre Dame system. He split the tackles, sent men in motion, added laterals after pass receptions and made other changes in the Notre Dame playbook. Coaches would flock annually to the Notre Dame-Army game to see the new wrinkles Hunk came up with."

* * *

It was in 1922 that Hunk came up with the reverse-body block which was used to block the ends and sometimes linebackers in the Notre Dame system and also by those coaching the Warner system and the short punt formation. The reverse-body block was born in the Bears-Akron game of that year. Hunk was having a difficult time trying to block the Akron Pros' end. That's when his ingenuity began to sparkle. He pulled out of the line and came at the end, who braced for a frontal attack. Hunk planted his foot and feinted with his head. Suddenly, he swung his body sideways and sideswiped the end out of the way. The reverse-body block permitted Bear backs Sternaman and Fearce to make long gains, and the Chicagoans won, 20-10.

* * *

As a player in those pioneering days, Hunk was probably the best lineman in the game. Although weighing only 175 pounds, he was extremely strong. He had quickness, a facile mind, and played with such tenacity on offense and defense that Halas had his weight listed at 215 pounds for psychological reasons. Wrote Halas in the introduction to Hunk's memoirs, "Hunk was a terror on offense and defense in those 60-minute days when the raw physical nature of the game demanded players who were durable as well as able."

That Halas should have such high regard for Hunk's ability can be judged by the fact that, until Red Grange joined the team in 1925, Anderson was the highest paid player on the Bears' roster. Grange, perhaps the first player to have an agent, left the University of Illinois after the last game on the Illini schedule in '25. Entrepreneur C.C. "Cash & Carry" Pyle made a percentage of gate deal for Grange, leaving Hunk as the second highest paid player. Pyle arranged an 18 game schedule, sometimes called "The Grange Tour," which the Bears played from coast to coast in two months' time.

During this barnstorming tour, Hunk displayed his durability by playing 60 minutes of every game while every one of his teammates was sidelined with injury at one time or another. His quality of play never diminished on the tour. When the Bears played the Giants at the Polo Grounds, and a capacity crowd — including many curious sportswriters — turned out to see the Galloping Ghost, it was the New York Post that noted "the ferocious line play of Hunk Anderson."

* * *

Hunk played football for six years with the Bears.* It would take an extraordinary individual to attempt the personal schedule he had. On Monday through Friday, he'd work at Edwards Iron Works in South Bend

*-Most reference works indicate that Anderson played four years. His name does not appear in the lineups of Bear league games in 1926-27. It is likely that he played in some exhibition games. Bear sources list him as playing six years.

until 3:00 p.m. Fifteen minutes later, he was at Notre Dame assisting Knute Rockne, coaching the line. On Saturday, if Notre Dame had a home game, Hunk would be on the sidelines with the team. Immediately after the game, he would hop a train for Chicago and a "crash course" on the Bears' game plan. On Sunday, the well conditioned Hunk played 60 minutes of hard-nose football without the benefit of any practice. Halas has said, "I don't believe anyone else could have done this and still given a full 60 minutes of flawless, relentless ball, relying on brains and football instinct."

A long time friend of Anderson's, Red Smith of the New York Times, commented: "Hunk Anderson was a ferocious lineman ... the nicest tough guy I ever knew. His language was direct and colorful."

The "colorful" language is a reference to the fact that Hunk used expletives after every word he uttered. When he coached at Notre Dame, even when the weather was truly mild, the priests usually came out to watch practice wearing earmuffs.

Tough guy? Well, Grantland Rice, who covered a half century of sports and observed all the great ones, came to this conclusion: "Hunk Anderson is the roughest human being that I have ever known."

