



THE 1981 CONVENTION

The third annual P.F.R.A. Convention got under way at a Friday night (June 26) get-together at the hospitality room. Conversation and refreshments flowed.

The next morning the members convened at the Pro Football Hall of Fame library-research center for two interesting programs. The first was a film of the famous 1940 Championship Game between the Bears and the Redskins. Although the members showed considerable sympathy for the underdog and rooted hard for Washington, the 'Skins still lost 73-0.

The second program, presented by President Joe Horrigan, detailed his extensive research into NFL franchises from 1920 to 1927. He was able to show that there were several franchises issued that never appeared in the league's standings and explain the circumstances under which many teams that do show up in the standings later disappeared.

The members adjourned to Benders' Restaurant (where the Canton Bulldogs used to meet) for an excellent lunch and the business meeting.

The most important items were:

- * Vic Frolund's treasurer's report, indicating that the organization finished comfortably in the black this year.

- * Bob Braunwart's report of the publications committee that P.F.R.A. had sponsored four publications during the past year. They were the Annual, the Membership Directory, the Oorang Indians Media Guide, and The Alphabet Vars. Several other media guides are nearly ready for publication.

- * The proposed by-laws (see the April issue) were voted on and accepted.

- * A committee composed of Bob Carroll, Bob Gill, and Greg Koneck was established to recommend a site for the 1982 Convention. Preliminary suggestions include Green Bay and Washington, D.C.

- * The organization is on record as being in favor of investigating the establishment of an association award. A committee will be named later to investigate further.

- * Officers were elected.

President: Joe Horrigan
Vice-President: Vic Frolund
Secretary: Anne Monnot
Treasurer: Vince Popo

Vol. III, No. 8

August, 1981

The meeting adjourned to the Hall of Fame library-research center. There, Bob Carroll briefly proposed the establishment of "research teams" as ad hoc committees. (see the proposal later in this issue)

Most of the members preferred to use the rest of the afternoon for research and exchanges of information.

That evening, the members convened for the annual banquet. The featured speaker was Denny Lynch, Director of Operations for the Cleveland Browns (and a P.F.R.A. charter member). Denny fielded questions about the Browns, the NFL, and his own activities as smoothly as Dave Logan fields a Brian Sipe pass. After this the group was treated to the Browns' 1981 highlight film, a fine piece of work by both the team and the photographer.

At the end of the evening, many members returned to the hospitality room for further discussions.

On Sunday morning, the members convened again at the library-research center. There, they were treated to a program by Bob Barnett on the 1932 Indoor Championship Game between the Bears and the Portsmouth Spartans, one of the most unusual and significant games in the NFL's history.

After viewing a videotape interview with Johnny "Blood" McNally, the members used the remaining time to exchange information, tour the Hall, and to use the library-research center.

Those in attendance at all or part of the convention were:

Bob Barnett and his wife
Lisbeth
Paul Bennett
Bob Braunwart
Rich Bysina
Bob Carroll
Tony Cusher
Bob Davids
Chuck Fisher
Vic Frolund
Bob Gill
Stan Grosshandler and
his sons

Joe Horrigan
Greg Koneck
Denny Lynch
Bernie McCarty
Anne Monnot
Tom Nikitas
Pete Palmer
Vince Popo and his
fiance Debbi Cobb
Don Smith
and
Jim Stewart

The DUKE of BOSTON

By Bob Braunwart & Bob Carroll

When Gino Cappelletti was chalking up 100-plus points a year for the Boston Patriots as regularly as the neighbor's cat has kittens, he said: "The scoring title seldom enters my mind. Naturally I love to score points. The more I score the better our chances of winning are, but I don't go into a game wondering how many points I'm going to score."

From a lesser player that might come out as typical company hype. From Gino, it was simply a statement of the way things were ordered in his personal priorities. He was a "team player" first. Being a "star" was only a distant second.

But, in all things, he was a perfectionist.

His birthplace -- Keewatin, Minnesota -- is a little town (pop. 1,500) in the iron range country. As a high school tailback, Gino led his team to two championships but he spent as much time crushing grapes. His father took great pride in making his own wine and Gino was his press.

"I had special rubber stomping boots -- and he made sure every grape was crushed. I hated it because it deprived me of playing football. But if I'm a perfectionist, it's pa who made me that way."

