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MOOSE OF THE BEARS

By Bob Braunwart & Bob Carroll

In 1929, when little Millikin (Ill.) College defeated tiny Eureka (Ill.) College, 45-6, the slaughter went almost unnoticed on the nation's sports pages. No one knew then that two opposing guards in the game would go on to bigger things.

For Eureka, at a conservative 175 pounds, was one Ronald "Dutch" Reagan, who eventually achieved some political success after a movie career famous for his portrayal of football hero George Gipp. For Millikin, at a cumulative 260 pounds, was one George "Moose" Musso, who also achieved some political success — as sheriff of Madison County (Ill.) — after a pro football career famous for his dual role as immovable object and irresistible force.

Reagan describes that long-ago meeting as "very busy" and particularly "hairly" on defense. As the score indicates, Musso gave the future President more trouble than than a whole lineup of liberal Democrats can today. Small wonder! Moose Musso became a synonym for powerful line play during the next decade-plus with the Chicago Bears when the Monsters of the Midway were at their most monstrous. He blocked for Nagurski, Luckman, and McAfee and tackled shoulder to shoulder with Stydahar, Lyman, Fortmann, Kopcha, Turner, and Hewitt. He belonged in their company. They made him captain of the team.

Three years after he joined the Bears, he was All-League at tackle. Then Coach George Halas switched him to guard. Almost immediately he became All-League there. Halas' assessment was definitive: "George Musso is the greatest guard in professional football ranks."

No one was better at getting out and leading the interference. How could such a big man move so fast? For Musso it was easily explainable. He was blocking for Nagurski who waited for no one. "If you didn't open the hole, he'd hit you in the back, and the next time you'd either open it or get out of the way quick."

Nagurski and Musso roomed together. "Bronko was just a swell guy to be with," says Musso. In 1943, when World War II manpower shortages brought Nagurski out of a five-year retirement, Musso was there encouraging and even rubbing down his old friend's aching legs after practices.

It all paid off. Nagurski performed ably at tackle through most of the season. Then, in a game the Bears needed to clinch the Western Division title, he returned to fullback to lead a thrilling comeback win, picking up 84 yards on 16 bruising carries.

It was like old times. A few weeks later Musso and Nagurski celebrated yet another NFL Championship.

Backs and receivers can be measured by their statistics — so many yards, so many touchdowns. A lineman's "stats" are in his team's won-loss column. During Musso's twelve years as a Bear bulwark, the team took four NFL championships and seven division titles. Their regular season record was an almost unbelievable 104-25-6 for an .806 percentage.

The 1940 team was the best of all. Many experts still regard it as the top pro team of all time, and contributing to its success ranks as Musso's greatest football thrill.

Sid Luckman was teaching the world how to play T-quarterback. When he wasn't passing to Ken Kavanaugh, Dick Plasman, or George Wilson, he was handing off to McAfee,

Bill Osmanski, Ray Nolting, or a half dozen other touchdown-makers. The line was big, mobile, and deeper than a Russian novel. The third-stringers could have starred for most other NFL teams.

Anchoring the impregnable defense at middle guard was Musso, now listed at anywhere from 270 pounds to roughly the equivalent of a trolley car. No one could run over him and those who tried to make the long trip around became easy prey for linebackers like Bulldog Turner and Danny Fortmann.

Perhaps Musso's finest moment came in the championship game against Washington. The Redskins had one of their best teams. A couple of weeks before the title game, they'd upset the Bears, 7-3, and owner George Preston Marshall made the mistake of calling the Bears "quitters" and "crybabies."

When the Bears took the field on December 8, Halas had them primed. On the second play from scrimmage, they exploded. Osmanski busted off tackle and swung to the outside. Musso cleared out his man. George Wilson knocked off the last defender. And Osmanski was in the end zone, 68 yards downfield.

With Sammy Baugh throwing, Washington moved back downfield, but veteran Charlie Malone dropped a sure TD pass. The Bears immediately countermarched and scored again.

At the half it was 28-0, but Musso recalls Halas again brought up George Marshall's comments "and we got mad all over." The Bears went out and scored seven more touchdowns to set the all-time standard for professional excellence, 73-0.

A reporter suggested to Baugh, "It would have been different if Malone had caught that pass."

