

## **IN THE BEGINNING**

**Famous (or forgotten) firsts for every NFL franchise**

By Tod Maher

The following is a comprehensive listing of various first games played by every member, past and present, of the National Football League; its predecessor, the American Professional Football Association; and the American Football League, which merged with the NFL in 1970.

Each team's first game ever, first league game, first home league game, first league win and first playoff game are listed. In some cases, one game fills more than one category. A few historical notes are also included.

When first ever is in italics, that means it's the earliest known game for that team, but there are earlier games that aren't documented yet.

The years of a team's APFA / NFL membership are given in parenthesis, as are the scores of the games involved.

### **AKRON PROS / INDIANS (1920-25 / 26)**

First ever, Oct. 3, 1920, vs Wheeling Stogies (43-0; first league, home, and win, Oct. 10, 1920, vs Columbus Panhandles (37-0).

### **ATLANTA FALCONS (1966-)**

First ever, Aug. 1, 1966, vs Philadelphia Eagles (7-9); first league, home, Sept. 11, 1966, vs Los Angeles Rams (14-19); first win, Nov. 20, 1966, at New York Giants (27-16); first playoff, Dec. 24, 1978, vs Philadelphia Eagles (14-13).

### **BALTIMORE COLTS (1950)**

The Colts were members of the rival All-America Football Conference, 1947-49.

First ever, Aug. 22, 1947, vs Buffalo Bisons at Hershey, Pa. (29-20); first league, home, Sept. 17, 1950, vs Washington Redskins (14-38); first win, Nov. 5, 1950, vs Green Bay Packers (41-21).

### **BALTIMORE COLTS (1953-83)**

First ever, Aug. 15, 1953, vs Philadelphia Eagles at Norfolk, Va. (7-10); first league, home and win, Sept. 27, 1953, vs Chicago Bears (13-9).

### **BOSTON BULLDOGS (1929)**

First ever, league, Oct. 6, 1929, at Orange Tornadoes (0-7); first home, win, Oct. 13, 1929, vs Dayton Triangles (41-0).

### **BOSTON BRAVES / REDSKINS (1932 / 33-36)**

First ever, Sept. 25, 1932, at Providence Steam Roller (6- 9); first league, home, Oct. 2, 1932, vs Brooklyn Dodgers (0-14); first win, Oct. 9, 1932, vs New York Giants (14-6); first playoff, Dec. 13, 1936, vs Green Bay Packers at New York (6-21).

### **BOSTON / NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (1960-)**

First ever, July 30, 1960, at Buffalo Bills (28-7); first league, home, Sept. 9, 1960, vs Denver Broncos (10-13) - AFL game; first win, Sept. 16, 1960, at New York Titans (28-24); first playoff, Jan. 5, 1964, at San Diego Chargers (10-51).

### **BOSTON YANKS (1944-48)**

First ever, Sept. 3, 1944, at Sampson (N.Y.) Naval Training Station (14-0); first league, home, Sept. 26, 1944, vs Philadelphia Eagles (7-28); first win, Oct. 29, 1944, at Brooklyn Tigers (17-14).

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### **BROOKLYN DODGERS / TIGERS (1930-43 / 44)**

First ever, league, Sept. 21, 1930, at Chicago Bears (0-0); first home, Oct. 12, 1930, vs Newark Tornadoes (32-0); first win, Oct. 5, 1930, at Staten Island Stapletons (20-0).

### **BROOKLYN LIONS (1926)**

In midseason the Lions merged with their AFL rivals, the Brooklyn Horsemen. The combined team played out the season in the NFL.

First ever, league, Sept. 26, 1926, at Providence Steam RoBer (0-13); first home, win, Oct. 10, 1926, vs Hartford Blues (6-0).

### **BUFFALO ALL-AMERICANS / BISONS / RANGERS (1920-23 / 24-25 / 26)**

First ever, Oct. 3, 1920, vs West Buffalo (32-6); first league, home and win, Oct. 31, 1920, vs Rochester Jeffersons (17-6).

