

The Team That Time Forgot

The Final Season of the Staten Island Stapletons

By Bob Gill

EDITOR'S NOTE: In a 1985 *Coffin Corner* article (Vol. VII, nos. 11-12), John Hogrogian chronicled the Staten Island Stapletons' rise from neighborhood semi-pro team to NFL franchise. That account ended with the Stapletons' withdrawal from the NFL. Their final season, played independently, was covered in a brief epilogue. The following article completes the Staten Island story with a detailed account of the team's last go-round.

* * * *

As far as I can tell, the last team to drop out of the NFL and continue as an independent was the Staten Island Stapletons. It happened in 1933, and the fact that we have to go back more than a half-century to find such a thing is testimony to the league's success in establishing itself as king of the hill. In the early years, of course, it wasn't unusual for teams to drop out in pursuit of their own agenda; but in the 1930s that practice went the way of the dropkick.

A law of gridiron economics was born: If you can't make a go of it with the big boys, you sure can't do it on your own. And if anyone happened to doubt that claim, Staten Island was Exhibit A.

The Stapletons weren't a terrible NFL team, finishing in the middle of the pack for most of their stay in the league. And they featured two genuine stars in backs Ken Strong and Doug Wycoff, college All-Americans from NYU and Georgia Tech, respectively. But a poor 1932 season (their only last-place finish) combined with Depression economics prompted owner Dan Blaine to get the league's permission to suspend his franchise for a year and operate on his own.

The fact that the local team no longer wore a "major league" label didn't concern the Staten Island *Advance*, which continued its policy of printing complete play-by-play accounts of all Stapleton games in 1933. Thanks to the newspaper, and the efforts of John Hogrogian, we have a full record of the Stapes' final season.

It wasn't the NFL, but it wasn't bad, either.

To the casual observer, things didn't look much different in Staten Island as the 1933 season got under way. The team lost its top drawing card when Strong signed with the New York Giants, but a good many players returned to Blaine's team. Of the 28 players who appeared with the Stapes in 1933, 11 had played with them in official NFL games – most notably fullback Wycoff, who doubled as player-coach, and quarterback Bob Campiglio, listed for years as the NFL's rushing leader for 1932.

Halfbacks Jack McDonald and Bill McNamara rounded out the starting backfield. Center Jack McArthur anchored a line that also included guards Ollie Satenstein, Marne Intriери and Hank DeFina, tackles Ernie Concannon and George Sherwood, and ends Mike Stramiello, Al Kanya and George Demmy.

Despite dropping out of the league, Blaine still booked six games with NFL teams, filling out the schedule with several of the strong independent teams that flourished in greater New York at the time.

The season opened Sept. 13 with a Wednesday night game against the New York Giants at Thompson's Stadium, the Stapes' home field. After a couple of mediocre years, the Giants had assembled a powerhouse team, with Michigan All-American Harry Newman joining Strong to form the NFL's best one-two offensive punch. Strong didn't play against his former teammates, but he didn't need to. Newman passed for 117 yards and a touchdown, rushed for 30 more, and returned punts for 94 in leading the Giants to an easy 12-0 win.

The Stapes did little to excite the crowd of 5,000, but their defense wasn't bad and Wycoff punted well, averaging 42 yards on nine kicks.

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 5 (1990)

Sept. 13 **New York** 0 0 6 6 - 12
 Staten Island 0 0 0 0 - 0

NY - Richards 60 pass from Newman (Newman XPM)
 NY - Molenda 30 int return (Molenda XPM)

	NY	SI
Rushes-yards	29-96	27-63
Passing	6-14-2	1-11-2
Passing Yards	122	7
Punts-average	3-38	11-40.4

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEW YORK Rushing: Newman 8-30 yds; Rovinski 4-23. Passing: Newman 5-13-2, 117 yds. Receiving: Richards 2-83 yds; Badgro 2-24. Punt returns: Newman 5-94 yds.

STATEN ISLAND Rushing: McNamara 10-31 yds; Wycoff 6-20. Punting: Wycoff 9-42.0 avg.

Four days later the Stapes visited the Bayonne Vikings, members of the new Interstate Football League, formed from the ashes of the 1932 Eastern Football League, the first attempt at organizing the top teams in the area – an effort that would result three years later in the formation of the American Association, one of the finest minor leagues in the history of pro football. But that was in the future, and in September 1933, despite the efforts of backs Eddie Dubinsky and Abe Margolies, the Vikings were overmatched against Wycoff's men.

Wycoff did most of the damage himself, plunging for two touchdowns. But the most exciting play was turned in by tackle George Sherwood, who took a short kickoff to start the second half and lumbered 78 yards for the game's final score. The Stapes prevailed easily.