It was Grantland Rice who related the story about how Henry McLeMore, a noted writer, provoked Hunk. Said Rice, "... the next thing I knew, McLeMore was bouncing off the floor like a tennis ball." This happened in Rice's "open house" suite for the fight crowd before the Joe Louis-Bob Pastor fight in Detroit. Still in a rage after finishing off poor Henry, Hunk challenged the whole room full of sports dignitaries — including Louis and Pastor — to fight. Hunk was willing to take them on one at a time or en masse. Only Granny Rice had some influence over Hunk and calmed him down. Bloodied, muted, and limp, McLeMore was taken away for emergency repairs. Henry missed the fight and had to settle for a blow-by-blow report from his hospital bed.

Hunk wasn't a brawler looking for a fight. Actually, Anderson kept a low profile, but he also possessed a short fuse that usually detonated a time bomb within upon provocation or challenge.

Paddy Driscoll, who happened to have been both an adversary and a teammate of Hunk's at different times, once commented: "... Hunk Anderson would have been in his element in the Roman Coliseum — and God help the lions!"

* * *

Hunk engaged in some organized neighborhood boxing in Calumet, Mich., his home town, prior to entering Notre Dame. At Notre Dame, he was usually drafted to fight because of his Calumet experience. Although he weighed about 165 pounds at that time, he was matched against a heavyweight on three occasions ... and won.

When the servicemen were returning from World War I, the South Bend Elks Club decided to give the veterans a beer party. As part of the entertainment, the Elks persuaded Rockne to furnish some boxing with Notre Dame talent. Big George Trafton was one of the volunteers in the heavyweight division, but Rock couldn't find anyone who wanted to tangle with Trafton because of his size. Finally, Rock matched Hunk against Trafton, an obvious physical mismatch. Trafton had a six inch height and reach advantage as well as a 60 pound edge in weight.

George Gipp, Hunk's home town buddy and the man who recruited him for Notre Dame, was in Anderson's corner. The first round was a feel-out round for the most part although Trafton tried a couple of haymakers hoping for an early finish. When Hunk got back to his corner, Gipp had some astute observations and offered Hunk some good advice:

"He drops his hands just before he lashes out at you. I don't trust that kind of style because he might catch you unexpectedly. Your best bet would be to stay away from him until you see an opening and then come in, or, when you see his hands drop, go inside and work his body over."

At the beginning of the second round, Trafton shuffled toward Hunk with his hands up high. Suddenly, he dropped them and Hunk immediately crowded Big George on the inside, as a long right hand lead and a haymaking left whistled past Anderson's ears. Almost within an eye blink, Hunk stepped back and with his whole body behind it unloaded a terrific left hook that sent Trafton over the ring ropes, out on the apron, and almost onto the seats. Big George was rendered unconscious as "David slew Goliath."

* * *

As a player, Anderson was involved in his share of altercations, too, as almost any player gets into in the heat of battle. However, it is more fitting to dwell on Hunk's record in pro football instead.

In 1920, Hunk coached the South Bend Arrows to an undefeated season. The Arrows, as well as a couple of NFL teams and a few others, claimed the pro football championship.

During World War II, when Halas went back into the service, he named Anderson and Luke Johnsos as co-coaches of the Bears. Halas didn't want to slight Johnsos who had been with Halas as a player and coach for a decade and was completely loyal. However, Halas needed Anderson's experience, even though he had been with the Bears for only a year. Actually, Hunk took charge.

With Halas gone, Hunk and Johnsos coached the team to two Division Championships and a World Championship.

* * *

Hunk also initiated the safety blitz in 1940. George McAfee blitzed or red dogged the Green Bay Packers four times in one series of downs. The Pack had a first down on the Bears' three-yard line. Three times Clarke Hinkle tried to punch it over, and each time a blitzing McAfee nailed him. On fourth down, the Packers chose to go for a touchdown instead of a field goal, and Curly Lambeau tried to cross up the Bears. He figured they would expect a Herber to Hutson pass and would double cover Hutson. Instead, he had Hinkle carry the ball after a Herber fake. Once again, McAfee blitzed and nailed Hinkle! The Bears went on to win.

Anderson is generally given credit for introducing the combination zone-man to man defense, and his five-man line evolved into the basic front four concept used by the pros.