### **BUFFALO BILLS (1960-)**

First ever, July 30, 1960, vs Boston Patriots (7-28); first league, Sept. 11, 1960, at New York Titans (3-27) - AFL game; first home, Sept. 18, 1960, vs Denver Broncos (21-27); first win, Sept. 23, 1960, at Boston Patriots (13-0); first playoff, Dec. 26, 1964, vs San Diego Chargers (20-7).

### **CANTON BULLDOGS (1920-23)**

The Bulldogs were formed in 1911 as the Canton Professionals. They became the Bulldogs in 1915.

First ever, Sept. 24, 1911, vs Akron Tigers (5-0); first league, home and win, Oct. 17, 1920, vs Cleveland Tigers (7-0).

### **CANTON BULLDOGS (1925-26)**

The NFL's second incarnation of the Bulldogs continued playing in 1927 as an independent team.

First ever, Sept. 20, 1925, vs Massillon Blues (27-0); first league, home and win, Sept. 27, 1925, vs Rochester Jeffersons (14-7).

### **CHICAGO BEARS (1922-)**

First ever, league and win, Oct. 1, 1922, at Racine Legion (6-0); first home, Oct. 15, 1922, vs Rochester Jeffersons (7-0); first playoff, Dec. 18, 1932, vs Portsmouth Spartans (9-0).

### **CHICAGO CARDINALS (1919-59)**

The Cardinals date their history back to 1899 and the Morgan Athletic Club. In 1920 they were actually named the Racine Cardinals, but newspapers from other towns referred to them as the Chicago Cardinals, since few outside the city knew that Racine was a section of Chicago and not just a town in Wisconsin. In 1921 the team adopted the name Chicago Cardinals.

First ever, Oct. 5, 1919, vs Hammond All-Stars (0-0); first league, Oct. 10, 1920, at Chicago Tigers (0-0); first home, win, Oct. 31, 1920, vs Detroit Heralds (21-0); first playoff, Dec. 28, 1947, vs Philadelphia Eagles (28-21).

### **CINCINNATI BENGALS (1968-)**

First ever, Aug. 3, 1968, vs Kansas City Chiefs (14-38); first league, Sept. 6, 1968, at San Diego Chargers (13-29) - AFL game; first home, win, Sept. 15, 1968, vs Denver Broncos (24 10); first playoff, Dec. 26, 1970, at Baltimore Colts (0-17).

### **CINCINNATI CELTS (1921)**

The Celts played a final season in 1922 after dropping out of the league.

First ever, Oct. 25, 1914, at Detroit Heralds (0-13); first league, Oct. 2, 1921, at Akron Pros (0-41); first win, Oct. 16, 1921, at Muncie Flyers (14-0). Played no home games as a league member.

### **CINCINNATI REDS (1933-34)**

First ever, league, Sept. 17, 1933, at Portsmouth Spartans (0-21); first home, Oct. 8, 1933, vs Chicago Cardinals (0-3); first win, Nov. 12, 1933, at Chicago Cardinals (12-9).

### **CLEVELAND BROWNS (1950-)**

The Browns were members of the rival All-America Football Conference, 1946-49, winning the championship each year.

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First ever, Aug. 30, 1946, vs Brooklyn Dodgers at Akron (35-20); first league, win, Sept. 16, 1950, at Philadelphia Eagles (35-10); first home, Oct. 1, 1950, vs New York Giants (0-6); first playoff, Dec. 24, 1950, vs Los Angeles Rams (30-28).

### **CLEVELAND BULLDOGS (1924-25)**

First ever, league, home and win, Oct. 5, 1924, vs Chicago Bears (16-14).

### **CLEVELAND BULLDOGS (1927)**

First ever, league, Sept. 25, 1927, at Green Bay Packers (7-12); first home, Oct. 2, 1927, vs New York Giants (0-0); first win, Oct. 16, 1927, at New York Giants (6-0).