Sept. 17 **Staten Island** 7 6 7 0 - 20
 Bayonne 0 0 0 0 - 0

SI - Wycoff 2 run (McDonald)
 SI - Wycoff 1 run (McDonald XPM)
 SI - Sherwood 78 KO return (McDonald)

	SI	Bay
Rushes-yards	28-92	23-23
Passing	3-14-3	2-4-0
Passing Yards	52	49
Punts-average	4-34	6-32.7

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

STATEN ISLAND Rushing: Wycoff 12-44 yds; Irving 7-24; Campiglio 8-21. Passing: Wycoff 3-10-1, 52 yds. Punt returns: Campiglio 3-51 yds.

BAYONNE Rushing: Dubinsky 8-17 yds. Passing: Margolies 2-4-0, 49 yds. Punting: Margolies 6-32.7 avg. INT: Margolies 2.

Back home for another Wednesday night game, the Stapes took on the Paterson Giants, another IFL team. A crowd of 2,500 saw the home team roll to a 20-0 win that was even easier than the score indicated. Wycoff, Campiglio and McNamara led the way as the Stapes rushed for 300 yards and limited Paterson to 24 yards of total offense.

Sept. 20 **Paterson** 0 0 0 0 - 0
 Staten Island 0 0 7 13 - 20

SI - McNamara 1 run (Intrieri)
 SI - Campiglio 6 run (Intrieri)
 SI - Wycoff 37 run (Intrieri)

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 5 (1990)

	Pat	SI
Rushes-yards	20-24	52-300
Passing	0-8-1	2-11-0
Passing Yards	0	30
Punts-average	5-37.4	2-47.5

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PATERSON Rushing: Kemp 9-29 yds. Punting: Brown 4-36.5 avg.

STATEN ISLAND Rushing: Wycoff 18-131 yds; Campiglio 15-95; McNamara 17-69.
Receiving: Campiglio 2-30 yds. Punting: Wycoff 2-47.5 avg.

On Sunday the Stapes took on yet another IFL team when the Passaic Red Devils invaded Thompson's Stadium. Led by ex-NFL player Frank Kirkleski, the Devils were arguably the league's best team (9-4-1 overall for 1932 and '33 in the IFL and its forerunner, the EFL). But they had little success against the Stapes. Kirkleski had a miserable day passing, and Passaic's only threat came in the third quarter when Jack Liddy completed a 57-yard pass to the Staten Island 4-yard line. But three rushes lost nine yards, and McNamara intercepted a fourth-down pass to end the threat.

Bob Campiglio was the star for the Stapes, running for two touchdowns, returning kicks effectively, and even catching a couple of passes. Wycoff took most of the day off, possibly discouraged when the Devils picked off two of his three passes.

Sept. 24	Passaic	0	0	0	0	-	0
	Staten Island	7	0	0	7	-	14

SI - Campiglio 10 run (Intrieri)
SI - Campiglio 12 run (Intrieri)

	Pas	SI
Rushes-yards	20-11	33-126
Passing	2-17-5	4-10-3
Passing Yards	76	52
Punts-average	6-41.3	4-37

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PASSAIC Rushing: Kirkleski 6-23 yds. Passing: Kirkleski 1-13-3, 19 yds.
Punting: Kirkleski 5-40.2 avg.

STATEN ISLAND Rushing: Campiglio 9-47 yds; McNamara 11-44. Passing: McNamara 2-4-0, 31 yds; Finn 2-2-0, 21 yds. Receiving: Campiglio 2-39 yds. Punt returns: Campiglio 4-66 yds. INT: Finn 2.

Next to visit Staten Island were the New Rochelle Bulldogs, 1932 EFL champions, who had returned to independent status for 1933 when the league was reorganized. The invaders put up a fight, too. Though outgained by better than 2-to-1, they kept the Stapes out of scoring territory for most of the game. One problem for the home team was the absence of Campiglio, who was suffering from a heavy cold.

Also absent was a large part of the anticipated crowd. Despite the attraction of "Ladies' Night," the attendance was described as very disappointing - "as it has been in all games played thus far," the *Advance* noted ominously.

After a scoreless first half, the Stapes made their move early in the second; sparked by newly signed halfback Jim Murphy, who got a chance to play in Campiglio's place. First Murphy passed to quarterback Bernie Finn for a 27-yard gain to the New Rochelle 23. Then, carrying on five of the next six plays, he moved the ball to the 4-yard line. When the attack stalled, guard Marne Intrieri stepped back to the 12 and booted a field goal for the game's only score.

Sept. 27	New Rochelle	0	0	0	0	-	0
	Staten Island	0	0	3	0	-	3

SI - Intrieri 12 FG

	NR	SI
Rushes-yards	20-13	42-131

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 5 (1990)

Passing	8-14-1	1-8-1
Passing Yards	53	27
Punts-average	8-38.8	6-38.3

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEW ROCHELLE Rushing: Cherin 8-20 yds. Passing: Scalzi 4-7-0, 39 yds; Cherin 4-5-0, 14. Receiving: Battle 4-23 yds; Lippoth 2-24. Punting: Scalzi 6-41.5 avg.