Apparently grape-stomping gave him the legs of a kicker. At the U. of Minnesota, where he played second-fiddle to All-America Paul Giel for three years, they hadn't tried a field goal in years. They didn't even practice the play. But as a sophomore, Cappy talked the coach into letting him try a 43-yarder in a tie game with Iowa. His teammates laughed in the huddle when he told them the play. But he made it, and the Gophers went on to win. Years later, in reference to another game-winning kick, Gino said: "It's not how many you kick, but when you do it."

As a senior he switched to T-quarterback and led Minnesota to a 7-2 record. He was named to the All Big 10 second team.

Then, no one in the NFL saw fit to draft him.

He spent 1955 playing semi-pro football for Sarnia of the Ontario Rugby Football League. At \$500 a game for 20 games, he made more than some NFL rookies. And he had a good enough year to earn a chance with the Detroit Lions for 1956.

Actually, he had less chance than his father's grapes used to. The Lions had Bobby Layne and Harry Gilmer for quarterbacks and Jim Martin and Layne for kickers. Two weeks after he arrived at camp, he was on his way home. There he got an offer he couldn't refuse -- from the U.S. Army.

Things looked pretty good for a while. After a season lost to basic training, he looked good enough in service ball during 1957 to be spotted by several scouts. Surprisingly, he turned down three NFL offers to sign with ex-Minnesotan Bud Grant at Winnipeg in the Canadian Football League.

"Everything was going too good," Gino says. "I should have known better."

Sure enough, before the season began, he was traded to Regina. There he failed to beat out veteran Frank Tripucka and was dropped. Back to Sarnia.

He had another good semi-pro season, but his football career was going nowhere and with great determination. He decided to quit. Back in Minneapolis, he went to work in his brother's bar and confined his football activity to playing in the local 6-man touch football league.

"I had given up on myself," he admits.

Early in 1960 Lou Saban came to Minneapolis to recruit several former U. of Minnesota players -- but not Cappelletti -- for the Boston Patriots of the new American Football League. After much soul-searching, Gino called Saban's hotel room. He'd checked out. Cappy tried the airport. Saban's plane had just taken off. Finally, he reached Saban at home and

YEAR	CLUB	LG	GM	-- Pass Receiving --				--- KICKING -----				PTS
				PC	YDS	AVG.	TD	XP	XA	FG	FA	
1960	Boston Patriots	AFL	14	1	28	28.0	0	30	32	8	21	460
1961	Boston Patriots	AFL	14	45	768	17.1	8	48	50	*17	*32	*147
1962	Boston Patriots	AFL	14	34	479	14.1	5	38	40	20	37	128
1963	Boston Patriots	AFL	14	34	493	14.5	2	35	36	*22	*38	*113
1964	Boston Patriots	AFL	14	49	865	17.7	7	36	36	*25	*39	*155
1965	Boston Patriots	AFL	14	37	680	18.4	9	27	27	17	27	*132
1966	Boston Patriots	AFL	14	43	676	15.7	6	35	36	16	32	*119
1967	Boston Patriots	AFL	14	35	397	11.3	3	29	30	16	31	95
1968	Boston Patriots	AFL	14	13	182	14.0	2	26	26	15	27	83
1969	Boston Patriots	AFL	14	1	21	21.0	0	26	27	14	34	68
1970	Boston Patriots	NFL	13	0	0	0.0	0	12	13	6	15	30
11 years			153	292	4589	15.7	42	342	353	172	333	1130

asked to come to camp. Why not? There were 125 other candidates.

But Cappelletti made the cuts. When the season opened he was both a starting defensive back and the team's kicker. He even scored the first points ever registered in the AFL -- a first quarter, 34-yard field goal.

It was a Cinderella story, but midnight came early.

The Patriots lost the opener and Gino lost his starting berth on defense. He became strictly a kicker. And that wasn't enough for him. "I don't consider kicking as playing," he said.

One day at practice a receiver was slow returning to the huddle. Cappelletti jumped into his place, ran the pattern, and caught the pass. Then-assistant coach Mike Holovak encouraged Cappy to learn the new position. "All I needed was someone to take an interest," says Cappelletti.

Cappy kept practicing and Patriot receivers kept getting hurt. He started the last game of the season at flanker and caught one pass.

He was on shaky ground going into the '61 season. His kicking had been okay but hardly fantastic the year before. Moreover, he had to win a receiver spot on the squad. The talent-shy Patriots were not likely to carry a player who could only kick.

