

RENAISSANCE MEN AND OTHERS

By Stan Grosshandler

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Once upon a time when the baseball season ended under the brilliant autumn sun, football started up as the leaves began to turn and ended with the traditional Turkey Day game, and basketball was the sport to while away the dreary hours of winter. Dinosaurs roamed the sports world. They were the men who played each sport in its season. They were the men for all seasons – true Renaissance Men!

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Amos Alonzo Stagg was one of the most innovative football coaches of all time. Starting out as a star player at Yale in the late nineteenth century, he was chosen as an end on the first Walter Camp All-American team. He started as coach at Chicago University in 1892 and held that post until he was asked to resign due to age in 1933. He then moved west to the College of the Pacific where he ran a successful program until again being forced to retire due to age in 1946.

At age 89 Stagg returned east to help his son coach the Susquehanna College team. When he finally decided to call it quits his victory total of 314 was higher than any other coach in the history of the game.

Stagg's talents were not confined to coaching football, as he coached seven championship basketball teams at Chicago, plus track. He was also an Olympic swimming coach. He is the only man to be elected to both the College Football and Basketball Halls of Fame.

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Hugo Bezdek is perhaps the least known yet most versatile of our Renaissance men. Born in Prague in 1884 he migrated to the University of Chicago, where he came under the influence of A.A. Stagg.

Bezdek coached at Oregon, Arkansas, Penn State and Delaware Valley, developing undefeated teams at the first two schools. He is the only man to take three different schools to the Rose Bowl. His 1917 Oregon squad beat Penn State 14-0.

The following year he coached the Mare Island Marines to a Rose Bowl victory over Camp Lewis, and finally his 1923 Penn State team went down to defeat at the hands of Southern Cal.

Bezdek served as manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1917 through 1919 and was the coach of the N.F.L. Cleveland Rams during the 1937 and 1938 seasons. He had not played either baseball or football on a major-league level.

The great Penn State star, Hinkey Haines, who played both major-league baseball and football, recalled his college career under Bezdek shortly before his death.

“Like most coaches of the era,” Haines said, “Bezdek tended to be a strict disciplinarian and somewhat of a martinet. The boys all felt he was a fair man and actually enjoyed playing for him.”

Bezdek is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame.

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Jim Thorpe has often been called America's greatest athlete. He first showed his football skills at Carlisle School, where he was chosen All-American halfback in both 1911 and 1912. He scored 25 touchdowns his senior year.

In the 1912 Olympics Thorpe captured both the pentathlon and the decathlon and was proclaimed by the host, the King of Sweden, as the greatest athlete in the world. His medals were eventually taken away from him forever when it was discovered that he had played minor-league baseball at Rocky Mount. Thorpe made no effort to deny this, as it was common practice amongst the college athletes of his time.

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When the American Professional Football League was formed in Canton in 1920, Jim was chosen the first President. He was a playing President, as he competed with various N.F.L. clubs over the years – Canton Bulldogs, Cleveland Indians, Oorang Indians, Toledo Maroons, Rock Island Independents, New York Giants, and Chicago Cardinals. He ended his career in 1928.

Jim joined the New York baseball Giants in 1913. He was traded to the Reds for the 1917 season; however, he was re-obtained by the Giants later that year and played in the World Series. Jim put in the 1918 season with the Giants and was traded during the 1919 season to the Braves. His career batting average was .252.

Thorpe's more notable baseball feat occurred during the 1917 season, while he was with the Reds. He drove in the winning run of the only double no-hit game ever played.

Thorpe, of course, is a charter member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

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Earle "Greasy" Neale starred as an end at West Virginia Wesleyan; however, on a Sunday he would play for the Canton Bulldogs under an assumed name. This was common practice and many collegiate stars would play for several teams under many names.

Upon graduating, Neale embarked on a long coaching career that took him to Muskingum, West Virginia Wesleyan, Marietta, Washington and Jefferson, Virginia, Yale, and West Virginia. His Washington and Jefferson team played a vastly superior California team to a 0-0 tie in the 1921 Rose Bowl.

While at Yale, Greasy coached Larry Kelley, one of the most colorful players in the history of Yale football.

"We all recognized that Greasy had a vast knowledge of the game," Larry recalled. "We also felt he would not be content to be an assistant and aspired to greater things. It came as no surprise to me that he became successful in both college and pro football."

Neale both played for and coached the Dayton Triangles in 1918. He later coached the Philadelphia Eagles from 1941 through 1950 in their most successful era. His 1947 team took the Eastern Division title, while the 1948 and 1949 teams were the N.F.L. champs.

An outfielder for the Cincinnati Reds, Neale played eight years in the National League, from 1916 through 1924. His career average was .259. However, in the infamous 1919 World Series he hit .357 to top his victorious teammates. Greasy also played in the double no-hit game, batting just ahead of Jim Thorpe.

The only man to coach in both a Rose Bowl and N.F.L. title game plus play in a World Series, Greasy is honored in both the College and Pro Halls of Fame.

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The Papa Bear, George Halas, is a true Renaissance Man. At the University of Illinois he starred as an end on the football team and continued to play the game when he joined the Navy in World War I. While at Great Lakes he went to the 1919 Rose Bowl, where he scored a touchdown as his team won.

Later in 1919 George played twelve games as a switch hitting rightfielder for the New York Yankees. A hip injury while sliding into third base at Cleveland ended his career with only a .091 average to show. The following season Babe Ruth was in right field for the Yanks and George returned to football.

