

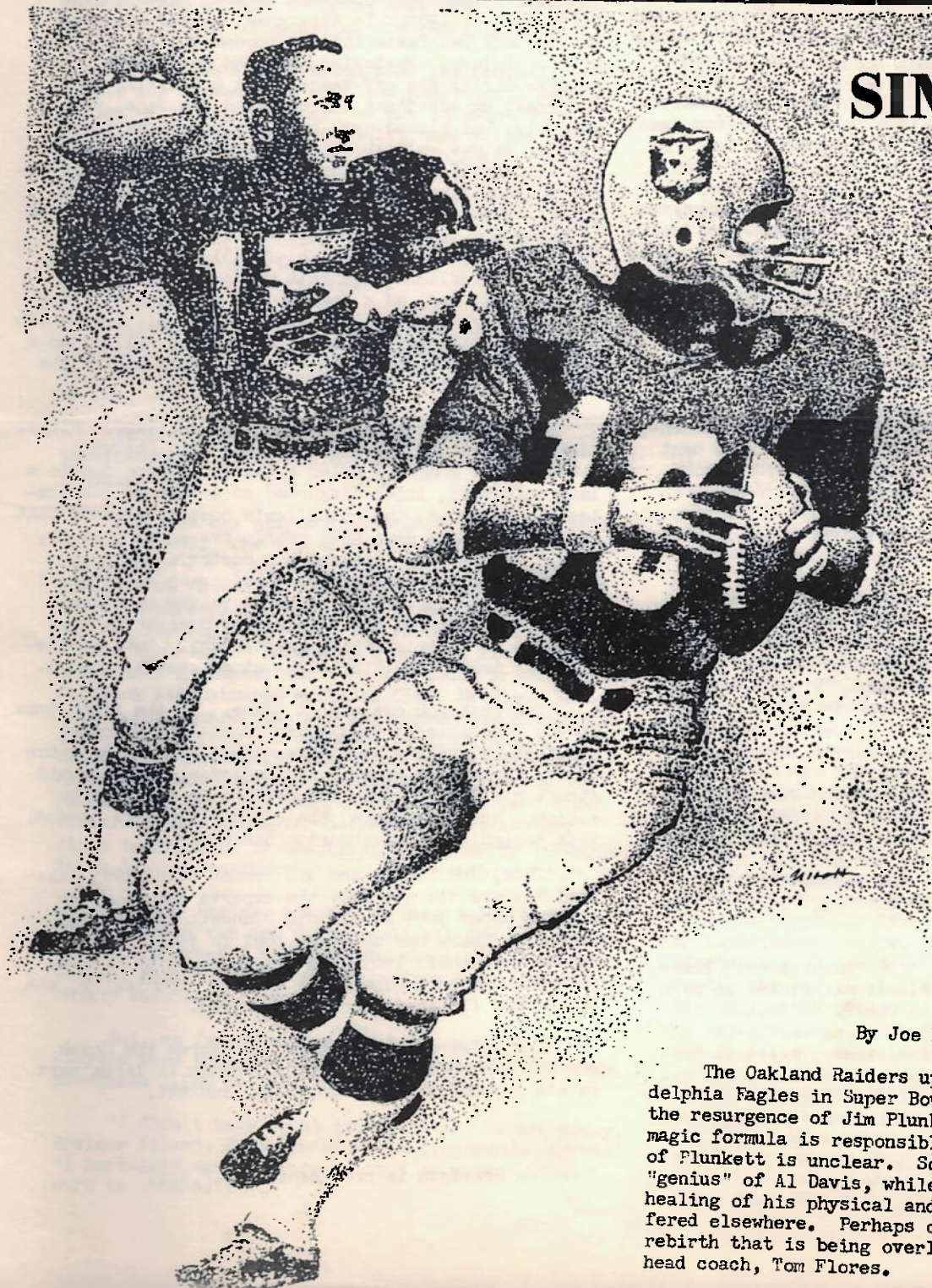
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THE Coffin Corner

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SIMPATICO!

A TALE OF TWO RAIDER QBs

By Joe Horrigan

The Oakland Raiders upset victory over the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl XV, focused attention on the resurgence of Jim Plunkett's career. Just what magic formula is responsible for the comeback heroics of Plunkett is unclear. Some will argue that it is the "genius" of Al Davis, while others say it is simply the healing of his physical and psychological wounds suffered elsewhere. Perhaps one ingredient in Plunkett's rebirth that is being overlooked is that of Raiders' head coach, Tom Flores.

