

BENNY FRIEDMAN

Class of 2005

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame

Benny Friedman, a two-time All-America quarterback at Michigan, played with the Cleveland Bulldogs (1927), Detroit Wolverines (1928), New York Giants (1929-1931), and the Brooklyn Dodgers (1932-1934). When he turned pro, the college football sensation was greeted with fanfare that was exceeded only by the media attention given future Hall of Fame halfback Red Grange when he turned pro in 1925. A versatile player and field general, Friedman could run, kick, and most importantly pass the ball better than any player who preceded him and for many years better than those who followed him.

During his first four pro seasons, Friedman's play was nothing short of remarkable, earning him first-team All-NFL honors each season. Although official statistics were not kept, he is believed to have completed more than half his passes, at a time when 35 percent was considered a very good performance. From 1927 through 1930 Benny tossed 11, nine, 20, and 13 touchdown passes, leading the league each year. In 1928, he led the league in both rushing touchdowns and touchdown passes; no other player has ever accomplished that. His 20 touchdown passes in 1929, including four in one game, were both NFL records for years.

Following the 1928 season New York Giants owner Tim Mara purchased the Detroit franchise just to secure the services of Friedman. Mara's decision was based not only on the quarterback's league-leading performances, but also on his all-important gate appeal. He proved to be an asset in both categories, not only for the Giants, but for the emerging pro league as well. Although very durable, a knee injury coupled with the rigors of serving as an assistant coach at Yale, Friedman's productivity dropped in 1931. Still the player-coach managed to earn third-team All-NFL honors that year and second-team All-NFL honors in 1933.

Benjamin Friedman QB 5-10, 183
 Michigan HS: East Tech (Cleveland, OH)
 1927 Cle, 1928 Det, 1929-1931 NYG, 1932-1934 Bkn

NFL's first great passer . . . Threw league record 11 touchdown passes as rookie, 1927 . . . Set another record with 20 TDs, 1929 . . . Led league in touchdown passes four consecutive years (1927-1930) . . . His 66 career touchdown passes was an NFL record for years. . . Triple-threat player, could run, pass, kick . . . Born March 18, 1905 in Cleveland, Ohio . . . Died November 24, 1982, in New York, NY, at age of 77.

Year Team	Passing					Rushing					
	G	Att	Cm	Yds	TD	Int	Rating	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
1927 Cle	13				11						2
1928 Det	10				9						6
1929 NY	15				20						2
1930 NY	15				13						6
1931 NY	9				3						2
1932 Bkn	11	74	23	319	5	10	28.9	88	250	2.8	0
1933 Bkn	7	80	42	594	5	7	61.1	55	177	3.2	0
1934 Bkn	1	13	5	16	0	2	7.1	9	31	3.4	0
Total	81	167	70	929	66	19	60.2	152	458	3.0	18

Year Team	G	Scoring			
		XP	FG	Pts.	
1927 Cle	13	11	0	23	All-NFL: 1927 (GB, SM)
1928 Det	10	19	0	55	1928 (GB, SM)
1929 NY	15	20	0	32	1929 (GB, EY, SM)
1930 NY	15	10	1	49	1930 (GB, EY)
1931 NY	9	0	0	12	3rd team 1931 (OF)
1932 Bkn	11	5	1	8	
1933 Bkn	7	6	0	6	2nd Team 1933 (OF)

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1934 Bkn	1	0	0	0
Total	81	71	2	185

Additional Career Statistics: Receiving: 5-67

Friedman's Uniform Numbers:
#1 - with NYG & Bkn; (#6 with Cle, #21 with Det,
#17 & #26 with Bkn)