He joined the Decatur Staleys, who later moved to Chicago to become the Bears. Halas both coached and played end for the Bears through 1929. During a game against Thorpe in 1923 he recovered a fumble and set a record with a 98-yard touchdown run. This stood until broken by Jack Tatum in 1972. Halas' explanation for the run was that Thorpe was chasing him and he was afraid Big Jim would catch him and break his leg.

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George Halas sat in on the famous 1920 meeting in Canton that witnessed the birth of what became the N.F.L. As owner-coach of the Bears he compiled 325 wins with eight divisional and six N.F.L. titles.

Halas has spent four different terms as Bears' head coach. His first stint was from 1920 to 1929, when he turned the team over to Ralph Jones. He took over again in 1933 and continued until he joined the Navy in 1942. Upon his return from the service in '46 he coached until '55. Finally there was a fourth term that lasted from 1958 through 1967.

George Halas also sponsored a basketball team in the early years of the pro game, using many of his football players.

George Halas is in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

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Ernie Nevers won eleven letters at Stanford University. His final collegiate appearance was in the 1925 Rose Bowl. Playing on two ankles that had been broken, he gained over 100 yards in a losing effort against Notre Dame.

Following the Rose Bowl he was offered \$25,000 to play for the Duluth Eskimos of the N.F.L. He also received another \$25,000 to pitch for the St. Louis Browns.

Ernie pitched for the Browns in 1926, 1927 and 1928. Hampered by a sore arm, he posted a 6-12 career record. He served Babe Ruth two of his famous 60 homers.

"It was a great thrill to play against people like Ruth, Gehrig, and Foxx," Ernie recalled. "However one of the most memorable experiences I ever had was when I was sent up to pinch hit against Walter Johnson. He sent two strikes by me so fast I never saw the ball. Then he called his catcher out to the mound. When the catcher came back he told me that Walter was going to put one right down the middle. I questioned him but he replied that if Walter says something he means it. Sure enough the next pitch came down the middle and I hit it up against the wall for a double. When I got to second Johnson was smiling for he had allowed a raw rookie to look good against the greatest pitcher in the game."

Nevers joined Duluth in the fall of 1926. A touring team, they started the 20th of September and never came home until February 5th, after a total of 29 games. Ernie missed only 29 minutes during the entire tour.

He played with Duluth again in 1927, coached at Stanford in 1928, but returned to play for the Chicago Cardinals from 1929 through 1931. His last two seasons were as playing coach. He was a bench coach with the Cards in 1939 and also coached in the A.A.F.C.

Ernie's greatest moment on the gridiron was in 1929, when on Thanksgiving Day he scored 40 points against the Bears (six touchdowns and four extra points). Only Dub Jones and Gale Sayers have duplicated the feat of scoring six touchdowns in a game.

"I remember that day well," said Joe Kopcha, a three-time Bear all-pro guard. "I spent the whole day being held by their great tackle Duke Slater. Finally Halas switched me to the other guard and I managed to get in and throw Ernie for a loss. I tried to add insult to injury by giving him an extra jolt after he was down. He just laughed and said his face was too pretty for me to want to injure. He certainly was one of the all time greats."

Nevers is in the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame. A tablet in the Baseball Hall of Fame lists the pitchers who served homers to Ruth during the 60-homer season, and of course Ernie is on it.

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Charlie Berry was picked at left end on the last official Walter Camp All-American team of 1924. Following the pattern of most athletes of that period, the former Lafayette star joined the Philadelphia Athletics as a catcher. Berry realized he could never beat out Mickey Cochrane, so he asked Connie Mack to trade him. He was farmed out and later sent to the Red Sox.

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Berry joined the Pottsville Maroons for the 1925 season. A teammate was the former Army great Walter French, who also happened to be his teammate on the Athletics. The Maroons had an outstanding season and Berry proved an exceptional receiver and kicker as he led the league in scoring with 74 points. He played one more year of pro football and then dedicated himself to the diamond sport.

Charlie caught for the Red Sox from 1928 to 1931, with his best season in '31, when he hit .283. He spent two years with the White Sox. There he shared the catching with Frank Grube. Grube had succeeded him at left end for Lafayette and also played some pro football.

Berry ended his active career with the A's and then remained as a coach until 1940. He also officiated both baseball and football. As an American League umpire he was in five World Series, while as an N.F.L. head linesman he called twelve championship games.

In 1958 Charlie Berry not only umpired the World Series, but was also one of the officials in the famous N.F.L. Colt-Giant sudden death game. Today he is in the College Football Hall of Fame.

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Another umpire who displayed his talents several ways was Charles Moran, a National League ump from 1917 to 1939. A graduate of Tennessee, he played baseball for the Cardinals in both the 1903 and '08 seasons and also was a member of the famed Massillon Tigers in 1905-06.

Called "Uncle Charley," Moran coached at Texas A.&M., Carlisle, Catawba, Bucknell, Nashville College, and Centre. It was at Centre that he became one of the legends of the game.

Arriving at the small school in 1919, he was fortunate to obtain two future greats in Bo McMillin and Red Weaver. His first team went 9-0 and two years later the small school gained national fame by handing mighty Harvard its first defeat in three years.

Uncle Charley would lead his team in prayer prior to games; and when the press found out, they were immediately dubbed the "Praying Colonels." Moran also coached the 1927 Frankfort Yellow Jackets of the N.F.L.

