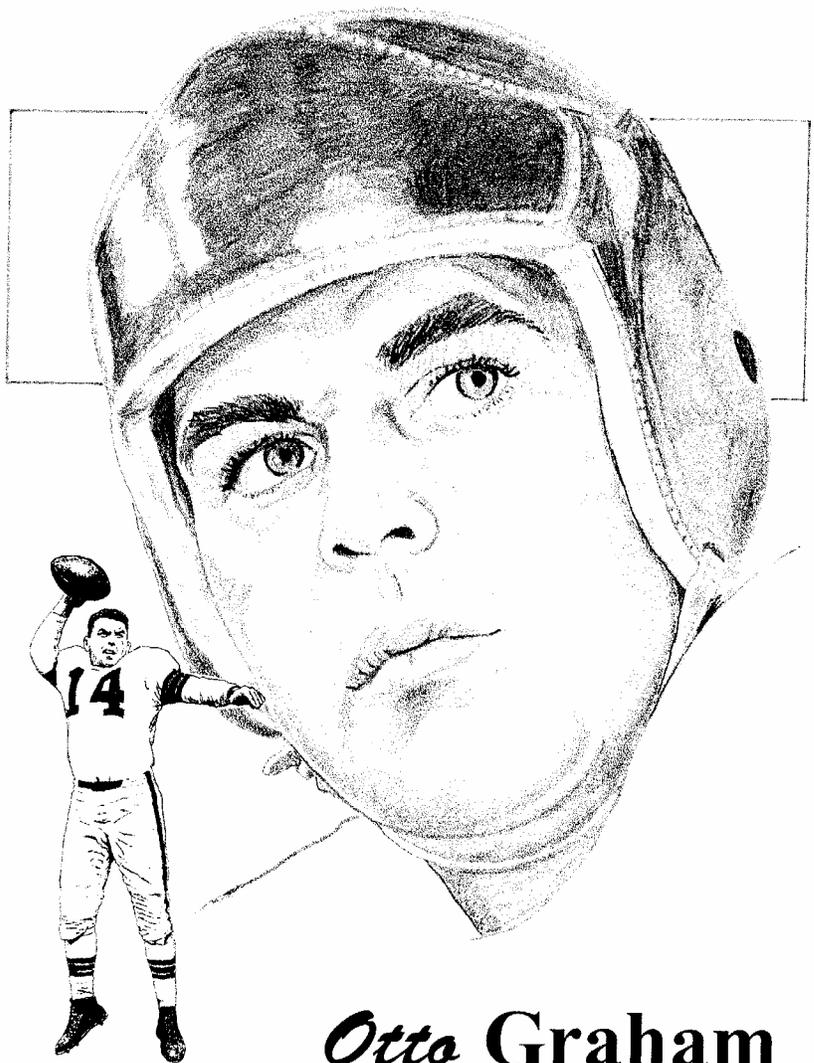


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*Otto* **Graham**

## PFRA-ternizing

A PFRA member has an interesting website – [www.profootballarchives.com/index.html/](http://www.profootballarchives.com/index.html/) It lists by team every game ever played in the NFL, AFL, or AAFC, with the date, score, location, and for the most part attendance. Before you say all that is available other places, let me tell you the part of this site that interests me and then ask you for a big favor.

The first part of the site is devoted to pre-NFL years – 1910-19. This includes major teams like the 1917 Canton Bulldogs and 1914 Evanston North Ends as well as semi-semi pros like the 1912 Beloit Iroquois A.C. and the 1916 Hartford City A.A. Many of the major teams are nearly complete, but the little teams that you never heard of have lots of blanks.

Now here's the big favor. Look at the yearly team lists for 1910-19 and see if there were teams listed from your town. If you find one or more, see what's missing. (In many cases it's all but one or two games of a team's schedule.) Now go to your local library (or wherever microfilm of your local newspaper is kept) and start checking game accounts. See how many of the blanks – date, site, opponents, score, attendance – you can fill in. If you find line-ups, copy them down too. There's a place on the site where you can e-mail info to the site's master, but if you're leery of mailing to a stranger, send them to me. I'll pass them on and also send your discoveries to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

\* \* \* \*

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## THE COFFIN CORNER

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PFRA MEMBERSHIP \$25 per year

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A word from Pudge Heffelfinger:

**"DON" T FORGET TO RENEW FOR 2008."**

## Otto Graham in the All America Football Conference

By Joel Bussert

When undefeated New England and Indianapolis squared off in Week Nine of the 2007 NFL season, much was written about a rare battle of unbeaten teams, and research unearthed a handful of other such contests in the NFL's history. But there was little, if any, mention of one of the most eventful of such games, the 1948 battle between San Francisco (10-0) and Cleveland (9-0). The reason, of course, was that the contest was played in the All America Football Conference, and much of the history of that organization has been ignored or lost to history since the league folded after the 1949 season, with three of its teams transferring to the National Football League.

Among the lost items are the game-by-game statistical summaries of the 210 games played from 1946 through 1949. Though the end-of-season statistics were preserved in the Conference's annual media guides, the game-by-game records, sadly, were discarded when the League folded. The AAFC statistics were compiled by Homer Cooke, Jr., who was also the director of the National Collegiate Athletic Bureau, the statistical arm of the NCAA. Supposedly, when the AAFC game sheets were discarded after the league had closed shop, one of Cooke's employees, recognizing their historical value, picked them out of the trash and took them home. Unfortunately, the employee has chosen not to share these records with anyone else, and the game-by-game records of AAFC greats such as Graham have disappeared from the record books and from memory.

For several years, I have attempted to re-create the game-by-game records of Graham and selected other AAFC players through newspaper research. Fortunately, writers covering the AAFC frequently mentioned outstanding individual performances in their stories; in addition, newspapers frequently printed the Conference's weekly statistical list of leaders, which usually identified the top five players in rushing, receiving, passing, and scoring. Some newspapers, such as the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Los Angeles Times*, printed a box of a game's individual statistics, similar to what appears in hundreds of newspapers each Monday during the football season, though not as extensive. The *Chronicle*, for instance, only carried the individual rushing totals for each team, the *Times* only the individual rushing and passing statistics. The *Cleveland Press* eventually carried individual receiving statistics, as well as rushing and passing, but these figures were not available for all games.