Agreed, head coaches generally receive too much credit for individual and team superlatives (and too much blame for failure), but the similarities in Plunkett and Flores are too great to be overlooked.

First, there is the obvious, both soft-spoken men are Mexican-Americans, California natives, and have played quarterback for the Oakland Raiders. But rather than the end of the similarities, this is just the beginning.

Jim Plunkett began his pro football career in 1971 with the New England Patriots. After numerous shoulder problems and eventual surgery, he was traded at the end of the 1975 season to the San Francisco 49ers for a handful of draft choices. The draft choices proved a gold mine for the Pats, while Plunkett suffered through two non-productive seasons with the 49ers before being released.

Fearing that his pro football career might be over, Plunkett reported to the Oakland Raiders as a free agent in 1978. Jim Plunkett now proudly wears the "mark of excellence," a Super Bowl ring.

Tom Flores, on the other hand, began his pro career in 1960 with the Oakland Raiders of the then new American Football League. Although he'd had tryouts in both the CFL and NFL in 1958 and 1959, chronic shoulder problems and eventual surgery kept Flores from catching on in either league.

Flores began the 1960 season sharing time with veteran quarterback Vito "Babe" Parilli, but by mid-season was the number one signal caller. By season's end, Flores led the league in pass completion percentage (54.0) and fewest interceptions (12). The next season, Flores finished second in the league behind Pro Football Hall of Famer George Blanda of the AFL champion Houston Oilers. Flores sat out the entire 1962 season with illness, but returned in 1963 to win back his starting berth.

After the completion of the 1966 season, in a surprise move, the Oakland Raiders traded Flores to the Buffalo Bills. As was the case in the Plunkett trade, the Flores deal proved more beneficial to his former team than to his future one. Flores and veteran receiver Art Powell were sent to Buffalo in return for a man whose name still graces the pages of the Oakland Raider record book, Daryle Lamonic.

Although Flores was surprised and disappointed to be traded to Buffalo, at least it appeared that he was being traded to a winning team. However, even that went sour. After winning the AFL East title in 1966, the Bills nosedived to the basement in 1968. And, after two injury riddled seasons, Flores was released.

As fate would have it, both Plunkett and Flores prospered from being cut. Flores was picked up as a free agent by the Kansas City Chiefs and earned his first Super Bowl ring as a back-up to Len Dawson in Super Bowl IV. Oakland, as mentioned, has just presented its free agent quarterback with his first Super Bowl ring. Just as Tom Flores began his pro football career eleven years before Jim Plunkett, he also earned his Super Bowl ring eleven years before him.

Coincidence? Maybe.



Perhaps the best example of the amazing similarities between these two men can be shown by examining their respective "comeback seasons."

Jim Plunkett's "comeback season" began in the fifth game of 1980. In that game, Raider starting quarterback Dan Pastorini was forced to the sidelines with an injury. Pastorini, who had just joined the Raiders during the off-season, was not living up to the great expectations the team and the fans, perhaps unfairly, had placed upon him. In his first four starts, he was only able to produce two wins. Early predictions of a last place finish for the Raiders began to look like a distinct possibility. Although Plunkett directed three scoring drives, he was unable to bring his team to victory in that fifth game, losing to the Kansas City Chiefs, 31-17. But, with Pastorini sidelined, Plunkett was now the starting quarterback, and, as a starter, he directed only two losing efforts in the 1980 regular season. Behind Jim Plunkett's big play offense, the Raiders rallied to a second place finish in the AFC West, just behind the division champion San Diego Chargers.

The Tom Flores story reads much the same. Flores' "comeback season" was 1963. In his case, he was attempting a comeback after a year's absence due to a lung infection, later diagnosed as a form of tuberculosis. Everyone, including Tom's doctor, assumed that his pro football days were over. Everyone, that is, except Tom Flores. Against his doctor's advice, Flores asked the new Raiders' head coach and general manager, Al Davis, for a tryout. In the meantime, Oakland had secured the services of veteran Cotton Davidson as their starting quarterback. But, in the Al Davis tradition, Flores was given another chance.

The rest you can almost guess. In the fifth game of the 1963 season, Tom Flores became the starting quarterback, taking over a team that had won only two of its first four games. As a starter, Flores would direct his team to only two defeats in the regular season. And, of course, the Raiders finished second, just behind AFL West champion San Diego.

