

# One on One with Ozzie Newsome: Part 1

By Roger Gordon

Originally published in the Orange and Brown Report

*It remains quite distressing to many Cleveland Browns fans that Ozzie Newsome is employed by the Baltimore Ravens, a team so despised by countless Cleveland fans that Art Modell, more than a decade after relocating the Browns to Baltimore, refuses to make a public appearance on the North Coast. But who can blame Newsome, the great tight end for the Browns from 1978-90, for following Arty and his cronies to the land of crab cakes in 1996? After all, Newsome was invited by Modell to become the Ravens' vice president of player personnel, a career move Newsome could not pass up. He was the architect of Baltimore's Super Bowl XXXV championship team in 2000. Newsome was promoted to general manager and executive vice president in 2002.*

*The OBR recently conducted an exclusive interview with Newsome, the former Browns' tight end who was enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1999. The following is part one, in which "The Wizard of Oz" reflects mainly on his playing days.*

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because it was Coach Bryant vs. Woody Hayes. But it was also a game where we were pitting a lot of good athletes against each other. And I think it was their inability to deal with the wishbone that helped us win the game.

Another thing about it is, the positive interaction that we had with the Ohio State players leading up to the game in that we were both in New Orleans for a certain amount of time. There were only so many places we all could go, so we got a chance to interact with those guys a lot. And it was my last game at The University of Alabama, and to leave that game as a winner was important to me, but also I was nominated for an [national] award by the Columbus Touchdown Club. So it made going to that awards banquet a little bit easier to deal with after we had beaten Ohio State, and then up in Cleveland.

**The OBR: Were you surprised the Browns selected you in the first round of the '78 draft? Clay Matthews was the first pick of the first round, and then you were number two in the first round. Had they contacted you beforehand?**

ON: Yes. I thought it was going to either be the Chargers, the Saints, the Packers, the Browns or the Jets. They're the ones that paid the most attention to me. I was in a fraternity, and it was a night after we had a big fraternity function. [Browns tight ends/wide receivers coach] Rich Kotite came down [to Alabama] to work [eventual Browns teammate] Johnny Davis and I out. Johnny went over and worked out, and he came

**The Orange and Brown Report: Talk about playing in the 1978 Sugar Bowl for The University of Alabama, the only game ever between the two coaching legends, Bear Bryant and Woody Hayes.**

Ozzie Newsome: That was my senior year, and we had lost at Nebraska and won at Southern Cal. I think we came in ranked like three in the country. Obviously, the game was more hype

back and told me, “Hey man, the coach from the Browns said he just wants you to come over and catch two or three passes, he’s not going to put you through an extensive workout. So I went over, and Rich worked me out and, like Johnny said, he only threw me four or five passes, but what he wanted to see was my lower body, to see if my lower body would handle the weight gain if I was to put it on in my upper body so that they could talk about moving me [from wide receiver] to tight end. I didn’t know that at the time, but he wanted to eyeball me [for a switch to tight end].

In the draft, Wes Chandler goes, James Lofton goes, Ken McAfee goes and John Jefferson goes. We were all, “Whose gonna be first, second, third and all of that?” And then Cleveland traded the choice back two picks, and at that point I was like, “Well, whatever is gonna happen is gonna happen,” and by the time I could get that out of my mouth, I got a call from Art [Modell] and Sam [Rutigliano].

**THE OBR: You were a great wide receiver in college. Were you okay with the Browns switching you to tight end?**

ON: Throughout the draft process, I think it was 50-50 about the teams that I had talked to. Some were saying they would let me stay at wide receiver, others were asking me if I would consider a move to tight end. And actually I got drafted as a receiver by Cleveland. And I went through my first mini camp as a wide receiver. And it was interesting that the week that they had the rookie mini camp, I called Sam and said, “You know, I’d like to not participate in that because that’s the week of graduation, and my family wants to see me graduate. He allowed me to do that. So I went in with the veterans the following week. I was the only rookie that was at the veteran camp. And those three days I worked at wide receiver. But they wanted to keep some guys for an additional three or four days, and I was one of them. At that point, Rich Kotite told me that Sam wanted to see me. And I said, “Okay.” But Sam was not there when I went to see him, so I went back to Rich and said, “Well, do you know what he wants to see me about?” He said, “Yeah, he wants to see you about moving to tight end.”

The next day, I met with Sam, and he said, “You know, you could be a good receiver in this league, there’s no doubt. You just proved that over the last three days of this mini camp. But we think you could be a *great* tight end. And we’re going to move you to tight end, with your

willingness, but if we’re going to move you, we’re going to throw you the football. We’re going to throw you a lot of footballs at tight end.” And he was very honest and very truthful, and that’s what they did, and that’s how I accepted the move.

**THE OBR: So your personal preference was ...**

ON: My personal preference was catching the football ... because, see, I had played in a wishbone, and so you weren’t getting but three or four passes a day, so blocking was not a problem.

**THE OBR: But, even during the mini camp and all of that as a wide receiver, there was still part of you that knew [the switch to tight end] was still a possibility.**

ON: It wasn’t until the *real* training camp that Rich told me what he came down [to Alabama] for. I did not know at that point. I thought he was just coming to work me out as a receiver. But he told me at that point during training camp that that’s what he was looking at.

**THE OBR: Were you familiar at all with the Browns’ tradition when they drafted you?**

ON: No question. My mother had two sisters and a brother that lived in Cleveland, so I was very much familiar with Cleveland. It was one of the spots we used to do vacations at, you know, we’d come visit relatives at. I was a football *fan* growing up, so I knew about the tradition of the Browns with Jimmy [Brown] and Paul [Warfield] and the whole nine yards. So I knew *about* them, I did not know the passion of the fans up until I got there. But I did know about the Cleveland Browns.

**THE OBR: Now, was it Bear Bryant who gave you the nickname “The Wizard of Oz,” or was that in high school?**

ON: It happened at Alabama, but it was a reporter with the *Tuscaloosa News* that actually did that.

**THE OBR: And it just stuck, I guess, huh?**

ON: Yeah, it did, yeah.

**THE OBR: On the lighter side, were you one of the many rookies fooled by the Thanksgiving Day turkey chase prank that the veteran players pulled ever year?**

ON: Yeah, I remember going out with Larry Collins, a third-round pick that we had. And we drove and drove, but it was interesting when we finally figured out that 77 North kept running into

downtown Cleveland, we knew something was wrong.

**THE OBR: Now, I've always heard that there was a certain player – I don't know if it was "Turkey" Jones himself – who fell for it two years in a row!?**

ON: That was "Turkey" Jones that did that. That's why they called him "Turkey."

**THE OBR: You're sort of the answer to a trivia question. As you know, I'm sure, the Browns traded the great Paul Warfield to the Miami Dolphins in 1970 for the rights to choose Mike Phipps with the third pick in the draft. It turned out to be perhaps the worst trade in Browns history, and was a huge factor in the franchise taking a turn for the worse in the '70s. Now, when the Browns drafted you in 1978, it was with a selection obtained via trading Phipps to the Chicago Bears. Thus, eight years after trading Warfield to get Phipps, they traded Phipps, and got you in return. Any feelings about that?**

ON: I used to use that a lot of the times when I would go out and do talks around Northeastern Ohio. You know, what was my connection to Paul Warfield? A lot of people didn't know that. But that allowed them to have the third pick. It was during the time ... [Brian] Sipe had not emerged. As a matter of fact, they drafted two other quarterbacks [Mark Miller, Johnny Evans] in my draft. We thought – all the draftniks and everybody – Doug Williams was going to be Cleveland's first pick. Sipe hadn't proved himself yet.

**THE OBR: What was it like running onto the Cleveland Stadium field for the first time in a regular-season game on September 3, 1978, against O.J. Simpson and the San Francisco 49ers?**

ON: I was in awe of being in the National Football League. At that point, you're still wondering if you could actually play in this league. I'd had some success in the preseason, but you know, you're still, "Can you really play?" And getting myself prepared ... and there's one thing about what the veterans will tell you. They say, "Well, you know what? Playing in the preseason is a lot different than playing in the regular season. But, then also, playing in the regular season's a little different than when you play against Pittsburgh. It's three different levels." So, they had forewarned me that now it's for real.

And, then, you know you're standing on the same field that O.J. Simpson's on. And that added to the awe that I was in. You know, "Hey, I'm getting' ready to play against 'The Juice.'" But once the game starts, it's the game. Football is football. The first time I touched the ball was on the [34-yard] end-around. I scored a touchdown.

**THE OBR: Talk about that touchdown.**

ON: It was one of those calls ... we had run it a couple of times during the preseason, and the reason why the play was successful was because of Greg Pruitt. Greg Pruitt was one of the top backs in the league, and he was great at running the ... whatever the hell it was ... the toss outside. So, basically, it was a fake to Greg on the toss outside with me coming around, and once I came around the corner, Robert Jackson was in front of me, the pulling guard. And once I turned the corner, it was nothing but me and the Dawg Pound.

**The OBR: How long did it take you grasp the sheer hatred that the Browns and their fans have for the Pittsburgh Steelers?**

ON: Soon after I got there, that became apparent ... people would talk to me and would be like, "Oh, you're the draft choice ... ya'll gonna beat Pittsburgh this year?" See, we had never beaten them in Three Rivers Stadium. So, you start to realize that, and they were comparing the rivalry to me, "Well, it's bigger than your Alabama-Auburn rivalry." And I go, "What? Bigger than Alabama-Auburn?" And they say, "Yes. It is." So, right away, you realize the importance of it, but, at that time, Pittsburgh ... they had already won two Super Bowls, and you just start to think about the players that they had playing. So, again, this is me being on the field with a bunch of future Hall of Famers that I grew up idolizing ... Stallworth, Swann and Franco and Joe Greene and Mel Blount, and now I'm on the same field with those guys.

**The OBR: Looking back on it, what was more intense, what was bigger, Alabama-Auburn or Cleveland-Pittsburgh?**

ON: You live Alabama-Auburn every day because your next door neighbor could be an Auburn graduate. So, I mean, it's every day. But the week of the game, the Cleveland-Pittsburgh rivalry is more so.

## THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 29, No. 1 (2007)

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**The OBR: Now, you know all about the Modell-Paul Brown feud. What rivalry was more intense, the one with the Steelers or the one with the Cincinnati Bengals?**

ON: No question, it was the Steelers ... because the city and the fans got involved in that.

**The OBR: What's the main difference between big-time college football and the NFL? Is it the speed, strength or just the sheer talent, overall talent?**

ON: It's the talent. In college, there are probably five, six guys in any given game that are good enough to play in the [NFL]. Everybody on Sunday is good enough to play in the league.

**The OBR: The best of the best.**

ON: Yep.

**The OBR: Was there any particular veteran who took you under his wing your rookie year and sort of helped acclimate you to life in the NFL?**

ON: Yeah, Calvin Hill. I think about three or four weeks into the season, we signed Calvin Hill. And he asked me to take him to where we were renting furniture for apartments because he was going to live in the same apartment building that I did. So we struck a relationship from that, and we basically used to ride to work together every day. And there were basically 10 years difference, he was an Ivy League guy, and I was a Southeastern Conference guy. He kind of took me under his wings, and he was somebody that I had respected growing up, and to spend time with someone like that was invaluable.

**The OBR: It seems like [Hill] was almost better catching the ball out of the backfield than running the ball.**

ON: At that point, he was, but he'll never say it.