### **CLEVELAND INDIANS (1923)**

First ever, league, Oct. 7, 1923, at Rock Island Independents (0-0); first home, win, Oct. 21, 1923, vs St. Louis All-Stars (6-0).

### **CLEVELAND INDIANS (1931)**

First ever, league, Sept. 13, 1931, at Green Bay Packers (0-26); first home, win, Sept. 26, 1931, vs Brooklyn Dodgers (6-0).

### **CLEVELAND RAMS (1937-45)**

The Rams were members of the rival American Football League in 1936.

First ever, Sept. 27, 1936, at Canton Clothiers (52-0); first league, home, Sept. 10, 1937, vs Detroit Lions (0-28); first win, Sept. 21, 1937, at Philadelphia Eagles (21-3); first playoff, Dec. 16, 1945, vs Washington Redskins (15-14).

### **CLEVELAND TIGERS (1920-21)**

First ever, Oct. 12, 1919, at Massillon Tigers (0-3); first league, Oct. 10, 1920, vs Dayton Triangles (0-0); first home, win, Oct. 31, 1920, vs Columbus Panhandles (7-0).

### **COLUMBUS PANHANDLES / TIGERS (1920-22 / 23-26)**

First ever, Oct. 9, 1904, vs Columbus Barracks (32-0); first league, Oct. 3, 1920, at Dayton Triangles (0-14); first home, Nov. 6, 1921, vs Akron Pros (0-21); first win, Dec. 4, 1921, at Louisville Brecks (6-0).

### **DALLAS COWBOYS (1960-)**

First ever, Aug. 6, 1960, vs San Francisco 49ers at Seattle (10-16); first league, home, Sept. 24, 1960 vs Pittsburgh Steelers (28-35); first win, Sept. 17, 1961, vs Pittsburgh Steelers (27-24); first playoff, Jan. 1, 1967, vs Green Bay Packers (27-34).

### **DALLAS TEXANS (1952)**

First ever, Aug. 29, 1952, vs Philadelphia Eagles at Odessa (7-24); first league, home, Sept. 28, 1952, vs New York Giants (6-24); first win, Nov. 30, 1952, vs Chicago Bears at Akron (27-23).

### **DALLAS TEXANS (1960-62)**

First ever, July 31, 1960, at Oakland Raiders (20-13); first league, Sept. 10, 1960, at Los Angeles Chargers (20-21) - AFL game; first home, Sept. 25, 1960, vs Los Angeles Chargers (17-0); first win, Sept. 16, 1960, at Oakland Raiders (34-16); first playoff, Dec. 23, 1962, at Houston Oilers (20-17).

### **DAYTON TRIANGLES (1920-29)**

The Triangles were formed in 1913 as the St. Mary's Cadets. In 1915 they became the Gym-Cadets, and in 1916 they changed their name to the Triangles.

First ever, Oct. 12, 1913, vs Maxwells (43-0); first league, home and win, Oct. 3, 1920, vs Columbus Panhandles (14-0).

### **DECATUR STALEYS (1920-21)**

According to all available information, the 1921 Staleys were not officially a Chicago team, but still represented Decatur.

First ever, Oct. 2, 1920, vs Waukegan American Legion (35-0); first league, win, Oct. 17, 1920, at Rock Island Independents (7-0); first home, Nov. 21, 1920, vs Hammond Pros (28-7).

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## **DENVER BRONCOS (1960-)**

First ever, Aug. 5, 1960, vs Boston Patriots at Providence (6-43); first league, win, Sept. 9, 1960, at Boston Patriots (13- 10) - AFL game; first home, Oct. 2, 1960, vs Oakland Raiders (31-14); first playoff, Dec. 24, 1977, vs Pittsburgh Steelers (34. 21).

## **DETROIT HERALDS / TIGERS (1920 / 21)**

The Heralds began playing at least as early as 1913.

First ever, Oct. 4, 1914, vs Jackson Independents (67-0); first league, Oct. 17, 1920, at Chicago Tigers (0-12); first home, win, Oct. 24, 1920, vs Columbus Panhandles (6-0).