"Sure," said Baugh, "73-7."

Afterward, in the dressing room, the Bears made exuberant mastadons, erupting in joy and pride. Musso spoke for the team: "We were just fired up and we went out there to kick the pants off them."

To teammate Aldo Forte, a fair country guard himself, Musso "personified the Bears. Halas was 'Poppa Bear,' but teammates and opponents called George 'Big Bear.'" In a mixed menagerie of metaphors, Forte lauds the Moose as a "Big Bear" with "the mobility and quickness of a giant cat."

With Forte, Musso, Ray Bray, and Hall-of-Famer Danny Fortmann, the Bears had the best guards since the Spartans lettered at Thermopolae. But no one is perfect. One day at practice, George pulled out of the line and ran head-on into Fortmann pulling in the opposite direction. "I looked down at him," Musso recalls with a chuckle. "What's the matter, Danny? Haven't you learned the signals yet?" I knew it was my mistake, though. Danny was Phi Beta Kappa."

The two great guards became close friends and still call each other long distance about once a month. When Musso suffered a near-fatal auto accident in 1962, Fortmann -- by then an outstanding West Coast doctor -- dropped everything to fly to his St. Louis hospital bedside. Musso had multiple fractures in his legs and pelvis. Doctors counted 54 separate breaks. But they couldn't count out Musso. Within a year and with the aid of crutches, he was at work as Madison County treasurer.

George Halas, who made few mistakes during his long career, almost made a big one and counted Musso out of the Bears' future at the start of his career.

Big George had starred in basketball, track and baseball as well as football at Millikin. And he played well in the East-West All-Star Game held in Chicago as part of the Century of Progress celebration. Still, Millikin was well off the beaten path of All-America selections. Halas showed Red Grange a photo of Musso in a basketball uniform and sporting a big mustache. "He'll never make it," prophesied Red. "He looks like a walrus!"

Undaunted, Halas courted Musso with a \$90 per game offer and a "bonus" -- a five dollar bill, enough for a train trip to Chicago and a sandwich. Musso turned down a \$75 per game offer from Steve Owen of the New York Giants. "It wasn't just the money," George insists. "A Millikin teammate, George Corbett, also joined the Bears, and Leo Johnson my coach at Millikin, helped me decide."

At training camp, Musso impressed everyone with his size and quickness, but he just couldn't get untracked and played poorly in exhibitions. Halas, concerned about how green he was, "told me he wished I would go to a Cincinnati farm team that first year." That wasn't for Musso who preferred an outright release. He reminded Halas that arch-rival Curly Lambeau had said there was a place for him with the Packers should he be cut.

Halas countered with an unusual offer. He'd keep him for a few more games at half salary, and, if it didn't work out, he'd talk trade with Lambeau. Musso jumped at the chance. He'd just taken an apartment with Nagurski and Corbett and preferred to stay in Chicago.

He played about a quarter in the next game against Boston. One day Red Grange came up to him and put his hand on George's beefy shoulder. "We talked for awhile. He told me I could make the club if I just played up to my capability. It was a shot in the arm. The next Sunday at Brooklyn I played about a half, gaining confidence as I went along."

The Bears returned home for a shoot-out with the Cardinals. The Redbirds were leading 9-7 in the final quarter when Musso broke through to block Joe Lillard's punt. The ball rolled through the end zone for a safety and the Bears went on to win. Halas forgot all about the half-salary arrangement. Musso had made the team.

Two weeks later he was starting and the New York Times called him "the fifth man in the Giants' back field." By the end of his rookie season and for eleven more seasons, Musso was recognized as one of the foremost linemen in the league.

Now enjoying a well-earned retirement in Edwardsville, Ill., Musso still watches games, but football has changed some since he hung up his cleats after the 1944 season. As a guy who sometimes went a full 60-minutes, he says, "I can't quite see this offense-defense system today. I question that the players are fresher because they play only one way. I think changing units takes the 'heat' out of the game. I don't think the players are as close, and I'm sure the spectators don't come to know the players as well."

For fully a dozen years Bear fans had no trouble recognizing Moose Musso. He was the big guy in the middle of the line and usually in the middle of the action.