**The OBR: Talk about the electricity that was in Cleveland Stadium on September 24, 1979, when the 3-0 Browns opposed the 3-0 Cowboys, America's Team. The Browns were up 20-0 before Dallas even got a first down, and won in a rout 26-7. You caught a long touchdown pass from Brian Sipe that night.**

ON: That was our first taste of Monday Night [since Newsome joined the team] ... Howard Cosell and Don Meredith, the whole nine yards, playing on a Monday night ... I mean, you look forward to that. Hollywood Henderson was the outside linebacker that I was going to be going up against, and the stature that he had. People to this day say there is another level of performance that's played on Monday night. And it is. Under the lights with everybody – all of your family, all of your friends – watching, you *do* take it to another level. And it was a chance for us to make a statement because we were playing against America's

Team. We were up-and-comers with something to prove, and that's the way we played that night.

**The OBR: That had to have been the most electricity for a regular-season game that you ever experienced.**

ON: No doubt, yeah.

**The OBR: Why do you think the Browns fell from 4-0 to 9-7 and out of the playoffs in 1979?**

ON: Well, I think we got off to a great start but were a team that didn't know how to finish the season. You have to realize '79 led to 1980. We learned how to finish in 1980. We tasted some success in '78, and in '79 we didn't know how to handle the success, I guess you could say. And then in '80 we did.

**The OBR: When the Browns started 1980 0-2, what was the team morale like?**

ON: We still were a confident team, we were a confident bunch. At that point, we still felt like, once we got out on the field, we could do it. And we played Kansas City and beat them. September really doesn't determine who's going to be around in December. And it's proven out every year.

**The OBR: Talk about the Kardiac Kids. What was the key to the success?**

ON: We were a talented group, everybody understood their roles. But we were in a position where we had to outscore people. And we always felt like if we got the ball last, then we could win the game, we just felt that way. And then you get momentum about being able to do it. We were a lot stronger with our offense than we were with the defense.

**The OBR: What was it like on the airplane ride back from Minnesota after the Ahmad Rashad catch?**

ON: Disappointment. But also I think everybody knew that, "You know what? It's going to come down to that game against Cincinnati anyway, so let's just go win that game." I think everybody got focused on the Cincinnati game.

**The OBR: Talk about arriving at Hopkins Airport after upsetting the Oilers in Houston in 1980, and about arriving at Hopkins after beating the Bengals in the finale that year to win the AFC Central Division Championship, dethroning the two-time defending champion Steelers?**

ON: It was indescribable. Just trying to get through the airport, the excitement, the number of people ... I mean, I can't describe that atmosphere that night. It was overwhelming.

**The OBR: Was there any fear, or was it all joy?**

ON: It was all joy, it was all joy. We had enough security there ... it was all joy.

*(To be continued in future issues)*

# HOUSTON TRIO WERE TRAILBLAZERS IN EXTRAVAGANT END ZONE ANTICS

By Dr. Gregory Selber

It has become commonplace these days to see celebration in professional football, from elaborate dancing routines to pantomimes and short "impromptu" expressions by NFL stars Terrell Owens, Chad Johnson and others. In fact there may be such an excess of exuberance and pomp that the tide may soon turn back to a more conservative demeanor. There is a growing discontent about the effusion of choreographed exploits, and some feel that the game itself is beginning to play second fiddle to the dances, antagonistic taunts, and self-aggrandizing showoff competitions.

But back in the 1960s, such antics were not a part of the game. It took a trio of players to engineer a transition in football, mirroring the societal trends of the day by introducing freer expression on one hand and its inevitable handmaiden, individualism, with their exploits.

Ironically, the city of Houston can be blamed/lauded for the influx of celebration. It was Homer Jones, the mercurial speed-burner for the New York Giants, who performed what is widely regarded the first spike in NFL history, in 1965. It was Elmo Wright, the Kansas City Chiefs split end, who eight years later stunned fans and coaches alike with his high-knee, end zone dance carnival. And more than anyone, it was Billy "White Shoes" Johnson who popularized the notion of individual antics, with his hilarious "Funky Chicken" routine in the mid-1970s.

HOMER JONES was a Houston native and Texas Southern grad who played from 1964-70. The cousin of Hall of Famer Charley Taylor and Joe "Turkey" Jones, Jones was cut by the Oilers before the 1963 season because of a knee injury that would eventually end his career prematurely. But he caught on with the Giants and for three seasons from 1966-68 topped 1,000 yards receiving.

Despite being 6-foot-2 and 220 pounds of

muscle, Jones was one of the fastest players ever, an early prototype of the big and fast receivers who would populate NFL rosters in the next millennium. He averaged 22.3 yards on 224 career receptions, a league record for long-distance prowess, and was a Pro Bowler in 1967 and 1968.

But as far as real fame is concerned, "The Rhino" made his mark by deciding to display his excitement after one of 36 lifetime scores by throwing the ball down with a thunderous effect in '65. At the time, Jones relayed that after watching how the fans went berserk when Frank Gifford or Paul Hornung simply flipped the ball into the crowd after a TD, he gambled on raising the stakes to see the rooter reaction. Giant fans of the era responded favorably, and a revolution was under way.

Still, to illustrate how outlandish and foreign the idea of personal performances were at the time: a Los Angeles newspaper offered Jones the chance at \$25,000 - a sum well above many of the numbers on yearly player contracts of the time - to race Dallas' Bob "Bullet" Hayes at the 1967 Pro Bowl. At the last minute, however, Giants' owner Wellington Mara intervened, asking Jones to defer in the interest of good taste. Not wanting to turn the NFL's showcase of talent into a freak show, Mara offered his receiver a \$5,000 bonus to withdraw, which he did.

So with his spike, Jones was an outlier in the 1960s, when the NFL was a buttoned-down, conservative operation. He was traded to Cleveland for Ron Johnson, which would end up being a boon for the Gotham group, as Jones was done by 1970 and Johnson became a star. Jones' only other claim to fame was a kickoff return TD for Cleveland in the inaugural Monday Night Football telecast on Sept. 21, 1970, during his last year in the pros.

As fast as he was, Jones was gone in almost as

quick a denouement. But the stage was set for a new purveyor of individual exuberance.

ELMO WRIGHT was a three-time All-American for the Houston Cougars, a high-flying team of athletes that specialized in flashy offensive shows, culminating in a 100-point performance in the Astrodome against Tulsa in 1968. Wright is still the Cougars' all-time leading receiver, with 3,347 yards, and became a budding star with the Chiefs in 1971.

As a first-year player, he caught 26 balls for a 20.3 average playing opposite superstar Otis Taylor. On Nov. 18, 1973, Wright made history against, of course, the Houston Oilers, by running in place with the ball held aloft after a TD catch from Len Dawson, finishing the then-astonishing act with a resounding spike of the ball.

Though his career tapered off badly after that - he finished with the Patriots and briefly the Oilers in 1975 - Wright is remembered as a trailblazer for better or worse in the area of end zone effusion. He had 70 grabs for 15.9 per, with just six scores, each of which was followed by a ritual that wowed some fans and turned off others.

A year after Wright's initial high-knees display, the football world was electrified by a 5-foot-9, 170-pound jitterbug from tiny Widener, a Division III school in Pennsylvania. BILLY JOHNSON would become one of two Houston Oilers to be named to the 75th anniversary NFL All-Time Team, as a return man. He set a record for career return yards in 1985, a mark that would stand for 12 years, was named the NFL Man of the Year for his off-field contributions, and won the 1983 Comeback Player of the Year award with the Atlanta Falcons.

But Johnson is known for his white shoes in an area of black ones, and for his crazy, extended touchdown jig patterned after a soul/rock music dance craze of the period.

Not expected to even make the team because of his tiny stature, Johnson beat the odds in 1974 by starting a string of seasons where he averaged over 10 yards per punt return eight times from '74 to '86. He led the league in average in 1975 and 1977 and for his career

brought back six punts and two kickoffs all the way.

As a receiver, "White Shoes" donned the trend-breaking shoes in high school after convincing his coach that they made him run faster. He and Joe Namath of the Jets were the exclusive doyens of the white-shoe crowd in the NFL at the time.

Holding the ball aloft, legs billowing back and forth while he moved the ball between his legs and behind his back, the tiny speedster revolutionized the end zone celebration with a routine that sometimes lasted for as long as a minute. He often faked spikes and tosses into the stands to tantalize the howling Astrodome crowd, and became a Houston folk hero for his magnificent showmanship.

Observers say that the time was right for such an unheard of act, as television brought every detail of every play to millions of viewers in a post-1960s American milieu that was interested in expression as an art form.

Johnson was no gimmick-guy only; he caught 337 passes for 4,211 yards and 25 scores as a receiver for Houston and Atlanta, netting 64 balls in 1983 and 62 in 1986. He was also the right man for the job as entrepreneur of glitz, an outgoing character who was loved by all for his ebullience and spirit. He became a staple on highlight reels for his breakneck, direction-changing returns and of course the inevitable funny business every time he was able to wind his way into opposing end zones.

In the Pro Bowl after the 1975 season, Johnson set two records that persist today, with a 90-yard TD return on a punt iced by a grandiose "Funky Chicken" masterpiece, and 159 total return yards that day.

Though he would become a Falcons' leader in player development and public relations after his career ended in 1987, "White Shoes" is recalled by all fans of the era as the man who unleashed the personal expression that has come to be ubiquitous, if perhaps overwrought, in modern professional football.

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# 1898 Syracuse Athletic Association

By Ken Crippen

SCORES		
Association President: F.R. Hazard		
Association Secretary and Physical Director: Charles H. McCormick		
Football Standing Committee: Henry J. Hughes, J.B. Welsh, Jack Dorsey		
Coach: Robert B. Adams		
Record: 5-3-0		
		Attendance
October 15, 1898	Baldwinsville Athletic Association 0 vs. Syracuse Athletic Association 5	135
October 22, 1898	Auburn Y.M.C.A. 0 vs. Syracuse Athletic Association 5	200
October 27, 1898	Syracuse Athletic Association 0 vs. Syracuse University Varsity 28	n/a
October 29, 1898	Syracuse Athletic Association 11 vs. Baldwinsville Athletic Association 5	300
November 5, 1898	Syracuse Athletic Association 6 vs. Auburn Y.M.C.A. 29	n/a
November 9, 1898	Syracuse Athletic Association 0 vs. Syracuse University Varsity 28	300
November 12, 1898	Onondaga Indians 6 vs. Syracuse Athletic Association 56	n/a
November 19, 1898	Syracuse Athletic Association vs. Baldwinsville Athletic Association*	n/a
November 24, 1898	Elmira Athletic Association 0 vs. Syracuse Athletic Association 10	n/a

\*Cancelled

After a tumultuous 1895 season and not fielding teams during 1896 and 1897, 1898 saw the Syracuse Athletic Association (S.A.A.) finally re-emerge on the football scene. The S.A.A. had been extremely successful in the past (winning championships in both 1893 and 1894) and wanted to re-gain its dominance on the gridiron. Before that, however, the association needed to get its affairs in order. The team did not have adequate practice facilities, nor did they have adequate equipment for the players. This had to change in order to compete with the strong area teams.

The first order of business at their January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was for the Association to elect a new secretary. The current secretary E.W. Hunt was leaving February 1<sup>st</sup> for business reasons and the S.A.A. was doing everything that it could to convince the Young Men's Christian Association's (Y.M.C.A.) Charles H. McCormick to take the position, including salary increases and a reduction in workload. McCormick did not immediately accept, preferring to stay at the Y.M.C.A. It was not until the situation drastically deteriorated at the Y.M.C.A., before the S.A.A. offer would look more attractive.