According to George Connor, the Bear Hall of Famer, Hunk introduced the big linebacker to the defense, and George was the first of the breed. Even though platoon football was legal, George had to play offense and defense because the Bears needed him both ways.

* * *

Blitzing, championships, blocking techniques, legends, defenses It seems that Hunk contributed more than his share to football in general and pro football in particular.

By the way, in case the Pro Football Hall of Fame is interested, Hunk's full name is Heartley William "Hunk" Anderson.

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Emil Klosinski is the author of Professional Football in the Days of Rockne as well as a biography of Hunk Anderson.

THE FIRST NFL GAME(S)

By Bob Braunwart & Bob Carroll

The November (1980) issue of The Coffin Corner featured Larry Bortstein's excellent article on "The First AFL Game." In the interim, several P.F.R.A. members have suggested that something should be written about the first game played in the National Football League. Unfortunately, such an account has several built-in difficulties, not the least of which is deciding just what game really was the first.

* * *

Let's review the bidding. Fourteen teams are listed as belonging to the American Professional Football Association in 1920, and the NFL regards the APFA as its direct ancestor. While some purists might prefer to honor a game from the 1922 season when the league actually adopted the name "National Football League," most experts would accept the initial contest played between two APFA members in 1920 as the first. But it is on this point that we begin to have problems.

Although some APFA teams got into action as early as September of that year, the first meetings between teams listed as APFA members occurred on October 3. On that date, the Dayton Triangles defeated the Columbus Panhandles, 14-0, at Dayton, and the Rock Island Independents slaughtered the Muncie Flyers, 45-0, at Rock Island.

It is interesting to note that several histories of pro football, including the short summary contained in the NFL's Record Manual, insist that Muncie did not place a team on the field in 1920. On the other hand, considering their poor performance at Rock Island, perhaps it would be stretching a point to call the Flyers a "team."

But back to the question of which game to count as the NFL's first — the one at Dayton or the one at Rock Island. A glance at a map of the midwest will show that Dayton is in the Eastern Time Zone and Rock Island is in the Central. We might then guess that the Dayton game began an hour earlier — making it the first.

And we might be right.

But, we might also be wrong.



Big Frank Nesser, one of the famous brothers who starred for the Columbus Panhandles, had the misfortune of throwing the first pass ever returned for a touchdown in the NFL.

Kickoff times were far from standardized in 1920, and, as yet, no researcher has come forward with the exact kickoff time for either game. And, we don't even want to think about Daylight Saving Time! It's possible that the Independents and Flyers actually began earlier by the clock than the Triangles and the Panhandles.

As if that wasn't enough, we have an additional problem with the Columbus Panhandles. We cannot be 100 % certain that they really belonged in the APFA. No Columbus representative was present at either the August 20 or the September 17, 1920, meetings at which the APFA was organized. It has always been assumed that Columbus joined the league later in the season (but, by October 3?), but all we really know is that Joe Carr, the Columbus manager, showed up at the league's reorganizational meeting in 1921 and got himself elected league president.

Therefore, the safest thing we can say at this time is that the first NFL game was played by EITHER Dayton and Columbus OR by Rock Island and Muncie.

Let's take a look at both games.

* * *

Sunday, October 3, 1920, at Dayton, O.
(Triangle Park)

DAYTON 14

COLUMBUS 0

Dutch Thiele	E	Homer Ruh
Lee Fenner	E	Jim Flower
Harry Cutler	T	Oscar Kuehner
Ed "Tubby" Sauer	T	Joe Mulbarger
Guy Early	G	Phil Nesser
Charlie Winston	G	Oscar Wolford
George Kinderdine	C	Will Waite
Al Mahrt	C	Hal Gaulke
Frank Bacon	H	Lee Snoots
Norb Sacksteder	H	John Schneider
Lou Partlow	F	Frank Nesser

Substitutes

DAYTON: Dave Reese - E, Glenn Tidd - G, Bill Clark - G, Dick Abrell - Q, George Roudebush - H, "Pesky" Lentz - H