True, Tom Flores and the second place 1963 Oakland Raiders did not defy the experts and go on to win the Super Bowl as did Jim Plunkett and the 1980 Raiders. There was no Super Bowl in 1963. Flores had to wait until 1969 when his Kansas City back-up role put him on a Super Bowl winner. Ironically, the Chiefs had finished second to Oakland.

Now, eleven years later, Tom Flores the Coach has his second Super Bowl ring, thanks in large part to his "comeback alter ego," Jim Plunkett.

* * *

Joe Horrigan is president of P.F.R.A.

PRO FOOTBALL'S FIRST TV GAME — 1939

By Jim Campbell

Television's money is the key to pro football's fantastic success. Multi-million-dollar contracts pay the stars tremendous salaries and promote the game far beyond what would be possible if revenues were restricted to spectator and radio income.

In the 1940s television took pro football to the people and showed them that the game they'd been admiring — college football — was inferior to the skills of trained professionals. And as the nation developed its TV addiction, it got highest watching Bobby Layne, Johnny Unitas and Bart Starr perform. Instead of being watched by thousands in person, TV allowed millions to admire the pro's skill and agonize with their defeats. TV fulfilled the fantasies of the armchair quarterbacks and in the 1950s the country took the game to heart.

But when television first broadcast professional football, not only did few predict its far-reaching implications for the game, few even knew the game was on TV.

It was October 22, 1939. Pro football's first televised game. The Philadelphia Eagles vs. the Brooklyn Dodgers. The beginning of an era.

The game was played in Brooklyn's Ebbets Field before 13,000. The day before 70,000 had filled Yankee Stadium for a college game, but TV was going to change that pattern. The Dodgers, with the help of three 40-yard-plus field goals by Ralph Kercheval, subdued the Eagles 23-14. Two records were established that day — Kercheval's 45-yard field goal was the season's longest and 6-0, 205-pound Brooklyn fullback Ace Gutowsky eclipsed Cliff Battles' lifetime rushing mark when a brief appearance netted him seven yards for a new standard of 3,399 yards. Pug Manders and Ace Parker also were Dodger standouts. Manders showed his fine running style, gaining 139 yards on 29 carries, and Parker tossed a pass which writer William H. Taylor described as "traveling close to 50 yards in the air," to end Perry Schwartz for a 47-yard touchdown.

For the Eagles, coached by Bert Bell, back Franny Murray ran and passed well all day and scored on a short sweep. Bill Hewitt, playing without a helmet, caught a six-point pass from 5-7, 150-pound Philly back Davey O'Brien.

But, so far as anyone can tell, none of the players knew the game was being broadcast to the approximate 1,000 TV sets in New York City.

"I didn't know about it," says Ace Parker today. Bruiser Kinard, Brooklyn's outstanding tackle, agreed: "I certainly wasn't aware of it," he says. "That sure is interesting."

The players might not have known about it, most thinking the equipment and announcers were radio men calling the game, but with this game television was on its way. A couple baseball games had been broadcast by NBC station W2XBS, actual transmission coming from a huge tower atop the Empire State Building. NBC had also broadcast a college scrimmage game a couple weeks before, but with the success of the Dodgers-Eagles game the network decided to broadcast Dodger games throughout the season and a genuine sports following developed.

The announcer for the game was Allen Walz, a former New York City Golden Gloves champion and NYU football star who did the sports for W2XBS.

"I remember the game," says Walz, today an executive with Norton Simon, Inc. "Pro football was a great game to do by television and the excitement of doing the game was fun.

"It was late in October on a cloudy day and when the sun crept behind the stadium there wasn't enough light for the cameras. The picture would get darker and darker and eventually it would go completely blank and we'd revert to a radio broadcast.

"The people would stay with us, though. It was surprising what a fine, loyal audience we had. People would gather in homes to watch the games and there were a lot of people who would tell us how to do things better after the broadcasts.

"We used two iconoscope cameras. I'd sit with my chin on the rail in the mezzanine (boxes 143 and 145 in the balcony), and the camera would be over my shoulder. I did my own spotting and when the play moved up and down the field, on punts and kick-offs, I'd point to tell the cameraman what I'd be talking about and we used hand signals to communicate. The other camera was on the field, at the 50-yard line, but it couldn't move so we didn't use it much.

"Producer and director Burke Crotty was in the mobile unit truck and he'd tell me over the headphones which camera he was using.