On April 15, 1898, McCormick submitted his resignation to the Y.M.C.A. It seems as if there were some differences between McCormick and Y.M.C.A. Secretary McKay. The exact problem is not known, but indications were that Secretary McKay overstepped his bounds by interfering with the duties of McCormick's department. This incensed the public and there were demands that McKay be fired so that McCormick would stay, but to no avail.

After twelve years at the Y.M.C.A., McCormick's tenure was over, but it was still not definite that he would join the S.A.A. People were hoping that McCormick would stay in Syracuse in some capacity and were scared that he would leave over the bitter dispute with the Y.M.C.A. According to Alexander H. Cowie, "I believe that there is not a man in Syracuse, nor has there been, who has done so much for athletics as Professor McCormick. I hope that the S.A.A. gets a hold of him." Upon hearing of McCormick's resignation, S.A.A. President F.R. Hazard returned home from a business trip to reiterate his offer to McCormick to join the association.

By September, McCormick had accepted the position with the S.A.A. and had started to work his magic. He started by bringing back players who donned the cardinal red in the past, like Hank Hughes, Mike Gaffney and Jack Dorsey, as well as tapping Bobby Adams to be the coach. Under McCormick's leadership, the S.A.A. was back and looking forward to a successful season of football.

The S.A.A.'s first game of the season came against the Baldwinsville Athletic Association (B.A.A.). The B.A.A. had already played two games by this point; beating East Syracuse 33 to 0, but losing to St. Johns by a score of 15 to 0. The muddy conditions of the field should have made things difficult for the lighter S.A.A. team, but that would not be the case in this game. Syracuse was able to gain more ground than their opponent; however, it was the home team's kicking that truly made the difference. Just when it looked like Syracuse would fumble the wet and muddy ball, a kick would go sailing, pinning the visitors back toward their

goal. A single touchdown was all that S.A.A. needed to beat B.A.A. 5-0.

Prior to their next game with the Auburn Y.M.C.A., Syracuse added halfback Al Kempter and end Sam Freeman to the squad. Coach Adams was pleased with the progress of his team, but realized that more work needed to be done if the team was to compete against other strong Central New York teams. Enough players were now on the team that practices could be held against live opponents. Prior to this week, the S.A.A. held a practice game with East Syracuse, but other afternoon and evening practices were strictly working on technique, as there were not enough players to have both offensive and defensive teams. One item of note from the Baldwinsville game was that the team focused too much on high tackling, instead of tacking players low. As a result, Baldwinsville was able to break too many tackles. The bulk of the practice time during the week leading up to the Auburn game was focused on improving tackling technique.

The Auburn game quickly became ugly as player after player was injured. Also, for the second straight week, weather would be a factor as the field was extremely muddy. Weather would end up playing a major factor in the financial difficulties that faced the S.A.A. throughout the season. Poor attendance at the games would hurt gate receipts, which the team needed to remain financially solvent.

Auburn could not sustain an offensive attack and had little success stopping S.A.A. from gaining ground. In the end, fumbles prevented Syracuse from dominating the game. On a positive note, S.A.A. learned their lessons from the previous week's practice and continuously made low tackles, stopping their opponent before they could break the tackle for additional gains. Formations were also adjusted from the first half to the second half, giving the Syracuse defense more of a chance to stop the Auburn offense. It was successful, as Auburn had more difficulty gaining ground in the second half. Shifting the backs more toward the center of the field kept the interior of the defense strong, forcing Auburn to go outside where the speed of Syracuse would be an asset. Still, scoring was at a premium as S.A.A. won 5-0.

Although the team was feeling confident, they still needed to contend with injuries. Jim Crabtree and Pat Cawley would be out of the upcoming game and Jack Dorsey had a sore shoulder. As a result, Coach Bobby Adams suited up for the first time in a couple of years to play quarterback.

Even though Bobby Adams was hampered by an injured ankle, he was responsible for most of S.A.A.'s punting duties. This would have an effect on the outcome, as the team could not kick the ball more than twenty yards at a time. Couple this with the torrential

rains during the game and the S.A.A. would be in for a long day. The S.A.A. was no match for the Syracuse

University squad. The collegians were stronger on both offense and defense, and S.A.A. failed to make much headway, losing 28-0.

The "game after the game" was more exciting than the game itself as S.A.A. beat the Baldwinsville Athletic Association (B.A.A.) in Baldwinsville the following week. Rotten eggs and stones were hurled at the S.A.A. players, injuring some of them. Two S.A.A. players were also tackled as they were trying to board their train, sustaining several injuries. Overall, it was not a pleasant experience and all of it was the result of a questionable call by Referee Harlow C. Clark. Baldwinsville's first offensive drive of the game steadily drove them down to the Syracuse two-yard line before the S.A.A. defense stiffened and held for three consecutive downs. On the fourth down, Bentley tried to go over the line and did, but Taylor stripped him of the ball and ran it back for a touchdown. This incensed the B.A.A. and they initially refused to continue the game. The problem is that Bentley claimed that he called down, while the S.A.A. disagreed. S.A.A. felt that since Bentley did not call down, the ball was still live and Taylor was within his right to strip the ball and score. Referee Clark agreed and ruled that Bentley failed to call down and awarded the score to S.A.A. Cooler heads eventually prevailed and the game continued. Bentley would score again, but it was not enough to beat S.A.A. as B.A.A. lost 11-5.

Injuries continued to mount, forcing Coach Adams to make adjustments. Stubby Burchell was injured during the Baldwinsville game, so Weston took his place. Taylor was also injured and Pat Cawley moved from his halfback position to take over at tackle. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the S.A.A. team took on East Syracuse in a thirty-minute practice session (the second practice session of the season against East Syracuse). The score was 5-0 in favor of S.A.A., but more importantly, this practice session was to prepare the team for their second meeting with the Auburn Y.M.C.A., a game that S.A.A. would end up losing 29-6.

The S.A.A. squad was still without a few key players when it prepared for the rematch with the varsity squad of Syracuse University. Stubby Burchell would be out the remainder of the season, so Weston was permanently installed at quarterback and Goldie Meacham moved to the left end position to take over for Sam Freeman. Pat Cawley and Al Kempter were out, so Coach Adams continued to suit up to play halfback. The roster was decimated. For Syracuse University, the only notable injury to the varsity squad was Smallwood, who suffered a fractured rib in their game with New York. Burns would take Smallwood's place in the lineup. The S.A.A. was already working at a disadvantage due to the injuries. The only thing that

## THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 29, No. (2007)

would make it more difficult would be for the game to be played on a poor field. That is exactly what happened.

The Syracuse University – S.A.A. game was basically a repeat of their earlier match-up. Rain fell throughout the game and the field was extremely muddy. Even the score was an exact copy. Coach Bobby Adams blamed the field conditions and the absence of some of his best players as the reasons for his defeat. The *Syracuse Standard* had a different take: “The S.A.A. was minus several of its best players, but this in no way could have affected the result, because the ‘varsity is an organization of players who would not submit to defeat at the hands of a team recruited from among young men who cannot find time for steady practice.” The S.A.A. team looked unorganized in their execution and did not play well as a team. This would be the main reason for the loss. Regardless, the varsity squad had an easy time with the S.A.A., beating them 28-0.

It was apparent from the beginning that Onondaga was a very inexperienced team, many times displaying a lack of understanding of the rules of the game and the basic skills necessary to properly play. Other than the Isaac Lyon touchdown, the Onondaga Indian eleven showed no offensive output and was subsequently crushed by Syracuse 56-6.

S.A.A. quickly scored (about thirty seconds into the game) and never looked back, almost scoring at will. This game was not much of a challenge, but it did help build the confidence of the S.A.A. squad. It gave them an opportunity to work on signals under game conditions, while also solidifying teamwork, which was lacking in the Syracuse University game. It was a good warm-up for their final game of the season against the Elmira Athletic Association. There was to be a game against the Baldwinsville Athletic Association on November 19<sup>th</sup>, but the game was cancelled. No reason was given for the cancellation. On a positive note, Pat Cawley and Sam Freeman returned from injuries to be in the lineup for the season finale. This would be a blessing for S.A.A., as both players were sorely missed.

The Thanksgiving Day match up between the Elmira Athletic Association and S.A.A. showed more of the same mistakes from the local squad. The S.A.A. team looked better than past games, but fumbles and penalties kept the game close. Even with the additional practices, it was still not enough to overcome these basic team flaws. Still, S.A.A. improved their record to 5-3-0 with a 10-0 win over Elmira to finish the season.

Financially, the team lost money for the 1898 season. Weather was a contributing factor, as it held crowds to a minimum. All told, the S.A.A. lost about \$200, but it showed that the S.A.A. was back and ready to compete with the best teams in the area. There were

several flaws in the team, but the organization showed that they had the potential to get back into championship form. By the end of 1898, fundraisers had already begun to help finance the 1899 team. The Syracuse Athletic Association would be back.

### **1898 Syracuse Athletic Association Roster:**

(Does not include second game against Auburn)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>GP/GS</b>
Robert B. (Bobby) Adams	LG-QB-LHB-FB	4/4
Allen	LHB	1/1
Haskell Brown	QB	1/1
(Stubby) Burchell	QB	3/2
Pat Cawley	LE-LHB	4/4
Jimmy Crabtree	LHB	2/1
Jack Dorsey*	LG	7/7
Dwyer	QB	1/0
Sam Freeman	LE-RE	6/5
Mike Gaffney	RT	1/1
Teddy Hale	RT	1/1
Eddie Hawe	RHB	5/5
Hughes**	RG-FB	3/1
Al Kempster	RHB	2/1
J. Lydon	C	7/7
Mike Lydon	LHB	2/0
McMahon	LE	1/1
(Goldie) Meacham	LE-FB	6/6
Charles S. (Chick) Scoville	RE	4/4
O.J. Snow	LE	1/1
Spaw	LE	1/0
Stack	LT-RG	2/0
Taylor***	LT-RHB-FB	6/6
Warner	RG	2/2
Weston	QB-LHB	5/4
Wilds	LT-RG-RT	4/3
Bert C. Williams	LT-RG-RT	7/7

\*Captain for all but the first two games of the season.

\*\*Either Henry J. (Hank) or Archie E. Hughes. One article mentions Archie Hughes, but was not listed as part of lineup that day. Another mentions Hank Hughes as practicing with the team (played on line). Another article mentioned that both played on the team.

\*\*\*Either Alfred or Jack Taylor.

### **Players On Roster, But Did Not Play:**

(Does not include second game against Auburn)

(Tug) Avery

Jimmy Cahill

Fitzpatrick

Furniss

(Either Jack or Alfred) Taylor\*

Bobby Young

\*The other was an active player on the team.

*NOTE: This article has been edited for length. To read the entire article, visit <http://www.wnyfra.org/CNY/> or contact Ken Crippen at [Ken\\_Crippen@billsbackers.com](mailto:Ken_Crippen@billsbackers.com) for a copy.*

# PFRA COMMITTEES

By Ken Crippen

*(This will be the first in a regular series of articles on the various committees of the PFRA. Contact information for all of the committees can be found throughout this article.)*

For about a year, there have been discussions on forming committees. Before those discussions, research was pretty much done on an individual basis without much knowledge of what others were doing. Occasionally, a few researchers would work together on a project, but something was needed to coordinate these efforts and to assist the researchers with their work.