COLUMBUS: Ted Nesser - T, Charlie Essman - G, Wilkie Moody - H

Dayton Triangles	0	0	7	7	- 14
Columbus Panhandles	0	0	0	0	- 0

Scoring

DAT: TD - Partlow (run); PAT - Kinderdine
DAY: TD - Bacon (punt return); PAT-Kinderdine

The Dayton Triangles opened their 1920 season at the expense of the Columbus Panhandles. The game was hard fought and closely contested, and it was only in the second half that the Triangles were able to show their superiority.

Although the first half was scoreless, it was not without thrills. In the second quarter, Columbus gained a first down on the Dayton three yard line. Four downs later, with the home crowd cheering furiously, it was the Triangles' ball. The half ended with the Tris knocking on the Columbus goal, after a 30-yard pass from Al Mahrt to Dutch

Thiele had brought them to the five.

Early in the third period, the Triangles gained possession of the ball on their own 35-yard line. Four line smashes carried them to midfield. Then Lou Partlow broke loose and raced to the Panhandle ten-yard line. Frank Bacon gained three, and then Partlow took the ball across. George Kinderdine added the extra point.

About the middle of the last quarter, big Frank Nesser of the 'Handles boomed a punt far downfield. Bacon fielded it on his own 40. He dodged and squirmed his way through the entire Columbus team to place the ball across the goal line — a 60-yard return. Again, Kinderdine kicked the extra point.

Source: Dayton Journal Herald, Oct. 4, 1920

Sunday, October 3, 1920, at Rock Island, Ill.
(Douglas Park)

ROCK ISLAND 45

MUNCIE 0

Oke Smith	E	Jess Reno
Bobby Marshall	E	Chuck Helvie
Ed Shaw	T	Bill Berns
Walt Buland	T	"Doc" Davis
Dewey Lyle	G	Ernie Hole
"Pudge" Wyland	G	Russ Hathaway
Freeman Fitzgerald ...	C	Floyd
"Rube" Ursella	Q ...	"Coonie" Checkaye
Fred Chicken	H	"Mickey" Hole
Arnie Wyman	H	Arch Erehart
Jerry Mansfield	F	Ken Huffine

Substitutions

ROCK ISLAND: Frank Gardner - E, "Polly" Koch - G, Charlie Mockmore - G, "Waddy" Kuehl - Q, Sid Nichols - H, "Paddy" Quinn - H, Eddie Novak - F

MUNCIE: Pope - E, Joe Smith - G, "Kip" Baldwin - H

R. I. Independents ...	21	10	7	7	-	45
Muncie Flyers	0	0	0	0	-	0

Scoring

R.I.: TD - Wyman (blocked punt return), PAT - Ursella
R.I.: TD - Wyman (blocked punt recovery), PAT - Ursella
R.I.: TD - Ursella (run), PAT - Ursella
R.I.: FG - Ursella
R.I.: TD - Wyman (kickoff return), PAT - Ursella
R.I.: TD - Nichols (run), PAT - Marshall
R.I.: TD - Kuehl (run), PAT - Marshall

As 3,100 fans looked on, the Rock Island Independents swamped the Muncie Flyers by a lopsided 45-0 score. Arnie Wyman, former Minnesota great, made a glittering debut for the Islanders, scoring three touchdowns.

The Independents put the game out of reach early, using blocked punts to score three touchdowns in the first quarter. Ed Shaw blocked Ken Huffine's first attempt and Wyman scooped it up to run 35 yards for the score. Then, after Huffine got off a successful punt, the Islanders drove to the Muncie two-yard line, only to fumble.

But, when Huffine went into the end zone for yet another punt attempt, Walt Buland broke through to block, and Wyman scored again by falling on the ball in the end zone.

As soon as Huffine was called upon to punt again, Shaw and Oke Smith blocked another one. This time Dewey Lyle recovered but stepped out of bounds on the 15-yard line. A few moments later, Rube Ursella blasted across.