By combining the statistics reported in game accounts with the statistics reported in the weekly releases, I have been able to re-recreate Otto Graham's game-by-game record in the AAFC. Of the Browns' 54 regular season games from 1946 through 1949 (14 each in 1946, 1947, and 1948, and 12 in 1949), Graham's passing record was reported in the accounts of 44 games. For the other 10 games, I have calculated his performances by using the conference's statistical releases preceding and following the missing games. For instance, in 1946, I was unable to locate any record for Graham in the Browns' October 6 game against Brooklyn. However, the Conference release of October 2 listed Graham's season totals as 25 completions in 45 attempts for 431 yards, and the release of October 10 showed him with 30 completions in 52 attempts for 517 yards, a difference of five completions, seven attempts, and 86 yards, which I have credited to him for the game of October 6.

One needs to be careful when dealing with statistics based on weekly releases. Like any good statistician, Cooke audited the game reports he received, balancing receptions and receiving yards against completions and passing yards, and sometimes the weekly releases reflected changes from the numbers reported after the game. Changes also might have resulted from interpretations of the scoring rules. What is not known is whether a change was always made in time for the release immediately following a game, or whether the correction might have been made in the following week's release.

### 1946 Notes

1. September 13: The weekly release for September 18, the first I have located for the 1946 season, credits Graham with 10 completions in 20 attempts for 134 yards. From that, I have subtracted his game one total of six completions in 13 attempts for 109 yards to obtain the calculated game two statistics of four completions, seven attempts, and 25 yards.
2. October 6: Explained above.
3. October 20: Four completions in 10 attempts for 129 yards. Based on the weekly releases of October 16 (35 completions in 63 attempts for 560 yards) and October 23 (39 completions in 73 attempts for 689 yards).

4. November 3: Game-day stories reported Graham with 12 completions in 19 attempts for 241 yards. The statistical release prior to the game listed Graham with 53 completions, 92 attempts, and 973 yards, and the release after the game showed him with 65 completions in 111 attempts for 1124 yards, which would mean 151 yards and the same 12 completions in 19 attempts. But the 1124 is almost certainly a typographical mistake, with the second one and the two transposed. If that is the case, and his season total is 1214 yards, then the figure of 241 yards is correct, and I have used it here.
  5. November 10: Seven completions in 16 attempts for 184 yards. Game-day stories reported Graham with six completions in 15 attempts for 174 yards, but the league release of November 14 shows him with 72 completions in 127 attempts for 1398 yards, or a calculated total for the game of seven completions in 16 attempts for 184 yards. I am assuming an audit of the game report revealed an extra pass attempt, which was completed for 10 yards, though it is also possible that the extra attempt, completion, and 10 yards resulted from the audit of a previous game.
  6. November 17: Six completions in 16 attempts for 131 yards. To further confuse matters, game-day stories reported Graham with seven completions in 16 attempts for 131 yards. But the league's statistical release (78 completions in 143 attempts for 1529 yards) calculates to six completions, which I have used here, and the same 16 attempts and 131 yards.
  7. December 3: One completion in five attempts for one yard. League releases credited Graham with 78 completions in 143 attempts for 1529 yards after 11 games and with 87 completions for 1685 yards after 12 games. Game-day accounts for November 24 against Buffalo report nine completions for 16 attempts for 156 yards, which complies with the figures for completions and yards per the release after 12 weeks. I have assumed the 16 attempts is also correct, and that his 12-week total, therefore, is 159. Since his final figures for 1946 are 95 completions in 174 attempts for 1834 yards, and his performance in game 14 against Brooklyn on December 8 was reported as seven completions in 10 attempts for 148 yards, that leaves one completion in five attempts for one yard against Miami.
- report that he completed 11 of 22 for 161 yards on October 5, I have calculated his September 26 totals as six for 14 for 149 yards.
  2. October 26: Game-day stories reported 19 completions in 24 attempts for 278 yards, but the story accompanying the league's weekly statistical report stated that he completed 20 of 26 for 273 yards, which I have used.
  3. November 2: This game was reported as 13 completions in 16 attempts for 246 yards in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and the *Buffalo Evening News*. But the *Cleveland Press*, the *Buffalo Courier-Express*, and the Associated Press story in the *New York Times* indicate the yardage figure was 256, as do the weekly statistics and the accompanying story. I have used the figure of 256.
  4. November 9: Graham's totals are calculated from the weekly releases preceding and following the game (104 of 164 for 1663 yards before the game and 108 of 178 for 1758 yards after the game). The totals of four completions in 14 attempts for 95 yards are identical to the figures for the Browns in the summary of the game's team statistics that appeared in newspapers the following day.
  5. December 7: Game-day accounts report 12 completions in 16 attempts for 207 yards. The weekly release prior to the game showed Graham with 2545 yards and the release after the game with 2753 yards, his final total. I have used the calculated figure of 208 yards for this game, though presumably the one-yard correction could have resulted from a re-check of any of the season's 13 previous games.

#### 1948 Notes

1. September 17: 12 completions in 20 attempts for 157 yards. According to League releases, Graham completed 20 of 38 passes in his first two games (no yards were announced in the article), and 32 of 58 for 476 yards in the first three games, meaning he was 12 completions in 20 attempts in game three. Since the Browns as a team were credited with 12 for 20 for 157 yards against Chicago on September 17, I have credited Graham with 157 yards in this game.
2. September 12: The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* reports Graham with 197 yards passing in this game, while the *Cleveland Press* states that it was 189. The league release credits Graham with 476 yards passing after games of September 17. Since game stories show Graham with 122 yards passing on September 3, and I have credited him with 157 yards passing on September

#### 1947 Notes

1. September 26: Six completions in 14 attempts for 149 yards. Graham's totals are calculated from the weekly releases. The release of September 23 shows him with 25 completions in 40 attempts for 352 yards and the release two weeks later credits him with 42 completions in 76 attempts for 662 yards. Since game accounts

17 pursuant to No. 1 above, I have used the figure of 197, since it complies with the reported three-game total of 476.