Starting with this issue, there will be regular updates on the official PFRA committees, their progress and how you can get in touch with the chairs of each committee. Not every committee will be discussed in every issue, but I am hoping to have a couple of updates each year from each committee. For easy reference, the PFRA website will be updated with all current committee information.

## **Membership Committee:**

Committee Goal: To find ways to make it easier for PFRA members to contact each other and to know who is working on what research.

Update: Since announcing the formation of the Membership Committee in the last issue of *Coffin Corner*, the committee has received some very positive feedback. One of the committee's first tasks is to find new ways to make it easier for members to communicate. One idea is for a "member's only" section of the PFRA website. The member's only section would include a directory of members listing some basic information, such as member's names, areas of interest, e-mail contacts and related websites. Contact John Fenton if you have any additional ideas or would like to help the committee.

Contact Information:  
John Fenton  
11184 Hendrix St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19116  
(267) 235-2164  
jjfenton@comcast.net

## **Pre-NFL Pro Football Committee:**

Committee Goal: To research all semi-professional and professional games played prior to 1920. This would include line scores, game summaries and rosters.

Contact Information:  
Roy Sye

708 W. Braeside Drive  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004  
(847) 577-1442  
syeroy@wowway.com

## **Team Radio and TV Commentators Committee:**

Committee Goal: To document the play-by-play announcers, analysts and field reporters for every single broadcast of NFL and AFL games (regular season and post season) from 1939 to the present.

Tim Brulia  
Contact Information:  
14 Altoona Avenue  
Enola, PA 17025  
(717) 728-9739  
coolbrul@yahoo.com  
tbrulia@state.pa.us

## **Uniforms of Past Teams Committee:**

Committee Goal: To document every uniform design and color (helmets, jerseys, pants and socks) for each NFL, AFL and AAFC team from 1933 to the present.

Contact Information:  
Tim Brulia  
14 Altoona Avenue  
Enola, PA 17025  
(717) 728-9739  
coolbrul@yahoo.com  
tbrulia@state.pa.us

## **All-Pros and Awards Committee:**

Committee Goal: To generate a complete listing of All-Pro teams from all sources. For the Awards Committee: generate a complete list of all AP and UPI awards and the voting for each of them.

Update: The committee recently obtained the 1954 NEA team, as well as the 1982 and 1988 UPI All-Conference teams. Work is still continuing on the 1970 and 1971 AP Second Teams. As of right now, no information has been found on either of these teams. The committee will be using the PFRA forum extensively to call for help with their research. Any and all help would be appreciated.

Contact Information:  
John Hogrogian  
580 84<sup>th</sup> Street  
Apt. 3-I  
Brooklyn, NY 11209  
(718) 680-1710  
jhogrogi@msn.com  
or

John Turney  
2615 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Alamogordo, NM 88310  
jturney@totacc.com

### **Stadiums Committee:**

Committee Goal: To document and publish information on all stadiums used by professional football teams.

Update: The stadium Committee has started and is concentrating on the stadiums in use since 1946. This would include all AAFC, NFL and AFL teams. For each stadium, the committee would like to gather the following:

- A) An aerial view
- B) An exterior view (a view taken of the stadium at street level)
- C) An interior view (a view taken from the stands)
- D) An action view (a view of a game being played in the stadium, which shows both players and some portion of the stadium from the field level)

Along with this information, factual data on each stadium will be compiled. This data would include construction dates, dates of use, anecdotal history, etc. The committee would also like to work on stadiums from other eras (pre-1946), but they will start with post-1946 stadiums. Any and all help would be greatly appreciated. The goal of the committee is to compile book to be published.

#### Contact Information:

Bill Pepperell  
3427 Overland Drive  
Holiday, FL 34691  
(510) 776-5649  
billpepperell1@yahoo.com

or

Ace Hendricks  
2074 County Road A14  
Mabel, MN 55954  
(563) 735-5713  
Acehendricks37@yahoo.com

### **Empire Football League Committee:**

Committee Goal: To research and document the history of the semi-professional Empire Football League.

Update: Dave Burch (Commissioner of the Empire Football League and PFRA member) has contacted me, wanting to work on a detailed history of the league. Due to the amount of research that he wants to do on this league, it was given its own committee. Initial contact has been made with a few teams of this league and I expect this committee to be very active.

#### Contact Information:

Dave Burch

1016 Irving Ave.  
Endicott, NY 13760  
(607) 748-7140  
EmpireFoot@aol.com

### **Western New York Committee:**

Committee Goal: To research and document all amateur, semi-professional and professional teams that played in the Western New York Area. The committee would like to publish an encyclopedia when the research has been completed.

Update: This committee is progressing well. The 1917 Buffalo Semi-Professional Football Season has been completed and the committee is now working on the first 25 years (1896-1920) of the Watertown Athletic Association/Watertown Red & Black. As far as more minor projects, Darin Paine is working on detailed histories of the 1940 Buffalo Indians and 1941 Buffalo Tigers of the AFL. All current information will be available online. The committee website has just been recently updated with the latest Watertown information.

#### Contact Information:

Ken Crippen  
740 Deerfield Road  
Warminster, PA 18974  
(215) 421-6994  
<http://www.wnypfra.org>  
Ken\_Crippen@billsbackers.com

### **Rochester Jeffersons Committee:**

Committee Goal: To publish a book on the complete history of the Rochester Jeffersons. This book will contain scores, rosters, game summaries and biographies of all of the players.

Update: This committee is also progressing well. More game summaries have been added for the 1920's era to help complete that section of the project. I have started interviewing family members of players, in order to get complete biographical information on each member of the team. If anyone has biographical information on any Jeffs player, please contact me. Any and all information would be greatly appreciated.

#### Contact Information:

Ken Crippen  
740 Deerfield Road  
Warminster, PA 18974  
(215) 421-6994  
<http://www.RochesterJeffersons.com>  
Ken\_Crippen@billsbackers.com

*Ken Crippen is responsible for overseeing the PFRA Committees. If you would like to help out with a committee or if you want to form your own committee, contact him at: [Ken\\_Crippen@billsbackers.com](mailto:Ken_Crippen@billsbackers.com).*

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# THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 29, No. 1 (2007)

## PLAYER DEATHS IN 2006

Player	Pos	College	Career	Born	Died	Ag
Agee, Sam	FB	Vanderbilt	1938-39 ChiC	10-21-1914, Courtland, AL	11-02-2006, Sparta, TN	91
Avery, Don	T	Alabama, USC	1946-48 Was, LA-A	02-10-1921, Los Angeles, CA	08-08-2006, Long Beach, CA	85
Barton, Don	HB-DB	Texas	1953 GB	05-29-1930, Cisco, TX	07-16-2006, Tyler, TX	75
Bass, Dick	RB	Pacific	1960-69 LARm	03-15-1937, Georgetown, MS	02-01-2006, Norwalk, CA	68
Beck, Ken	DT-DE	Texas A&M	1959-60 GB	09-03-1935, Minden, LA	03-05-2006, Shreveport, LA	70
Bell, Theo	WR	Arizona	1976-85 Pit, TB	12-21-1953, Bakersfield, CA	06-21-2006, Tampa, FL	52
Bouley, Gil	T	Boston College	1945-50 Cle, LARm	11-15-1921, Plainfield, CT	02-08-2006, Boston, MA	84
Bredde, Bill	HB	Oklahoma St	1954 ChiC	12-31-1932, Winterhaven, CA	09-16-2006, Golden Valley, AZ	73
Brodnax, J.W.	FB	LSU	1960 Den	03-06-1936, Bastrop, LA	01-06-2006, Bastrop, LA	69
Brown, Dave	DB	Michigan	1975-89 Pit, Sea, GB	01-16-1955, Akron, OH	01-10-2006, Lubbock, TX	52
Burroughs, Don	DB	Colorado St	1955-64 LARm, Phi	08-19-1931, Filmore, CA	10-20-2006, Ventura, CA	74
Carr, Paul	CB	Houston	1955-57 SF	09-04-1931, Los Angeles, CA	02-18-2006, Onalaska, TX	74
Clack, Jim	C-G	Wake Forest	1971-81 Pit, NYG	10-26-1947, Rocky Mount, NC	04-07-2006, Greensboro, NC	58
Claridge, Travis	G-T	USC	2000-03 All	03-23-1978, Detroit, MI	02-28-2006, Las Vegas, NV	27
Clay, Randy	HB	Texas	1950-53 NYG	05-30-1928, Shamrock, TX	07-16-2006, San Antonio, TX	78
Collins, Albin "Rip"	HB	LSU	1949-51 ChiA, Bal, GB	11-09-1926, Baton Rouge, LA	04-09-2006, Stafford, TX	79
Connolly, H. "Mickey"	TB	Boston College	1946 BknA	07-16-1920, Norwalk, CT	01-14-2006, New Bedford, MA	85
Daffer, Ted	DE	Tennessee	1954 ChiB	09-24-1929, Norfolk, VA	03-01-2006, Atlanta, GA	76
Dafney, Bernard	G-T	Tennessee	1992-97 Min, Ariz, Pit, Bal	11-01-1968, Los Angeles, CA	01-11-2006, Conyers, GA	37
Darre, Bernie	G	Tulane	1961 Was	01-08-1939, New Orleans, LA	04-26-2006, Cincinnati, OH	67
Davis, Jerry	DB	SE Louisiana	1948-52 ChiC, Dal	08-09-1924, Savannah, GA	10-18-2006, Palatka, FL	82
DeShane, Chuck	BB-G	Alabama	1945-49 Det	12-10-1918, Waukesha, WI	11-05-2006, Grand Rapids, MI	87
Dewveall, Willard	WR	SMU	1959-64 ChiB, Hou	04-29-1936, Springtown, TX	11-20-2006, Houston, TX	70
Dougherty, Bob	LB	Cinc.; Kentucky	1957-63 LARm, Pit, Oak	04-20-1932, Bellevue, KY	05-12-2006, Edgewood, KY	74
Dove, Bob	E	Notre Dame	1946-54 ChiA, ChiC, Det	02-21-1921, Youngstown, OH	04-19-2006, Austintown, OH	85
Doyle, Ted	T-G	Nebraska	1938-45 Pit, Ph-Pt, Ch-Pt	01-12-1914, Maywood, NE	10-06-2006, Omaha, NE	92
Erdlitz, Dick	HB	Northwestern	1942-46 Phi, MiaA	02-15-1920, Menominee, MI	04-03-2006, Melbourne, FL	86
Ferrante, Jack	E	No College	1941-50 Phi	03-09-1916, Camden, NJ	11-23-2006, Yardley, PA	90
Fiss, Galen	LB	Kansas	1956-66 Cle	07-10-1931, Johnson, KS	07-17-2006, Overland Park, KS	75
Franklin, Andra	RB	Nebraska	1981-84 Mia	08-22-1959, Anniston, AL	12-07-2006, Lincoln, NE	47
Garry, Ben	RB	So.Mississippi	1979-80 Bal	02-11-1956, Hazelhurst, MS	06-24-2006, Mobile, AL	50
Gibbs, Donnie	P	TCU	1974 NO	12-31-1945, Tyler, TX	02-21-2006, Huntingdon, PA	60
Glacken, Scotty	QB	Duke	1966-67 Den	07-28-1944, Washington, DC	12-27-2006, Bethesda, MD	60
Goldberg, Marshal	HB	Pittsburgh	1939-48 ChiC	10-25-1917, Elkins, WV	04-03-2006, Chicago, IL	88
Guesman, Dick	DT	West Virginia	1960-64 NYT, Den	01-22-1938, Brownsville, TX	09-12-2006, Roswell, GA	68
Hartley, Howard	DB	Duke	1948-52 Was, Pit	09-16-1924, Ravenswood, WV	09-29-2006, Columbia, SC	82
Hartman, Bill	TB	Georgia	1938 Was	03-17-1915, Thomaston, GA	03-16-2006, Athens, GA	92
Helton, Darius	G	NC Central	1977 KC	10-21-1954, Charlotte, NC	10-03-2006, Charlotte, NC	51
Heyward, Craig	RB	Pittsburgh	1988-98 NO, ChiB, Atl, StL	09-26-1966, Passaic, NJ	05-27-2006, Atlanta, GA	39
Hickey, Red	E	Arkansas	1941-48 Pit, Cle, LARm	02-14-1917, Clarksville, AR	03-30-2006, Santa Cruz, CA	89
Hinkle, Jack	HB	Syracuse	1940-47 NYG, Phi, Ph-Pt	10-31-1917, Milton, PA	11-16-2006, Norristown, PA	89
Humphrey, Paul	C	Purdue	1939 Bkn	07-18-1917, Terre Haute, IN	06-22-2006, Terre Haute, IN	88
Jessie, Ron	WR	Kansas	1971-81 Det, LARm, Buf	02-04-1948, Yuma, AZ	01-13-2006, Huntington Bch, CA	57
Jones, Lew	G	Texas Tech	1943 Bkn	12-15-1911, Cleburne, TX	03-17-2006, Lubbock, TX	94
Kennard, George	G	Kansas	1952-55 NYG	01-08-1928, Kansas City, MO	08-11-2006, Phoenix, AZ	88
Kennedy, Tom	QB	Los Angeles St	1966 NYG	11-27-1938, Maywood, CA	03-15-2006, Long Beach, CA	67
Kimbrough, John	FB	Texas A&M	1946-48 LA-A	06-14-1918, Haskell, TX	05-09-2006, Haskell, TX	97
King, Ed	G	Boston College	1948-50 BufA, Bal	05-11-1925, Chelsea, MA	09-18-2006, Burlington, MA	81
Kinscherf, Carl	FB	Colgate	1943-44 NYG	10-20-1919, Brooklyn, NY	07-27-2006, Wayne, NJ	86
Ksionzyk, John	QB	St.Bonaventure	1947 LARm	01-28-1919, Binghamton, NY	10-14-2006, Olean, NY	87
LeForce, Clyde	QB	Tulsa	1947-49 Det	06-04-1923, Pawnee, OK	06-09-2006, Bristow, OK	83
Leigh, Charlie	RB	No College	1968-74 Cle, Mia, GB	10-29-1945, Halifax, VA	10-26-2006, Albany, NY	60
Leonard, Bill	DE	Notre Dame	1949 BalA	04-27-1927, Youngstown, OH	07-20-2006, Youngstown, OH	79
Long, Buford	HB	Florida	1953-55 NYG	12-14-1931, Lake Wales, FL	09-01-2006, Waichula, FL	74
Mann, Bob	E	Michigan	1948-54 GB, Det	04-08-1924, New Bern, NC	10-21-2006, Detroit, MI	82
Manzo, Joe	T	Boston College	1945 Det	01-03-1917, Medford, MA	10-15-2006, Medford, MA	89
Marino, Vic	G	Ohio State	1947 BalA	10-02-1918, Columbus, OH	01-07-2006, Worthington, OH	87
McDade, Karl	C	Portland	1938 Pit	03-27-1915, Madras, OR	12-06-2006, Portland, OR	91
McFadin, Bud	DT	Texas	1952-65 LARm, Den, Hou	08-11-1928, Rankin, TX	02-13-2006, Victoria, TX	77
McKeever, Marlin	LB-TE	USC	1961-73 LARm, Min, Was, Phi	01-01-1940, Cheyenne, WY	10-27-2006, Long Beach, CA	86
Mello, Jim	DB-FB	Notre Dame	1947-49 Bos, LARm, ChiA, Det	11-08-1920, River Point, RI	05-27-2006, Mesa, AZ	74
Miller, Bob	DT	Virginia	1952-58 Det	12-11-1929, Norwalk, CT	08-07-2006, Clarkston, MI	76
Milner, Charles E.	G-DE	S.Carolina.; Duke	1947-50 ChiB, NYG	03-07-1922, Waynesville, NC	12-25-2006, Waynesville, NC	84

## THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 29, No. 1 (2007)

Player	Pos	College	Career	Born	Died	Ag
Morze, Frank	C-DT	Boston College	1957-64 SF, Cle	03-21-1933, Gardner, MA	05-28-2006, Incline Village, NV	73
Muehlheuser, Frank	FB	Colgate	1948-49 Bos, NYB	07-02-1926, Irvington, NJ	04-22-2006, Pittstown, NJ	79
Nielsen, Walt	FB	Arizona	1940 NYG	02-04-1917, Redondo Beach, CA	09-22-2006, Tucson, AZ	89
Nobile, Leo	G	Penn State	1947-49 Was, Pit	09-22-1922, Ambridge, PA	11-14-2006, Coraopolis, PA	84
Noppenberg, John	HB	Miami (FL)	1940-41 Pit, Det	09-08-1917, Wallace, MI	09-22-2006, Sebring, FL	89
Odle, Phil	WR	Brigham Young	1968-70 Det	11-23-1942, Macedonia, IL	07-27-2006, Orem, UT	63
Palmer, Les	DB	No.Carolina St	1948 Phi	12-15-1923, Cedar Grove, WV	04-15-2006, Tampa, FL	82
Pepper, Gene	G-T	Missouri	1950-54 Was, Bal	09-22-1927, Overland, MO	01-16-2006, St. Charles, MO	78
Petitbon, Johnny	DB	Notre Dame	1952-57 Dal, Cle, GB	06-04-1931 New Orleans, LA	11-11-2006, Metairie, LA	75
Prisby, Errol	DB	Cincinnati	1967 Den	01-24-1943, Ravenna, OH	02-19-2006, Kent, OH	62
Putnam, Earl	C	Arizona State	1957 ChiC	01-10-1932, Cincinnati, OH	02-19-2006, Phoenix, AZ	74
Ross, Dan	TE	Northeastern	1979-86 Cin, Sea, GB	02-09-1957, Malden, MA	05-16-2006, Haverhill, MA	49
Russell, Jack	E	Baylor	1946-50 NY-A, NYY	08-29-1919, Nemo, TX	01-16-2006, Cleburne, TX	86
Ryan, Kent "Rip"	HB	Utah State	1938-40 Det	02-02-1915, Midvale, VT	02-02-2006, Dallas, TX	91
Sandig, Curt	HB	St Marys (TX)	1942-44 Pit, BufA	07-12-1918, Mart, TX	02-13-2006, San Antonio, TX	87
Sandusky, John	T	Villanova	1950-56 Cle, GB	12-28-1925, Philadelphia, PA	03-05-2006, Coral Springs, FL	80
Sardisco, Tony	G	Tulane	1956-62, SF, Bos	12-05-1932, Shreveport, LA	05-28-2006, Shreveport, LA	73
Saul, Bill	LB	Penn State	1962-70 Bal, Pit, NO, Det	11-18-1940, Unionville, PA	09-12-2006, Baltimore, MD	64
Sears, Vic	T	Oregon State	1941-53 Phi	03-04-1918, Ashwood, OR	09-22-2006, Winston-Salem, NC	88
Shanks, Simon	LB	Tennessee State	1995 Ari	10-16-1971, Laurel, MS	01-06-2006, Phoenix, AZ	34
Shurnas, Marshall	E-DE	Missouri	1947 CleA	04-01-1922, St. Louis, MO	08-19-2006, Columbia, MO	84
Shy, Don	RB	San Diego State	1967-73 Pit, NO, ChiB, StL	11-15-1945, Cleveland, OH	10-26-2006, Bellfontaine, OH	56
Sigurdson, Sig	E-DE	Pacific Lutheran	1947 BalA	11-27-1918, Seattle, WA	12-02-2006, Seattle, WA	88
Sims, Mickey	DT	So.Carolina St	1977-79 Cle	03-05-1955, Union, SC	06-07-2006, Parma, OH	51
Snow, Jack	WR	Notre Dame	1965-75 LARm	01-25-1943, Rock Springs, WY	01-09-2006, St. Louis, MO	62
Souchak, Frank	E	Pittsburgh	1939 Pit	04-30-1915, Berwick, PA	02-07-2006, Pebble Beach, CA	90
Spruill, Jim	T	Rice	1948-49 BalA	02-26-1929, Dublin, TX	01-08-2006, Boulder City, NV	82
Stautner, Ernie	DT	Boston College	1950-63 Pit	04-20-1925, Prinzing-by-Cham, Ger	02-16-2006, Carbondale, CO	80
Steele, Ernie	HB	Washington	1942-48 Phi, Ph-Pt	11-02-1917, Bothell, WA	10-16-2006, Seattle, WA	88
Stickles, Monty	TE	Notre Dame	1960-68 SF, NO	08-16-1938, Kingston, NY	09-04-2006, Oakland, CA	68
Stillwell, Roger	DT	Stanford	1975-77 ChiB	11-17-1951, Santa Monica, CA	02-19-2006, Novato, CA	54
Stofer, Ken	HB	Cornell	1946 BufA	08-10-1919, Lakewood, OH	05-04-2006, Westlake, OH	86
Stribling, Bill	OE	Mississippi	1951-57 NYG, Phi	11-05-1927, Edinburg, MS	08-21-2006, Rogers, AR	78
Taylor, Bob	DE-DT	Mary.East.Shore	1963-64 NYG	02-05-1940, Columbia, SC	06-04-2006, New York, NY	66
Teeuws, Len	DT-OT	Tulane	1952-57 LARm, ChiC	04-19-1927, Oak Park, IL	07-14-2006, Indianapolis, IN	78
Thibaut, Jim	FB	Tulane	1946 BufA	08-31-1918, New Orleans, LA	04-05-2006, Kenner, LA	87
Thompson, Hal	E-DE	Delaware	1947-48 BknA	10-18-1922, Manasquan, NJ	04-26-2006, Manasquan, NJ	83
Tinsley, Sid	HB	Clemson	1945 Pit	01-14-1920, Spartanburg, SC	06-03-2006, Spartanburg, SC	86
Tom, Mel	DE	Hawaii,S.Jose St	1967-75 Phi, ChiB	08-04-1941, Kailua Kona, HI	04-27-2006, Honolulu, HI	54
Trimble, Jim	Coach	Indiana	1952-55 Phi	05-29-1918, McKeesport, PA	05-23-2006, Indianapolis, IN	87
Ulinski, Ed	G	Marshall	1946-49 Cle	12-07-1919, Pittsburgh, PA	09-17-2006, Munson Twp., OH	86
Ulrich, Chuck	DT	Illinois	1954-58 ChiC	12-14-1929, Chicago, IL	04-10-2006, Beaufort, SC	76
Warren, Jimmy	DB	Illinois	1964-77 SD, Mia, Oak	07-20-1939, Ferriday, LA	08-09-2006, Little Rock, AR	66
Waters, Andre	DB	Cheyney	1984-95 Phi, Ariz	03-10-1962, Belle Glade, FL	11-20-2006, Tampa, FL	44
Watson, Joe	C-LB	Rice	1950 Det	08-19-1925, Sherman, TX	11-02-2006, Houston, TX	81
Weed, Tad	K	Ohio State	1955 Pit	01-18-1933, Columbus, OH	11-07-2006, Columbus, OH	72
Wham, Tom	DE	Furman	1949-51 ChiC	11-22-1924, Greenville, SC	12-25-2006, Greenville, SC	82
Wildung, Dick	T-G	Minnesota	1946-53 GB	08-16-1921, Anoka, MN	03-15-2006, Minneapolis, MN	84
Wilson, Tommy	RB	No college	1956-63 LARm, Cle, Min	09-01-1932, Stamford, CT	12-31-2006, Pittsburg, CA	73
Wolski, Bill	FB	Notre Dame	1966 Atl	05-23-1944, Muskegon, MI	03-05-2006, Atlanta, GA	61

### UPDATE: HALL OF FAME BURIAL SITES: Players who have died since the article was published.

Reggie White	Glenwood Memorial Park, Mooresville, NC
Ernie Stautner	Sacred Heart Cemetery, Rowlett Tx.
Wellington Mara	Gate of Heaven, Hawthorne, NY
Jim Parker	MLK Jr Memorial Park (Dogwood Road), Baltimore, Md.
Frank Gatski	West Virginia National Cemetery, Grafton, WV
Hank Stram	Pinecrest Memorial Garden, Covington, La.
Lamar Hunt	Sparkman-Hillcrest Memorial Park, Dallas, Tx.