His credentials as a receiver were not overpowering. His hands were rated only fair to good, and he had what was described as "deceptive speed -- actually he's slower than he looks."

But what he did have was the perfectionist psychology of an old grape crusher. Holovak, by now the head coach, summed it up: "I've never seen an athlete work harder than Gino did to learn his new position; he wanted it so badly he approached it as if it were almost a matter of life or death."

Through practice, practice, practice he perfected the ability to run precise, meticulous patterns. His timing with quarterback Babe Parilli -- the "Grand Opera Twins" they were called -- was magic to watch. The Babe also held when Gino kicked. Again, magic.

The record is there. For six straight seasons, Gino topped 100 points, something no one else has done before or since. His 155 points in 1964 and 147 in '61 are still the second and third highest single season totals. He was the all-time top pointmaker in the American Football League, and in 1964 the league's MVP.

More importantly, the team won consistently. Only once did they get to a championship game (and then they were blown out by an inspired San Diego), but year after year the Patriots finished higher than the "experts" rated them in pre-season polls. A lot of the success was due to Gino Cappelletti.

His teammates called him Duke, in part because he was a classy dresser but mostly because he was a class guy. Typically, when he caught the pass for the TD that gave him 1,003 points in less than nine seasons, he was not excited by the milestone. "I wish it had been part of a winning game, a winning season."



Unfortunately, Gino's Boston restaurant The Point After did better than the Patriots in his last years with the team. New phenoms came and went, and Gino was relegated to the job of kicking specialist on a team that didn't score very often. From 1967 through 1970 he attempted more field goals than extra points.

In his final year, the Pats signed a new kicker, Charley Gogolak, near the end of the season. True to form, Gino responded by winning his job back.

But the last game of the season came up muddy, and after trying a couple of pre-game kicks, the Duke went to his coach and told him that Gogolak's side-winder style of kicking gave him better footing on the treacherous turf. It was typical Cappelletti class, but it ended his consecutive game streak at 153 -- every regular season game the Patriots had ever played!

When a reporter sympathized with him, he brushed it off. "The streak really ended two years ago," he said, referring to when he'd stopped being a receiver. After all, kicking wasn't really playing.

Looking back over his career, he said: "I'm still a little frustrated because I never felt I did all that I could have done. I felt like I could have done more. I feel like I could do more yet ... now. I've made great demands on myself and I couldn't quite reach them all."

Just a few more grapes

The NFL Down Under

By Stanley Grosshandler

The N.F.L. is doing very well in Australia. No, the American N.F.L. has not expanded again. The National Football League of South Australia had already been around for a long time when George Halas, Jim Thorpe and the others met in Ralph Hay's automobile showroom to organize a U.S. pro football league.

Various kinds of "football" were played in Australia until 1858 when Tom Willis, grandson of a convict deported from England, drew up a uniform set of rules. From those evolved one of the most thrilling, action-packed, and popular games seen in the world. Bearing some similarities to Rugby, Soccer, and North American Football, the Australian game is unique.

It's played on an oval field that may differ from 220 yards by 134 yards down to 175 by 125 yards. The ball is about three inches fatter and two inches longer than our ball, with a rounded end. Four 25-minute periods compose a game.

There are 18 men on a team with only two extra men allowed on the roster. Once a player leaves a game, he may not return. This often causes a team hit by injuries to play short-handed. Knee injuries are common.

At each end of the playing field are four goal posts. If the ball is kicked between the center posts, a goal (six points) is scored. If it is run or passed between the center posts or kicked between a center and a side post, a "behind" is scored. A behind is worth only one point. Obviously, the kicking game is emphasized.

Score is kept in a cumulative manner as in bowling. A line score for a team might look like this — 3.5 7.9 11.12 16.15 for a total of 111 points. In the first period, the team scored three goals and five behinds for a total of 23 points. In the second period, it added four goals and four behinds for a total of 51 points. At the end of the last period, it had 16 goals and 15 behinds. Games are often high-scoring, free-wheeling affairs.

The game commences when one of the five officials bounces the ball between two players called "ruck men" who try to tip it to a teammate as in basketball. The player gaining possession has three options to advance the ball. He may kick it, pass it, or run with it.