STATEN ISLAND Rushing: Wycoff 11-53 yds; McNamara 12-41; Murphy 10-25. Punting: Wycoff 5-39.2 avg. Punt returns: Finn 4-60 yds.

Four days later, on Sunday, the Stapes took on the Brooklyn Dodgers, their second NFL opponent. Unfortunately, the result this time was much like the earlier game: The Dodgers registered a convincing 17-0 win.

As they did against the New York Giants, the Stapes held their own on the ground, but once again the NFL team's superiority in the air proved decisive.

In the second quarter, a pass from Benny Friedman to Shipwreck Kelly gained 42 yards to the Staten Island 6-yard line. After three running plays went nowhere, Friedman booted a field goal to give the Dodgers a lead they never lost. And in the game's final minutes Kelly took a short toss from Chris Cagle and went all the way for a 74-yard scoring play.

(Besides his pass receiving, rushing and punting, Kelly also managed to complete a 23-yard pass – to Friedman, of all people.)

The Stapes made one serious threat, marching 58 yards to the Brooklyn 17 early in the final period, but the drive ended when Bull Karcis picked off Jim Murphy's fourth-down pass at the 5-yard line. Murphy's passing proved particularly unsuccessful: Another of his wayward tosses was returned for Brooklyn's other touchdown.

Oct. 1	Brooklyn	0	10	0	7 - 17
	Staten Island	0	0	0	0 - 0

Bkn - Friedman 17 FG
 Bkn - Morrison 60 int return (Friedman)
 Bkn - Kelly 74 pass from Cagle (Friedman)

	Bkn	SI
First downs	8	8
Rushes-yards	29-84	40-103
Passing	6-12-0	1-7-2
Passing Yards	179	10
Punts-average	7-40.9	9-38.3

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

BROOKLYN Rushing: Karcis 6-29 yds; Fishel 5-21; Kelly 9-14. Passing: Cagle 3-7-0, 105 yds; Friedman 2-3-0, 51. Receiving: Kelly 2-114 yds. Punting: Kelly 5-41.4 avg.

STATEN ISLAND Rushing: Wycoff 10-34 yds; G. Cronin 11-34. Punting: Wycoff 9-38.3 avg.

A crowd of 3,200 attended the game. The *Advance*, changing its tune, called the turnout "exceptionally good, considering all the counter -attractions throughout the Island."

With no Wednesday night game that week, the Stapes had a full seven days to recuperate before their next game, with the Philadelphia Eagles, one of the NFL's three new teams for 1933. This time the Staten Island passing attack hit rock bottom – three attempts, three interceptions – but the visitors were almost as bad. The Eagles had a slight edge on the ground, but it wasn't enough.

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 5 (1990)

Toward the end of the first quarter, Jim Murphy broke loose for a 30-yard run to the Philadelphia 7-yard line. Wycoff blasted to the 2, then to the 1. Campiglio was stopped for no gain, but Wycoff went over on fourth down for the game's only score.

The Eagles threatened to tie the game early in the second half, but turned the ball over on downs inside the Stapes' 20. Late in the third period, Philadelphia drove to the Staten Island 5-yard line, led by a back identified only as "Myer." (My guess is that this was Jodie Whire.) But three line plays lost a total of three yards, and Murphy batted down Myer's fourth-down pass in the end zone to end the visitors' last serious threat.

Oct. 8	Philadelphia	0	0	0	0 - 0
	Staten Island	0	7	0	0 - 7

SI - Wycoff 1 run (Intrieri)

	Phi	SI
First downs	7	4
Rushes-yards	51-154	50-129
Passing	3-19-2	0-3-3
Passing Yards	34	0
Punts-average	8-39.1	12-38.1

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PHILADELPHIA Rushing: Hanson 8-59 yds; Roberts 14-56; Myer 17-45. Passing: Myer 2-8-1, 27 yds. Punting: Hanson 4-39.0 avg.

STATEN ISLAND Rushing: Murphy 12-55 yds; Wycoff 14-42; Campiglio 12-16. Punting: Wycoff 11-38.2 avg.

Blaine had lined up a game with the Cincinnati Reds, another NFL "expansion team," for Tuesday night, Oct. 17. For a tuneup, he booked the Perth Amboy Clovers for a Sunday game two days before that. Allegedly "unbeaten in the last two years and unscored upon this season," the Clovers were distinctly out of their class against Blaine's team. The result was a 41-0 rout.

Campiglio picked up 77 yards on 12 carries to lead the ground game. But the real surprise was the Stapes' passing attack, which amassed 176 yards on 8 completions, including three touchdowns: Wycoff to fullback George Cronin, Jimmy Irving to Campiglio, and Wycoff to Mike Stramiello.

Finally the Stapes seemed to be rounding into offensive form, and the prospects for a win over Cincinnati looked promising. Unfortunately, the Reds' trip to the Island was canceled.