Centre's All-American Bo McMillin went on to become one of football's all-time great coaches in both the college and pro ranks. While at Centenary College, Bo discovered a young giant named Cal Hubbard who he took to Geneva College when he switched jobs.

Hubbard became a fine player and joined the New York Giants in 1927. A versatile man who played end, tackle, and linebacker, Cal played for the Packers and Pittsburgh before retiring in 1936.

Upon retirement from football, Cal became an umpire and served the American League until 1951, when he became the Chief Ump, a post he held until 1969. For his work as an umpire he has been voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Since his gridiron achievements also got him into the College and Pro Football Halls, he is the only man voted into three Halls of Fame.

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When Hank Soar had a disagreement with the athletic department at Providence College he left school and joined the Boston Shamrocks of the A.F.L. in 1936. The following year, because his class had graduated, he was eligible to join the New York Giants and began a long relationship with one of the great clubs of the era.

A two-way halfback, Hank was considered the team leader on defense. He told how he and Steve Owen would fight constantly, but Soar remained the coach on the field on defense. He also played a tailback position in Owen's complicated and unique A formation. His career lasted, with time out for military service, from 1937 to 1946. He had been able to get time off from the army to play, but one day when he had a good day he received tremendous publicity, which the army did not like, so he was sent overseas.

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In all, Hank Soar played in five N.F.L. title games, scoring the winning TD in the 1938 game against the Packers.

An A.L. umpire from 1950 to 1973, Hank Soar achieved one of his greatest sports thrills when as a first base ump he was part of the Don Larsen perfect game.

"I really only had one tough call that day," Hank stated. "In the second inning Jackie Robinson hit a ball that hit Andy Carey on the chest and bounded over to Gil MacDougald who threw him out. It was close but I had no doubt in my mind when I called it. No one protested so the call must of seemed fair to both teams. While I felt the strain, it was nothing compared to the pressure Babe Pinelli, behind the plate, was under. I really felt sorry for him. Naturally, we do not root for any team but when it was all over I was glad to see that Larsen had made it."

On his pro basketball experience: "I was helping out with the Providence Steamrollers of the B.A.A. during the 1947-48 season when the coach resigned. There was no one else to take over so I seemed the logical choice and coached for several games."

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The Professional Football Hall of Fame at Canton is loaded with Men for All Seasons. The addition of Red Badgro brings to seven the number who not only made it to the top on the gridiron, but also on the diamond.

Red Badgro of Southern Cal played with the Yankees in 1927, the Giants in 1930-35, Brooklyn in 1936 and Rochester of the A.F.L. in 1936. He also put in two seasons with the St. Louis Browns as an outfielder ('29-'30). A two-way end, Red was one of the top linemen of his time.

Like his close friend George Halas, Paddy Driscoll had a brief fling in the major leagues as a second baseman for the Cubs in 1917.

Ace Parker, Duke All American, started out in baseball as a shortstop for the 1937 Philadelphia A's. He played two years but broke his leg when farmed out. Ace is in the baseball record books as the first man in the history of the American League to appear at bat as a pinch hitter his first major league appearance and hit a home run. Ace is a member of both the College and Pro Halls of Fame.

Other Canton Celebrities who played in the majors were Thorpe, Neale, and Nevers. There is some evidence now that Nevers also played some pro basketball in the early years of the pro cage sport.

Cleveland Brown teammates and Hall of Famers Lenny Ford and Otto Graham also played some pro basketball. Lenny played for Dayton of the N.B.L. (1948-49), while Otto was a forward and guard with the Rochester team of the 1946 N.B.L.

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Cooperstown also has its share of two-sport players. The immortal Christy Mathewson had been a great fullback at Bucknell. During the 1902 football season he played for a Pittsburgh team against a Philadelphia team put together by Connie Mack. Lou Boudreau, a great basketball player at Illinois, played with Hammond of the N.B.L. in 1939-40, being a playing-coach part of the season.

There have been a total of 56 athletes who have played both major-league baseball and football. The only Heisman Award Winner amongst this group was Ohio State's Vic Janowicz, who took the award in 1950. A member of the College Hall of Fame, Vic played catcher and third base for the Pirates in 1953 and '54 with little success. He switched to the Redskins his next two years and in his second season with the 'Skins he was one of the top scorers in the N.F.L. An auto accident ended Vic's career prematurely.

The only man to play in a Super Bowl and in the American League was Tom Brown of the Green Bay Packers and Washington Senators, a Maryland grad. There was once a story that President Kennedy had followed Tom's career and when given his pass for the season the President asked if Tom would start. He did start, but soon was back in the minors. Joining the Packers the next year, he played in both Super Bowls with the Pack.

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Jim Castiglia, Steve Filipowicz, and Bert Kuczynski all played both major sports in the same city. In fact, Steve and Bert even went to college in the town where they played major-league sports.

Ox Eckhardt of Texas, whose career minor-league batting average of .367 is one of the all-time best, played with the N.F.L. Giants and both Boston and Brooklyn of the N.L.

Charles Dressen, who was to become a top third sacker and very successful major-league manager, was George Halas' quarterback on the Decatur Staleys. He also played two seasons with Racine. Dean Look, a present N.F.L. official, had a cup of coffee with the White Sox in 1961 and quarterbacked the New York A.F.L. club in 1962.