"There wasn't a monitor up in the broadcasting box, but there was one on the field. I never really understood what that was for, but I think Patsy Clark (Brooklyn's coach) insisted on it. He was experimenting with scouting by television I think.

"We decided right away that the way to do television was to comment on the game, not tell what was happening like we did on radio. We wanted to describe the plays, the lineups (Brooklyn used a single wing, I don't remember what Philadelphia used), the way the tailback cut because of the blocking or whatever. And, we had to be accurate. We were selling television at the time and people had to believe in television.

"Some of the fun of television was to tell the audience what was going to happen, to give them a clue of what to watch. For instance, the Dodgers used a buttonhook pass to Perry Schwartz all season and variations of the pass. Well, sure enough you could feel they were going to use it. The game

wasn't so complicated then with only a few plays and we got to know them pretty well.

"I had some trouble with Patsy Clark predicting plays. He didn't like that and after we had a talk I stopped doing it.

"Our pre-game show was nothing like they do now. I'm fascinated by Gifford and those guys today — they really do a job. We talked about the game and showed the band, but at halftime we'd go off the air and they'd fill in with something from the studio.

"Afterward, I'd interview players, but it was too dark by then to do television and the players probably thought I was just another of the radio men there."

The game was typical of the times, distinguished only by some of the great men of pro football history who participated. But it was the beginning of the golden age of television sports. It was pro football's first televised game, and as such, one of the great moments in pro football history.

* * *

Jim Campbell is Research Editor for NFL Properties, Inc., and also a charter member of P.F.R.A. His article on the first TV game was originally published in the October, 1975, issue of Football Digest.

TEAM ROSTERS - 1939

Brooklyn Dodgers

Name	Pos	Wt.	Ht.	College	Yrs Pro
Kercheval, Ralph	HB	193	6-1	Kentucky	5
Carnelly, Ray	QB	190	6-2	Carnegie Tech	0
Janiak, Len	FB	195	6-1	Ohio Univ.	0
Nardi, Dick	HB	200	5-10	Ohio State	2
Young, Waddie	E	205	6-3	Oklahoma	0
Parker, Ace	QB	168	5-11	Duke	2
Manders, Pug	HB	210	6-0	Drake	0
Francis, Sam	HB	210	6-0	Nebraska	3
Gutowsky, Ace	FB	205	6-0	Oklahoma City	7
Mark, Louis	C	195	5-11	N.Carolina St.	1
Hodges, Herman	E	195	6-2	Howard (Ala.)	0
Hill, Harold	E	200	6-1½	Howard (Ala.)	1
Kaplanoff, Carl	T	235	6-0	Ohio State	0
Humphrey, Paul	C	195	6-0	Purdue	0
Golemgenske, John	T	225	6-2	Wisconsin	2
Haak, Robert	T	245	6-1	Indiana	0
Ratica, Joe	C	205	6-0	St. Vincent	0
Kinard, Bruiser	T	210	6-1	Mississippi	1
Posi, John	C	210	5-10	Niagara	1
Disend, Leo	T	224	6-1	Albright	1
Sivell, James	G	200	5-8	Auburn	1
Feathers, Beattie	HB	185	5-10	Tennessee	5
Butcher, Wendell	HB	200	6-1½	Ous. Adolphus	1
Schwartz, Perry	E	200	6-2	California	1

Head Coach — George (Patsy) Clark

Philadelphia Eagles

Name	Pos	Wt.	Ht.	College	Yrs Pro
O'Brien, Davey	B	150	5-7	TCU	0
Harper, Maurice	C	229	6-4	Austin	2
Murray, Franny	B	201	6-0	U. of Pacific	0
Ramsey, Herschel	E	192	6-0	Texas Tech	1
Smukler, Dave	B	224	6-1	Temple	3
Dow, Elwood	B	195	6-0	W. Tex. Teach.	1
Woltman, Clem	T	212	6-1	Purdue	1
Kolberg, Elmer	E	201	6-4	Oregon St.	0
Carter, Joe	E	201	6-1	SMU	6
Britt, Rankin	E	206	6-2	Texas A & M	0
Somers, George	T	242	6-2	LaSalle	0
Reese, Hank	C	216	5-11	Temple	6
White, Allie	G	212	5-11	TCU	0
Coston, Zed	C	222	6-2	Texas A & M	0
Kriel, Emmett	G	199	6-2	Baylor	0
Giddens, Hershel	T	224	6-2	Louisiana Tech	1
Keeling, Ray	T	255	6-3	Texas	1
Hughes, Bill	G	232	6-1	Texas	2
Mortell, Emmett	B	178	6-1	Wisconsin	2
Arnold, Jay	B	207	6-0	Texas	2
Ellis, Drew	T	216	6-1	TCU	1
Bukant, Joe	B	223	5-11	Washington	1
Cuppoletti, Bree	G	205	5-9	Oregon	5
Schuehle, Jake	B	196	6-0	Rice	0
Pylman, Bob	T	215	6-4	S. Dakota St.	1
Newton, Chuck	B	204	6-0	Washington	0
Schmitt, Ted	G	214	5-11	Pittsburgh	1
Riffle, Dick	B	197	6-1	Albright	1
Hewitt, Bill	E	191	5-9	Michigan	7