Next week the Stapes had another breather on their schedule: a date with the Temple Club of Philadelphia. They had to play without Bob Campiglio, who was sold to the Boston Redskins on Saturday afternoon. (Ollie Satenstein had left for the New York Giants a week earlier.) But after a surprisingly close first half, the home team exploded for four touchdowns in the final two periods and a 33-2 win.

Newly signed Tommy Whalen, replacing Campiglio in the backfield, ran 35 yards for the first score. George Cronin paced the ground attack with 74 yards on 11 carries, including a 36-yard scoring run of his own, and Wycoff chipped in with 7 carries for 67 yards. Again the Stapes' passing attack showed signs of life, with 6 completions for 108 yards, including a touchdown pass from Bernie Finn to Bill McNamara.

After two easy workouts against inferior opposition, the Stapes returned to serious action Oct. 29 when the Portsmouth Spartans came to Thompson's Stadium. In their best performance of the season, the Stapes outplayed the invaders throughout, but came up short as a result of two turnovers and a disputed call. For the first time all year Blaine's team outpassed an NFL opponent, and if not for the efforts of Bernie Finn, who had two of his three passes intercepted, the gap would have been greater.

Portsmouth scored first, recovering McNamara's fumble on the opening kickoff and driving 33 yards to pay dirt. In the third quarter the Stapes thought they had the tying touchdown when Jack McDonald went over after taking a fourth-down pass from Wycoff. But after a discussion the officials disallowed the score, and the Spartans took over on their 4-yard line. Then, early in the final period, Glenn Presnell picked off one of Finn's passes and went in for an easy touchdown.

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 5 (1990)

With Wycoff running very well, the home team fought back, finally scoring on a Wycoff-to-McDonald pass in the game's waning moments. But Portsmouth was able to run out the clock after the ensuing kickoff, and the Stapes wound up on the short end of a 14-7 score.

Oct. 29	Portsmouth	7	0	0	7 - 14
	Staten Island	0	0	0	7 - 7

Por - Caddell 1 run (Presnell)
Por - Presnell 20 int return (Presnell)
SI - McDonald 36 pass from Wycoff (McDonald)

	Por	SI
First downs	6	7
Rushes-yards	30-117	32-90
Passing	2-6-1	5-15-2
Passing Yards	14	60
Punts-average	7-45.3	8-36.4

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PORTSMOUTH Rushing: Gutowsky 13-65 yds; Schaake 3-22; Caddell 3-18; Presnell 7-16. Passing: Presnell 2-5-1, 14 yds. Punting: Cavosie 3-44.3 avg; Wilson 2-44.0. Punt returns: Presnell 2-33 yds.

STATEN ISLAND Rushing: Wycoff 16-74 yds. Passing: Wycoff 5-12-0, 60 yds. Receiving: McDonald 3-53 yds. Punting: Wycoff 6-38.0 avg.

Despite an announced attendance of 6,000 at the Portsmouth game, which, if accurate, would have been the best turnout of the season, players and management held a meeting two days later to decide on the feasibility of completing the season. The results of the meeting, as reported in the *Advance*, have an implausible air to modern fans accustomed to unions, agents and hardball negotiations: "The players were willing to make certain concessions in order that the promoters might receive a 'break.'"

Concessions or not, the upshot of the meeting was that there would be no game for the following week, and that the team would seek a few road dates, in hopes that the resulting guarantees would be an improvement over the poor receipts from home games.

At the same time, Dan Blaine announced that he would allow lineman and kicker Marne Intrieri to accept "an attractive offer" from the Boston Redskins. Thus Intrieri joined former teammate Bob Campiglio with the NFL club.

With no game scheduled that weekend, several of the Stapes' players picked up a welcome extra paycheck with other teams in the area. Jack McDonald and Bill McNamara took the field with the Paterson Nighthawks against the Orange Tornadoes. George Cronin, Jerry Cronin, Tommy Whalen and Al Kanya joined the Clifton Wessingtons for an IFL game with the Paterson Giants (the Nighthawks' rivals, who the Stapes had played earlier in the season). George Cronin scored the lone Clifton touchdown in a 7-6 win. After the game, he and Whalen stayed to finish out the season with the IFL club.

The other moonlighting players returned to the Stapes for the following week's game, and for McDonald and McNamara that meant a return trip to Orange. The Stapes' hosts, the Tornadoes, were a new team, but closely related to the club that played in the NFL representing Orange in 1929, Newark in 1930. After a two-year hiatus manager Edwin "Piggy" Simandl had reorganized the team, featuring several veterans from 1929-30 and a supporting cast that changed from week to week (the Tornadoes used more than 50 players that season). Their star was Jack Grossman, a triple-threat back from Rutgers via the Brooklyn Dodgers.

The Stapes got the game's first break, recovering a fumble in Orange territory midway in the opening period and driving to a first down on the 5-yard line. But the Tornadoes stiffened and stopped them two yards short of a touchdown.