## **DETROIT LIONS (1934-)**

First ever, league, home and win, Sept. 23, 1934, vs New York Giants (9-0); first playoff, Dec. 15, 1935, vs New York Giants (26-7).

## **DETROIT PANTHERS (1925-26)**

First ever, league, home and win, Sept. 27, 1925, vs Columbus Tigers (7-0).

## **DETROIT WOLVERINES (1928)**

First ever, Oct. 7, 1928, at Cleveland Collegians (27-0); first league, win, Oct. 14, 1928, at New York Yankees (35-12); first home, Oct. 21, 1928, vs New York Giants (28-0).

## **DULUTH KELLEYS / ESKIMOS (1923-26)**

First ever, Oct. 31, 1920, vs Minneapolis Marines (0-13); first league, home and win, Sept. 30, 1923, vs Akron Pros (10 7).

## **EVANSVILLE CRIMSON GIANTS (1921-22)**

First ever, league, home and win, Oct. 2, 1921, vs Louisville Brecks (21-0).

## **FRANKFORD YELLOW JACKETS (1924-30)**

The Frankford A.A. dated its football history back to the 1890S.

First ever, Oct. 2, 1920, vs East Falls YMA (28-0); first league, home and win, Sept. 27, 1924, vs Rochester Jeffersons (21-0).

## **GREEN BAY PACKERS (1921-)**

First ever, Sept. 14, 1919, vs Menominee (53-0); first league, home and win, Oct. 23, 1921, vs Minneapolis Marines (7- 6); first playoff, Dec. 13, 1936, vs Boston Redskins at New York (21-6).

## **HAMMOND PROS (1920-26)**

The Pros are one of three teams that grew out of the 1919 Hammond All-Stars. The other two were the Chicago Tigers and the Decatur Staleys.

First ever, league, Oct. 10, 1920, at Rock Island Independents (0-26); first home, Oct. 7, 1923, vs Dayton Triangles (7- 0); first win, Oct. 16, 1921, at Evansville Crimson Giants (3-0).

## **HARTFORD BLUES (1926)**

The Blues moved from Waterbury in November 1925.

First ever, Sept. 27, 1925, vs Yonkers at Waterbury (32-0); first league, home, Sept. 26, 1926, vs New York Giants (0-21); first win, Oct. 24, 1926, vs Brooklyn Lions (16-6).

## **HOUSTON OILERS (1960-)**

First ever, Aug. 6, 1960, vs Dallas Texans at Tulsa (10-27); first league, win, Sept. 11, 1960, at Oakland Raiders (37-22) -- AFL game; first home, Sept. 18, 1960, vs Los Angeles Chargers (38-28); first playoff, Jan. 1, 1961, vs Los Angeles Chargers (24-16).

## **INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (1984-)**

First ever, Aug. 4, 1984, at Miami Dolphins (3-24); first league, home, Sept. 2, 1984, vs New York Jets (14-23); first win, Sept. 9, 1984, at Houston OHers (35-21); first playoff, Jan. 9, 1988, at Cleveland Browns (21-38).

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### **KANSAS CITY BLUES / COWBOYS (1924-25 / 26)**

First ever, league, Oct. 5, 1924, at Milwaukee Badgers (0- 3); first home, win, Oct. 26, 1924, vs Rock Island Independents (23-7).

### **KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (1963-)**

First ever, Aug. 3, 1963, at San Diego Chargers (14-26); first league, win, Sept. 7, 1963, at Denver Broncos (59-7) -- AFL game; first home, Oct. 6, 1963, vs Houston Oilers (28-7); first playoff, Jan. 1, 1967, at Buffalo Bins (31-7).

### **KENOSHA MAROONS (1924)**

First ever, league, Oct. 4, 1924, at Frankford Yellowjackets (6-31); first home, Oct. 19, 1924, vs Hammond Pros (6-6). Won no games as a league member.