RECORDS: NEAR & NON

By Bob Braunwart & Bob Carroll

During one of those Bear-Giant encounters that were the gems of the pro football scene in the early 1930's, New York center Mel Hein came out of the huddle and squatted over the ball. The rest of the Giant line surprisingly set up way over to one side, looking for all the world like someone had messed up royally. The odd formation, however, made Hein eligible for a pass. Sure enough, New Yorker Harry Newman moved in like a T-quarterback, and, when Hein snapped him the ball, he handed it right back through Mel's legs. Still crouched over, Hein began to wend his way slowly downfield while most of the Bears chased after the fading Newman.

After a few steps, Hein got a little excited at the prospect of a touchdown "walk" and began to pick up speed. This aroused the suspicion of Bear George Musso who came over and sat on him, thus ending Hein's pretensions after a short gain.

So much for subterfuge!

We only bring this up because the play falls into the category of "oddities that sometimes pass for records." It's been called "the shortest completed pass in NFL history" but it certainly was not that. Hein's gain on his walk must be counted but many completed passes have gone for losses. Perhaps it might rate as "the shortest distance covered by a football between passer (Newman) and receiver (Hein)." Possibly we should take a note from the Hollywood Oscars and call it "the best performance by a center in a cameo role."

For years the N.F.L. Record Manual carried this:

"Shortest Completed Pass (for touchdown) -- 4 inches, Cecil Isbell, Green Bay, to Don Hutson, vs. Cleveland, Oct. 18, 1942.(Touchdown.)"

Somehow, the absence of that little note in the new, streamlined, no-nonsense Manual makes the little book seem a trifle cold. Still, there may be more serious omissions.

P.F.R.A. member Rich Bysina recently suggested that lists be developed in certain defensive categories, such as fumble recoveries, sacks and blocked kicks. The Record Manual tells us that Fran Tarkenton recovered 43 of his own fumbles, but that doesn't count. Through 1979, Jim Marshall had picked up 29 opponents' bobbles (and on 28 of them avoided running the wrong way). But the manual is mute on sacks and blocked kicks.

I asked my wife who the greatest sacker was and she told me it was the bag boy at the A & P, but I don't think she understood the question.

What's the record for blocked kicks? A yellowing newspaper clip insists that Adolph "Swede" Youngstrom of the Buffalo All-Americans blocked nine punts in 1920, but who counted?

1920 seems to have been an exceptional year for blocking punts. Rock Island blocked three in the first quarter against Muncie on October 3 and the Cardinals duplicated that in the third quarter against Detroit on October 31. According to one newspaper account of the Cardinal

game, all three blocks were accomplished by one man -- end Len Sachs. Surely, that must be some kind of a mark, if true. But even if Sachs doesn't make it into the record book, the guy assigned to block him should be cited for record-breaking ineptitude.

On the other hand, it's dangerous to assume. Supposedly the biggest man in NFL history was Detroit lineman Les Bingaman. If anyone was ever christened with the wrong first name it was Les who was so much "more" he had to be weighed on a freight scale. They say when he retired Detroit had the only field in the league that sagged in the middle.

But who was the smallest player?

Recently, the NFL admitted that Atlanta's Reggie Smith at 5'3" was one of the shortest players ever to play in the league. Unfortunately, most of the newspapers who picked up the story dropped the qualifying phrase and called him "the shortest."

This brought an anguished protest from Jack Shapiro, a back with Staten Island in 1929. Although he admits that no one measured him while he was with the Stapes, he presents an official document -- his World War II army discharge -- which shows him at 5'1½", making him undoubtedly the shortest. Moreover, he believes he played at 119 pounds which would probably be another record.

Sometimes, certain records should get asterisks like Roger Maris' 61st home run. The Coffin Corner has several times drawn attention to the fallacy of citing performance records -- total yards, completions, etc. -- based on a 16-game schedule when most of the league's history saw teams playing fewer games in a season.

However, our favorite "total" record stands unchallenged after more than forty years. It's Most Total Yards Lost Rushing in a Single Season. The record is a minus 180 yards. The reason we like this record is that it is so misleading. Setting that mark in 1940 was little Davey O'Brien, the dynamic little passer who was just about the only offense the 1-10 Philadelphia Eagles had that year. But every time he went back to pass and got sacked -- a more than sometime occurrence with the Eagles -- he was tagged with a rushing loss.