The usual choice is a kick, and there are three kinds. The drop kick sends the ball end over end, and good kicker can get it 70-80 yards. The stab punt and screw punt, similar to our punts, will send a spiral

50-60 yards.

To hand off or pass to a teammate, a player must punch the ball. This is called "handballing." A caught pass is called "marking" and the player is then awarded a kick for successfully catching the ball.

A player who elects to run with the ball must bounce it every ten yards. He is allowed interference, called "shepherding," if he is within five yards of his blocker. The runner may only be tackled from the waist down. A penalty of a free kick is assessed if he is tackled high.

Play is continuous and furious, with no time outs other than between periods. After a goal is scored, the ball is again bounced in the center of the field, but when a behind is made, the defending team kicks the ball out.

While there are no preconceived plays, strategy is involved. Against a tall opponent, a player tries to keep the ball out of the air, resorting to shorter kicks.

A team is composed of a centre, flanked by right and left centres, often called wingmen. Immediately behind the centre are two rucks and a rover. The rover is usually a small, wiry player who can dig out the ball and get it to a larger teammate. In offensive territory are three half forwards and three full forwards. In defensive territory are three halfbacks and three fullbacks. The center-full forward is usually the best offensive man, which means he is the strongest kicker and best marker on the team.

Australia has determined a national champion since 1878. League play started in 1907.

Each Australian state has its own sub-league with circuits in South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, and Victoria. The latter is usually thought of as the strongest league.

The season runs from April to October, teams playing one game a week. In October, the leaders of the leagues come together in what is called a Carnival and determine the National Champion. As in baseball, there is no interleague play prior to the Carnival. So popular is the game that it is often played in 90 degree temperatures in the Northern Territories.

The same city may have several teams in the same league. These teams have territorial boundaries within the city, and a player living within the limits is automatically on option to that team unless they elect not to sign him. Talent scouts tour the country looking for likely prospects and every club has a number two and a number three team which play the curtain raisers before the main events.

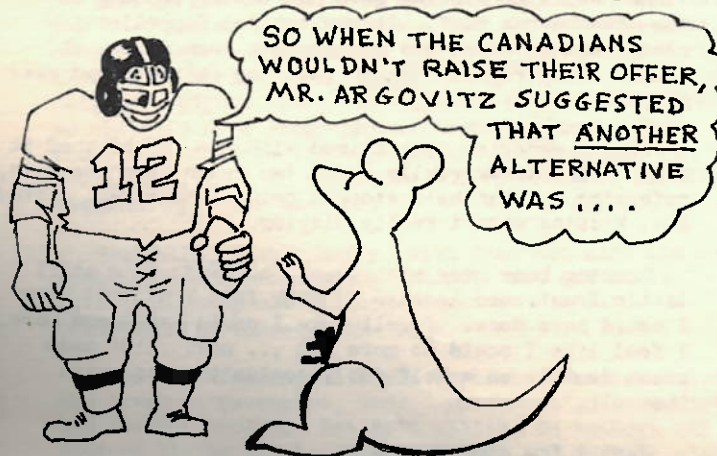
While the Australian star player enjoys popularity similar to his American counterpart, he makes far less money. Most players need off-season jobs. However, as in America, stardom leads to product endorsements and public relations jobs with large companies.

Scoring 100 goals is considered an excellent season -- like rushing for 1,000 yards in the U.S. The all-time Australian super star was the legendary Ken Farmer who topped the NFL in scoring for eleven consecutive seasons. It is said that Farmer's hands were so big he could hold the oversized football between his thumb and forefinger.

The Australian N.F.L. has had its dynasties. Port Adelaide took the crown six straight years, and later Sturt took it five times in a row.

Although crowds of 50,000 or more are common, our N.F.L. has no plans to expand to the Great Outback. Likewise, the Australian game has never caught on in America.

Too bad. It might be fun to see Toni Fritsch kick a few behinds.



1920

By Bob Braunwart & Bob Carroll

Recently, while researching the 1920 season, we came across some odds and ends that we didn't know. Maybe some of them will be new to you.

* * *

George Halas did not start the Decatur Staley football team. There had been a team on the field the year before at least. What Halas did was upgrade what had been a typical company team -- no better or worse than hundreds of others -- to a level that made it one of the two or three best teams in the country.

* * *

Although Guy Chamberlin was considered by most newspapers as the Staleys' premier end before the games, several rated Halas as superior afterwards.