Two of the top collegians of the '20s – Walter French of Army and Hinkey Haines of Penn State – tried both. Walter spent seven years as an outfielder for Connie Mack's A's, while Hinkey was more successful at football, playing for the N.Y. Giants and Staten Island. A close friend of Ruth's, Hinkey told many Babe Ruth adventure stories. He also maintained he was the playing coach of the Giants, even if the records do not recognize this.

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In the early 1940's pro basketball was a disorganized game. There were several leagues and often leagues got lopsided with teams like New York and Boston playing the likes of Oshkosh and Sheboygan. Many pro baseball and football players entered the pro basketball arena, more as a way to stay in shape than with the intention of a career. In looking over the lists of two-way players, we find many well-known names.

Dual fame men in baseball and basketball include Frank Baumholtz, George Crowe, John Gee, Steve Hamilton, Bill McCahan (the only pro basketballer to pitch a no hitter), Irv Noren, Ron Reed, Del Rice, Red Rolfe, Howie Schultz, and movie star Chuck Connors.

Top footballers who played a little round ball were Bud Grant, who was a member of the Minneapolis Lakers 1951 N.B.A. championship team, Jack Dugger, Ted Fritsch, Vern Huffman, Bobby MacLeod, Joel Mason, Max Morris, Bob Shaw, Clint Wager, John Wiethe, and George Wilson.

Some of the Renaissance Men added greatly to our trivia lists. For example, there was the N.C. State star Connie Mack Berry. Connie played end for the Lions, Rams and Bears of the N.F.L., spent a year in the A.F.L of 1941 and the A.A.F.C. in 1946, plus time with Oshkosh and Chicago of the N.B.L.

Otto Schnellbacher, the Claw from Kansas, played with New York of the A.A.F.C. from 1948 to 1949. Then when the leagues merged, he was with the Giants from 1950 through 1951. A defensive back, Otto, along with Emlen Tunnell, Tom Landry and Harmon Rowe, composed the famous "Umbrella Backfield." He is the only man to lead two leagues in interceptions – the A.A.F.C. in 1948 and the N.F.L. in 1951. Otto played in the B.A.A. with Providence and St. Louis in 1949.

Bob Shaw, who holds the record for most TDs on pass receptions in one game, played in the N.B.L. and N.F.L. and then finished his career in Canada. George Wilson, who gained fame as the man who threw the key block in the famous 73-0 Bears game, played a year of basketball for Halas. A Bear end from 1937 through 1946, he later coached at Detroit and Miami, where his son was his quarterback.

The most recent, and probably the last of the Dinosaurs, were Ron Widby – who punted for Dallas and Green Bay and played in the A.B.A. – and Lonnie Wright, a Denver defensive back who also played in the late A.B.A.

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Ten college football coaches have both played and coached in the Rose Bowl. Wallace Wade was at right guard for Brown University in what was probably the first modern Rose Bowl. (There had been a hiatus between the Michigan-Stanford game of 1902 and this one.) Wallace was to return as head coach of Alabama in 1926, 1927 and 1931, and then as head mentor of Duke in 1939 and 1942.

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The 1939 game was lost in the last moments on the famous Doyle Nave-to-Al Kreuger pass, while the '42 game was the only Rose Bowl game not played in Pasadena. That game was moved to Duke, as the government did not want large crowds on the West Coast so close to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. At quarterback for Duke that day was Tommy Prothro. Tommy's Dad, James "Doc" Prothro, was a dentist who had played third base for the Senators, Red Sox and Reds, then managed the Phillies from 1939 through 1941. Tommy was to take Oregon State in 1957 and 1965 and U.C.L.A. in 1966 to the Bowl. He also became a successful N.F.L. coach.

The 1917 Penn team that played in the Rose Bowl had a tackle named Lou Little. Lou was to bring his Columbia team to the Bowl in 1934, when he engineered a great upset over Stanford.

The first man to bring his alma mater to the Bowl was Jess Hill of U.S.C. Jess was a halfback for the 1930 squad, and he also coached the '53 and '55 teams. He also played outfield in the American League between 1935 and 1937 for the Yanks, Senators and A's, hitting .289.

Others who have both played for and coached the same team in a bowl game include Chuck Taylor, a guard on the '41 Stanford team who brought the Indians back in '52, and Bump Elliott, a back on the '48 Michigan squad and its coach in 1965. Bump's brother Pete Elliott was also a back on the '48 squad. He returned to the Bowl with California in 1959 and Illinois in 1964.

Bill Barnes of the 1940 Tennessee team had the 1962 U.C.L.A. club. John Ralston, a successful N.F.L. coach, played for California in 1951 and then brought Stanford in 1971 and 1972. John Robinson played for Oregon in '58 and coached U.S.C. in 1977 and 1979.

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Between 1947 and 1958 the N.F.L. gave the lucky team that drew it a bonus choice that preceded the draft. The first such choice in 1947 was Bob Fenimore. Next were Harry Gilmer, Chuck Bednarik (Hall of Famer), Leon Hart, Kyle Rote, Billy Wade, Harry Babcock, Bobby Garrett, George Shaw, Gary Glick, Paul Hornung and King Hill, the last in 1958.

George Shaw is best remembered as the quarterback succeeded by John Unitas. When Unitas was released by the Steelers in 1954, the quarterbacks were Jimmy Finks, Ted Marchibroda, and Vic Eaton.