Another favorite record is Tommy Thompson's 732 pass completions -- the top NFL mark for a one-eyed passer. When we were in school, they taught us that the reason people have two eyes is for depth perception (and also to keep the face from being lopsided). Then along came Mr. Thompson who had been blind in one eye since his youth and who, in theory, shouldn't have had enough depth perception to pour a glass of milk much less complete a long bomb, and all he did was lead his team (the Eagles again) to two NFL Championships and three division titles.

Incidentally, in 1980, Thompson had the sight in that eye restored after 50 years. Dr. Dennis Brooks of Germantown Hospital removed a cataract with a new ultrasonic technique. Perhaps it's sacrilege but we think Dr. Brooks' "completion record" might be even more important than just about any quarterback's.

As a disgruntled disc jockey once said, records are made to be broken. We didn't think anyone could top Johnny "Mr. Zero" Clement's mark for the lowest number worn on a jersey. That was before Jim Otto.

TEAM VS. TEAM: AFC

	BALTIMORE COLTS 1953 W-L-T	BUFFALO BILLS 1960 129-169-8	CINCINNATI BENGALS 1968 87-103-1	CLEVELAND BROWNS 1946 322-165-12	DENVER BRONCOS 1960 124-172-9	HOUSTON OILERS 1960 147-159-6	KANSAS C. CHIEFS 1960+ 160-138-10	MIAMI DOLPHINS 1966 135-91-3	N. ENGLAND PATRIOTS 1960+ 140-153-9	NEW YORK JETS 1960 128-166-6	OAKLAND RAIDERS 1960 203-110-11	PITTS. STEELERS 1933 279-310-19	S. DIEGO CHARGERS 1960+ 157-140-11	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS 1976 29-47-0
AFC TEAMS														
Baltimore	Colts	8-13-1	2-4-0	8-5-0	2-1-0	3-2-0	5-3-0	14-9-0	11-11-0	9-14-0	3-2-0	7-3-0	1-2-0	0-2-0
Buffalo	Bills	4-2-0	4-4-0	3-1-0	8-12-1	17-7-0	11-12-1	24-5-1	21-21-1	19-23-0	11-11-0	5-2-0	15-8-2	1-0-0
Cincinnati	Bengals	5-8-0	1-3-0	12-10-0	6-5-0	11-12-1	6-7-0	6-3-0	4-3-0	4-2-0	10-3-0	14-8-0	8-5-0	0-1-0
Cleveland	Browns	1-2-0	12-8-1	5-6-0	5-3-0	8-11-0	4-4-1	2-3-0	1-3-0	0-6-0	7-1-0	25-37-0	3-2-1	3-1-0
Denver	Broncos	2-3-0	7-17-0	12-11-1	14-8-0	18-8-1	29-13-0	4-2-1	12-10-0	10-10-1	31-10-2	4-5-1	22-19-1	1-6-0
Houston	Oilers	3-5-0	12-11-1	4-4-1	13-29-0	10-18-0	18-10-0	6-9-0	6-11-3	9-12-0	24-18-2	17-7-0	15-11-1	2-1-0
Kansas C.	Chiefs	9-11-0	5-24-1	3-2-0	2-4-1	9-6-0	7-3-0	7-0-0	11-18-0	16-14-0	11-3-1	3-3-0	21-20-1	4-3-0
Miami	Dolphins	11-11-0	21-21-1	3-1-0	10-12-0	13-12-1	11-6-3	18-11-0	17-24-1	24-17-1	10-11-2	3-1-0	6-4-0	0-2-0
N. England	Patriots	14-9-0	23-19-0	6-0-0	10-10-1	14-9-1	12-9-0	14-16-0	11-10-1	10-11-2	11-10-2	5-0-0	14-6-1	4-0-0
New York	Jets	2-3-0	11-11-0	1-7-0	10-31-2	7-17-0	18-24-2	3-11-1	1-3-0	0-5-0	7-5-0	5-7-0	15-26-2	4-3-0
Oakland	Raiders	3-7-0	8-15-2	2-3-1	5-4-1	11-15-1	20-21-1	4-6-0	12-12-2	6-14-1	26-15-2	6-2-0	2-6-0	0-2-0