In the second quarter the Stapes got going again, this time from their own 47. Wycoff completed three passes and capped the drive by going over from a yard out. McDonald missed the extra point.

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 5 (1990)

Then, in an unusual development for 1933, Orange took the ensuing kickoff and marched 62 yards for a matching score. Grossman completed three passes (his total for the day) to ends Ken McNeil and Herman "Jitty" Wishnevsky, cut off tackle for the last two yards, then added the extra point.

As it turned out, that kick won the game. But the 6,000 in attendance (many of them from Staten Island) couldn't have believed it until the final gun had sounded, because the Stapes always seemed on the verge of another score as they "paraded up and down the field all afternoon," registering a season-high 17 first downs and completing 12 passes (all by Wycoff).

Late in the fourth quarter they made their last serious threat, driving to a first down on the Orange 12-yard line. According to the *Advance*, "everyone expected Doug Wycoff to call for a field goal try," but kicker Marne Inrieri was sitting on the Redskins' bench at the Polo Grounds, and Wycoff chose to go for a touchdown.

McNamara picked up a yard; a pass to McDonald was incomplete. Then, on third down, another pass hit guard Hank DeFina, an ineligible receiver. Per 1933 rules, that violation gave the ball to Orange. Two plays later the game was over.

Nov. 12	Staten Island	0	6	0	0 - 6
	Orange	0	7	0	0 - 7

SI - Wycoff 1 run (McDonald XPM)
Ora - Grossman 2 run (Grossman)

	SI	Ora
First downs	17	3
Rushes-yards	45-141	16-18
Passing	12-24-1	4-6-1
Passing Yards	109	50
Punts-average	2-22	5-41.4

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

STATEN ISLAND Rushing: Wycoff 23-76 yds; McNamara 10-54. Passing: Wycoff 12-21-1, 109 yds. Receiving: McDonald 5-43 yds; McNamara 2-26; Ware 2-18. Punt returns: Irving 2-26 yds.

ORANGE Rushing: Grossman 7-14 yds. Passing: Grossman 3-5-1, 51 yds. Receiving: McNeil 2-23 yds. Punting: Grossman 5-41.4 avg.

Despite a decent turnout, and presumably a decent share of the gate for the visiting Stapes, the *Advance* reported at the end of its game account that "the owners ... will huddle tonight to discuss the possibilities of playing any more this season." They decided to go on, and during the week actually signed three new players: guard Henry Obst, back Paddy Ryan, and handyman Mayes "Chief" McClain, a colorful veteran of two NFL seasons, including part of 1931 with Staten Island.

The team needed the reinforcements, having never replaced halfbacks Jim Murphy, who departed in late October, or Tommy Whalen, now playing with Clifton. On top of that, quarterback Bernie Finn had suffered a couple of cracked ribs against Orange and was gone for the season. So was lineman Mike Mazurki, who left during the week to join a pro wrestling tour out west.

Mazurki, already a veteran of the wrestling world, wasn't through with football; he resurfaced with Passaic in 1936, the American Association's inaugural season. But he attained more lasting success as a character actor, playing an assortment of thugs and underworld types in movies and television for the next three decades.

His replacement, Obst, wasn't a wrestler; but on Sunday he turned into a boxer, and in the process cost the Stapes a victory.

Visiting the Brooklyn Bay Parkways, another team that would be a charter member of the American Association three years later, the Stapes dominated the game from start to finish, making 17 first downs (obviously an unlucky number), but failed to score. Four times in the first half they were inside the enemy's 20-yard line, and four times they came up empty. The closest call came just before the half ended, when Wycoff tossed a pass to end George Demmy, who hauled it in just beyond the back line of

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 5 (1990)

the end zone. Though the play came on second down, under 1933 rules it was a touchback, and the Bay Parkways were able to run out the clock.

Taking the second-half kickoff, the Stapes mounted their best drive of the game – and, as it turned out, their last.

Led by new acquisition Paddy Ryan, they marched from their own 34 to a first down on the home team's 2-yard line. Brooklyn guard Jerry Shaw spilled Ryan for a two-yard loss; then Ryan was stopped for no gain. On third down he squirmed to within a yard of the end zone – but as the players unpiled, Obst hauled off and kayoed the Bay Parkways' other guard, Joe Gallo. The Stapes were penalized half the distance to their goal line (another unforgiving rule of the time) and never threatened again.

The *Advance* analyzed the game's key play this way:

"It seems that Gallo had been continually pushing Obst all through the game, and unnecessarily. He continued to do it until the former Syracuse player lost his head completely, and landed the knockout blow. Gallo was flattened, but he had the honor of saving his team from being defeated."