The three quarterbacks in the famed Forty-Niner Shot Gun formation of 1961 were John Brodie, who threw 14 TD passes, Billy Kilmer, who threw ten, and Bob Waters, with three.

The T formation dates back to the turn of the century. However it took Ralph Jones to reincarnate it for the 1930 Chicago Bears. His quarterback was Carl Brumbaugh, who it is felt was the first T formation QB to stand behind the center in the current fashion. The T gained tremendous popularity when the Bears with Luckman at quarterback routed the Redskins in the 1940 N.F.L. championship game and Stanford with Albert at quarterback and a backfield of Hugh Gallarneau, Norm Standlee and Pete Kmetovic beat Nebraska in the Rose Bowl.

In 1943 Frank Leahy shocked the football world in general and Notre Dame alumni in particular by scrapping the sacred Rockne Notre Dame box for the T. The first T quarterback was Angelo Bertelli, who also won the Heisman trophy that year.

The pros gradually swung to the T. Sammy Baugh and Frank Filchock handled it for the Redskins in 1944. Eddie LeBaron then succeeded Baugh in '53. The Giants drafted Charley Conerly to become their first T quarterback. The last team to switch was the 1952 Steelers, with Jimmy Finks as the initial T quarterback.

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The Joe Carr trophy, named for the first genuine President of the N.F.L., was awarded as an official N.F.L. M.V.P. award between 1938 and 1945. The first honored was Mel Hein. Parker Hall, a Cleveland rookie, received it in 1939. The next winners were Hall of Famers Ace Parker, Don Hutson (1941-42), Sid Luckman (1943), Bob Waterfield (1945) and Bill Dudley (1946).

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Bill Dudley, a member of both the Pro and College Halls of Fame, was an All-American at Virginia and joined the Steelers in 1942. That year he led the league in rushing. After several years in the Air Force he returned to lead the N.F.L. in both rushing and pass interceptions. This is the only time in history a man has led a team in an offensive and a defensive category the same season.

The 1944 M.V.P. was Frank Sinkwich. As a junior at Georgia he led the nation in rushing with 1000 yards. The next season he set a total offense record and won the Heisman Award. He is the only Heisman Award winner who was also an official N.F.L. M.V.P.

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The first three-end formation appeared October 30, 1949, when the Los Angeles Rams used Bob Shaw, Elroy Hirsch, and Tom Fears at the same time against the 49ers. Shaw still holds a record of five TD pass receptions in the single game, while Hirsch is the last man to lead the N.F.L. in scoring on pass receptions alone.

The first man to rush for 1000 yards in the N.F.L. was Beattie Feathers. Steve Van Buren is the first man to do it twice. He, Jim Taylor and Jim Brown are the only players to lead the N.F.L. in rushing and scoring the same year. Tony Canadeo became the first man to rush for a thousand and yet not win the rushing title. All are in the Pro HOF. In 1941 Pug Manders led the N.F.L. in rushing with 486 yards, the smallest total ever to lead the league.

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Members of the College Hall of Fame who played major-league baseball include Harry Agganis (Boston U.-QB), who played first for the Red Sox in '54 and '55. Harry died an untimely death during the 1955 season. Paul Giel (Minnesota-HB) pitched for the New York and San Francisco Giants, Pittsburgh, Minnesota and Kansas City, 1954-61. He is now athletic director at his alma mater.

Fred Sington (All-American tackle at Alabama) played for Washington in 1934-37 and Brooklyn in 1938-39. Eric Tipton (Duke-HB) was with Philadelphia in 1939-41 and with Cincinnati in 1942-45. Ace Parker and Charlie Berry have already been mentioned.

Francis Wistert pitched for Cincinnati in 1933. He and his brothers Albert and Alvan are all in the College Football Hall of Fame. All played for Michigan and all played tackle. Albert played nine years for the Eagles.

Bob Reynolds, also a member of the College HOF, was President of the California Angels. Bob is the only man to have played 60 minutes in three consecutive Rose Bowls – 1933, 1934 and 1935.

* * *

Paul Brown won league championships in the A.A.F.C. and the N.F.L. Weeb Ewbank took titles in the N.F.L. and the A.F.L.

Byron "Whizzer" White led the nation in four categories in 1937, the first year the N.C.A.A. kept official statistics. He played in the 1938 Cotton Bowl and took his team to the finals of the first N.I.T.

Obtaining the highest salary ever paid in the N.F.L. to that time, he joined the 1938 Pittsburgh Pirates and led the league in rushing. He returned to the N.F.L. in 1940 with the Lions and again led the league in rushing. He was the only man to win the rushing crown while playing for two different teams.

White was a Rhodes scholar. He was later appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Kennedy.

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The only two linemen to win the Heisman trophy were Larry Kelley of Yale and Leon Hart of Notre Dame, both ends.

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Jay Berwanger of Chicago was the first Heisman winner and the first man drafted by the N.F.L. When he won the award it was called the Down Town A.C. Award. It did not become the Heisman until the following year. That first season only players east of the Mississippi were eligible.

Bill Kazmier of Princeton is the last single-wing tailback to win the Heisman and the last winner not to attempt the N.F.L.

College Hall of Fame quarterbacks Bobby Layne, Sid Luckman and John Lujack all were with the 1948 Bears. Layne and Luckman are also in the Pro HOF, while Lujack was a Heisman trophy winner.

Bruiser Kinard (Mississippi-T) is in both the Pro and College Halls of Fame. He was the only man elected to all-star teams in both the N.F.L. and the A.A.F.C. prior to the 1950 merger.

