

THE DAY DUB JONES RAN WILD

By Stan Grosshandler
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"Our slogan on the Browns was The Best Show in Football and we really put one on," stated William A. "Dub" Jones. On Nov. 25, 1951, Dub put on a one-man show that has only been duplicated twice in the annals of pro football when he scored six touchdowns against the Chicago Bears. The immortal Ernie Nevers did it in 1929 and super star Gale Sayers, in 1965.

"The game was a very emotional one," recalled Dub. We were leading our division and the Bears theirs. For me it was certainly a very unusual game for I scored the last five times I got my hands on the ball. We also set a record for penalties that still stands" On that dramatic day, the Browns logged 209 yards in penalties and the Bears, 165.

"This was the first league game between the Browns and the Bears," said Don Kindt, defensive leader of the Bears. "We really wanted to win it badly for we were still the 'Monsters of the Midway.' It was the reputation of the older league against the champs of the All-America Football Conference. George Halas really tried to get us up that week. I don't think I ever saw him want to win a game more."

The first period was scoreless. However, in the second, the Browns marched 34 yards on 12 plays with Jones smashing over left guard for two yards and the first score of the game. Lou Groza then kicked the first of his six PAT's. The Browns added two more scores when Dub caught a 34-yard pass from Otto Graham and a few moments later when he skirted left end for 11 yards.

"Jones beat Johnny Lujack on that pass," recalled Kindt. "He was our right corner man and in my opinion about the best defensive man in the league, but for some reason the Browns had the whammy on him."

Dub Jones also shared Kindt's admiration for the former Notre Dame great Lujack. "I felt he was the best all around athlete in the league," said Dub'. "He could run, pass, kick, and play a great game on defense. He was their quarterback, but since they had several he got shuffled around quite a bit."

"Our big problem that day was defense," continued Kindt. "We used a five-man line with two linebackers, two corner men and two safeties. Our defensive team did not like this for it left us vulnerable to that great trap play up the middle with Motley carrying; and also to an excellent screen they had. We would have preferred to play a 4-3. We played man-to-man in the backfield which made it difficult to come up on a play and left us with no flexibility.

"Another thing was that our defensive backfield had been shifted so many times we never played together enough to learn how each other reacted. Lujack was the right corner. I played either left corner or safety. Gene Schroeder played a cornerback, and our two quarterbacks, George Blanda and Steve Rornanik, plus Al Campana, were at safety. George, who was my roommate, often had to play a linebacker, too. The regular linebackers were George Conner, a tackle on offense, and Stu Clarkson."

The Bears finally got on the board in the third quarter when George Gulyancis scored from the three.

"You could write a book about Gulyanics," smiled Kindt. "He had never gone to college, yet was one of our best ground gainers for several years. He also boxed professionally and had quite a string of knockouts."

On the first play from scrimmage following the Bear TD, Jones went around left end, cut to his right and continued unmolested for 27 yards and TD No. 4.

"This was called the flip play and was intended to be used against a team with slow ends. The halfback cracked back on the linebacker, both tackles pulled and got the defensive halfback, and we ignored the end for the runner was supposed to outrun him. The fact that our tackles Groza and Rymkus could pull was very unusual in those days. I believe one year Jimmy Brown averaged about 15 yards on this very

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same play. Now the Bear ends Bill Wightkin and Ed Sprinkle were very fast, but for some reason this play went well against them that day."

The Bears finally scored again in the last period when Sprinkle broke in on Graham and hit him so hard that he fumbled. Sprinkle grabbed the ball and went 55 yards with it. Otto received a broken nose on this play but continued in the game.

"Sprinkle was a most controversial player," said Dub. "There had been a recent magazine article saying he was the dirtiest player in the league and I believe this added to the heated play."

"Ed was not a dirty player," argued Kindt. "He had a trick of coming in from his right end position and hooking a back with his left arm. This was just a rough play, not a dirty one. Another factor that added to the penalties that day was the fact we had to do a lot of gang tackling to get that great big Marion Motley down and so we got called for jumping on."

Asked about the unusual amount of penalties, Sprinkle said, "I, like the others, feel it was just a highly emotional game. We felt that the Cleveland players had been doing some late hitting and piling on. So prior to the game, we asked the officials to watch this. There were also some temper flareups which added to the penalties."

The Bears scored on a pass in the final period, but the Browns came back to score on a 43-yard run and a 43-yard pass, both by Dub Jones.

"I knew Dub needed one more TD to tie the record," said Otto Graham, "so when Paul Brown sent in a running play I ignored it and called for a pass. Dub cut down and then in and I hit him for the sixth TD. It was one of the few times I ever disobeyed a Brown call," chuckled Otto.

"I was really glad it happened to a guy like Dub Jones. He was truly a real team man. He didn't give a darn about the records just as long as we won. He was by far one of my best receivers at analyzing defenses. When he would come back to the huddle and tell me what he thought would work, I listened because you could count on him being right."

"Otto generally threw a soft pass," said Jones, "but like all great passers, he could throw all types. Our pass offense was years ahead of the defenses. We had it so perfected that Otto could release the ball almost a fraction of a second before the receiver made his cut. To my way of thinking, Paul Brown was one of the greatest innovators the game has ever seen, a true genius."

"Looking back 21 years, the turning point of that game was when we roughed their kicker and they retained possession," recalled Fred Davis, a nine-year defensive tackle in the NFL. "Their punter Horace Gillom stood so far back that it was impossible to get to him, but we tried and he got roughed in the attempt. We had thought we were a better team than the Browns, that they had been the champs of an inferior league, but we were wrong. If we tried to rush Graham they'd come back with their trap play. It was very frustrating."

"It seemed the harder we tried," said Sprinkle, "the worse we got and the madder we became."

The Browns missed a seventh touchdown when Don Shula returned an interception 94 yards only to have it called back. Two Brownies were booted out of the game for protesting this call.

This was not a great day by a temporary star. Dub Jones, a 6-4, 205-pound halfback from Tulane, joined the All-America Football Conference in 1946. He came to the Browns in '48 and starred until he retired after the 1955 season. He was All-Pro for the 1951 campaign.

"Dub Jones was the epitome of a halfback," said Kindt. "He was a fast, graceful runner who was one of the best receivers in the league. If you will check the records you'll find he was always among the top scorers and receivers."

A footnote to the Dub Jones story is added by the whimsical Otto Graham who quipped, "You know his boy is a very fine quarterback at LSU. This goes to prove he is smarter than the old man. He throws the ball rather than run with it like his dad did."

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JONES, DUB

William Augustus Jones

HB-DB-WB-TB 6-04 202

Tulane; L.S.U. Ruston High School, LA

Born: 12/29/24, Arcadia, LA

YEAR	Team	LG	RUSHING				PASS RECEIVING			
			ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
1946	Mia-Bkn	AA	42	163	3.8	0	-	-	-	-
1947	Bkn	AA	43	136	3.2	1	-	-	-	-
1948	Cle	AA	33	149	4.5	1	9	119	12.4	2
1949	Cle	AA	77	312	4.1	4	12	241	20.1	1
1950	Cle	N	83	384	4.6	6	31	458	14.8	5
1951	Cle	N	104	492	4.7	7	30	570	19.0	5
1952	Cle	N	65	270	4.2	2	43	651	15.1	4
1953	Cle	N	31	28	0.9	0	24	373	15.5	0
1954	Cle	N	51	231	4.5	0	19	347	18.3	2
1955	Cle	N	10	44	4.4	0	3	115	38.3	1
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10 years			540	2209	4.1	21	171	2874	16.8	20