3. October 5 and 10: League statistics credit Graham with 43 completions in 80 attempts for 692 yards after games of September 26, and with 78 completions in 155 attempts for 1154 yards after games of October 17. That means Graham completed 35 passes in 75 attempts for 462 yards in the Browns' games of October 5, 10, and 17. Game stories credit him with 11 for 27 for 189 yards on October 17, leaving him 24 for 48 for 273 yards on October 5 and 10. Though I have not found game stories with his individual statistics for those two games, the Browns' team totals for those two games, per the box accompanying the game stories, were 10 for 17 for 103 yards on October 5 and 14 for 31 for 170 yards on October 10, or a two-game total of 24 for 48 for 273 yards. Consequently, I have credited Graham for those totals for the games of October 5 and 10.
4. November 25 and November 28: Game-day stories credit Graham with 16 completions in 32 attempts on November 25 (Thanksgiving Day) and 11 completions in 23 attempts three days later on Sunday, November 28. In the league release of November 23, Graham has 135 completions in 261 attempts, and in the league release of November 30 he has 163 completions in 316 attempts, a two-game total of 28 completions in 55 attempts. There is no way of knowing in which game he had the extra completion.

**1949 Notes**

1. October 9: Game day accounts credit him with 13 completions in 26 attempts. The league release of October 4 reports him with 71 completions in 122 attempts, and the league release of October 12 with 83 completions in 148 attempts. I have used the calculated figure of 12 completions in 26 attempts.
2. November 6: Game-day accounts credit Graham with 14 completions in 19 attempts. The league release of November 2 reports him with 112 completions and the league release of November 8 with 125 completions. I have used the calculated figure of 13 completions.

The table below compares Graham's official season-ending statistics as they appear in the AAFC Record Book to the totals derived from the game-by-game re-creation:

	Att.	Cmp.	Yards	TD.
1946 Actual	174	95	1834	17
1946 Game-by-game	Same			

1947 Actual	269	163	2753	25
1947 Game-by-game	Same			
1948 Actual	333	173	2713	25
1948 Game-by-game	172 completions			
1949 Actual	285	161	2785	19
1949 Game-by-game	Same			

In its four seasons, the AAFC averaged 311.0 passing yards per game (269.2 in 1946, 295.6 in 1947, 353.1 in 1948, and 331.5 in 1949), a per team average of 155.5. In 54 games Graham threw for 10,085 yards, an average of 186.8 per game. Otto topped 200 passing yards in 24 games, and surpassed 300 yards five times, throwing for 325 on November 23, 1947, for 310 on October 24, 1948, for 330 on September 5, 1949, for 362 on October 14, 1949, and a career high 382 on November 20, 1949.

He threw at least one touchdown pass in 42 games. He threw four on November 17, 1946 against Chicago, October 24, 1948 against New York, November 28, 1948 against San Francisco, and September 5, 1949 against Buffalo. His career high of six came against Los Angeles on October 14, 1949. He threw at least one touchdown pass for 13 straight games (the last eight games in 1947 and the first five in 1948).

Otto and Washington's Sammy Baugh were the two best passers in professional football in the 1940's. While Baugh threw mostly fastballs, the passes coming out of his hand like machine gun bullets, Graham was more of a touch passer. He threw a softer ball than Slinging Sam, but with the same deadly accuracy. During a 16-season career that stretched from 1937 through 1952, Baugh completed a then-record 56.5 percent of his passes. Only Graham, among that era's passers, came close. He completed 55.8 percent in the AAFC, and almost matched it during a six-year NFL career, completing 55.7 percent from 1950 through 1955. For his 10-season career, Graham's mark was 55.8 percent.

Otto's passes gained plenty of yards. He led the AAFC three times in average gain per attempt and added two more titles in the NFL. His career average of 9.51 yards is the AAFC record, as is his NFL average of 8.63 yards. His two-league, 10-season career average of 8.98 is also the highest of any major league professional quarterback.

Graham had many outstanding performances, but his greatest may have come in the season opener of 1949, when the Browns rallied for a 28-28 tie at Buffalo, wiping out a three-touchdown deficit. Otto completed 27 of 40 passes for 330 yards and all four Cleveland touchdowns. In the fourth quarter he completed 10 straight passes, while connecting on 14 of 16 attempts according to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

(the accounts differ on his fourth-quarter totals; the *Buffalo Courier-Express* conservatively credits him with 10 for 14 during the period, while the *Buffalo Evening News* reports that he completed 18 of 21 for 202 yards and three touchdowns in the fourth quarter, and the Associated Press states that he completed 15 of his last 17, which, at least, is not inconsistent with the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* version, assuming that the first completion occurred in the third period. It is also possible that the *Evening News* included some third quarter throws in its 18 for 21 total. Whichever account is correct, the undeniable fact is that he was hot.)

He had a four-game streak in the middle of the 1947 season that has rarely been equaled. Against Los Angeles on October 12, he was 19 for 29 for 233 yards, followed by a 10-for-17 day for 239 yards and a touchdown against Chicago.

But he was even hotter the next two weeks. Against San Francisco on October 26, Otto completed 20 passes in 26 attempts for 273 yards and two touchdowns, and the following week was 13 of 16 for 256 yards and three touchdowns against Buffalo. His four-game totals were 62 completions in 88 attempts (70.45 percent) for 1,001 yards (11.38 yards per attempt) and six touchdowns, with 33 completions in 42 attempts (78.57 percent) for 529 yards (12.60 yards per attempt) and five touchdowns in the last two games.

In a five-game span in 1949 (October 2 through November 6) he was almost as productive, completing 71 passes in 122 attempts (58.20 percent) for 1,435 yards (11.76 yards per attempt) and 13 touchdowns.