### **LOS ANGELES BUCCANEERS (1926)**

First ever, league, Sept. 26, 1926, at Chicago Cardinals (0- 15); first win, Oct. 3, 1926, at Milwaukee Badgers (6-0). Played no home games as a league member.

### **LOS ANGELES CHARGERS (1960)**

First ever, Aug. 6, 1960, vs New York Titans (27-7); first league, home and win, Sept. 10, 1960, vs Dallas Texans (21-20) -- AFL game; first playoff, Jan. 1, 1961, at Houston Oilers (16-24).

### **LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (1982.)**

First ever, Aug. 14, 1982, at San Francisco 49ers (17-14); first league, win, Sept. 12, 1982, at San Francisco 49ers (23- 17); first home, Nov. 22, 1982, vs San Diego Chargers (28-24); first playoff, Jan. 8, 1983, vs Cleveland Browns (27-10).

### **LOS ANGELES RAMS (1946-)**

First ever, Aug. 23, 1946, vs College All-Stars at Chicago (0-16); first league, home, Sept. 29, 1946, vs Philadelphia Eagles (14-25); first win, Oct. 6, 1946, at Green Bay Packers (21-17); first playoff, Dec. 16, 1949, vs Philadelphia Eagles (0-14).

### **LOUISVILLE BRECKS (1921-23)**

The Brecks dated their beginnings back to 1899. Officially the name of the team was the Breckenridge Club.

First ever, Nov. 16, 1919, vs New Albany Calumets (17-0); first league, Oct. 2, 1921, at Evansville Crimson Giants (0-21); first home, Dec. 4, 1921, vs Columbus Panhandles (0-6); first win, Nov. 12, 1922, vs Evansville Crimson Giants (13-6).

### **LOUISVILLE COLONELS (1926)**

First ever, league, Oct. 3, 1926, at Canton Bulldogs (0-13). Had no home games or wins as a league member.

### **MIAMI DOLPHINS (1966-)**

First ever, Aug. 6, 1966, at San Diego Chargers (10-38); first league, home, Sept. 2, 1966, vs Oakland Raiders (14-23) AFL game; first win, Oct. 16, 1966, vs Denver Broncos (24-7); first playoff, Dec. 27, 1970, at Oakland Raiders (14-21).

### **MILWAUKEE BADGERS (1922-26)**

Apparently the Badgers continued to play in 1927 as independents, losing to Green Bay twice.

First ever, league, Oct. 1, 1922, at Chicago Cardinals (0- 3); first home, win, Oct. 15, 1922, vs Racine Legion (20-0).

### **MINNEAPOLIS MARINES / REDJACKETS (1921-24 / 29-30)**

The Marines' history dates at least as far back as 1916. Minneapolis holds the distinction of being the only team to play before joining the NFL, after leaving the NFL, and then joining the league a second time. They played on their own from 1925 to '28 before rejoining the NFL as the Redjackets.

First ever, Oct. 26, 1919, vs Hammond All-Stars at Chicago (0-45); first league, Oct. 2, 1921, at Chicago Cardinals (0-20); first home, win, Oct. 30, 1921, vs Columbus Panhandles (28-0).

### **MINNESOTA VIKINGS (1961-)**

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First ever, Aug. 5, 1961, vs Dallas Cowboys at Sioux Falls (13-38); first league, home and win, Sept. 17, 1961 vs Chicago Bears (37-13); first playoff, Dec. 22, 1968, at Baltimore Colts (14-24).

### **MUNCIE FLYERS (1920-21)**

Muncie's team started in the 1910s as the Congerville Flyers.

First ever, Nov. 16, 1919, vs Cincinnati Celts (12-12); first league, Oct. 3, 1920, at Rock Island Independents (0-45); first home, Oct. 16, 1921, vs Cincinnati Celts (0-14). Won no games as a league member.

### **NEWARK TORNADOES (1930)**

First ever, league, Sept. 14, 1930, at Portsmouth Spartans (6-13); first home, Sept. 17, 1930, vs New York Giants (0-32); first win, Oct. 4, 1930, at Frankford Yellowjackets (19-0).