Head Coach — Bert Bell

Featured on the cover of the Dodger-Eagle game program (which could be purchased for 10¢) was one of the best linemen in pro football's history. Even by pre-World War II standards, Frank Kinard was small for a tackle at 6-1 and 210, but he more than made up for his so-so size by being tough, fast, durable, and so aggressive that he was better known by his nickname — "Bruiser."

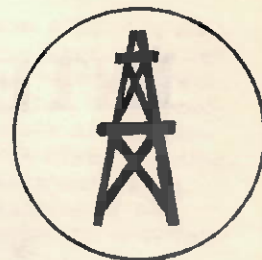
Twice an All-American at Mississippi, he was all-NFL four times and all-AAFC once. In 1971 he was inducted into Pro Football's Hall of Fame.





10 years ago this season ...

KEN HOUSTON



OF THE HOUSTON OILERS HAD ONE OF THE GREATEST DAYS ANY DEFENSIVE BACK EVER ENJOYED. HE RAN BACK TWO INTERCEPTIONS FOR TOUCHDOWNS TO LEAD HIS TEAM TO A 49-33 WIN AT SAN DIEGO, AS THE OILERS ENDED A 4-9-1 SEASON ON A THREE GAME WINNING STREAK.

ALTOGETHER IT AMOUNTED TO A GRAND SLAM FOR THE FIFTH YEAR PRO. NOT ONLY DID HIS TWO TOUCH-DOWN RETURNS TIE THE NFL RECORD FOR A SINGLE GAME, BUT THEY ALSO GAVE HIM A TOTAL OF **FOUR** DURING THE '71 SEASON - A NEW NFL RECORD! AND, TO TOP OFF A REMARKABLE YEAR, HE FINISHED AS THE AFC INTERCEPTION LEADER WITH NINE.

ANYTHING BUT A ONE-YEAR-WONDER, HOUSTON WENT ON TO SET THE ALL-TIME CAREER MARK FOR TOUCHDOWNS ON PASS INTERCEPTIONS.

— DEC. 19, 1971



20 years ago this season ...

EDDIE LEBARON,

THE GUTTY LITTLE DALLAS QB, PROVIDED SOME LAST-DITCH HEROICS TO LEAD THE COWBOYS TO THEIR FIRST NFL VICTORY - A 27-24 TRIUMPH OVER PITTSBURGH. IN 1960, THEIR FIRST SEASON, THE TEAM WENT WINLESS.

DALLAS SCORED TWICE IN THE FINAL 56 SECONDS TO COME FROM BEHIND AND DELIGHT 23,500 AT THE COTTON BOWL. FIRST, EDDIE COMPLETED FIVE PASSES FOR ALL THE YARDAGE IN A 75-YARD MARCH TO THE TYING TOUCHDOWN. A 17-YARD STRIKE TO DICK BIELSKI BROUGHT THE TD.

THEN, STARTING FROM THE DALLAS 38, HE PASSED THE COWBOYS DOWN TO THE STEELER 22. WITH ONLY ONE SECOND LEFT, ROOKIE ALLEN GREEN KICKED A WINNING 27-YARD FIELD GOAL.

— SEPT. 17, 1961



INTERCEPTIONS!

By Bob Braunwart & Bob Carroll

Lester Hayes' remarkable season with Oakland this year has focused attention on the pass interception as one of the key plays in football. On thirteen different occasions, Hayes stopped the opposition in its tracks by grabbing off an errant pass. Only two other men ever intercepted as many in a single season and only one ever got more. All three of these instances happened nearly thirty years ago.