With the game well in hand, Ursella, who had booted the first three extra points, added a 25-yard second quarter field goal. Then came the game's most spectacular play. Wyman took a kickoff on his own 14 and went all the way to score the fourth touchdown of the half. Again, Ursella kicked the PAT.

The Islanders used their bench throughout the second half, but they still managed to add two more TDs to their total. All told, Rock Island racked up 215 rushing yards, plus ten more on a single completed pass. Meanwhile, the Flyers could pick up only 33 yards on the ground and 13 passing. The Flyers got only two first downs for the entire game, and one of those came when Rock Island was caught off-sides.

Source: Rock Island Argus, Oct. 4, 1920

With the above as a shaky starting point, we may proceed with a list of "firsts" that took place in one game or the other on October 3, 1920.

First TD: Lou Partlow, Dayton, or Arnie Wyman, R.I.

First TD Rushing: Partlow, Day., or Rube Ursella, R.I.

First TD on Punt Return: Frank Bacon, Day.

First TD on Blocked Punt: Wyman, R.I.

First TD on Kickoff: Wyman, R.I.

First PAT: George Kinderdine, Day., or Ursella, R.I.

First Field Goal: Ursella, R.I.

First Player to Score More Than One TD in a Game: Wyman, R.I.

First Black Player in League: Bobby Marshall, R.I.

Fritz Pollard is often listed as the league's first black player, but Akron played Wheeling, W.Va., on October 3 in a game that cannot be counted as between two league members. The following week, on October 10, Akron played Columbus at Akron's League Park in a game that had a couple of firsts. Bob Nash became the first player to score a touchdown on a fumble recovery, and, when the Panhandles misplayed a center snap in the fourth quarter, Akron scored the league's first safety.

On the same date out in Rock Island, Arnie Wyman got into the act again by throwing the league's first touchdown pass, a 35-yard strike to Waddy Kuehl against Hammond.

The first interception to be returned all the way for a touchdown did not occur until two weeks after that (October 24) in Detroit. Once more Columbus found itself on the wrong end of a "first." Frank Nesser of the Panhandles misdirected one of his passes and a Detroit Herald end named Fitzgerald snagged it and raced 85 yards to a touchdown. The rest of the game was scoreless, so the interception turned out to be the decider in a 6-0 Detroit win.

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In conclusion, the authors would like to point out that this rather tentative list of NFL "firsts" is far from complete. Members are invited to submit additions (or corrections) to The Coffin Corner.

The following was discovered in a 1958 Utah vs. Utah state football program. The story was marked "Courtesy Los Angeles Rams," but no author was given.

At the time, the significance of Gehrke's creation was not fully appreciated. However, in the interim every football team from the Super Bowl Champs down to junior high squads has adopted a distinctive helmet logo.

Today, Fred Gehrke is General Manager and Vice President of the Denver Broncos. He is also a member of P.F.R.A.

HISTORIC HORNS

If you were to select an all-time Los Angeles Ram team, would you place at halfback the man who designed the famous Ram helmet? You might, for Fred Gehrke, creator of the distinctive design, elusively roamed NFL gridirons for six years. He indelibly stamped his name as an all-time Ram great. But a more delicate touch from the artistic side of Fred Gehrke has left his mark for all to see whenever the Rams take the field.

In 1939 Gehrke was an art major and a grid speedster at the University of Utah. He joined the Rams in 1940 and the following off-season became associated with Northrop Aircraft in Los Angeles and became an integral part of that firm's design department throughout the war.

He rejoined the Cleveland Rams for the 1945 season, playing a sparkling part in the Rams' successful quest for a world title. When the team moved to Los Angeles, Gehrke continued as a top drawer halfback through 1949.

At the close of the 1947 season, Coach Bob Snyder asked Gehrke to put his artistic talents to work in designing a new Ram uniform. Gehrke did so, and his presentation of the now famous helmet was greeted with enthusiasm by the entire organization.