Pitts.	Steelers	2-1-0	0-1-0	1-3-0	6-1-0	1-2-0	3-4-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	0-4-0	3-4-0	2-0-0	7-0-0	0-7-0
S. Diego	Chargers	2-0-0	1-1-0	1-3-0	19-22-1	2-1-0	3-4-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	0-4-0	3-4-0	2-0-0	2-6-0	0-7-0
Seattle	Seahawks	2-0-0	0-1-0	1-3-0	6-1-0	1-2-0	3-4-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	0-4-0	3-4-0	2-0-0	2-6-0	0-7-0
NFC TEAMS														
Atlanta	8-0-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	4-1-0	2-2-0	1-2-0	1-0-0	3-0-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	4-1-0	0-2-0	2-0-0
Chicago	20-13-0	1-2-0	2-0-0	6-2-0	3-1-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	3-0-0	2-0-0	1-1-0	3-0-0	4-13-1	3-0-0	1-1-0
Dallas	4-4-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	15-7-0	1-3-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	0-3-0	0-3-0	1-1-0	11-10-0	0-2-0	0-2-0
Detroit	16-16-2	1-1-1	0-2-0	2-13-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	8-13-1	0-3-0	1-1-0
Green Bay	16-18-0	2-0-0	2-2-0	5-7-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	1-1-1	3-0-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	3-1-0	9-16-0	0-3-0	0-2-0
L. Angeles	20-14-2	1-2-0	2-1-0	8-6-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	0-1-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	3-1-0	2-12-2	1-2-0	0-2-0
Minnesota	12-4-1	0-3-0	2-1-0	7-0-0	3-0-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	3-0-0	3-0-0	2-1-0	2-0-1	4-4-0	3-0-0	1-1-0
N. Orleans	3-0-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	25-16-2	2-1-0	0-1-0	0-3-0	1-0-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	26-40-3	1-2-0	0-2-0
New York	7-3-0	1-0-0	3-0-0	29-10-1	1-2-0	0-2-0	0-1-0	1-2-0	2-1-0	0-3-0	3-1-0	25-42-3	1-1-0	0-2-0
Phila.	5-3-0	1-0-0	3-0-0	30-9-3	1-2-0	0-3-0	2-0-1	3-0-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	2-1-0	28-20-3	2-1-0	0-1-0
St. Louis	4-3-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	14-5-0	1-2-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	3-0-0	1-2-0	0-3-0	2-1-0	5-5-0	2-1-0	1-1-0
San Fran.	21-14-0	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	1-0-0	2-1-0	1-2-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0
Tampa Bay	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	31-7-1	1-2-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	0-3-0	3-0-0	27-39-3	0-2-0	1-1-0
Wash.	15-4-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	31-7-1	1-2-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	0-3-0	3-0-0	27-39-3	0-2-0	1-1-0
Defunct & Merged Teams	-----	-----	-----	46-2-3	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	18-15-2	-----	-----