* * *

Chuck Dressen went on to great fame as a baseball manager, and every pro football history mentions that he was a quarterback for the 1920 Staleys. However, he was the backup QB to Pard Pearce and only played in four games (according to lineups published in the Decatur Herald).

* * *

Dutch Sternaman scored 12 touchdowns and 87 points for the Staleys.

* * *

The Chicago Cardinals depended so heavily on Paddy Driscoll that they cancelled a potentially lucrative Thanksgiving Day game with the Logan Square team (a local Chicago favorite) when Paddy's father died.

* * *

Although there's a famous story that Driscoll's long run defeated the Chicago Tigers for the rights to an exclusive NFL franchise for Chicago, four Windy City newspapers describe the game as only to determine the leading pro team in Chicago, in other words, the city champ.

* * *

As a matter of fact, in checking newspapers from every city thought to be in the league in 1920, we have been unable to find any indication that the Tigers ever joined the league. The same holds true for the Detroit Heralds and the Columbus Panhandles. However, except for the September 17 organizational meeting, the league was hardly mentioned by anyone in 1920.

* * *

The Tigers, managed and coached by Gil Falcon, were considered to be the direct descendants of the 1919 Hammond Pros, at least by the press. The Tigers played home games at Wrigley Field (as had the 1919 Hammonds). However, Dr. A.A. Young who owned and managed the 1920 Hammond Pros had been a part owner of the 1919 team (which had George Halas and Paddy Driscoll on the squad).

* * *

Nine future Hall of Famers played in 1920: Halas, Chamberlin, Jimmy Conzelman, and George Trafton with Decatur; Jim Thorpe, Wilbur Henry, and Joe Guyon with Canton; Driscoll with the Cardinals; and Ed Healey with Rock Island. No member of the 1920 champion Akron team has ever been elected to the HOF.

* * *

Although many histories will only allow that Akron "was generally recognized" as the league champion, and the NFL's Record Manual does not clarify the issue, the team was actually voted the championship at the April, 1921, meeting. Moreover, they were even awarded the cup that had been donated as symbolic of the championship. Since the cup was never heard of again, it may be gathering dust in some Akron attic.

* * *

The best pro team in the country may have been one that was definitely not in the league. The Union A.A. of Phoenixville (near Philadelphia) went undefeated and untied in eleven games against some pretty fair teams. They beat the Frankford Yellow Jackets and the Canton Bulldogs.

The interesting thing about the team was that they played on Saturdays (because of Pennsylvania Blue Laws) and then most of the players went to Buffalo to play Sundays as the Buffalo All-Americans (a team that went 9-1-1). The Union A.A. may have been a bit better than the All-Americans because the players were fresher on Saturdays and because they sported a few good players who didn't go to Buffalo, including Stan Cofall after he left Cleveland.

* * *

Just about every history says that Muncie, represented at the September organizational meeting, did not field a team. That would come as a shock to the Rock Island Independents who whipped them 45-0 on October 3. Muncie looked so bad, however, that the Staleys cancelled a game scheduled with them for the 10th. It is believed that Muncie may have finished the season playing lesser Indiana "town teams."

* * *

This is how loose the league (then called the American Professional Football Association) was: the first vice-president was Stanley Cofall who was also the playing-coach of the Cleveland Tigers. When Cleveland lost its first three games, Cofall was fired. He went east and played independent football. As far as is known, he never attended another league meeting.

* * *

Although they were not in the league in 1920, the Green Bay Packers had an excellent team. Curly Lambeau was the captain, but the team's fullback -- a fellow named Dalton -- was coach. He and Lambeau each coached high school teams in Green Bay and Dalton's team badly defeated Curly's.

* * *

Pity the poor players of the non-league Beloit Fairies who took quite a riding for their team's nickname. The name was arrived at innocently enough as a shortening of the team's full name -- the Beloit Fairbanks-Morse Football Team.

PROPOSAL

Bernie McCarty is a man of many interests but one of them is not minor league professional football in 1934. Still, while doing research on a subject that did interest him, he kept running into stories about these minor league teams from that time.

Rather than ignore the whole thing, he decided that there well might be someone in P.F.R.A. with a sincere interest in some of the lesser teams and leagues of the past, so he took the time to bundle the information together and send it on to The Coffin Corner.

It so happened that we at the C.C. knew of someone who was interested in minor leagues of the past, and we sent the bundle on to him. He accepted it with many thanks.