### **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (1967-)**

First ever, Aug. 2, 1967, vs Los Angeles Rams at Anaheim (7-16); first league, home, Sept. 17, 1967, vs Los Angeles Rams (13-27); first win, Nov. 5, 1967, vs Philadelphia Eagles (31-24); first playoff, Jan. 3, 1988, vs Minnesota Vikings (10-44).

### **NEW YORK BRICKLEY'S GIANTS (1921)**

The team apparently continued to play in 1922 and '23, dropping the Brickley's appellation.

First ever, Oct. 9, 1921, at New Haven Williams (3-2); first league, Oct. 16, 1921, at Buffalo All-Americans (0-55); first home, Dec. 3, 1921, vs Cleveland Tigers (0-17). Won no games as a league member.

### **NEW YORK BULLDOGS / YANKEES (1949-51)**

First ever, Aug. 23, 1949, vs Detroit Lions at Hershey, Pa. (10-21); first league, home, Sept. 22, 1949, vs Philadelphia Eagles (0-7); first win, Nov. 6, 1949, at New York Giants (31-24).

### **NEW YORK GIANTS (1925-)**

First ever, Oct. 4, 1925, at All-New Britain (26-0); first league, Oct. 11, 1925, at Providence Steam RoHer (0-14); first home, Oct. 18, 1925, vs Frankford Yellowjackets (0-14); first win, Nov. 1, 1925, vs Cleveland Bulldogs (19-0); first playoff, Dec. 17, 1933, at Chicago Bears (21-23).

### **NEW YORK TITANS / JETS (1960-)**

First ever, Aug. 6, 1960, at Los Angeles Chargers (7-27); first league, home and win, Sept. 11, 1960, vs Buffalo Bills (27-3) - AFL game; first playoff, Dec. 29, 1968, vs Oakland Raiders (17-23).

### **NEW YORK YANKEES (1927-28)**

The Yankees were members of the rival Americal Football League in 1926.

First ever, Sept. 19, 1926, at Fox Valley (In.) All-Stars (20-0); first league, win Oct. 2, 1927, at Dayton Triangles (6-3); first home, Nov. 8, 1927, vs Chicago Bears (26-6).

### **OAKLAND RAIDERS (1960-)**

The Raiders played home games in San Francisco for their first two seasons,

First ever, July 31, 1960, vs Dallas Texans (13-20); first league, home, Sept. 11, 1960, vs Houston Oilers (22-37) - AFL game; first home, Oakland, Sept. 9, 1962, vs New York Titans (17-28); first win, Sept. 25, 1960, at Houston Oilers (14-13); first playoff, Dec. 31, 1967, vs Houston Oilers (40-7).

### **OORANG INDIANS (1922-23)**

The Indians officially represented La Rue, Ohio, but played their one and only home game in nearby Marion.

First ever, league, Oct. 1, 1922, at Dayton Triangles (0-36); first home, win, Oct. 8, 1922, vs Columbus Panhandles (20-6).

### **ORANGE TORNADOES (1929)**

Officially known as the Orange A.C., the team played independently using various nicknames before joining the NFL. Their home field was in nearby East Orange.

First ever, Oct. 21, 1922, at Frankford Yellowjackets (0-51); first league, home, Sept. 29, 1929, vs New York Giants (0-0); first win, Oct. 6, 1929, vs Boston Bulldogs (7-0).

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### **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (1933-)**

First ever, Sept. 24, 1933, at Orange Tornadoes (14-7); first league, Oct. 15, 1933, at New York Giants (0-56); first home, Oct. 18, 1933, vs Portsmouth Spartans (0-25); first win, Nov. 5, 1933, at Cincinnati Reds (6-0); first playoff, Dec. 21, 1947, at Pittsburgh Steelers (21-0).