One interesting fact about interception leaders is that they seldom repeat. Only seven players have ever duplicated their league leadership -- Dick Lane, Jack Christiansen, Milt Davis, Dick Lynch, Johnny Robinson, Bill Bradley and Emmitt Thomas (Paul Krause led his conference after leading his league). No one has ever led in interceptions three times.

The NFL awards the interception championship on the basis of total grabs. Although this is fine for individual seasons, it may be a bit misleading in a list of seasonal leaders through the years.

Here are four different ways of looking at the intercept leaders since 1940.

In the first column, is the total number of intercepts by the leader, the NFL's way. The second column shows the "Shapiro" number, that figure advocated by P.F.R.A.'s resident carmudgeon, David Shapiro, which shows the projected total based on a 16-game season. This is a good way to compare leaders in different seasons with different numbers of games. The third column does basically the same thing with the "PSG" figure. Simply stated, this divides the total intercepts by the team's scheduled games to show an average. For example, Hayes intercepted .81 of a pass for each game Oakland (not necessarily the player) played. Some people have trouble visualizing a .81 pass. The fourth column is rather interesting. It shows the percentage of passes directed against his team that the player intercepted. For example, 524 tosses were directed at the Oakland Raiders in 1980 and Hayes intercepted 2.5% of them. The PAI% could be "won" by a player with a lower total if many fewer passes were thrown against his team.

Note Bill Dudley's 1946 PAI% when only 162 passes were tried against the Steelers!

INTERCEPTION LEADERS

YEAR	LEADER	NO SHAPIRO		PSG	PAT%
1940	Clarence "Ace" Parker, Brk.	6	8.8	.55	2.3
	Kent Ryan, Det.	6	8.8	.55	3.4
	Don Hutson, G.B.	6	8.8	.55	2.4
1941	Marshall Goldberg, Chi.Crds	7	10.2	.64	3.6
	Art Jones, Pitts.	7	10.2	.64	3.7