Happy ending?

Yes and no. There are just too many disturbing loose ends.

Like, how many other members have come across useful information, but had no idea of just what P.F.R.A. member might find it useful?

Like, since the editor of the C.C. is one of the world's great M.D.s (Mightily Disorganized), would it not be better to avoid a middle man?

Like, although the information found a good home, how many other members might have liked to see it?

To help improve this situation, we'd like to make the following proposal:

P.F.R.A. should create within its membership circles of mutual interest as ad hoc committees -- research teams, if you will. These would put the casual exchanges of information now taking place on a more systemitized basis. Hopefully, these teams would also increase the amount of information.

This is how we envision such a thing working. Let's say that member John Doe has a deep interest in finding complete information on all former NFL players, such tidbits as birth dates, death dates, schools attended, heights, weights, etc. He might be willing to serve as chairman of a Biographical Research Team. That would mean that in addition to his own research he would be willing to supervise and co-ordinate similar research by other members.

Meanwhile, member Henry Smith does not want the responsibility of overseeing a committee, but he is willing to help out by doing research himself. He volunteers to serve on the team.

Also volunteering to serve is member Charley Yelrahc, who lives in Davenport, Iowa. He is not going to get too deeply involved, but he's willing to contact any players living in the Davenport area and perhaps check a few obituaries in the Davenport Daily Blead.

Member Joe Blow lives in Mudwallow, Oklahoma, and is not at all interested in biographical information. He does not serve on the team. But one day he comes across a story in the Mudwallow Splat about old Turk Grunt who once played for the Dayton Triangles. Joe clips the story and sends it off to chairman Doe.

At the end of the year, the Research Team submits a brief report that will appear in the Annual. The report would explain what progress had been made without going into great detail.

The chairman and the P.F.R.A. executive committee would have to decide how accumulated information might be made available to interested members.

Obviously, all members of P.F.R.A. will not be interested in joining a Research Team, and those that do will no doubt be selective as to how they spend their energies.

This idea has been discussed already by a few members. The first thing is to settle on what Research Teams should be started. Here are some suggestions:

BIOGRAPHICAL: dedicated to collecting accurate information about individual players. Another useful item might be to prepare bibliographies on particular players.

CANADIAN: while it's true that Canadian football has a history longer than the NFL's, it might be best at this time to combine several research areas into a single team.

DEFUNCT NFL TEAMS: aimed at acquiring information on teams that didn't make it; owners, players, history.

GAME ACCOUNTS: this team would try to acquire at least one and hopefully several newspaper stories of every league game, particularly those in the 1920s and 1930s.

MINOR LEAGUES: similar to the Defunct NFL Teams group, this team would concentrate on the many minor leagues that have played some pretty good football over the years.

MINORITIES: this group would seek information on the activities of minorities in pro football; players, coaches, fans, etc.

STATISTICS: they would obviously be interested in acquiring "lost" stats from the NFL's early years, but also they would attempt to investigate and design new statistical measurements of player performance.

These may overlap somewhat and certainly they are not the only good ideas for research teams. However, every road must begin somewhere. We have provided a handy coupon (at the bottom of the PFRA-termizing column) for those who are interested in lending a hand. Most likely we will begin with only the teams that receive the most response. Let us know today.

Bob Carroll, editor



JOHNNY BLOOD

P.F.R.A. member Bob Gill recently came up with the following rather fascinating piece of information concerning one of pro football's all-time greats.

Take a second to check the address tab on your copy of the Corner this month. Notice the little combination of letters and numbers opposite your name? That's our new system for telling you just when your membership dues should be renewed. For example, if your dues are due right now, you'll find J181 opposite your name for "July, 1981."

* * *

Richard Gonsalves, P.F.R.A. member, is searching high and low for a particular photograph. He's seen it in reproduction but needs an actual print. The photo, which many of you may have seen, shows Jim Thorpe, Joe Guyon, and Pete Galac in uniform together, standing out in what apparently is a snow storm.

Incidentally, he writes that he is nearing completion of a book entitled A Decade in Pro Sports, which he describes as "a pleasant 3 1/2 year experience."

* * *

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

Atlanta Falcons; I-85 at State Road 317; Suwanee, GA 30174 (Institution member; Charley Dayton, representative).
Earl E. Dodge, Capt. USAF ret.; 320-34-8443; LA CC/CRC; apo San Francisco, CA 96358.