### **PHOENIX CARDINALS (1988-)**

First ever, Aug. 4, 1988, at Seattle Seahawks (7-21); first league, Sept. 4, 1988, at Cincinnati Bengals (14-21); first home, Sept. 18, 1988, vs Dallas Cowboys (14-17); first win, Sept. 12, 1988, at Tampa Bay Buccaneers (30-24).

### **PITTSBURGH PIRATES / STEELERS (1933-40 / 41-)**

First ever, league, and home, Sept. 20, 1933, vs New York Giants (2-23); first win, Sept. 27, 1933, vs Chicago Cardinals (14-13); first playoff, Dec. 21, 1947, vs Philadelphia Eagles (0-21).

### **PORTSMOUTH SPARTANS (1930-33)**

Before entering the NFL, Portsmouth played independently as the Presidents (1926) and the Shoe-Steels (1927); the Spartans were organized in 1928.

First ever, Sept. 16, 1928, vs Columbus Bobb Chevrolets (20-12); first league, home and win, Sept. 14, 1930, vs Newark Tornadoes (13-6); first playoff, Dec. 18, 1931, at Chicago Bears (0-9).

### **POTTSVILLE MAROONS (1925-28)**

The Maroons were the champions of the Anthracite Football League in 1924.

First ever, Oct. 1, 1922, vs Gilberton Catamounts (0-0); first league, home and win, Sept. 27, 1925, vs Buffalo All Americans (28-0).

### **PROVIDENCE STEAM ROLLER (1925-31)**

The team dated its beginnings back to 1916. The Steam Roller also continued playing independently in 1932.

First ever, Oct. 16, 1921, at New Haven Williams (0-0); first league, Oct. 3, 1925, at Frankford Yellow Jackets (0-7); first home, Oct. 11, 1925, vs New York Giants (14-0); first win, Oct. 4, 1925, at Pottsville Maroons (6-0).

### **RACINE LEGION (1922-24)**

The team was sponsored by the American Legion and the Horlick Brewing Company.

First ever, Oct. 13, 1915, at Ft. Wayne Friars (6-41); first league, home, Oct. 1, 1922, vs Chicago Bears (0-6); first win, Oct. 8, 1922, at Green Bay Packers (10-6).

### **RACINE TORNADOES (1926)**

First ever, league, home and win, Sept. 26, 1926, vs Hammond Pros (6-3).

### **ROCHESTER JEFFERSONS (1920-25)**

The Jeffersons were founded in the first decade of this century.

First ever, Oct. 5, 1919, vs Rochester Senecas (27-6); first league, Oct. 31, 1920, at Buffalo All-Americans (6-17); first home, win, Nov. 6, 1921, vs Tonawanda Kardex (45-0).

### **ROCK ISLAND INDEPENDENTS (1920-25)**

The Independents jumped to the rival American Football League in 1926. They also played a final season in 1927 as -- what else? -- independents.

First ever, Oct. 8, 1916, vs Rockford (Ill.) A.C. (0-25); first league, home and win, Oct. 3, 1920, vs Muncie Flyers (45-0).

### **ST. LOUIS ALL-STARS (1923)**

First ever, Sept. 30, 1923, at Murphysboro (95-0); first league, Oct. 7, 1923, at Green Bay Packers (0-0); first home, Oct. 14, 1923, vs Hammond Pros (0-0); first win, Nov. 11, 1923, vs Oorang Indians (14-7).

### **ST. LOUIS CARDINALS (1960-87)**

First ever, Aug. 13, 1960, vs Dallas Cowboys at San Antonio (20-13); first league, win, Sept. 23, 1960, at Los Angeles Rams (43-21); first home, Oct. 2, 1960, vs New York Giants (14-35); first playoff, Dec. 21, 1974, at Minnesota Vikings (14-30).

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### **ST. LOUIS GUNNERS (1934)**

The Gunners took over the schedule of the disbanded Cincinnati Reds in November 1934.

First ever, Oct. 25, 1931, vs Peoria Independents (6-6); first league, home and win, Nov. 11, 1934, vs Pittsburgh Pirates (6-0).