*-Dallas Texans, 1960-62
 #-Boston Patriots, 1960-70
 +-Los Angeles Chargers, 1960

TEAM VS. TEAM: NFC

1st year W-L-T	ATLANTA FALCONS 1966 85 130 4	CHICAGO BEARS 1920* 456 297 42	DALLAS COWBOYS 1960 202 122 6	DETROIT LIONS 1930# 326 303 31	GREEN BAY PACKERS 1921 419 317 34	L. ANGELES RAMS 1937+ 311 245 20	MINNESOTA VIKINGS 1961 169 129 9	N. ORLEANS SAINTS 1967 55 142 5	NEW YORK GIANTS 1925 382 325 31	PHILA. EAGLES 1933 254 332 21	ST. LOUIS CARDinals 1920# 305 396 36	SAN FRAN. 49ERS 1946 227 239 14	TAMPA BAY BUCCINERS 1976 23 54 1	WASH. REDSKINS 1932# 306 300 26
NFC TEAMS	Falcons	Bears	Cowboys	Lions	Packers	Rams	Vikings	Saints	Giants	Eagles	Cardinals	49ers	Buccinners	Redskins
Atlanta	8-4-0	4-8-0	7-1-0	10-3-0	7-4-0	22-5-2	7-4-0	7-17-0	2-5-0	3-5-1	5-2-0	15-14-0	1-2-0	6-2-1
Chicago	1-7-0	3-6-0	6-3-0	39-59-5	51-66-6	24-41-3	22-16-2	2-6-0	16-26-2	4-17-1	23-50-6	21-22-1	2-5-0	10-18-1
Dallas	3-10-0	59-39-5	6-1-0	1-6-0	8-3-0	9-8-0	4-10-0	1-8-0	10-27-2	15-27-0	14-23-1	4-8-1	0-2-0	16-24-2
Detroit	4-7-0	66-51-6	3-8-0	41-53-7	53-41-7	34-33-1	25-13-2	4-4-1	10-17-1	9-12-1	15-25-5	21-24-1	2-5-0	14-8-0
Green Bay	5-22-2	16-22-2	8-9-0	33-34-1	31-37-2	37-31-2	22-17-1	2-7-0	17-21-2	5-17-0	21-36-4	21-20-1	3-3-1	11-13-1
L. Angeles	4-7-0	16-22-2	10-4-0	13-25-2	17-22-1	11-15-2	15-11-2	6-18-0	5-14-0	8-14-1	15-18-2	19-41-2	2-3-0	11-5-1
Minnesota	17-7-0	6-2-0	8-1-0	4-4-1	7-2-0	18-6-0	7-2-0	2-7-0	1-6-0	2-7-0	5-3-0	10-12-1	2-5-0	2-5-0
N. Orleans	5-2-0	26-16-2	27-10-2	17-10-1	21-17-2	14-5-0	6-1-0	4-4-0	4-4-0	7-4-0	28-48-1	15-7-2	1-2-0	6-4-0
New York	5-3-1	17-4-1	27-15-0	12-9-1	17-5-0	14-8-1	7-2-0	4-7-0	48-42-2	42-48-2	35-30-4	8-3-1	1-1-0	39-55-3
Phila.	2-5-0	50-23-6	23-14-1	25-15-5	36-21-4	18-15-2	3-5-0	2-6-0	48-28-1	30-35-4	7-4-0	4-7-0	1-0-0	50-36-5
St. Louis	14-15-0	22-21-1	8-4-1	24-21-1	20-21-1	41-19-2	12-10-1	7-15-2	9-3-0	3-8-1	3-8-1	7-4-0	1-3-0	41-30-2
San Fran.	2-1-0	5-2-0	2-0-0	5-2-0	3-3-1	3-2-0	5-2-0	2-1-0	4-2-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	3-1-0	1-3-0	5-5-1
Tampa Bay	2-6-1	18-10-1	24-16-2	8-14-0	13-11-1	5-11-1	5-2-0	4-6-0	55-39-3	36-50-5	30-41-2	5-5-1	0-1-0	1-0-0
Wash.														Redskins
AFC TEAMS														
Baltimore	0-8-0	13-20-0	4-4-0	16-16-2	18-16-0	14-20-2	4-12-1	0-3-0	3-7-0	3-5-0	3-4-0	14-21-0	1-1-0	4-15-0
Buffalo	1-2-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	1-1-1	0-2-0	2-1-0	3-0-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Cincinnati	1-2-0	0-2-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-2-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	0-2-0	0-3-0	0-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-1-0
Cleveland	1-4-0	2-6-0	7-15-0	13-2-0	7-5-0	6-8-0	6-1-0	0-7-0	16-25-2	10-29-1	9-30-3	5-14-0	0-2-0	7-31-1
Denver	2-2-0	1-3-0	3-1-0	2-1-0	1-2-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	2-1-0	0-1-1	2-1-0	0-1-0	2-1-0
Houston	2-1-0	1-2-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	2-0-0	1-1-0	0-2-1	1-0-0	2-0-0	3-0-0	1-2-0	0-2-0	1-2-0
Kansas C.	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	1-1-1	1-0-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	3-0-0	1-0-0	0-2-1	1-1-0	2-1-0	0-2-0
Miami	0-3-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	0-2-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	1-3-0	0-3-0	0-1-0	2-1-0	0-3-0	0-3-0	0-1-0	1-2-0
N. England	1-2-0	0-2-0	3-0-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0
New York	1-1-0	1-1-0	3-0-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	3-0-0	2-1-0	3-0-0	0-1-0	3-0-0
Oakland	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	1-3-0	1-2-0	1-3-0	0-2-1	0-2-0	1-3-0	0-1-0	1-2-0	0-1-0	0-3-0
Pitts.	1-4-0	13-4-1	10-11-0	13-8-1	16-9-0	12-2-3	4-4-0	3-3-0	40-26-3	42-25-3	20-28-3	5-5-0	0-2-0	39-27-3
S. Diego	2-0-0	0-3-0	2-0-0	3-0-0	3-0-0	2-1-0	1-2-0	0-3-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-2-0	0-1-0	2-0-0
Seattle	0-2-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	1-0-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-1-0
Defunct & Merger Teams	-----	88-17-14	-----	37-10-3	81-17-8	12-5-0	-----	-----	81-22-13	19-16-1	60-37-3	41-10-3	-----	30-8-5