Nov. 19	Staten Island	0	0	0	0	0	- 0
	Brooklyn	0	0	0	0	0	- 0
				SI			Bkn
	First downs			17			3
	Rushes-yards			50-211			15-(-2)
	Passing			3-17-3			2-9-1
	Passing Yards			47			39
	Punts-average			4-40			8-34.8

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

STATEN ISLAND Rushing: Wycoff 18-84 yds; Ryan 17-79; Irving 9-38. Passing: Wycoff 3-14-3, 47 yds. Receiving: McNamara 2-35 yds. Punting: Wycoff 2-51.5 avg.

BROOKLYN Passing: Margolies 2-5-0, 39 yds. Punting: Margolies 8-34.8 avg.

In three straight games the Stapes had outgained their opponents but failed to win. The game against Portsmouth may still have been a moral victory, but there was no such consolation to be taken from the debacles in Orange and Brooklyn.

Hoping to erase one blot on his team's record, Blaine booked the Tornadoes into Thompson's Stadium for a rematch on Nov. 26. Two days before the game, in a effort to add scoring punch, he signed back Bill Pendergast, who had just finished his senior season as captain of Manhattan College's eleven.

Pendergast was a success in his debut, tallying a fourth-quarter touchdown on a 17-yard run, but as it turned out the Stapes didn't need him. By then McNamara had already scored three times, Wycoff twice; Pendergast's run was just the final touch in a 33-6 rout. The scoring drought had ended with a bang.

Nov. 26	Orange	0	0	6	0	- 6
	Staten Island	6	13	7	7	- 33
	SI - McNamara 4 run (McDonald XPM pass)					
	SI - Wycoff 1 run (McDonald)					
	SI - McNamara 1 run (McDonald XPM)					
	Ora - Wermuth 27 pass from Grossman (Grossman XPM)					
	SI - McNamara 2 run (McDonald)					
	SI - Pendergast 17 run (McDonald)					
				Ora		SI
	First downs			2		12
	Rushes-yards			19-35		41-133
	Passing			4-8-2		8-15-0
	Passing Yards			36		91
	Punts-average			5-29.8		4-36

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 5 (1990)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

ORANGE Rushing: Grossman 6-24 yds. Passing: Grossman 4-8-2, 36 yds. Receiving: Wermuth 3-39 yds. Punting: Grossman 4-28.3 avg. KO returns: Grossman 2-54 yds.

STATEN ISLAND Rushing: McNamara 14-47 yds; Wycoff 13-36; Pendergast 5-23; McDonald 5-18. Passing: Wycoff 6-9-0, 53 yds. Receiving: Stramiello 2-23 yds; McDonald 2-20; Ware 2-16. Punting: Wycoff 3-34.0 avg. KO returns: Pendergast 2-57 yds. INT: McDonald 2.

Four days later the Stapes took the field for their final home date, a Thanksgiving Day game with the Green Bay Packers. Despite the high hopes of local fans, this one went sour early.

On the third play from scrimmage, Clarke Hinkle picked off a pass by Paddy Ryan and went 50 yards to give the Packers a lead they never relinquished. Late in the first half Arnie Herber, not known as a runner, went off tackle for 25 yards and another score.

Despite being outgained for the first time in more than a month, the Stapes battled back in the third quarter. Stalled on his own 26, Wycoff punted 67 yards to Roger Grove on the Packers' 7-yard line; and when Grove tried to outflank the Stapes' coverage, Mike Stramiello downed him on the 3. Net yardage on the punt: 71 yards. After Hinkle punted, the Stapes drove to a first down on the 18-yard line; but the drive stalled, and a fourth-down pass was incomplete, giving the Packers the ball on the 14.

When the Stapes got the ball back, Wycoff completed three straight passes to move the team deep into Green Bay territory again, then called his own number on two more plays to pick up a first down on the 11-yard line. But Al Sarafiny picked off a pass on the 8 to end the Stapes' last real threat.

In the game's waning moments the Packers mounted another drive that culminated in a scoring toss from Hank Bruder to Hinkle. Grove added his third extra point for a final score of 21-0.

Nov. 30	Green Bay	7	7	0	7 - 21
	Staten Island	0	0	0	0 - 0

GB - Hinkle 50 int return (Grove)
GB - Herber 25 run (Grove)
GB - Hinkle 5 pass from Bruder (Grove)

	GB	SI
First downs	11	10
Rushes-yards	38-173	33-53
Passing	5-12-1	9-23-3
Passing Yards	63	101
Punts-average	5-42	6-42.8

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

GREEN BAY Rushing: Goldenberg 13-57 yds; Hinkle 12-56; Herber 8-50. Passing: Herber 4-11-1, 58 yds. Receiving: Dilweg 2-29 yds. Punting: Herber 3-39.0 avg; Hinkle 2-46.5.

STATEN ISLAND Rushing: Wycoff 13-15 yds; Ryan 7-14; Pendergast 5-12; McDonald 7-11. Passing: Wycoff 8-20-2, 85 yds. Receiving: McNamara 4-35 yds; Ryan 2-29. Punting: Wycoff 6-42.8 avg. KO returns: McNamara 3-73 yds.