### **SAN DIEGO CHARGERS (1961-)**

First ever, Aug. 6, 1961, vs Houston Oilers (27-14); first league, win, Sept. 10, 1961, at DaHas Texans (26-10) - AFL game; first home, Sept. 17, 1961, vs Oakland Raiders (44-0); first playoff, Dec. 24, 1961, vs Houston Oilers (3-10).

### **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (1950-)**

The 49ers were members of the rival All-America Football Conference, 1946-49.

First ever, Aug. 24, 1946, vs Los Angeles Dons at San Diego (17-7); first league, home, Sept. 17, 1950, vs New York Yankees (17-21); first win, Oct. 22, 1950, vs Detroit Lions (28-27); first playoff, Dec. 22, 1957, vs Detroit Lions (27-31).

### **SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (1976-)**

First ever, Aug. 1, 1976, vs San Francisco 49ers (20-27); first league, home, Sept. 12, 1976, vs St. Louis Cardinals (24-30); first win, Oct. 17, 1976, at Tampa Bay Buccaneers (13-10); first playoff, Dec. 24, 1983, vs Denver Broncos (31-7).

### **STATEN ISLAND STAPLETONS (1929-32)**

The Stapletons played a final season independently in 1933.

First ever, Nov. 26, 1926, vs Bethlehem Bears (14-7); first league, home and win, Oct. 6, 1929, vs Dayton Triangles (12-0).

### **TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (1976-)**

First ever, July 31, 1976, at Los Angeles Rams (3-26); first league, Sept. 12, 1976, at Houston Oilers (0-20); first home, Sept. 19, 1976, vs San Diego Chargers (0-23); first win, Dec. 11, 1977, at New Orleans Saints (33-14); first playoff, Dec. 29, 1979, vs Philadelphia Eagles (24-17).

### **TOLEDO MAROONS (1922-23)**

The Toledo Maroons of the 1910s played their last season in 1920. After a year with no big-time football, this new team appeared.

First ever, league, home and win, Oct. 1, 1922, vs Evansville Crimson Giants (15-0).

### **TONAWANDA KARDEX (1921)**

Also known as the All-Tonawandas. Played independently as the All-Tonawanda Lumberjacks before joining the APFA, and might have played in 1922.

First ever, Oct. 3, 1920, vs Cleveland Panthers (38-0); first league, Nov. 6, 1921, at Rochester Jeffersons (0-45). Had no home games or wins as a league member.

(Tonawanda's first league game may have been a scoreless tie on Oct. 9, 1921, in Syracuse against the Syracuse Pros.)

### **WASHINGTON PROS (1921)**

The first Washington team in the APFA / NFL has erroneously been labeled the Senators. The Canton papers are the only source for that name. Those papers also called the Hammond Pros the Hammond Hoosiers. (Other papers also called them the Hammond Tigers or Indians at times.)

Washington is one of several teams that kept playing after dropping out of the league. The Pros played a full and final season in 1922.

First ever, Oct. 2, 1921, vs Wilmington Collegians (33-0); first league, home, Nov. 27, 1921, vs Canton Bulldogs (0-15); first win, Dec. 4, 1921, vs Rochester Jeffersons (forfeit), Dec. 11, 1921, vs Cleveland Tigers (7-0).

The listing of the first league game, home game and win may have to be altered one day, since Washington beat the Syracuse Pros 20-7 at home on Nov. 13, 1921. (See "The NFL's forgotten franchise," Coffin Corner Vol. XIV, No. 5, pp. 20-21, for details about the Syracuse team.)

### **WASHINGTON REDSKINS (1937-)**

First ever, league, home and win, Sept. 16, 1937, vs New York Giants (13-3); first playoff, Dec. 12, 1937, at Chicago Bears (28-21).

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Some of you may be wondering about that Syracuse team. IF they were in the APFA, their "firsts" would look like this:

### **SYRACUSE PROS (1921)**

First ever, league, home: Oct. 9, 1921, vs Tonawanda Kardex (0-0). No wins as a league member.