Otto Graham AAFC Game-by-Game Record

Date	Opponent	Cmp.	Att.	Pct.	Yards	Average	TDP	Comments
<b>1946</b>								
6-Sep	Miami	6	13	46.15%	109	8.38	1	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
13-Sep	at Chicago	4	7	57.14%	25	3.57	-	
22-Sep	at Buffalo	5	10	50.00%	153	15.30	2	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
29-Sep	New York	10	15	66.67%	144	9.60	1	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
6-Oct	Brooklyn	5	7	71.43%	86	12.29	-	
12-Oct	at New York	5	11	45.45%	43	3.91	1	<i>New York Daily News</i>
20-Oct	Los Angeles	4	10	40.00%	129	12.90	1	International News Service
27-Oct	San Francisco	14	19	73.68%	284	14.95	1	<i>Ashland Times-Gazette</i>
3-Nov	at Los Angeles	12	19	63.16%	241	12.68	1	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
10-Nov	at San Francisco	7	16	43.75%	184	11.50	1	
17-Nov	Chicago	6	16	37.50%	131	9.75	2	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
3-Dec	at Miami	1	5	20.00%	1	0.20	-	
8-Dec	at Brooklyn	7	10	70.00%	148	14.80	2	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
<b>1947</b>								
5-Sep	Buffalo	12	23	52.17%	129	5.61	1	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
12-Sep	at Brooklyn	9	11	81.82%	146	13.27	2	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
21-Sep	Baltimore	4	6	66.67%	77	12.83	-	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
26-Sep	at Chicago	6	14	42.86%	149	10.64	2	
5-Oct	New York	11	22	50.00%	161	7.32	2	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
12-Oct	Los Angeles	19	29	65.52%	233	8.03	-	<i>Cleveland Press</i>
19-Oct	Chicago	10	17	58.82%	239	14.06	1	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
26-Oct	at San Francisco	20	26	76.92%	273	10.50	2	
2-Nov	at Buffalo	13	16	81.25%	256	16.00	3	<i>Buffalo Courier-Express</i>
9-Nov	Brooklyn	4	14	28.57%	95	6.79	2	<i>Cleveland Press</i>
16-Nov	San Francisco	15	24	62.50%	222	9.25	3	<i>Cleveland Press</i>
23-Nov	at New York	15	28	53.57%	325	11.61	2	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
27-Nov	at Los Angeles	13	23	56.52%	240	10.43	2	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
7-Dec	at Baltimore	12	16	75.00%	208	13.00	3	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i> /Calculated

Date	Opponent	Cmp.	Att.	Pct.	Yards	Average	TDP	Comments	
<b>1948</b>									
3-Sep	Los Angeles	9	17	52.94%	122	7.18	1	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>	
12-Sep	at Buffalo	11	21	52.38%	197	9.38	2	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>	
17-Sep	at Chicago	12	20	60.00%	157	7.85	3		
26-Sep	Chicago	11	22	50.00%	216	9.82	2	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>	
5-Oct	at Baltimore	10	17	58.82%	103	6.06	1		
10-Oct	Brooklyn	14	31	45.16%	170	5.48	-		
17-Oct	Buffalo	11	27	40.74%	189	7.00	2	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>	
24-Oct	New York	21	30	70.00%	310	10.33	4	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
7-Nov	Baltimore	15	27	55.56%	224	8.30	1	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
14-Nov	San Francisco	12	26	46.15%	147	5.65	-	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
21-Nov	at New York	9	23	39.13%	211	9.17	1	<i>New York Times</i>	
25-Nov	at Los Angeles	16	32	50.00%	239	7.47	2	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>	
28-Nov	at San Francisco	11	23	47.83%	234	10.17	4	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>	
5-Dec	at Brooklyn	10	17	58.82%	194	11.41	2	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>	
<b>1949</b>									
5-Sep	at Buffalo	27	40	67.50%	330	8.25	4	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
11-Sep	Baltimore	14	20	70.00%	234	11.70	1	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
18-Sep	New York	4	10	40.00%	36	3.60	-	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
25-Sep	at Baltimore	9	24	37.50%	104	4.33	-	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
2-Oct	Los Angeles	17	28	60.71%	279	9.96	2	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
9-Oct	at San Francisco	12	26	46.15%	281	10.81	3	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
14-Oct	at Los Angeles	15	24	62.50%	362	15.08	6	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
30-Oct	San Francisco	14	25	56.00%	271	10.84	2	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
6-Nov	Chicago	13	19	68.42%	242	12.74	-	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
13-Nov	Buffalo	11	26	42.31%	176	6.77	-	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
20-Nov	at New York	19	34	55.88%	382	11.24	1	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
24-Nov	at Chicago	6	9	66.67%	88	9.78	-	<i>Cleveland Press</i>	
<b>Post-Season Games</b>									
1946	22-Dec	New York	16	27	59.26%	213	7.89	1	Sports Encyclopedia/Pro Football
1947	14-Dec	at NY	14	21	66.67%	112	5.33	-	Sports Encyclopedia/Pro Football
1948	19-Dec	Buffalo	11	24	45.83%	118	4.92	1	Sports Encyclopedia/Pro Football
1949	4-Dec	Buffalo	22	43	51.16%	326	7.58	2	<i>Cleveland Plain Dealer</i>
	11-Dec	SF	7	17	41.18%	128	7.53	-	Sports Encyclopedia/Pro Football

# PFRA COMMITTEES

By Ken Crippen

A few new committees have been added since the last update. The PFRA has also needed to update their web presence. We now have a new website and forum. The website is located at <http://www.profootballresearchers.org> and the forum is located at <http://pfraforum.org>. It is unfortunate that the web addresses needed to change, but technical difficulties forced this move. Please update your bookmarks for these new website locations.

The All-America Football Conference Committee is quickly coming together. The committee would like to interview all surviving members of the Conference. These interviews will either be done with video or digital audio. This way, other researchers will be able to hear the stories of these players after they have passed. The committee will also archive all materials related to the conference, in order to make it easier for researchers to access these materials. Programs, media guides and other related materials will be digitized so that other researchers can have access to the materials without having to handle the original copies.

Roy Sye and the Pre-NFL Committee are currently putting together their first book detailing Illinois independent football from 1910-1919. Teams included in this work are the Kewanee Regulars, Taylorville Independents, Moline Indians, Cabery Athletic Club, Evanston North Ends, Rockville Amateur Athletic Club, Chicago Cornell-Hamburgs, Spring Valley, Joliet Steel Workers, Peoria Socials, as well as other notable independent teams from the state. A second book on Indiana independent football from the same time period is next on the agenda.