**Cremated:** Guy Chamberlin, Jack Christiansen, Dan Fortmann, Benny Friedman, Red Grange, Mel Hein, Crazylegs Hirsch, Don Hutson, Ray Nitschke, Leo Nomellini, Walter Payton, Fritz Pollard, Ken Strong, Johnny Unitas, Norm Van Brocklin, Doak Walker, Bob Waterfield, Mike Webster, Arnie Weinmeister. Hirsch's ashes have a memorial in Pine Grove Cemetery, Wausau, Wi.

**BOOK REVIEW**

Andy Piascik's "The Best Show in Football" Presents a Convincing Case that the AAFC Can No Longer Be Considered Just a Footnote to Pro Football History.

*Reviewed by*  
Bill Pepperell

PIASCNIK, ANDY. *The Best Show in Football: The 1946-1955 Cleveland Browns, Pro Football's Greatest Dynasty*. Lanham, Maryland: Taylor Trade Publishing, 2007. Pp. xv, 396. Illustrations, appendices, index. \$24.95 hb.

*The Best Show in Football* (a promotional slogan used by the Browns in the 1950s) is a remarkable book which documents the 1946-1955 Cleveland Browns claim—winners of the All-America Football Conference (AAFC) Championship during every year of the Conference's existence (1946-1949), and winners of the National Football League (NFL) Championship in 3 of the 6 years between 1950 and 1955 (1950, 1954, and 1955)—as pro football's greatest dynasty.

The author presents very compelling, closely reasoned argument and closely researched evidence that not only were these Browns the finest pro football team of the era, but in comparison to other pro football dynasties, i.e., the 1940-1946 Chicago Bears, the 1961-1967 Green Bay Packers, the 1974-1979 Pittsburgh Steelers, and the 1981-1989 San Francisco 49ers, these Browns were the greatest dynasty of them all.

The author is obviously a very accomplished historian. First, the book is exceptionally well researched, with the author relying on a great deal of primary sources, including interviews and correspondence with players, the researching of newspapers and official record and roster manuals from the era, in addition to highly reliable books and publications compiled by members of the Professional Football Researchers Association (PFRA).

Second, the author displays a remarkable ability to synthesize an enormous amount of researched material and present it in a form masterful in its breadth, comprehension, penetration, and style. While the book relies highly on statistical analysis, the author displays a great feel for the game, seeing and writing the Browns' story from very human aspects that do not require the digestion of statistical data.

The author first presents evidence that these Browns were the finest team of the era. During their years in the AAFC, they won the Championship every year, from 1946 to 1949. And this against competition that

pressed them hard. While the Browns were 47-4-3 over the regular season, for a winning percentage of .893 (they were perfect in Playoff and Championship games), their two chief rivals, the San Francisco 49ers and New York Yankees, were 38-14-2 for a .729 winning percentage, and 35-17-2 for a .678 winning percentage respectively during these same years. In 1948 Paul Brown called these three teams the finest in all of pro football.

Against the charge by the NFL that the Browns played against inferior competition in the AAFC, the author notes the team continued its dominance in the NFL against pre-1950 NFL teams with many of the same players who had played for them in the old AAFC. For example, during the years 1950-1955, the Browns were 12-0 vs. the Cardinals, 11-1 vs. the Steelers, 10-1 vs. the Redskins, 8-4 vs. the Eagles, 7-4-1 vs. the Giants, 2-0 vs. the Bears, 2-0 vs. the Packers, and 2-0 vs. the Rams. (The only team they had a losing record against, 0-2, were the Lions.)

The author next presents very persuasive evidence that, in comparison to the other above-mentioned pro football dynasties, the 1946-1955 Browns were the greatest pro football dynasty of them all. For example, while the Bears won the NFL Championship in 1940 and 1941, lost it to the Washington Redskins in 1942, won the Championship again in 1943 and 1946, they were heavily impacted, as was all of pro football, by the loss of their best players to military service in WWII, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in their Division in 1944 and 4<sup>th</sup> in 1945. Accordingly, their continuity as a team is uneven, and thus disqualifies them as the greatest football dynasty.

The Packers won the NFL Championship in 1961 and 1962, finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in their Conference in 1963 and 1964, then won the Championship again in 1965, 1966, and 1967, the last two being Super Bowl Championships. While unquestionably a great dynasty, the author makes the argument that in a relative sense it is equally difficult to win titles in any given time period as another, thus the Browns seven Championships in ten years—indeed, *making it to the Championship game all ten years*—shades the Packers five Championships in seven years.

The Steelers won the NFL Championship (the Super Bowl) in 1974 and 1975, lost the AFC Championship

game in 1976, were eliminated in the Playoffs in 1977, and then came back to win Super Bowls in 1978 and 1979. A great dynasty, but the author makes the point that the Steelers were the beneficiaries of a significant rule change: beginning in 1975, the NFL Playoff system changed from an arbitrary, rotating basis for determining home field, to one of seeding based on a team's won-loss record. The Steelers earned and enjoyed a remarkable home field advantage during their post-1974 Championship-winning years: they played six playoff games at home and won them all. In contrast, the Browns played *all* their Championship games under the old rotation system, and on four occasions had the best record in football, but ended up playing the Championship game on the road. They won two of those games, in 1947 and 1955, and lost two, in 1951 and 1953. The Steelers, while a great dynasty, simply did not have to face the adverse conditions presented by the rules that the Browns had to face.

The 49ers of the period 1981-1989 were also a great dynasty, winning four Super Bowls, in 1981, 1984, 1988, and 1989. They failed to make the Playoffs in only one of those years, 1982 (a strike-shortened season), and were eliminated in the NFC Championship game in 1983, in a Wild Card Playoff in 1985, and in Divisional Playoffs in 1986 and 1987. During this nine-year period, the 49ers had an overall regular-season winning percentage of .706. The Browns, by contrast, appeared in *all of the Championship games of the AAFC and NFL during the ten-year period 1946-1955*, won the Championship game seven times, and had an overall regular-season winning percentage of .858. Again, the 49ers were a great dynasty, but the higher year-by-year accomplishments of the Browns favor them as being the greatest of them all.

Besides crystallizing an epoch, the author has laid a solid foundation from which all pro football historians can now work. He has affirmed that the Browns had players so talented, so well-schooled and well-drilled, assistant coaches so technically proficient, a club so advanced in its organization, a head coach, Paul Brown, so commanding in his grasp of the game and in team organization, that his appearance and that of his team on the pro football scene were the making of the most significant revolution to hit the sport. Paul Brown and his influence changed everyone's approach to the game, and men such as Ewbank, Collier, Noll, Landry, Lombardi, Shula, and Walsh astutely followed the lessons of this great man and made their own significant impact on pro football history. In all cases they gave credit to the man who started it all, much as we, as pro football historians, must also do.

*Bill Pepperell is a PFRA member whose main pro football interest is in the post-WWII to late 1950s era. He can be reached at [billpepperell1@yahoo.com](mailto:billpepperell1@yahoo.com).*

# The Columbus Panhandles:

## A Complete History of Pro Football's Toughest Team, 1900-1922

**Chris Willis**

The Scarecrow Press, Inc.

Discounted Price: \$29.75 (15% off)

List Price: \$35.00

Paper 0-8108-5893-2 / 978-0-8108-5893-0 Feb 28, 2007  
408pp

In 1901 workers at the Panhandle shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Columbus, Ohio formed a professional football team called the Columbus Panhandles. The railroad workers, mainly European immigrants, learned the game of football not on college gridirons, but on the sandlots of railroad yards during their lunch breaks. With the leadership of an innovative team manager and its tough physical play, the Panhandles went on to play for more than twenty years as one of the most successful teams in the rag-tag days of professional football.

Incorporating original interviews and actual newspaper accounts, Chris Willis recreates the largely forgotten story of this unique squad of men. In *The Columbus Panhandles: A Complete History of Pro Football's Toughest Team, 1900-1922*, Willis shows how team manager, future NFL commissioner Joseph Carr, used the perks of free railroad travel for employees and the gate attraction of the famous Nesser brothers to build pro football's most successful traveling team. Season by season, Willis provides a fascinating account of the team's spectacular triumphs and crushing losses.

Full of wonderful newspaper quotes, entertaining anecdotes, and many original photos, *The Columbus Panhandles* also profiles a number of principle figures in the team's history, most notably manager Joe Carr and the six Nesser brothers who comprised the heart of the squad for many years. Written to honor the legacy of the Columbus Panhandles, this book will be of interest to historians, sportswriters and general football fans eager to learn about the early days of professional football.

### About the Author

**Chris Willis** has written for the Pro Football Researchers Association, and he has worked in the Archives Department at NFL Films as head of the Research Library since 1996. He is the author of *Old Leather: An Oral History of Early Pro Football in Ohio, 1920-1935* (Scarecrow Press, 2005).

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# The Complete 1965 and 1966 NEA All-Pro Teams

By John Turney

In 1999 the Pro Football Researcher's Association publish a book entitled *The All-Pros, The Modern Years*. The author was this writer. I appreciated the honor, but it was really a compilation of every All-Pro team that I had collected over several years--along with those collected by Bob Carroll, John Hogrogian, who authored *The All-Pro: The First 40 years*.

Among the most frustrating things in that project were what I termed "missing second-teams". Most All-Pro teams are simply a vote of writers, or perhaps players. The first-teams were those who received the most votes at their respective positions. The second teams were those who were next highest, it was a simple plurality of votes. Usually newspapers published first and second-teams, and space permitting the honorable mentions. In a few cases however the second teams were not published and still have not been found. The 1961, 1970 and 1971 Associated Press second-team selections are still a mystery. Also in that same category were the Newspaper Enterprise Association second-teams from 1965 and 1966. (The 1966 AFL NEA second-teams were found in time for the publications) Those teams remained lost, until now.