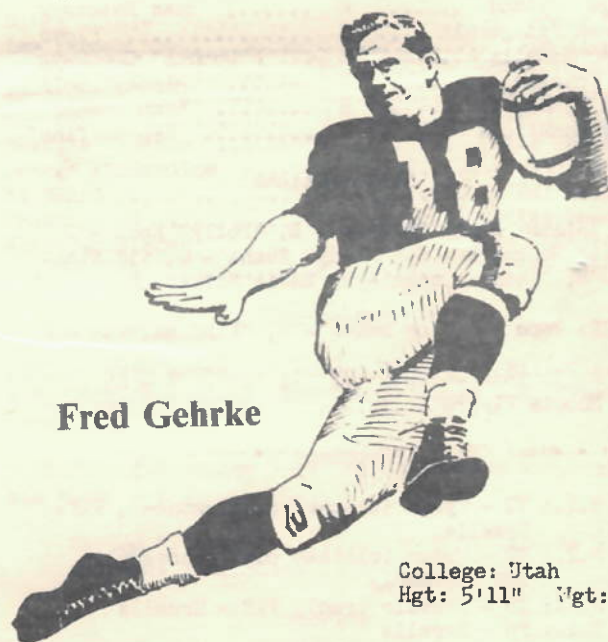
Gehrke's imaginative helmet design, however, created a momentary monster. Unable to find a mass method of stenciling, Snyder delivered 70 leather helmets to him with instructions to hand paint them. Throughout the summer, Gehrke worked every available moment at night and on week-ends on the project, and throughout the year, as solid blows chipped and cracked the paint, "Gehrke's helmet paint repair department" became a season-long and active part of the Ram scene.

Before the 1949 season, Coach Clark Shaughnessy introduced the Riddell plastic helmet and Gehrke envisioned the same job all over again. But the manufacturer agreed to include the design and the paint was baked on from the inside, showing through the transparent plastic.

Since then, there have been changes in the design of the helmet itself, but the famous Ram horns remain a basic part of every "hat" received from the manufacturer ... the most distinctive helmet in football.



Copy of
Gehrke's
Original
Concept.



Fred Gehrke

College: Utah
Hgt: 5'11" Wgt: 189

Year	Team	RUSHING				PASS RECEIVING				PUNT RETURNS				KICKOFF RETURNS				SCORE Pts
		Att	Yds	Avg	TD	No	Yds	Avg	TD	No	Yds	Avg	TD	No	Yds	Avg	TD	
1940	Cleveland Rams	-	-	-	-	1	-2	-2.0	0									0
1945	Cleveland Rams	74	467	6.3	7	8	90	11.3	1	8	120	15.0	0	9	173	19.2	0	48
1946	Los Angeles Rams	71	371	5.2	3	11	83	7.5	2	8	59	7.4	0	8	186	23.3	0	30
1947	Los Angeles Rams	59	304	5.2	0	6	19	3.2	0	4	112	28.0	1	2	29	14.5	0	13
1948	Los Angeles Rams	56	246	4.4	1	16	173	10.8	1	19	217	11.4	0	17	464	27.3	1	19
1949	Los Angeles Rams	58	203	3.5	3	9	140	15.6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
1950	S.F.-Chi.Cards	25	73	2.9	1	5	26	5.2	1	5	44	8.8	0	2	57	28.5	0	12
6 years		343	1664	4.9	15	56	529	9.4	7	44	552	12.5	1	38	909	23.9	1	151



The Coffin Corner is extremely pleased to announce that Milt Roberts, a charter member of P.F.R.A., has been elected to the Lacrosse Hall of Fame. Although we know Milt for his pro football expertise, we have long been aware that he is regarded as one of the country's foremost experts and coaches of Lacrosse. His induction into the Hall is tentatively scheduled for April 25 at College Park, Maryland, during the Johns Hopkins-Maryland game.