*-Decatur Staleys, 1920
 #-Portsmouth Spartans, 1930-33
 +-Cleveland Rams, 1937-1942, 1944-45
 #-Chicago Cardinals, 1920-1959
 †-Boston Redskins, 1932-1936

FLETCHER JOSEPH PERRY

Born: January 27, 1927, at
Stevens, Arkansas
Height: 6-0 Weight: 200
Attended Compton Junior College

**JOE
PERRY**

Although he had only junior college and U.S. Navy football experience, Joe Perry was an instant hit when he joined the 49ers. He was a fullback who used speed rather than bulk to get his yardage. Quarterback Frankie Albert nicknamed him "The Jet" because of his quick starts. He didn't need to "get started," he was in full stride with his first step.

In 1954, he became the first runner to gain over 1,000 yards in two consecutive seasons, and that was when NFL teams played 12-game schedules!

When he retired after 16 seasons — an unusually long career for a running back — he had accumulated 12,505 combined yards —

HONORS

All-AAC: 1949

All-NFL (A.P. & U.P.):
1953, 1954

Pro Bowl:
1953, 1954, 1955

Pro Football
Hall of Fame:
1969



Year	Team		G	RUSHING					-PASS RECEIVING-				-SCORING	
				Att	Yds	Avg	TD		No	Yds	Avg	TD	TD	Pts
1948	San Francisco 49ers	AAC	14	77	562	*7.3	*10		8	79	9.9	1	12	72
1949	San Francisco 49ers	AAC	12	115	*783	6.8	*8		11	146	13.3	3	11	66
1950	San Francisco 49ers	NFL	12	124	647	5.2	5		13	69	5.3	1	6	36
1951	San Francisco 49ers	NFL	11	136	677	5.0	3		18	167	9.3	1	4	24
1952	San Francisco 49ers	NFL	12	158	725	4.6	8		15	81	5.4	0	8	48
1953	San Francisco 49ers	NFL	12	*192	*1018	5.3	*10		19	191	10.1	3	*13	78
1954	San Francisco 49ers	NFL	12	*173	*1049	6.1	8		26	203	7.8	0	8	57
1955	San Francisco 49ers	NFL	11	156	701	4.5	2		19	55	2.9	1	3	18
1956	San Francisco 49ers	NFL	12	115	520	4.5	3		18	104	5.8	0	3	18
1957	San Francisco 49ers	NFL	8	97	454	4.7	3		15	130	8.7	0	3	18
1958	San Francisco 49ers	NFL	12	125	758	6.1	4		23	218	9.5	1	5	30
1959	San Francisco 49ers	NFL	10	139	602	4.4	3		12	53	4.4	0	3	18
1960	San Francisco 49ers	NFL	8	36	95	2.6	1		3	-3	-1.0	0	1	6
1961	Baltimore Colts	NFL	13	168	675	4.0	3		34	322	9.5	1	4	24
1962	Baltimore Colts	NFL	11	94	359	3.8	0		22	194	8.8	0	0	0
1963	San Francisco 49ers	NFL	9	24	98	4.1	0		4	12	3.0	0	0	0
16 years			179	1929	9723	5.0	71		260	2021	7.8	12	84	513



Al Spacagna who compiled the Team vs. Team Charts featured on pages 4 and 5 of this issue also put together this handy list:

TOTAL WON-LOST RECORD

AFC	GP	W	L	T	PCT.
Cleveland	499	322	- 165	- 12	.657
Oakland	324	203	- 110	- 11	.643
Miami	229	135	- 91	- 3	.596
Baltimore	399	223	- 170	- 6	.566
Kansas City	308	160	- 138	- 10	.535
San Diego	308	157	- 140	- 11	.527
Houston	312	147	- 159	- 6	.480
New England	304	140	- 155	- 9	.475
Pittsburgh	608	279	- 310	- 19	.474
Cincinnati	191	87	- 103	- 1	.458
New York Jets	300	128	- 166	- 6	.436
Buffalo	306	129	- 169	- 8	.434
Denver	305	124	- 172	- 9	.421
Seattle	76	29	- 47	- 0	.381
NFC	GP	W	L	T	PCT.
Dallas	330	202	- 122	- 6	.621
Chicago	795	456	- 297	- 42	.600
Green Bay	770	419	- 317	- 34	.566
Minnesota	307	169	- 129	- 9	.565
Los Angeles	576	311	- 245	- 20	.557
New York Giants	738	382	- 325	- 31	.538
Detroit	660	326	- 303	- 31	.517
Washington	632	306	- 300	- 26	.504
San Francisco	480	227	- 239	- 14	.487
St. Louis	737	305	- 396	- 36	.438
Philadelphia	607	254	- 332	- 21	.435
Atlanta	219	85	- 130	- 4	.397
Tampa Bay	78	23	- 54	- 1	.301
New Orleans	202	55	- 142	- 5	.284

The W-L-T record includes all regular & post-season games, including the Miami Runner-Up Games of the 1960's. The Pct. is figured by counting ties as $\frac{1}{2}$ win and $\frac{1}{2}$ loss.

Records of Philadelphia, Cardinals and Pittsburgh do not include 1943-44 mergers.

* * *

P.F.R.A. welcomes three new members this month: Victor Mastrovicenzo of the Bronx, N.Y.; Gregory Koneck of Kent, O.; and Harrington "Kit" Crissey of Philadelphia, Pa.

* * *

New member Gregory Koneck has a unique interest: he is seeking astrological data on any and all aspects of pro football.

* * *

Although the program for our second annual convention is rather full, President Joe Horrigan says there still may be a few additions. However, in answer to several requests, time will definitely be made available for research at the HOF library.

* * *

The information that you received on the convention had a couple of typos which you probably caught already. However, in case you didn't, the Saturday morning session is during the a.m. and not the p.m. which is quite beyond our ability to accomplish. And the room rate at the L-K Motel should read "\$32.00 - 2 people; 1 bed."

* * *

If your address changes, be sure to notify P.F.R.A. to be sure to get your Coffin Corner on time.

* * *

Speaking of address changes, David "Carmudgeon" Shapiro sent us a card from London. Knowing David, he's probably over there proving that Bacon wrote Shakespeare or showing that Big Ben was only middling. This could set Anglo-American relations back to the level of 1812.

* * *

The 1981 Annual will be distributed at the convention. Those members not in attendance will receive theirs by mail. Although we are committed to offer the Annual at a "membership discount", we are pleased to announce that for the second consecutive year each member will receive one copy at no charge.

Annual editor Bob Braunwart has announced that this year's edition has been cut to a jam-packed 96 pages. Last year's edition was a wee bit bulky, you'll recall.

Additional Annals, both this year's and last year's, along with several other P.F.R.A. publications will be offered for sale at the convention.

President Joe Horrigan points out that it was the additional revenues gained through membership purchases of P.F.R.A. sponsored publications that, in part, put us in a position to avoid charging for this year's Annual.

Thanks, everyone.

* * *

Incidentally, before coming to the convention, we suggest that you take the time to read the proposed by-laws that appeared in the April issue of the Corner. They are just one of several important pieces of business to be conducted there.

* * *

Recently P.F.R.A. secretary Vic Frolund was trying to interest an elderly, ex-football star in joining the organization. Vic finally gave up when the old man asked him just who was "Reece Archer." It took Vic twenty minutes to figure out the guy had misunderstood "Researchers."

* * *

When renewing your P.F.R.A. memberships, please make any checks payable to P.F.R.A. rather than the Coffin Corner or individuals.

* * *

And finally a drama note: we liked the one word review of Terry Bradshaw's proposed pilot for NBC -- "Stockerstinkers"!

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.

MEL
HEIN



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