YEAR	LEADER	NO	SHAPIRO	PSG	PAI%
1942	Clyde Turner, Chi.Bears	8	11.7	.73	2.9
1943	Sammy Baugh, Wash.	11	17.6	1.10	5.7
1944	Howard Livingston, N.Y.	9	14.4	.90	3.5
1945	Roy Zimmerman, Phil.	7	11.2	.70	3.4
1946	Bill Dudley, Pitts.	10	14.6	.91	6.2
1947	Frank Reagan, N.Y.	10	13.3	.83	3.4
	Frank Seno, Boston	10	13.3	.83	3.3
1948	Dan Sandifer, Wash.	13	17.3	1.08	4.5
1949	Bob Nussbaumer, Chi.Cards	12	16.0	1.00	3.1
1950	O. "Spec" Sanders, Tanks	13	17.3	1.08	3.3
1951	Otto Schnellbacher, Giants	11	14.7	.92	2.9
1952	Dick Lane, L.A.	14	18.7	1.17	3.9
1953	Jack Christiansen, Det.	12	16.0	1.00	3.4
1954	Dick Lane, Chi.Cards	10	13.3	.83	2.8
1955	Will Sherman, L.A.	11	14.7	.92	3.1
1956	Lindon Crow, Chi.Cards	11	14.7	.92	3.8
1957	Milt Davis, Balt.	10	13.3	.83	2.9
	Jack Christiansen, Det.	10	13.3	.83	3.4
	Jack Butler, Pitts.	10	13.3	.83	4.3
1958	Jim Patton, N.Y.Giants	11	14.7	.92	3.5
1959	Dean Derby, Pitts.	7	9.3	.58	2.5
	Milt Davis, Balt.	7	9.3	.58	2.0
	Don Shinnick, Balt.	7	9.3	.58	2.0
1960	"Goose" Gonsoulin, Den.-AFL	11	12.6	.79	2.8
	Dave Baker, S.F.-NFL	10	13.3	.83	3.4
	Jerry Norton, St.L.-NFL	10	13.3	.83	3.3
1961	Billy Atkins, Buf.-AFL	10	11.4	.71	2.9
	Dick Lynch, N.Y.Giants-NFL	9	10.2	.64	2.3
1962	Lee Riley, N.Y.Titans-AFL	11	12.6	.79	2.6
	Willie Wood, G.B.-NFL	9	10.2	.64	2.5
1963	Fred Glick, Hou.-AFL	12	13.8	.86	NA
	Dick Lynch, N.Y.Giants-NFL	9	10.2	.64	2.4
	Roosevelt Taylor, Bears-NFL	9	10.2	.64	2.5
1964	Dainard Paulson, Jets-AFL	12	13.8	.86	2.5
	Paul Krause, Wash.-NFL	12	13.8	.86	3.0
1965	W.K. Hicks, Hous.-AFL	9	10.2	.64	2.2
	Bobby Boyd, Balt.-NFL	9	10.2	.64	2.3
1966	Larry Wilson, St.L.-NFL	10	11.4	.71	2.3
	Johnny Robinson, K.C.-AFL	10	11.4	.71	2.0
	Bobby Hunt, K.C.-AFL	10	11.4	.71	2.0
1967	Miller Farr, Hous.-AFL	10	11.4	.71	2.2
	Lem Barney, Det.-NFL	10	11.4	.71	3.2
	Tom Janik, Buf.-AFL	10	11.4	.71	2.7
	Dave Whitsett, N.O.-NFL	10	11.4	.71	2.4
	Dick Westmoreland, Mia.-AFL	10	11.4	.71	2.9
1968	Dave Grayson, Oak.-AFL	10	11.4	.71	2.2
	Willie Williams, Giants-NFL	10	11.4	.71	2.7
1969	Mel Renfro, Dal.-NFL	10	11.4	.71	2.2
	Emmitt Thomas, K.C.-AFL	9	10.2	.64	2.1
1970	Johnny Robinson, K.C.-AFC	10	11.4	.71	2.5
	Dick LeBeau, Det.-NFC	9	10.2	.64	2.4
1971	Bill Bradley, Phil.-NFC	11	12.6	.79	2.7
	Ken Houston, Hous.-AFC	9	10.2	.64	2.5
1972	Bill Bradley, Phil.-NFC	9	10.2	.64	2.8
	Mike Sensibaugh, K.C.-AFC	8	9.1	.57	2.2
1973	Dick Anderson, Miami-AFC	8	9.1	.57	2.5
	Mike Wagner, Pitts.-AFC	8	9.1	.57	2.2
	Bobby Bryant, Minn.-NFC	7	8.0	.50	1.9
1974	Emmitt Thomas, K.C.-AFC	12	13.8	.86	2.9
	Ray Brown, Atlanta-NFC	8	9.1	.57	2.6
1975	Mel Blount, Pitts.-AFC	11	12.6	.79	2.8
	Paul Krause, Minn.-NFC	10	11.4	.71	2.8
1976	Monte Jackson, L.A.-NFC	10	11.4	.71	2.5
	Ken Riley, Cinc.-AFC	9	10.2	.64	2.5
1977	Iyle Blackwood, Balt.-AFC	10	11.4	.71	2.6
	Rolland Lawrence, Atl.-NFC	7	8.0	.50	2.2
1978	Thom Darden, Cleve.-AFC	10	10.0	.63	2.8
	Ken Stone, St.L.-NFC	9	9.0	.56	2.1
	Willie Buchanan, G.B.-NFC	9	9.0	.56	1.9
1979	Mike Reinhardt, Hous.-AFC	12	12.0	.75	2.6
	Lemar Parrish, Wash.-NFC	9	9.0	.56	1.9
1980	Lester Hayes, Oak.-NFL	13	13.0	.81	2.5



Because P.F.R.A. has taken in quite a few new members since our last Directory, we thought we'd better inform the new and remind the old of our officers for this year.

President: Joe Horrigan, 218 Wise Street N.E., North Canton, OH 44720

Vice-President: Bob Braunwart, 5503 Roosevelt Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98105

Secretary: Bob Carroll, 12870 Rt. 30, N.Huntingdon, PA 15642

Treasurer: Vic Frolund, 240 Shields Road, Youngstown, OH 44512

* * *

P.F.R.A. charter members Tony Cusher and Tom Nikitas attended the 14th Annual National Awards dinner of the Walter Camp Football Foundation at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. The affair was held on February 7. Honored at the dinner were the 1980 All-America College Football Team; Player-of-the-Year — Hugh Green of the University of Pittsburgh; Coach-of-the-Year — Vince Dooley of the University of Georgia; Distinguished Americans — Alexander M. Haig, Jr. and George Halas; and Walter Camp Man-of-the-Year — Gale Sayers.