Hobey Baker of Princeton is in both the College Football HOF and the Hockey HOF.

Guy Chamberlin is in both football Halls of Fame. He is the only N.F.L. coach to win titles four of his first five years – with Canton in 1922 and 1923, Cleveland in 1924, and Frankford in 1926.

Fritz Pollard (Brown-HB), of the College Hall of Fame, played in the 1916 Rose Bowl and by virtue of coaching Akron is the first black coach in the N.F.L.

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Lew Carpenter is the only man to appear on three different teams in N.F.L. title games. He played for the Lions, Browns and Packers. Preston Pearson appeared with three different clubs in the Super Bowl – Baltimore, Dallas, and Pittsburgh. George Blanda also has been with three different title teams, playing in the championship game for the Bears, Houston and Oakland. George Musso, a tackle on the 1934 Bears and guard on the 1941 Bears, is the only player to play on two undefeated teams, neither of which were N.F.L. champs.

The only player to rush for 1000 yards in the A.A.F.C. was Spec Sanders. He led the league in rushing twice. In 1950 with the Yanks in the N.F.L. he was tops in interceptions. Thus he led two different leagues in different categories.

Placekicker Ben Agajanian is the only player to score points in the A.A.F.C., A.F.L, and N.F.L. Linebacker Hardy Brown also played in all three leagues. Connie Mack Berry – who also played professional basketball and football – is another player with experience in three major leagues – the third A.F.L., A.A.F.C., and N.F.L.

Players who played the entire ten years of the last A.F.L. were quarterbacks Lee, Blanda, Kemp and Parilli, ends Cappelletti and Maynard, guard Hawkins, linebackers Grantham, Jacobs and Maguire, tackles Rochester, Hunt, Mix and Wright, center Otto, and safety Robinson.

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Below is a list of Renaissance men and the teams they played for.

BASEBALL-FOOTBALL

1. CLIFF ABERSON -- none
B.: Chi. N. 47-49 of
F.: G.B. 46 hb
2. RED BADGRO – So. Cal.
B.: St.L. A. 29-30 of
F.: N.Y.Y. 27-28; N.Y.G. 30-35; Bkln. 30 e
Pro FB Hall of Fame
3. NORMAN BASS – U. of Pacific
B.: K.C. 61-63 p

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- F.: Denver AFL 64 dh
4. CHARLES BERRY -- Lafayette
B.: Phil. A. 25, 34-38; Bos. A. 28-32; Chi. A. 32-33 c
F.: Pottsville 25-26 e
College FB Hall of Fame
Member last Walter Camp All-American Team 24
Official – Umpire AL, Official NFL. Officiated in both World Series and NFL title game.
 5. JOE BERRY – Penn & Muhlenberg
B.: N.Y.G. 21-22 inf
F.: Rochester 21 hb
 6. LARRY BETTENCOURT – St. Marys
B.: St.L. A. 28, 31-32 3b-of
F.: G.B. 33 c
 7. TOM BROWN -- Maryland
B.: Wash. 63 lb
F.: G.B. 64-68; Wash. 69 db
 8. GARLAND BUCKEYE -- none
B.: Wash. 18; Clev. 25-28; N.Y.Y. 28 p
F.: Chi. Tigers 20; Chi. Cards 21-24; Chi. AFL 26 g
 9. BRUCE CALDWELL -- Yale
B.: Clev. 28; Bkln. 32 of
F.: N.Y. 28 wb-tb
 10. JIM CASTIGLIA -- Georgetown
B.: Phil. A. 42
F.: Phil. 41, 45-46; Bal. AAFC 47; Wash. 47-48 hb
 11. CHUCK CORGAN -- Arkansas
B.: Bkln. 25-27 of
F.: K.C. 24-25; Hartford 26; K.C. 26; N.Y.G. 27 e
 12. PAUL DESJARDIEN – Chicago U.
B.: Clev. 16 p
F.: Chi. Tigers 20 (P-C); Minn. 22 g
Walter Camp All-American 13
 13. CHARLES DRESSEN -- none
B.: Cinc. 25-31; N.Y.G. 33 3b
Mgr. – Cinc. 34-37; Bkln. 51-53; Wash. 55-57; Milw. Braves 60-61; Det. 61-63
F.: Decatur 20; Racine 22-23 bb-qb
 14. PADDY DRISCOLL -- Northwestern
B.: Chi. N. 17 2b
F.: Decatur 20, Chi. Cards 20-25, Chi. Bears 26-29 hb
Pro and College FB Halls of Fame
 15. OSCAR ECKHARDT -- Texas
B.: Bos. N. 32; Bkln. 36 of
F.: N.Y.G. 28 hb
 16. STEVE FILIPOWICZ -- Fordham
B.: N.Y.G. 44-45; Cinc. 48 of-c
F.: N.Y.G. 45-46 qb