On Sunday the Stapes traveled to New Rochelle for a rematch with the Bulldogs. With backs Pat Hurley, Bill Martin and Mickey Leone leading the way, the home team put up another tough battle before falling by a 10-0 score.

Early in the second quarter the Stapes moved close enough for Jack McDonald to boot a field goal. Moments later Bill McNamara picked off a pass by Leone and raced 40 yards for a touchdown to end the day's scoring.

Still the Stapes kept knocking at the door. Right after McNamara's score, McDonald intercepted a pass by Johnny Scalzi and returned it to the New Rochelle 26-yard line. On second down Wycoff hit Mayes

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 5 (1990)

McClain in the end zone, but the former Haskell Indian dropped it. Under 1933 rules, that gave the ball to New Rochelle on a touchback.

Midway in the third period, George Demmy recovered a fumbled snap on the New Rochelle 1-yard line. The Stapes were poised for another score, but four line plays gained only two feet. Scalzi punted to midfield, and the threat was over.

Those near misses could have been costly, but New Rochelle was never able to put together a sustained drive, largely because the Stapes intercepted six passes. Wycoff snagged two, and the other four went to the "Mac Pack": McArthur, McClain, McDonald and McNamara.

Oct. 1	Staten Island	0	10	0	0	-	10
	New Rochelle	0	0	0	0	-	0

SI - McDonald 19 FG
 SI - McNamara 40 int return (McDonald)

	SI	NR
Rushes-yards	30-94	20-34
Passing	5-15-2	10-24-6
Passing Yards	42	84
Punts-average	4-39	4-36.8

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

STATEN ISLAND Rushing: Wycoff 7-27 yds; Pendergast 9-25; Ryan 9-23; McDonald 5-19. Passing: Wycoff 5-12-1, 42 yds. Receiving: McNamara 3-26 yds; McDonald 2-16. Punting: Wycoff 3-42.7 avg. INT: Wycoff 2.

NEW ROCHELLE Rushing: Hurley 10-29 yds. Passing: Leone 7-14-3, 55 yds; Scalzi 2-6-1, 34. Receiving: Martin 5-40 yds; Hurley 2-24. Punting: Scalzi 3-35.3 avg.

One game remained on the Staten Island schedule: a Dec. 10 rubber match with the Orange Tornadoes. It could have made an interesting historical footnote, because stories in the Newark papers indicated that Blaine was dickering with Fordham's Ed Danowski, who had just completed his final college season. But cold weather forced the game's cancellation, bringing the Stapes' final season to a less-than-heroic conclusion.

At this point, let's pick up the story in John Hogrogian's 1985 *Coffin Corner* article:

"Blaine went through the formality of again getting NFL permission to suspend league operations for 1934, but he had no team at all during the season. In June of 1935, Blaine's franchise was finally declared forfeit."

Actually, pro football continued on Staten Island for the next few years. A new team, the Stapleton Buffaloes, appeared in 1935 and even joined the American Association for its debut in 1936 before pulling out over a scheduling dispute early in the 1937 season. But Dan Blaine's Stapletons, the team that had grown from humble beginnings to compete against the NFL's best, were gone for good.

Sept. 13	H	0	New York Giants	12	5,000
Sept. 17	A	20	Bayonne Vikings	0	1,800
Sept. 20	H	20	Paterson Giants	0	2,500
Sept. 24	H	14	Passaic Red Devils	0	2,000
Sept. 27	H	3	New Rochelle Bulldogs	0	---
Oct. 1	H	0	Brooklyn Dodgers	17	3,200
Oct. 8	H	7	Philadelphia Eagles	0	---
Oct. 15	H	41	Perth Amboy Clovers	0	---
Oct. 17	H	--	Cincinnati Reds	--	can.
Oct. 22	H	33	Temple Club	2	---
Oct. 29	H	7	Portsmouth Spartans	14	6,000
Nov. 12	A	6	Orange Tornadoes	7	6,000
Nov. 19	A	0	Brooklyn Bay Parkways	0	2,500
Nov. 26	H	33	Orange Tornadoes	6	7,000
Nov. 30	H	0	Green Bay Packers	21	4,000

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 5 (1990)

Dec. 3	A	10	New Rochelle Bulldogs	0	3,500
Dec. 10	A	--	Orange Tornadoes	--	can.