At a committee meeting before the dinner, Tony — who lives in the wilds of Reeder, North Dakota — received an ovation as the member who had come the longest distance. He really floored them when he explained how he got there. It seems he had to hitch a ride on a mail truck for the first 58 miles from Reeder to Dickinson, N.D., during a blizzard! At Dickinson, he caught a Greyhound for a twelve hour, all night trip to Minneapolis. There, he took a plane to New York City where he was met by Tom. On the way home, Tony had to use the same modes of travel. He adds: "This is one of the reasons I do not like to travel in and out of North Dakota during the month of February!"

Both Tony and Tom are enthusiastic about their experience. Tony writes: "At the awards dinner formal attire was a must, so Nick and I were dressed in tuxedos! The first ever for me! I guess we looked like a couple of 'killers,' 'lady killers,' that is."

Tony and Tom were privileged to meet George Halas, Gale Sayers, and Walter Camp's daughter. Another high point was a visit with Colonel Alexander Weyand, the Captain of the 1915 Army football team and a noted writer on football.

* * *

We are pleased to welcome four new members to P.F.R.A. They are Art Ballant of Ft. Lee, N.J.; Paul Bennett of Cherry Hill, N.J.; Philip J. White of Dallas, Tex.; and Richard Youhn of Chicago, Ill. We are happy to have them with us.

* * *

Tod Maher (340 San Benancio Rd., Salinas, CA 93908) and Bob Gill (1211 Elson Place, Takoma Park, MD 20012) have begun work on media guides to cover the AFLs of 1936 and 1937. Anyone who can contribute to their information should write to one or the other.

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Bob Braunwart and Bob Carroll have completed a booklet on the origin of pro football in Pittsburgh. It's called The Alphabet Wars and covers the 1890 to 1892 seasons in depth. The booklet is 61 pages, soft cover, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", with a plastic ring binding. A very limited number of copies (about 30) are available to P.F.R.A. members for \$2 plus 50¢ to cover postage. All of the millions just dying to get the lowdown on how pro football began in the 1890s should write to the Coffin Corner.

* * *

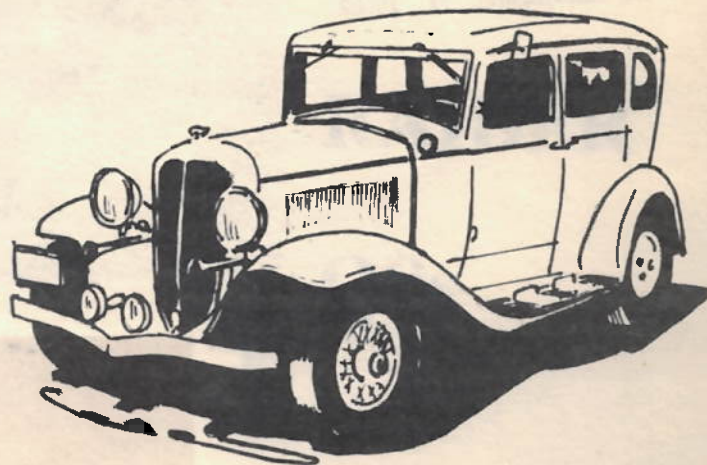
New member Art Ballant, along with his partner Karen Ahearn, are operating a business called Chapter and Cask. They are a mail order house, offering autographed copies of Fighting Back (\$12.95) by Rocky Bleier, a large selection of baseball and wine titles, wine glasses (set of 6 for \$15.00) with the Estrella River Winery imprint, T-shirts (\$6.95) with a drawing of and the name "Super Joe Charboneau," and Pride Paks (sets of 7 decals at \$1.98 each) for the Pirates and Steelers. P.F.R.A. members will receive a 25% discount on all merchandise.

In addition they have a literary agency (only 5% fee to P.F.R.A. members), a commission representation for self-published books and other merchandise, and are even self-publishing Day By Day in Chicago Cubs History (\$9.95). Their mailing address is P.O. Box 113, Glenshaw, PA 15116.

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A reminder that amendments to the P.F.R.A. constitution must be presented in writing to the members at least one month before the annual meeting. Therefore, they should be submitted to the Corner by April 15.

* * *



And what's a nice car like that doing in a place like this?

We thought you might be interested in a little football trivia. The auto was called The Rockne. Studebaker put out a mere 500 in 1931 in honor of the Notre Dame coach.

We don't know what kind of gas mileage it got, but if you can afford one of these beauties today, you probably don't care. You must be in a position to buy your own Opec nation.

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
12870 Rt. 30
N. Huntingdon, PA 15642

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