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17. PAUL FLORENCE -- Loyola
B.: N.Y.G. 26 c
F.: Chi. Cards 20 e
18. WALTER FRENCH -- Army
B.: Phil. A. 23-29 of
F.: Rochester 22, Pottsville 25 hb
Walter Camp All-American 20, 21
19. WALTER GILBERT -- Valparaiso
B.: Bkln. 28-31; Cinc. 32 inf
F.: Duluth 23-26 hb
20. FRANK GRUBE -- Lafayette
B.: Chi. A. 31-33, 35-36; St.L. A. 34-35, 41 c
F.: N.Y.Y. 28 e
21. BRUNO HAAS -- Worcester
B.: Phil. A. 15 p
F.: Clev. 21, Akron 21 hb
22. HENRY "HINKEY" HAINES -- Penn State
B.: N.Y.Y. 23 of
F.: N.Y.G. 25-28; Staten I. 29, 31 hb
Walter Camp 3rd team All-American and NFL official
23. GEORGE HALAS -- Illinois
B.: N.Y.Y. 19 of
F.: Hammond 19, Decatur 20, Chi. Bears 21-29 e
Coach and owner, Bears
Pro FB Hall of Fame
24. CARROLL HARDY -- Colorado
B.: Clev. 58-60; Bos. A. 60-62; Hous. 63-64; Minn. 67 of
F.: S.F. 55 hb
25. VIC JANOWICZ -- Ohio State
B.: Pitt. 53-54 c-3b
F.: Wash. 54-55 hb
Heisman Award Winner 50
College FB Hall of Fame
26. BERT KUCZYNSKI -- Penn
B.: Phil. A. 43 p
F.: Det. 43, Phil. 46 e
27. REX JOHNSTON -- So. Cal.
B.: Pitt. 64 of
F.: Pitt. 60 hb
28. PETE LAYDEN -- Texas
B.: St.L. A. 48 of
F.: N.Y. AAFC 48-49; N.Y.Y. 50 hb
29. JIM LEVEY -- none
B.: St.L. 30-33 ss
F.: Pitt. 34-36 hb
30. DEAN LOOK -- Michigan State
B.: Chi. A. 61 of

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- F.: N.Y. AFL 62 qb
Official NFL
31. WALLY MAC PHEE – C.C.N.Y., Princeton
B.: N.Y.G. 22 inf
F.: Providence 26 hb
32. WALTER MASTERS -- Penn
B.: Wash. 31; Phi. N. 37, 39 p
F.: Phil. 36; Chi. Cards 43; Card-Pitt 44 hb
33. JOHN MOHARDT – Notre Dame
B.: Det. 22 2b
F.: Chi. Cards 22-23, Racine 24, Chi. Bears 25; Chi. AFL 26 hb
34. EARLE “GREASY” NEALE – W. Va. Wesleyan
B.: Cinc. 14-24; Phil. N. 21 of
F.: Canton 16-17; Dayton 18 (P-C) hb
Coach – Phil. 40-50; W&J in Rose Bowl
College and Pro FB Halls of Fame
35. ERNIE NEVERS -- Stanford
B.: St.L. A. 26-28 p
F.: Duluth 26-27, Chi. Cards 29-31 (P-C 30-31) b
Coach – Chi. Cards 39
College and Pro FB Halls of Fame
36. OSSIE ORWOLL -- Luther
B.: Phi. A. 28-29 p
F.: Milw. 26 hb
37. CLARENCE “ACE” PARKER -- Duke
B.: Phil. A. 37-38 ss
F.: Bkln. 37-41; Bos. 45; N.Y. AAFC 46 hb
College and Pro FB Halls of Fame
38. AL PIEROTTI – W. & L.
B.: Bos. N. 20-21 p
F.: Clev. 20; Milw. 22-24; Bos. AFL 26; Providence 27; Bos. 29 c-g-t
39. PID PURDY -- Beloit
B.: Chi. A. 26; Cinc. 27-29 of
F.: G.B. 26-27 bb
40. DICK REICHLE -- Illinois
B.: Bos. A. 22-23 of
F.: Milw. 23 e
41. JOHN SCALZI -- Georgetown
B.: Bos. N. 31 ph
F.: Bkln. 31 hg
42. RICHARD “RED” SMITH – Notre Dame
B.: N.Y.G. 27 c
F.: G.B. 27-29; N.Y.Y. 28; Newark 30; N.Y.G. 31 hb
43. EVAR SWANSON -- Lombard
B.: Cinc. 29-30; Chi. A. 32-34 of
F.: Milw. 24; Rock Island 25; Chi. Cards 25-27 e

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44. JIM THORPE -- Carlisle
B.: N.Y.G. 13, 15, 17, 19; Cinc. 17; Bos. N. 19 of
F.: Canton 20 (P-C); Clev. 21-23 (P-C); Oorang 22-23 (P-C); Rock Island 24; N.Y.G. 25; Rock
Island 25; Canton 26; Chi. Cards 28 b
Walter Camp All-American 11, 12
College and Pro FB Halls of Fame
45. ANDY TOMASIC -- Temple
B.: N.Y.G. 49 p
F.: Pitt. 42, 46 hb
46. LOUIS URBAN -- Boston College
B.: Bos. N. 27-28 c
F.: Buff. 21-23 e
47. JOE VANCE -- S.W. Texas
B.: Chi. A. 35, N.Y.Y. 37-38 p
F.: Bkln. 31 hb
48. ERNIE VICK -- Michigan
B.: St.L. N. 22, 24-26 c
F.: Det. 25; Chi. Bears 27-28; Det. 28 c
49. TOM WHALEN -- Georgetown
B.: Bos. N. 20 1b
F.: Canton 20; Clev. 21 e-c
50. SAMUEL "MIKE" WILSON -- Lehigh
B.: Pitt. 21 c
F.: Rock Island 23-24 e
51. AB WRIGHT -- Oklahoma A. & M.
B.: Clev. 35; Bos N. 44 of
F.: Frankford 30 hb
52. TOM YEWICIC -- Michigan State
B.: Det. 57 c
F.: Bos. AFL 61-66 qb
53. RUSS YOUNG -- none
B.: St.L. A. 31 c
F.: Dayton 25 hb