The Western New York committee has been working with fellow PFRA member Joe Cronin to create a 1947 media guide for the Buffalo Bills. As far as is known, no media guide existed for that year for the team. That media guide is now available. Contact Joe Cronin at 916-723-7337 for further details.

## **All-America Football Conference:**

Committee Goal: To research and archive materials related to the All-America Football Conference. The goal is to generate a comprehensive book on the league.

Contact Information:

Andy Piascik  
25 Cartright St.  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

[andy@nflhistory.net](mailto:andy@nflhistory.net)

## **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.

Contact Information:

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

or

John Turney  
2615 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Alamogordo, NM 88310  
[jturney@totacc.com](mailto:jturney@totacc.com)

## **Central and Northern New York Committee:**

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

Contact Information:

Ken Crippen  
740 Deerfield Road  
Warminster, PA 18974  
(215) 421-6994  
<http://www.wnypfra.org/CNY/>  
[Ken\\_Crippen@profootballresearchers.org](mailto:Ken_Crippen@profootballresearchers.org)

## **Empire Football League Committee:**

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

Contact Information:

Dave Burch  
1016 Irving Ave.  
Endicott, NY 13760  
(607) 748-7140  
[EmpireFoot@aol.com](mailto:EmpireFoot@aol.com)

## **Football, Culture and Social Movements**

### **Committee:**

Committee Goal: To research and publish articles and books exploring the relationship between football and broader social movements that it influences and is

influenced by, such as civil rights, the labor movement, environmentalism, etc. To make the topics more manageable we are grouping them by related movement and time period.

The current focus is integration in the 1940s. Information regarding external influencers on a team's decision to integrate is especially appreciated, as is details of how that decision was made. If anyone is interested in exploring related topics please contact the committee and we can coordinate research. A committee blog is also under development.

Contact Information:  
Gretchen Atwood  
3057 25th St.  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 305-2704  
gretchenatwood@yahoo.com

**Hall of Very Good Committee:**

Committee Goal: To solicit and sort through nominees, to prepare all HOVG-related materials for *Coffin Corner* and to prepare write-ups on the nominees.

Contact Information:  
Andy Piascik  
25 Cartright St.  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
andy@nflhistory.net

**Linescore Committee:**

Committee Goal: To add a paragraph or two game summary (where necessary) to the existing linescore work done by Ken Pullis and his committee.

Contact Information:  
Gary Selby  
Gary.Selby@wpafb.af.mil

**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.

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

**Stadiums Committee:**

Committee Goal: To document and publish information on all stadiums used by professional football teams. 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. 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  
Andy Hernandez  
andyhdz@gmail.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.

Contact Information:  
Tim Brulia  
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

**Website and Forum Committee:**

Committee Goal: To implement and maintain the website and forum for the Professional Football Researchers Association.

Contact Information:

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

**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.

**Rochester Jeffersons Subcommittee:**

Subcommittee 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.  
<http://www.RochesterJeffersons.com>

Contact Information:

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Ken\_Crippen@profootballresearchers.org

*Ken Crippen is responsible for oversight of 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@profootballresearchers.org](mailto:Ken_Crippen@profootballresearchers.org).*

# Meeting of Researchers

Several members have already expressed interest in the meeting of researchers, scheduled to be held in June of 2008. We now have more details of this meeting. It will be held June 21, 2008 at the Red Roof Inn in Monroeville. To make reservations, call 412-856-4738. If there are enough people attending the meeting, we can get a meeting room. This would add about \$5 to the costs for each attendee.

Other hotel options for those who do not want to stay at the Red Roof Inn include the Super 8 in Monroeville (724-733-8008) and the Holiday Inn in Monroeville (412-372-1022).

The format will be informal. In discussions with attendees of past meetings, all have stated that informal discussions among the researchers were the most enjoyable. Therefore, that format will be followed and no formal presentations will be made.

All attendees will be required to pay their own expenses. The PFRA will not be putting any money into this event.

Please R.S.V.P. to Ken Crippen by April 1, 2008.

## MEETING OF RESEARCHERS

When: June 21, 2008  
Where: Red Roof Inn (Monroeville)  
Call 412-856-4738 for reservations

For more information, please contact Ken Crippen at:  
[Ken\\_Crippen@profootballresearchers.org](mailto:Ken_Crippen@profootballresearchers.org)  
Or  
(215) 421-6994

## **THE PFRA WEBSITE AND FORUM HAVE MOVED!!!**

Please update your bookmarks.

**Website:**

<http://www.profootballresearchers.org>

**Forum:**

<http://www.pfraforum.org>

# 1967 New York Giants

by John Collins

Allie Sherman was the head coach of the New York Giants from 1961 through the training camp of the 1969 football season. Allie was fired following the final preseason game of 1969. Sherman was the target of a lot of criticism during his years as head coach, but in 1967, Sherman apparently did a pretty good job.

This story should really begin in 1966, when the Giants suffered through their worst season in history, only winning one game out of 14, and setting a record for allowing their opponents to score the most points in a single season. The Giants allowed 501 points in 1966, which was an average of over 35 points per game.

The Giants started out in 1967 by making a big move. The Giants sent some draft choices to the Minnesota Vikings, including two first round draft picks and two second round draft picks, for quarterback Fran Tarkenton. The critics were out in full force. Why a quarterback? Why not use those draft choices to get some big, bruising defensive linemen, or some tough, nasty linebackers? After all, it was the defense that needed a lot of help wasn't it?

The truth is, Fran Tarkenton was to help out the defense as well as the offense for the New York Giants. With Tarkenton at quarterback, the Giants defense would not be on the field as much. There would be better ball control by the offense, with fewer three and out possessions. There would also be fewer untimely interceptions to leave the Giants defense in a hole. The Giants would generally have better field position. These things would all help keep the defense more rested and in better position to stop their opponents from scoring. Fran Tarkenton was to help the New York Giants more than any defensive player could have, and probably more than any two or three draft choices ever could have.