Chuck Fisher; 811 49th St., N.E.; N. Canton, OH 44714.
Chick McElrone, Public Relations Assistant; Philadelphia Eagles; Philadelphia Veterans Stadium; Broad Street and Pattison Avenue; Philadelphia, PA 19148.

New York Giants; Giants Stadium; E.Rutherford, NJ 07073 (Institutional member; Tom Power, representative).

Philadelphia Eagles; Philadelphia Veterans Stadium; Broad Street and Pattison Ave.; Philadelphia, PA 19148. (Institutional member; Jim Gallagher, representative).

John Thorn; 18 Virginia Ave.; Saugerties, NY 12477.
Joe Tucker; 2030 South Ocean Drive #1124; Hallandale, Fla. 33009.

Dale Wallenius; 3200 Adams Ave. #207; San Diego, CA 92116.

While our welcome is equally warm to all new members, the C.C. editor would like to add a personal note concerning Joe Tucker. We've never met him, but we feel that we know him because he was for many years the voice of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Now retired, it may be of some interest to Mr. Tucker to know that his excellent broadcasts helped create at least one lifetime pro football fan, namely the editor. Thanks.

* * *

P.F.R.A. member Lawrence Ziewacz has a new book hot off the presses. It's a history, rather than a football book, that he and Bruce A. Rubenstein have written to trace the development of the 26th state from Indian-inhabited wilderness to industrial giant. The details are: Michigan: A History of the Great Lakes State; Forum Press; 292 pages; \$11.95 paperback. Ziewacz is a professor at Michigan State University and Rubenstein teaches at University of Michigan -- Flint.

* * *

We all know that Johnny Blood played 15 years (1925-39) in the NFL, a record for two-way players. But after his "retirement" before the 1940 NFL season, Blood was still playing high-calibre football for at least the next two years.

In 1940, he played the whole season with the Kenosha Cardinals, a strong independent team. The Kenosha team, which featured a few players (including the pros' first 1,000-yard rusher Beattie Feathers) on loan from the Green Bay Packers, was not allowed to join the new American Football League that year because of their NFL ties. However, the Cardinals played nearly every team in the league anyway, as sort of an honorary member. The AFL, it should be remembered, was regarded as a second major league by many fans and commentators of the day, and the Kenosha Cardinals were good enough to compile a 4-2 record against them.

The 1941 team, which Blood coached, was not as strong as the team of the previous year, but they did play half a dozen games against NFL and AFL teams, losing all of them.

On October 8, 1941, Blood took a night off from his coaching duties at Kenosha and appeared in an AFL game for the Buffalo Tigers against the New York Americans. Playing under his real name -- McNally -- he carried the ball five times, his longest gain being eight yards. Possibly because he used his given name and not his more famous pseudonym, Blood has never been credited with playing in the AFL; but the extra year gives him 16 years of accredited major-league football and makes his record that much more remarkable.

* * *

To: The Coffin Corner
12870 Rt. 30
N. Huntingdon, PA 15642

From: _____
(your name)

Yes, I would be interested in serving on the following research team: (if volunteering to serve on more than one team, please number in order of preference; i.e., #1 = first choice, etc.)

___ BIOGRAPHICAL	___ GAME ACCOUNTS
___ CANADIAN	___ MINOR LEAGUES
___ DEFUNCT NFL TEAMS	___ MINORITIES
___ STATISTICS	

ABOUT PFRA:

The Professional Football Researchers Association was founded as a non-profit organization on June 22, 1979, at Canton, Ohio. The purpose of the association is to foster the study of professional football as a significant social and athletic institution. It further hopes to establish an accurate historical account of professional football and to disseminate research information.

Membership in P.F.R.A. is open to anyone with a sincere interest in the history of professional football or related subjects. Members receive: twelve issues of The Coffin Corner, the official newsletter/magazine of the P.F.R.A.; the opportunity to submit material to be considered for publication in the newsletter/magazine; an end of year Directory of Membership; a specially prepared association publication to be offered at the end of the year at a membership discount; and a P.F.R.A. Membership Card.

To join, write to P.F.R.A./ 218 Wise St., N.E./ N. Canton, O./ 44720.

To help defray operational expenses of the association, reasonable dues of \$15 per year have been set.



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