The Newspaper Enterprise Association, or NEA All-Pro team was considered the "player's All-Pro team" because in the mid-1950s the founder of the poll, Murray Olderman, wanted a player's perspective on All-Pros, rather than the writer's perspective of the AP or the United Press International (UPI). Throughout the next couple of decades, until 1992 when the NEA quit polling players and coaches, that poll provided that perspective. It was noted for having players a year or two earlier than the writer's polls. One example is Merlin Olsen, who was a first-team NEA All-Pro in 1964 but did not make first team on the AP or UPI polls until 1966.

The NEA team also seemed to better reflect who the "player's players" were. Class of 2002 Hall of Fame inductee Dan Hampton was named to the first-team NEA All-Pro team four times. Among Hall of Fame defensive linemen only Gino Marchetti, Bob Lilly, Merlin Olsen, Randy White and Deacon Jones were honored more often, pretty fair company. (Alan Page, Jack Youngblood and Willie Davis were voted to the same number of NEA teams as Hampton) However, the AP and the PFWA only voted Hampton first-team All-Pro once each. If you talk to Hampton's contemporaries, they'll tell you he was a clearly a Hall of Fame player, he played hard, he played hurt, he was a difference maker. He was the epitome of a "player's player" and the NEA All-Pro team reflected that very well.

Recently, Steve Hartman, on-air talent on San Diego radio station XTRA and himself an excellent researcher, ran in Murray Olderman, the fore-mentioned creator of the NEA All-Pro Team. Hartman asked if the missing 1965 and 1966 teams were available anywhere. Olderman responded, "Give me a call, I have all of them at my house". Hartman did so and now, finally, we have the missing NEA teams, which to say the least, yielded some nice pieces of history. (Why this author didn't think to go to Olderman in the first place is unforgivable. Thanks Hartman for making me look so incompetent!)

So, here, published for the first time anywhere are the "Missing NEA second teams".

## 1965 NFL NEA

		Offense	
First Team			Second Team
Dave Parks, SF	WR		Gary Collins, Cle
Jimmy Orr, Bal	WR		Raymond Berry, Bal
Pete Retzlaff, Phi	TE		Mike Ditka, Chi
Bob Vogel, Bal	T		Ernie McMillian, St.L
Bob Brown, Phi	T		Grady Alderman, Min
Jim Parker, Bal	G		Forrest Gregg, GB
John Gordy, Det	G		Ken Gray, St.L
Mick Tingelhoff, Min	C		Jim Ringo, Phil
John Unitas, Bal	QB		Randy Bukich, Chi
John Brodie, SF	(tie)		
Jim Brown, Cle	RB		Tim Brown, Phi
Gayle, Sayers, Chi	RB		Ken Willard, SF
		Defense	
First Team			Second Team
Deacon Jones, LA	DE		Doug Atkins, Chi
Willie Davis, GB	DE		Ordell Braase, Bal
Bob Lilly, Dal	DT		Merlin Olsen, LA
Alex Karras, Det	DT		Roger Brown, Det
Dick Butkus, Chi	MLB		Ray Nitschke, GB
Wayne Walker, Det	OLB		Chuck Howley, Dal
Joe Fortunato, Chi	OLB		Steve Stonebreaker, Bal
Herb Adderly, GB	CB		Jimmy Johnson, SF
Bob Boyd, Bal	CB		Dick LeBeau, Det
Willie Wood, GB	S		Paul Krause, Was
Mel Renfro, Dal	S		Eddie Meador, LA

The most revealing fact in this 1965 NFL team is that John Brodie actually tied with Johnny Unitas in the balloting. Brodie was a second-team AP All-Pro as well as a Pro Bowl selection that year, but this additional selection, overlooked for over 35 years, make Brodie a two-time All-Pro rather than just one (1970 was the other). It probably won't help him in his chances to be a senior's candidate for the Hall of Fame, but it puts him just one selection behind Joe Montana (3-time All-

## THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 29, No. 1 (2007)

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Pro), the same as Fran Tarkenton (2-time All-Pro), and ahead of 2002 Inductee Jim Kelly (1-time All-Pro)

Ernie McMillian was a Pro Bowler in 1965, but this is an additional selection for him as well as for Hall of Famer Jim Ringo. As revealed in earlier issues of Coffin Corner the *Detroit News* named Chuck Howley and All-Pro in 1965, but this NEA second team choice is his only major selection of that year and confirms that the *Detroit News* was an insightful team. The same goes for Eddie Meador who was All-Western Conference by *The Sporting News* and a Pro Bowler, but was not selected to any other league-wide All-Pro teams that year.

### 1965 AFL NEA All-Pro

Offense	
First Team	Second Team
Lance Alworth, SD	WR Don Maynard, NYJ
Lionel Taylor, Den	WR Art Powell, Oak
Willie Frazier, Hou	TE Fred Arbanas, KC
Ron Mix, SD	T Sherman Plunkett, NYJ
Jim Tyrer, KC	T Elden Danenhauer, Den
Billy Shaw, Buf	G Sonny Bishop, Hou
Wayne Hawkins, Oak	G Bob Talamini, Hou
Jim Otto, Oak	C Jon Morris, Bos
Jack Kemp, Buf	QB Len Dawson, KC
Paul Lowe, SD	RB Clem Daniels, Oak
Cookie Gilchrist, Den	RB Matt Snell, NYJ
Defense	
First Team	Second Team
Earl Faison, SD	DE Ben Davidson, Oak
Jerry Mays, KC	DE Tom Day, Buf
Tom Sestak, Buf	DT Buck Buchanan, KC
Ernie Ladd, SD	DT Ray Jacobs, Den
Nick Buoniconti, Bos	MLB Harry Jacobs, Buf
Bobby Bell	OLB Larry Grantham, NYJ
Mike Stratton, Buf	OLB Frank Buncom, SD
Dave Grayson, Oak	CB Butch Byrd, Buf
Speedy Duncan, SD	CB W.K. Hicks, Hou
George Saimes, Buf	S Johnny Robinson, KC
Dainard Paulson, NYJ	S Kenny Graham, SD

Len Dawson was not selected to anything in 1965 until this poll was revealed. Dawson, already a Hall of Famer probably couldn't care less, but this does move him up a notch in history. By the way, does anyone else wonder how Joe Namath was named to the All-Time AFL team over Dawson? Dawson won four AFL passing championships to go with his three AFL Championships (one for Namath) and his own Super Bowl win (same as Namath). Dawson and Namath were the only two quarterbacks in the 1960s with a completion percentage over fifty percent. Dawson was 56.8 percent, Namath 50.2. Dawson also threw more touchdown passes than anyone in AFL history. Maybe if Dawson had guaranteed a victory over the Vikings, then Dawson would have been the choice.

### 1966 NFL NEA All-Pro

Offense		
First Team		Second Team
Bob Hayes, Dal	WR	Pat Studstill, Det
Dave Parks, SF	WR	Gary Collins, Cle
John Mackey, Bal	TE	Jackie Smith, St.L
Forrest Gregg, GB	T	Ralph Neely, Dal
Bob Brown, Phi	T	Dick Schafrath, Cle
Gene Hickerson, Cle	G	Jerry Kramer, GB
John Thomas, SF	G	John Wooten, Cle
Mick Tingelhoff, Min	C	Bruce Bosley, SF
Bart Starr, GB	QB	Don Meredith, Dal
Gale Sayers, Chi	RB	Dick Bass, LA
Leroy Kelly, Cle	RB	Jim Taylor, GB
Defense		
First Team		Second Team
Deacon Jones, LA	DE	Ordell Braase, Bal
Willie Davis, GB	DE	Joe Robb, St.L
Bob Lilly, Dal	DT	Henry Jordan, GB
Merlin Olsen, LA	DT	Charlie Krueger, SF
Ray Nitschke, GB	MLB	Dick Butkus, Chi
Chuck Howley, Dal	OLB	Dave Wilcox, SF
Maxie Baughan, LA	OLB	Jim Houston, Cle
Herb Adderly, GB	CB	Dick LeBeau, Det
Cornell Green, Dal	CB	Brady Keys, Pit
Larry Wilson, St.L	S	Mel Renfro, Dal
Willie Wood, GB	S	Jerry Stovall, St.L

Dick Schafrath was a pro bowler in 1966, but this is his only other selection. Scharfrath was one of the first NFL players to be miked by NFL Films. In the recent series, *Lost Treasures*, this film was played for the first time. It was never aired because it was mostly a lot of moaning, groaning. One bit was quite funny, however. Eagle defensive end Gary Pettigrew, apparently angered by the way Scharfrath was blocking him that afternoon can be heard yelling the taunt "Hold me again, lover!". Pettigrew, a Stanford grad, was not at as loss for words that day. That was probably a little too suggestive for 1966 America.

Charlie Krueger toiled for 15 years in the NFL pits. He seems the perfect illustration of the value of looking at second-team selections. He really was not in the class of a Merlin Olsen or Bob Lilly, but it fits that he should get at least SOME recognition. He was a selected to the Pro Bowl in 1964, an AP second-team selection in 1965, now a NEA second team selection in 1966 and a second-team All-NFC selection by UPI in 1970. Seems about right for the man whose face personified pro football. His battered, bloodied face was part of *Sports Illustrated's* photo essay about football warriors in the early 1970s and looked the part of a lineman who played without a cage-style facemask, which he was. With his various second-team selections those of us who did not get to see him play live, know he was a pretty good player and not just an ugly face.

### "I'M JACK WHITAKER AND THIS IS THE NFL GAME OF THE WEEK"

by Andy Piascik

Looking back, the 1960's seem like a golden age, forever lost, of football announcers. It was a time when giants like Chuck Thompson, Ken Coleman, Curt Gowdy, Charlie Jones, Jack Brickhouse, Jack Buck, and the one and only Ray Scott were all broadcasting pro football games. Balanced and eloquent, understated yet passionate, we have not seen their like since Pat Summerall retired and we are not likely to again anytime soon.

I grew up about 50 miles from Yankee Stadium, and Jack Whitaker was an important part of my first years as a football aficionado. Although I was never a Giants' fan, Whitaker transcended provincialism with a unique combination of talents that earn him a place alongside the best of his time. He was intelligent, never talked down to viewers, brought a literary sensibility to his work, and had exactly the right kind of voice for the job. In the end, that may be the most important trait of all, the chops. All of the insight and passion in the world aren't enough without the voice; Whitaker's was like a New England forest in autumn.

If Whitaker is not remembered in the same exalted way as Scott, Thompson, and Coleman, it may in part be due to certain elements of his career. Up until about 1970, NFL television announcers were like radio teams of today in that the same two men broadcast all of a team's games. If you watched 14 Packers' games, you got Scott and his color man for 14 games. Anyone who stayed in one job for any length of time became identified with specific teams - Scott with Green Bay, Thompson with Baltimore, Coleman with Cleveland.

Whitaker's tenure, on the other hand, was divided between Philadelphia and New York. A Philadelphia native who grew up on Penn and Eagles' football, he started in television in 1950, began doing Eagles' games in 1956 as a color man teamed with By Saam, and then assumed the play by play job in 1960. Lo and behold, after being a terrible team during Whitaker's first years in Philadelphia, the Eagles surprised the football world and won the NFL Championship in his first season as the main man behind the mike, a championship that remains the team's last. Then almost as quickly as they rose, the Eagles slid back to last place.