The Giants also got some help with the addition of some other players. The Giants did pick up a tough, nasty linebacker in Vince Costello, who the Giants got in a trade with the Cleveland

Browns. The Giants gave up a sixth round draft choice for Costello, and although Vince was 35 years old in 1967, Costello had one great year left in him. Getting Costello from the Browns for a sixth round pick was really a steal for the Giants. Costello intercepted four passes for the Giants in 1967 which was second best on the team to Giants ace defensive back Spider Lockhart, who made five thefts in 1967. Middle linebacker Costello was a big factor in the Giants upset of the Cleveland Browns that year, and may have made the difference in some other wins for the Giants in 1967. With Vince Costello in the middle, the Giants got their best middle linebacking since the days of Sam Huff.

The Giants got a big, bruising defensive lineman in Bob Lurtsema. Getting Lurtsema was kind of a lucky break for the New York Giants. Bob Lurtsema was on the Baltimore Colts taxi squad in 1966, and also played some minor league football for a team in Harrisburg, Pa. Bob knew that he had little chance of playing very much for Baltimore in 1967, because the Colts were loaded with some very good defensive linemen. Lurtsema asked Baltimore head coach Don Shula to put him on waivers so he could tryout for a different team where he had a better chance of playing. The New York Giants defensive problems were well known throughout the league, so Bob Lurtsema decided to try out for the Giants. Lurtsema became one of the Giants best defensive linemen over the next few years and immediately helped the Giants defense and their pass rush in 1967.

A pair of rookies became starters for the Giants on defense in 1967. They were Scott Eaton and Ken Avery. Eaton started at left cornerback in 1967 and remained a starter for about five years for the Giants. Avery only started for the Giants for two years at right linebacker, but then played for six more years for the Cincinnati Bengals. The fact that Eaton started for five years for the Giants and that Avery had such a long career in pro football indicates that they were players with talent. Ken Avery made a key play in the upset of the Cleveland Browns

blocking a Gary Collins punt that led to a Giants touchdown. The Giants won that game by the score of 38 to 34.

There was a big turnover in personnel for the Giants in 1967, and about twenty players were gone from the 1966 squad. Some of the new Giants in 1967, like Tucker Frederickson, Bill Swain, and Willie Williams had played for the Giants before. Frederickson and Swain returned after missing the 1966 season due to knee injuries and Williams returned after spending the 1966 season with the Oakland Raiders of the American Football League. Frederickson, who was the Giants first round draft choice in 1965 and was the first player taken in the draft that year, started at fullback for most of the year for the Giants. Swain started at left linebacker in 1967 and Williams replaced Henry Carr at right cornerback in 1967 after Carr suffered a season ending injury. Williams was to become a star for the Giants in future years.

Ernie Koy was a pleasant surprise for the Giants at running back in 1967 having his career best season. After only averaging slightly over 2 yards per carry as a part time halfback in 1966, Koy rushed for over 700 yards in 1967 averaging 4.8 yards per carry. Koy and Tucker Frederickson were the last of the "baby Bulls" from 1965 to still be on the Giants. The baby bulls were young, strong running backs for the Giants who all weighed about 220 or 230 lbs. and were considered to be a big part of the future for the Giants. Others that were playing elsewhere in 1967 were Steve Thurlow, Ernie Wheelwright, and Chuck Mercein. Frederickson was considered to have a great future as the Giants fullback, but knee injuries hurt his progress. Frederickson was not only a good runner but was also an excellent blocker and a good pass receiver as well. Tucker Frederickson could only help the Giants in 1967 as long as his knees would hold up. Tucker ended up playing ten games for the Giants in 1967, and performed well when he played.

The knock on Fran Tarkenton was that he was considered an unorthodox quarterback due to his "scrambling." It was said that Tarkenton would win games that his team should lose, and lose games that his team should win. Actually, Tarkenton lost few games, if any, for

the Giants in his years in New York. Tarkenton's running ability was really a plus for the Giants, and often enabled Fran to evade a pass rush when his protection broke down. Tarkenton would turn broken plays into big gains on numerous occasions, which would serve to demoralize opposing teams. This also helped split end Homer Jones have a great year. Jones did not run precise pass patterns, but could catch passes from Tarkenton and often break away for long gains and touchdowns. Homer Jones finished 1967 with 49 catches for 1209 yards and 13 touchdowns for an amazing average of nearly 25 yards per catch.

Tight end Aaron Thomas caught 51 passes in 1967 and averaged over 17 yards per catch with nine touchdowns. Joe Morrison caught 37 passes in 1967 averaging over 14 yard per catch and also filled in at a running back position at times. Morrison was a very handy player for the Giants in 1967 as he was during most of his career. With Tarkenton throwing the ball and Jones, Thomas, and Morrison as his main receivers and with Tucker Frederickson and Ernie Koy as running backs, the Giants had a very dangerous offensive team that could score from anywhere on the field and could also control the ball.

The Giants defense in 1967 still wasn't very good by NFL standards, giving up 379 points in 14 games, which was an average of just over 27 points a game, which was too generous. The defense certainly was improved over the 1966 Giants defense, but that was to be expected. Players like Vince Costello, Bob Lurtsema, and top-notch safety Spider Lockhart helped greatly, but the Giants still had a long way to go to even come close to matching up with some of the better defensive teams in the NFL. In fact, as good as the Giants offense had become in 1967, their defense gave up more points than their offense scored.

The Giants started the 1967 season with a good win over the St. Louis Cardinals, 37 to 20. The Giants almost always seemed to play well against the Cardinals during the 1960's. It must be that the Giants just seemed to match up well with the Cards because even in years where the Cardinals were contenders and the Giants were not, the Giants still usually gave St. Louis a tough time. In fact, the Cardinals failure to beat the Giants in two

games in 1964 cost the Cards the Eastern Conference title in 1964. The Giants had the worst record in the NFL in 1964.

The Giants finished the 1967 season the same way that they started, with a good win over the Cardinals 37 to 14. In between the games with the Cardinals, the Giants usually beat the losing teams in the east with the exception of the Redskins, where the Giants had some bad luck. Spider Lockhart intercepted a Redskins pass and then fumbled the ball into the end zone. The ball landed on a Redskins player who had fallen down in the end zone. The result was a Washington touchdown, which also meant a Redskins win by the score of 38 to 34.