FOOTBALL-BASKETBALL

1. NEAL ADAMS -- Arkansas
B.: Oshkosh NBL 43 f-c
F.: N.Y.G. 42-44; Bkln. AAFC 46-47 e
2. LOU BARLE -- Minnesota-Duluth
B.: Oshkosh NBL 40-43 f
F.: Det. 38; Clev. 39 bb-db-lb
3. CONNIE MACK BERRY -- N.C. State
B.: Oshkosh NBL 40-44; Chi. NBL 45-46 f-c
F.: Det. 39; Clev. 40; Chic. AAFC 47; Chi Bears 42-46; AFL 1941 e
4. COOKIE CUNNINGHAM -- Ohio State
B.: ABL 26-31; Columbus NBL 37-38 f-c
F.: Clev. 27; Chi. Bears 29; Staten Island 31 e

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5. ARMAND CURE – Rhode Island
B.: Providence BAA 47 f
F.: Bal. AAFC 47 hb
6. JACK DUGGER – Ohio State
B.: Syracuse NBL 47 f-c
F.: Buff. AAFC 46; Det. 47-48; Chi. Bears 49 t-e
7. DICK EVANS -- Iowa
B.: Sheboygan NBL 41; Hammond NBL 41; Chicago NBL 42-43; Pitt. NBL 45 c-f
F.: G.B. 40; Chi. Cards 41-42; G.B. 43 e-db
8. LEN FORD -- Michigan
B.: Dayton NBL 48-49 c-f
F.: L.A. AAFC 48-49; Clev. 50-57; GB 58 oe-de
Pro FB Hall of Fame
9. TED FRITSCH – Wisconsin-Stevens Point
B.: Oshkosh NBL 45-47 g
F.: G.B. 42-50 fb
10. OTTO GRAHAM -- Northwestern
B.: Rochester NBL 46 f-g
F.: Clev. AAFC 46-49; Clev. 50-55 qb
Coach – Wash. 66-68
College and Pro FB Halls of Fame
11. HARRY “BUD” GRANT -- Minnesota
B.: Minn. 51 f
F.: Phil. 51-52; Wpg 53-56 e
Coach – Winnipeg CFL 57-66; Minn. 67-81
12. VERNON HUFFMAN -- Indiana
B.: Indiana NBL 39 f
F.: Det. 37-38 qb
13. BOB McLEOD -- Dartmouth
B.: Chi. 40 f
F.: Chi. Bears 39 hb
14. JOEL MASON – W. Michigan
B.: Sheboygan 43 g
Coach – Det. NBL 46-47
F.: Chi. Cards 39; Milw. AFL 40; N.Y. AFL 41; G.B. 42-45
College FB Hall of Fame
15. MAX MORRIS – Illinois & Northwestern
B.: Chi. BAA 47; Sheboygan NBL 48-49; Sheboygan NBA 50 f-c
F.: Chi. AAFC 46-47; Bkln. AAFC 48 e
16. FRANK SACHSE – Texas Tech
B.: Oshkosh NBL 44-45
F.: Bkln. 43-44, Bos. 45 hb
17. OTTO SCHNELLBACHER -- Kansas
B.: Providence BAA 49; St.L. BAA 49 f-g
F.: N.Y. AAFC 48-49; N.Y.G. 50-51 db-oe
18. BILL SCHROEDER -- Wisconsin

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- B.: Sheboygan NBL 47 g
F.: Chi. AAFC 46-47 hb
19. BOB SHAW – Ohio State
B.: Clev. NBL 46; Youngstown NBL 46; Toledo NBL 47 c-f
F.: Clev. 45; L.A. 46-49; Chi. Cards 50; Calgary CFL 51-53; Toronto CFL 53
20. PAUL SHEEKS – Dakota Wesleyan & So. Dakota
B.: Akron NBL 28-41 (HC)
F.: Akron 19, 21-22 (P-C 21-22) hb
21. HANK SOAR -- Providence
B.: Providence BAA 48 (HC)
F.: Bos. AFL 36; N.Y.G. 37-44, 46
Baseball umpire
22. GEORGE SVENDSEN -- Minnesota
B.: Oshkosh NBL 38 c-f
F.: G.B. 35-37, 40-41 c
23. CLINT WAGER – St. Mary's, Minnesota
B.: Oshkosh NBL 44-48; Hammond 49; Ft. Wayne NBA 50 f
F.: Chi. Bears 42; Chi. Cards 43; Card-Pitt 45 e
24. RON WIDBY -- Tennessee
B.: New Orleans ABA 68 f
F.: Dal. 68-71; G.B. 72-73 p
25. JOHN WIETHE -- Cincinnati
B.: Chi. 38 (P-C) g-f
F.: Det. 39-42 g
26. GEORGE WILSON -- Northwestern
B.: Chi. NBL 40 f
F.: Chi. Bears 37-46 e
Coach – Det. 57-64; Miami AFL 66-69
27. LONNIE WRIGHT – Colorado State
B.: Denver ABA 68-71; Florida ABA 71-75 f
F.: Denver AFL 66-67 db

Acknowledgements

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