The Lacrosse Hall of Fame is on the Johns Hopkins campus in Baltimore. Along with Milt, four others will be inducted.

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P.F.R.A. congratulates Red Badgro, George Blanda, Willie Davis, and Jim Ringo on their election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton. Certainly, all four are more than deserving, but we must confess a particularly warm glow for Badgro's selection as we chose to spotlight him with a research article in our June (1980) issue.

* * *

We are also pleased to welcome three new members to P.F.R.A. They are Jeremiah Horrigan of Buffalo, N.Y., Jay Linghamer of Dallas, Texas, and Dick Whittingham of Wilmette, Ill. We sincerely hope they find their membership both useful and enjoyable.

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On the other hand, we are embarrassed to point out a mistake on the part of your editor. In the last issue, he completely misfigured the space and was forced to leave out a list of sources consulted in preparing the material on the Oorang Indians.

The complete list will appear in the printed media guide, but we should mention several sources that were particularly useful. Wells Twombly's story "Airedales and Indians," which appeared in PRO! in 1976 was a primary source along with three books by P.F.R.A. members: Neft, et.al., Pro Football: The Early Years, Palmer's revision of Treat's The Encyclopedia of Football, and Wheeler's Pathway to Glory. We also should thank the Pro Football Hall of Fame Research Center for a great deal of help. About a dozen other books and an equal number of newspapers (with a whole tribe full of articles) were also used but members who are interested can check them when the guide is published.

* * *

Quite a few members expressed an interest in further guides. Several are at least in the "talking" stage, including guides on the Buffalo All-Americans, the St. Louis All-Stars (1923), the Hartford Blues (1926), and the AFLs of 1936-41.

Further comments (and volunteering) should be addressed the The Coffin Corner.

* * *

Speaking of publications, Bob Braunwart, editor of the Annual, announces that he's expecting another top flight book this year, but that he could still use a couple more first-rate articles. Submissions should be addressed directly to Bob at 5503 Roosevelt Wy N.E./Seattle, WA 98105.

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We'd like to toss an unsolicited plug in here for P.F.R.A.'s Jeff Morey and the newsletter he puts out every other month, The Autograph Review. Although the main purpose of TAR is to disseminate info to autograph collectors, Jeff always adds an interesting article or two on baseball or football. And, of particular interest to P.F.R.A. members, there are features on addresses of former players and, sadly but necessarily, death notices. A subscription to TAR is \$7.50 a year. Write to Jeff at 305 Carlton Road, Syracuse, N.Y. 13207.

* * *

The annual P.F.R.A. meeting has been scheduled for late June. Once more it will be held at Canton.

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Amendments to the constitution must be presented to the membership in writing at least one month before the meeting. To all intents and purposes, that means that they should be in the May issue of the Corner. And that means they should be submitted by April 15.

* * *

A reminder that we are beginning our spring membership drive. If you know someone who you think would be interested in joining, send along his or her name so that we can make contact.

* * *

P.F.R.A. member Edward W. Racely of Atherton, Cal., has an interesting and rather unusual hobby, studying and researching single-wing offenses from between 1935 and 1951. He is turned on by old playbooks and such. 1951 was the last year an NFL team used the single-wing as its primary offense. Any trivia buffs out there remember which team?

* * *

Without much doubt, Lido Starelli of San Francisco rates near the top of all-time 49er fans. He collects San Francisco game programs (among other things). He not only has every home game program since 1946, but also all but a handful of all the away games. And, of interest to AAC fans, he has the program of nearly every AAC game. Only a few 1946 games played in the east in 1946 are needed.

* * *

John Hogrogian is interested in finding all-league teams from the '30s and 20s. The league chose an "official team" from 1931 to 1942, but some of the news services and individual newspapers, as well as coaches and other experts, also picked some teams. John has found some of these but is interested in more. If you have any information, write to John at 69 Gillett St. (apt. 305)/Hartford, CT 06105.

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 \$15 per year have been set.

The Coffin Corner
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