The Giants usually lost to the winning teams that they played with the exception of their first Cleveland game, but as they were unlucky against the Redskins, they had their share of good luck against Cleveland. The Browns lost three fumbles to the Giants including one on a kickoff and one on a bad punt by Kay that hit a Cleveland lineman on the leg as he was running downfield to try to block someone. Vince Costello intercepted a pass that led to a New York score and there was the Avery block of a Gary Collins punt that led to a Giants TD. The Collins punt may have been the first ever Collins punt to be blocked. The final score of that game was 38 to 34.

The New York team had trouble with the western conference teams, and lost all four games they played to western opponents Green Bay, Chicago, Detroit, and Minnesota. The Minnesota game was the only game against a western conference opponent that was close as the Giants lost that one 27 to 24. Maybe the fact that the teams from the west were used to playing against Tarkenton from his Minnesota days was the reason that they had so much success against the Giants in 1967. Those teams from the west apparently remembered the best ways to defense and contain Fran Tarkenton.

When the smoke had cleared and the season was over, the Giants were a break even seven wins against seven loses for 1967. The Giants were very unlucky to lose one game (Washington), but lucked into winning another (Cleveland). The Giants lost a close one by three points to Minnesota, but beat the Steelers by-three-points in another game. Overall, the Giants scored 369

points in 1967, but gave up 379 points during the same year. I guess that when you look it all over, you could call the Giants even-even in 1967. It seemed to be a break even year just about all the way around.

How would one assess the Giants talent in 1967? The Giants did have some good players. They had one of the best quarterbacks in Fran Tarkenton, which made up for some weaknesses in other areas. New York had some good offensive linemen in Greg Larson, Willie Young, and Pete Case. Darrell Dess had been a very good guard for some great New York teams in the past, but may have been past his prime. Another player like that would have been defensive end Jim Katcavage, but Jim did make at least a couple of big plays for the Giants in 1967. Already mentioned are good players like Frederickson, Morrison, Jones, Thomas, Kay, Lockhart, Lurtsema, and Costello.

Though the Giants did have good players in 1967, so did the other teams in the NFL. In comparison with the other teams in the league, the Giants had about average talent. The break even season was about in line with how talented the Giants were in relation to how talented the other teams in the NFL were. Fran Tarkenton brought the team up to being an average team. Without Tarkenton, it is doubtful that the Giants would have been able to win half of their games. It was on their defense that the Giants still needed help the most in order to be a championship contender.

Despite that assessment, the Giants improvement in 1967 was immense. After the terrible 1966 season, it is doubtful that even the most optimistic Giants fan could have expected the New York Giants to do as well as they did in 1967. After the season final win against the St. Louis Cardinals, there was a pretty good feeling about the Giants and their future years in the NFL. With some more improvement, who knows what might have been in the cards for the New York Giants in the coming years. The Giants, it seemed, were on their way.