Player	Pos	Hgt	Wgt	Age	College
Bob Campiglio	QB	6-1	190	25	W. Liberty St.
George Chalmers	G-T	6-0	195	24	NYU
Ernie Concannon	T-G	6-0	210	24	NYU
George Cronin	FB-HB		192		Rutgers
Jerry Cronin	E	6-0	190	23	Rutgers
Hank DeFina	G-T		205		Tulane
George Demmy	E-T		200		none
Egan	HB		180		Loyola
Bernie Finn	QB	5-10	185	26	Holy Cross
Jack Hurdle	E		200		Duke
Marne Intrieri	G-C	5-8	209	25	Loyola (Balt.)
Jimmy Irving	HB-QB		185		California
Al Kanya	E-T	6-0	200	25	Syracuse
Mike Mazurki	T-G		210		Manhattan
Jack McArthur	C	5-11	235	29	St. Mary's
Mayes McClain (Chief)	HB-E-G	6-3	225	26	Haskell; Iowa
Jack McDonald	HB-QB		195		NYU
Bill McNamara	HB		190		NYU
Dick Murphy	G				NYU
Jim Murphy	HB		198		Fordham
Henry Obst	G	5-11	192	25	Syracuse
Bill Pendergast	HB-QB		195		Manhattan
Paddy Ryan	HB-FB				Holy Cross
Ollie Satenstein	G	6-0	230	27	NYU
George Sherwood	T-G		210		Columbia
Mike Stramiello	E	6-1	205	26	Colgate
Duke Ware	HB-FB		185		Texas
Tom Whalen	HB	5-8	165	23	Catholic U.
Doug Wycoff	FB	6-0	210	29	Georgia Tech

Passing	Att	Com	Pct.	Yds	Avg	TD	Int
Bernie Finn	16	3	18.4	31	1.9	0	5
Jack McDonald	4	1	25.0	26	6.5	0	0
Bill McNamara	9	4	44.4	60	6.7	0	1
Jim Murphy	6	1	16.7	27	4.5	0	3
Paddy Ryan	11	1	9.1	16	1.5	0	2
Doug Wycoff	121	44	36.4	468	3.9	1	12
Team	173	54	31.2	628	3.6	1	25
Opponents	155	54	34.8	799	5.1	4	25

Rushing	Att	Yds	Avg	TD	Punt	Avg
Bob Campiglio	53	192	3.6	3		
George Cronin	15	42	2.8	0		
Bernie Finn	22	39	1.8	0		
Jimmy Irving	36	104	2.9	0	3	33.7
Jack McDonald	21	48	2.3	0		
Bill McNamara	96	324	3.4	4		
Jim Murphy	24	70	2.9	0	1	34
Bill Pendergast	19	60	3.2	1		
Paddy Ryan	36	125	3.5	0		
Duke Ware	6	7	1.2	0	7	32.6
Tom Whalen	6	6	1.0	0		
Doug Wycoff	166	648	3.9	6	64	39.3
Team	503	1666	3.3	14	76	38.3
Opponents	330	780	2.4	3	77	38.5

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	TD
Bob Campiglio	6	90	15.0	0
Jerry Cronin	1	15	---	0
Bernie Finn	4	46	11.5	0

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 5 (1990)

Al Kanya	1	26	----	0
Mike Mazurki	1	8	----	0
Jack McDonald	14	149	10.6	1
Bill McNamara	11	122	11.1	0
Bill Pendergast	2	22	11.0	0
Paddy Ryan	3	55	18.3	0
Mike Stramiello	4	43	10.8	0
Duke Ware	6	49	8.3	0
Tom Whalen	1	3	----	0
Team	54	628	11.6	1
Opponents	54	799	14.8	4

Returns	Punt	Yds	Avg	KO	Yds	Avg
Bob Campiglio	13	184	14.2	3	66	22.0
George Cronin				2	48	24.0
Bernie Finn	11	146	13.3	4	70	17.5
Jimmy Irving	6	55	9.2			
Bill McNamara				13	279	21.5
Jim Murphy				2	51	25.5
Bill Pendergast	5	17	3.4	4	105	26.3
Paddy Ryan	1	15	----			
George Sherwood				2	90	45.0
Team	41	428	10.4	31	711	22.9
Opponents	30	281	9.4	20	423	21.2

Scoring	TD	XP-A	FG-A	Pts	INT
Bob Campiglio	3	--	--	18	1
George Cronin	-	--	--	0	1
Jerry Cronin	-	--	--	0	1
Hank DeFina	-	--	--	0	2
George Demmy	-	--	--	0	1
Egan	-	--	--	0	1
Bernie Finn	-	--	--	0	3
Marne Intrieri	-	5-6	1-1	8	-
Jack McArthur	-	--	--	0	2
Jack McDonald	1	7-11	1-5	16	4
Chief McClain	-	--	--	0	1
Bill McNamara	5	--	--	30	2
Jim Murphy	-	--	--	0	1
Bill Pendergast	1	--	--	6	-
George Sherwood	1	--	--	6	-
Doug Wycoff	6	--	--	36	5
Team	17	12-17	2-6	120	25
Opponents	11	8-11	1-3	77	25

Statistics include all games except Oct. 15 and 22. Those were the epics with Perth Amboy and the Temple Club.

Team totals don't always add up, because players with fewer than 10 yards in a category are omitted (except in receiving), unless it's a dual list and they qualify for the other category. Egan, who punted once for 30 yards, also got left out.