As the team fell to the bottom of the standings, Whitaker noticed a general deterioration in the organization. He was ready to move on. When Chris Schenkel stepped down as the Giants' play by play man after the 1964 season (looking back later at the years of futility that plagued the team after his

departure following a decade of success, Schenkel joked about how good his timing was), the opportunity to do so arose and Whitaker took over the New York job. Teamed with Frank Gifford, Whitaker speaks graciously of his partner and fondly of his years with the Giants despite the team's pronounced lack of success during his tenure.

The Giants had their worst year ever in Whitaker's second season, they never made it to the postseason while he was broadcasting their games, and shortly after he left New York City the team did, too. Still, despite week after week of uninspired football, Whitaker was a class act who neither lost his enthusiasm for the game or tried to whitewash what was clearly a bad situation. He also had a keen awareness of the tremendous drama of a sport that's played only once a week, and he seemed to have newcomers like me in mind with the eloquent way he painted on a large canvas. Late one Sunday afternoon he spoke about the shadows that had overtaken the first base end of the field in such a way that I always see shades of gray in that end zone whenever I think of football at Yankee Stadium.

One other piece of the Giants/CBS/Whitaker experience was WTIC Channel 3, located just beyond the 75 mile blackout area in Hartford, Connecticut. Although the 1960's are remembered as the period when television and pro football became inextricably linked, there were numerous Sundays when no NFL games were available on television in many markets. Not only were all home games blacked out, no other game could be televised in that market, either, when the local team played at home. In the latter part of the decade CBS began featuring games that didn't involve the local team, but only for several weeks near the end of the season. In the New York metropolitan area, that meant that when the Giants were playing at home you either bought a ticket or turned on the radio - or you figured out a way to tune in to Channel 3.

For people in the five boroughs, Long Island, or Westchester County, that meant driving or training it to Connecticut to bars, hotels, motels, or the homes of friends or relatives, as Channel 3's range did not extend much past Stamford (and not always that far). Whenever the Giants played a big home game during the glory years of 1956-63, many people did precisely that. For the 1962 Championship Game, some newspaper accounts reported rush hour-like congestion on highways and the New York-New Haven rail line because of the thousands of fans who made the trek. Although the Giants didn't play many big

games during Whitaker's tenure, access to Channel 3 was the only way a Giants' fan could watch all of the team's games on television. It would not be until 1973 that home games were televised in New York City.

People in most of Connecticut didn't have that problem. As long as they had a half way decent antennae, fans could get the Giants on Channel 3 with Whitaker doing the call. That may be why there's a bit of a dichotomy regarding which broadcaster fans in the region associate with the post-Schenkel Giants. For people in New York City who relied on radio for half of the team's games, the answer is Marty Glickman. For people like me with easy access to Channel 3, however, the voice of the Giants was Jack Whitaker and nobody else. And again because of the paucity of out of town games on television, it's no stretch to say he was the voice of pro football for millions of fans for five or six of the game's most significant years.

Despite the futility of the Giants, Whitaker's skills earned him a place on the national football stage. His first national exposure had come in the 1960 NFL title game, and he was chosen to do the play by play of the first Super Bowl following the 1966 season. He was a mainstay of the postseason for the next decade, and he did a number of the exciting games of the era including the 1969 Western Conference Championship Game between the Vikings and Rams.

Finally, there's the NFL Game of the Week. At a time when highlights of every game are available almost instantaneously on numerous channels and all-sports networks, it is difficult to imagine the impact of the NFL Game of the Week. Imagine being a Packers' fan at the height of the Lombardi era living in New Jersey or Texas or any of a hundred other places far from Wisconsin. Your team plays a big game against the Colts or the Bears and you have no way of watching it. If you're lucky, you may get to see a clip or two on Bruce Roberts' Sunday night post-game show, but otherwise you'll have to wait until the following spring when the Packers release their film of highlights of the previous season.

Or you might be a fan in one of those markets where the local team was playing at home who didn't get to see any NFL football that week. Or you might be one of many fans who simply wanted to see more football. Whatever the case, the NFL Game of the Week drew on the rising popularity of the game and the technical expertise of NFL Films and became a staple around the country. It was an in-depth 30 minute show chock full of instant replays, slow motion, and Jack Whitaker.

From the time it debuted in 1965, the NFL Game of the Week was one of the real gems of sports television and Jack Whitaker was an integral part of it from the outset. Whitaker shared narrating duties with Scott, Summerall, and others in the show's early years, and I don't know how many of the shows he did compared to

anyone else. Whatever the breakdown, it is his voice, his style, that I associate with the show. Pick a game that he did and you'll see why. Some of them pop up on ESPN Classic every once in a while. I watched the show of a Rams-Eagles game from 1969 recently and it was like taking a short trip back in time ("Fifty-seven exciting yards later, it was first and ten on the Rams' twenty-four").

One of the reasons the NFL Game of the Week was so good is because it was several days in the making. That allowed Whitaker's literary side to come to the fore. It also allowed him to put his great voice and speaking style to best use; Whitaker was the anti-Berman if he was anything. Let's hope that someday somebody unearths all of the lost episodes of the NFL Game of the Week. In the mean time, check out those that are available and acquaint (or re-acquaint) yourself with a jewel of a show and with the brilliance of Jack Whitaker.

Whitaker continued on as a play-by-play man for another five years after the networks and the NFL did away with assigning announcers to specific teams. Along with Summerall, he was also hosting CBS's Sunday pre-game show. Then at Whitaker's suggestion, network bigwigs agreed to professionalize the show and he was selected as its full-time host in 1974. He gave up his play-by-play duties and The NFL on CBS was born, with Whitaker anchoring pre-game, halftime, and post-game slots, just like every show of its kind since.

And then, just a year later, he was cut loose, replaced by Brent Musberger (Musberger replacing Whitaker says it all about the sorry state of football announcing over the last thirty plus years). Like Ray Scott, who was pushed out by CBS around the same time, Whitaker was deemed to be too reserved. After 20 years, one of the great voices of pro football was gone. He has continued on with CBS Sports in the 30 years since and even kept his hand in football, but since 1975 it has been strictly in a marginal role. Instead he has specialized in golf and horse racing - tune in the Kentucky Derby and you're likely to see him doing a feature, just as good as ever.

Along the way Whitaker wrote about his life in broadcasting in Preferred Lies and Other Tales (1998, Simon & Schuster). It is no surprise that he did not go on at much length about the unceremonious way in which CBS removed him from its NFL lineup. One gets the feeling that football fans who appreciated his work needed him more than he needed football. For those of us who fall into that category, for those of us who have gotten to a point where we watch football with the volume turned down, we are left with an unsatisfied feeling of how much better things would have been had Whitaker and Scott been allowed to remain behind the microphone for another 15 years.

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# SHOULD THE PACKERS PACK IT IN?

By Bob Carroll

Originally published in *Pro Football Weekly*

More proof, if you need it, that Americans will complain about almost anything:

Recently People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (better known as PETA for the syllably challenged) demanded Green Bay change the name of its football team. Packers, they said, promotes violence and bloodshed because it refers to meat packers and those who work in slaughterhouses.

As far as the source of the name goes, PETA's right. The Packers of Green Bay weren't named for folks who stow boxes of leisure suits, Hawaiian shirts, old letters, unread books, and record albums by the Four Has-Beens up in their attics. No, back in 1919 the original team was really sponsored by a Green Bay meat packing company.

Certainly none of us want to see violence in the National Football League. And even though I haven't noticed the stories myself, I guess the news must be brimming with accounts of drive-by meat packing.

Nevertheless, at the risk of coming across as an unethical treater of animals – something my cat has been suggesting for years – I think we have to be careful here. It's a slippery slope. Let's look before we leap. Let's not throw out the baby with the bath. Let's remember a stitch in time. Let's see how many cliches we can cram into one paragraph.

One of the ironies here is that the original team sponsor was the *Indian Packing Company*. So, instead of Packers, the team could just as easily be known today as the Green Bay Indians. Then PETA wouldn't give a rat's rear but Green Bay would be offending all those Native Americans who want the Washington Redskins changed to the Washington Something-Having-Nothing-to-Do-with-Native-Americans.

For the record, the Washington team didn't start out as Redskins any more than they started out in Washington. When the franchise came into the NFL in 1932, it was in Boston using the name Braves because they played in Braves Field, home of the baseball team now in Atlanta. When the football team moved to Fenway Park in 1933, it needed a name more in accord with Red Sox. Hence, Redskins. They moved to Washington in 1937 but kept the Redskins name, just like that baseball team has been Braves from Boston through Milwaukee and on to Atlanta.

During the NFL's history, teams have been more likely to change the first part of their name – the city part – than to change the second part. The Cardinals and Rams have gone through three cities each. Changes to the second part – the mascot part – are a lot rarer, probably because when they change that they have to pay for new logos. Besides the Braves-to-Redskins, there've been Pirates-to-Steelers, Titans-to-Jets, Texans-to-Chiefs, and Oilers-to-Titans. None of those changes came because someone got offended by the old name.

Still, the Politically-Correcters work hard at making you feel like a nazi if you want to keep calling the Washington team the Redskins. “How would you like it if they were called the Washington N-words?” they ask. It does no good to explain we’re talking several degrees of difference in offensiveness here, as demonstrated by the fact that we don’t have to euphemize the present team name to the R-words.

The Holier-Than-Us crowd argues that the degree doesn’t matter. Anything – *anything* – that offends *anybody* should be banned from polite company, civilized discourse, and ESPN.

But, you cry, that puts us at the mercy of any nut with a grudge, no matter how ridiculous. What if some tall guy is offended by New York Giants? Or suppose a poor speller complains that Pittsburgh Steelers sets a bad role model for kids? Where do you draw the line?

Some say it’s an insult to name a sports team after a segment of the population. I don’t know how they explain that to Notre Dame, but many of those objecting to Redskins are also against *any* team name involving Native Americans -- Indians, Braves, Chiefs, Warriors, or Native Americans. I wonder if they know there was a team called the Scalpers in Rochester about 80 years ago?

I’m sorry but I just can’t see scratching the word *Indian* from our vocabularies. I’d never get used to the Colts playing in Apolis, A.

To be honest, I wouldn’t be offended at all if some team wanted to use me for its name. I’d cheer like crazy for the Gotham Bobs. I’d even cheer for something more generic like the Gotham Old-Fat-Guys, but I can see where that might bother some of my contemporaries.

I keep going back to a question of degree. Granted some people will take offense at anything, but generally speaking, we want to know how offensive a particular term is to the Average Person. The only problem with that is the Average Person is seldom the one getting insulted. We could end up with the Average-Person Majority tyrannizing the Less-Popular Minority. Speaking as an Average Person, I never knew there was anything offensive about Redskins until the pickets showed up. Maybe I was raised on too many John Wayne movies, or just maybe it was because up until then I’d thought about Native Americans about as often as I’d thought about the atomic weight of diridium.

Somewhere between the apathetically ignorant and the terminally thin-skinned there’s got to be a sensible answer. But until we find it, silly complaints like PETA’s Packers lament weaken any valid objections. Not being a Texas longhorn, I never thought of a packing plant as a place of violence. Now, if they were the Green Bay Postmen . . . .

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Review:

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**Bob Gill** is an award-winning football research-er and author of several books, including *Minor League Football, 1960-85*. He lives in Green-belt, Maryland and works as an editor of a new-spaper in Annapolis.

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