## PLAYER DEATHS IN 2007

Player	Pos	College	Career	Born	Died	Ag
Agase, Alex	LB-OG	Purde, Illinois	1947-53 LA-A, Cle, Bal	03-27-1922, Chicago, IL	05-03, 2007, Tarpon Springs, FL	85
Ane, Charlie	OT-C	USC	1953-59 Det	01-25-1931, Honolulu, HI	05-09-2007, Honolulu, HI	76
Atkeson, Dale	FB	none	1954-56 Was	12-24-1930, Kansas City, MO	05-10-2007, Manhattan Bch, CA	76
Baker, John H.	DE-DT	N.Carolina Cent.	1958-68 LAQRm, Pit, Det	06-10-1935, Raleigh, NC	10-31-2007, Raleigh, NC	72
Baker, Sam	FB-K	Oregon St	1953-69 Was, Cle, Dal, Phi	11-12-1929, San Francisco, CA	06-05-2007, Fircrest, WA	79
Baldwin, Burr	E	UCLA	1947-49 LA-A	06-13-1922, Bakersfield, CA	08-20-2007, Bakersfield, CA	85
Beck, Ray	G	GeorgiaTech	1952-57 NYG	03-07-1931, Bowden, GA	01-09-2007, Cedartown, GA	74
Blackburn, Bill	LB-C	SW La., Rice	1946-50 ChiC	02-05-1923, Weleetka, OK	04-17-2007, Richmond, TX	84
Blount, Lamar	E	Duke, Miss. St.	1946-47 MiaA, BufA, BalA	04-11-1920, Decatur, MS	08-06-2007, Decatur, MS	87
Bobo, Orlando	OG	NE Louisiana	1997-01 Min, Cle, Bal	02-09-1974, West Point, MS	05-14-2007, Dallas, TX	33
Brennan, Leo	T	Holy Cross	1942 Phi	09-28-1919, Boston, MA	05-10-2007, Sudbury, MA	87
Brown, Ed	QB	San Francisco	1954-65, ChiB, Pit, Bal	10-26-1928, Charlotte, NC	08-02-2007, Kennewick, WA	78
Browning, Gregg	DE	Denver	1947 NYG	01-12-1922, Trinidad, CO	02-01-2007, Centennial, CO	85
Bukant, Joseph	FB	Wash.(StL)	1938-43 Phi, ChiC	10-31-1915, Divernon, IL	02-09-2007, Kalamazoo, MI	91
Burris, Buddy	LB-G	Oklahoma	1949-51 GB	01-20-1923, Rogers Co., OK	11-04-2007, Norman, OK	84
Castiglia, Jim	FB	Georgetown	1941-48 Phi, BalA, Was	09-30-1918, Passaic, NJ	12-26-2007, Rockville, MD	89
Cook, Ed	OT-OG	Notre Dame	1958-67 ChiC, StL, Atl	06-29-1932, Philadelphia, PA	09-07-2007, Sewell, NJ	75
Coulter, Tex	OT-C	TexA&M; Army	1946-52 NYG	10-26-1924, Ft. Worth, TX	10-02, 2007, Austin, TX	83
Dana [Salem], Sam	wb	St.Johns,Canisius	1928 NYY	08-07-1903, New York, NY	10-29-2007, Kenmore, NY	104
David, Jim	DB	Colorado St.	1952-59 Det	12-02-1927, Florence, SC	07-29-2007, Bloomfield Hills, MI	79
Discenzo, Tony	OT	Michigan State	1960 Bos, Buf	02-03-1936, Cleveland, OH	02-11-2007, Cleveland, OH	71
Duckworth, Joe	E	Colgate	1947 Was	07-03-1921, Orange, NJ	02-18-2007, Virginia Beach, VA	85
Elliott, Tony	NT	Wisc., N.Texas	1982-88 NO	04-23-1959, New York, NY	12-31-2007, Bridgeport, CT	48
Evans, Fred "Dippy"	HB	Notre Dame	1946-48 CleA, BufA, ChiA, ChiB	05-23-1921, Grand Rapids, MI	06-21-2007, Cleveland, OH	86
Fisk, Bill	E	USC	1940-48 Det, SF-A, LA-A	11-05-1916, Los Angeles, CA	03-27-2007, Corona del Mar, CA	90
Forester, Bill	LB	SMU	1953-63 GB	08-09-1932, Dallas, TX	04-27-2007, Dallas, TX	74
Forte, Aldo	G-T	Montana	1939-47 ChiB, Det, GB	01-20-1918, Chicago, IL	08-29-2007, Ft. Pierce, FL	89
Garzoni, Mike	G	SCLara, Fres.St,USC	1947-48 Was, NYG, NY-A	08-19-1921, Newman Twp., CA	07-18-2007, Aromas, CA	85
Gonzaga, John	T-G	none	1956-66 SF, Dal, Det, Den	03-06-1933, Martinez, CA	05-18-2007, W.Bloomfield Twp,MI	74
Goode, Rob	FB	Texas A&M	1949-55 Was, Phi	06-05-1927, Roby, TX	06-09-2007, Bridgeport, TX	80
Goodman, Hank	T	Bonav.GW, WVU	1942 Det	03-18-1919, Bradford, PA	03-25-2007, Bradford, PA	88
Hall, Ron	TE	Cal Poly, Hawaii	1987-94 TB, Det	03-15-1964, Ft. Huachuca, AZ	05-19-2007, Costa Rica	43
Hannah, Herb	OT	Alabama	1951 NYG	07-21-1921, Laoma, TN	03-28-2007, Albertville, AL	95
Hays, George	DE-DT	St. Bonaventure	1950-53 Pit, GB	08-29-1924, Glassport, PA	04-20-2007, Elizabeth, PA	82
Heath, Leon	FB	Oklahoma	1951-53 Was	10-27-1928, Hollis, OK	03-23-2007, Oklahoma City, OK	78
Heywood, Ralph	E	USC	1946-49 ChiA, Det, Bos, NYB	09-11-1921, Los Angeles, CA	04-10-2007, Kerrville, TX	85
Hill, Marquise	DE	LSU	2004-06 NE	08-07-1982, New Orleans, LA	05-27-2007, Lk. Pontchartrain, LA	24
Hill, Nate	DE	Auburn	1988 GB, Mia	02-21-1966, LaGrange, GA	09-18-2007, Jackson, MS	41
Humbert, Dick	E	Richmond	1941-49 Phi	12-31-1918, Reading, PA	05-23-2007, Richmond, VA	88
Hutchinson, Tom	WR	Kentucky	1963-66 Cle, Atl	06-15-1941, Stanford, KY	05-05-2007, Campbellsville, KY	65
Huzvar, John	FB	N.Car.St.; Pitt	1952-54 Phi, Bal	08-06-1929, Carlisle, PA	03-09-2007, Homestead, FL	77
Jackson, Trent	WR-DB	Illinois	1966-67 Phi, Was	02-28-1946, Cordele, GA	03-25-2007, Rochester, NY	65
James, Tommy	DB	Ohio State	1947-56 Det, Cle, Bal	09-16-1923, Canton, OH	02-07-2007, Massillon, OH	83
Jeffries, Bob	G	Missouri	1942 Bkn	08-19-1919, Kansas City, MO	07-22-2007, Kansas City, MO	87
Kavanaugh, Ken	E	LSU	1940-50 ChiB	11-23-1916, Little Rock, AR	01-25-2007, Sarasota, FL	89
Kearns, Tom	T	Miami (FL)	1945-46 NYG, ChiC	11-26-1919, Medford, MA	02-17-2007, Ft.Lauderdale, FL	87
Kilroy, Bucko	G-T	Temple	1943-55 Phi	05-30-1921, Philadelphia, PA	07-10-2007, Norwood, MA	86
Kirby, Jack	HB	USC	1949 GB	09-21-1923, Los Angeles, CA	03-09-2007, Santa Barbara, CA	84
Ladd, Ernie	DT	Grambling	1961-58 SD, Hou, KC	11-28-1938, Rayville, LA	03-10-2007, Franklin, LA	68
Leberman, Bob	DB	Syracuse	1954 Bal	02-10-1932, Chattanooga, TN	11-09-2007, Laconia, NH	75
Leckonby, Bill	TB	St. Lawrence	1939-41	09-16-1917, Greenville, OH	10-22-2007, Bethlehem, PA	90
Leisk, Rube	G	LSU	1937 Bkn	07-12-1915, Shreveport, LA	06-10-2007, Newark, NJ	91
Lillywhite, Verl	HB	Modesto JC,USC	1948-51 SF	12-05-1925, Garland, UT	07-14-2007, Mesa, AZ	81
Lundy, Lamar	DE	Purdue	1957-69 LARm	04-17-1935, Richmond, IN	02-24-2007, Richmond, IN	71
Maack, Herb	T	Columbia	1946 BknA	04-06-1917, Union City, NJ	05-05-2007, Narragansett, RI	90
MacAfee, Ken	E	Alabama	1954-59 NYG, Phi, Was	08-31-1929, N.Easton, MA	07-04-2007, Brockton, MA	77
Majors, Joe	DB	Florida St.	1960 Hou	12-25-1936, Lynchburg, TN	01-04-2007, Nashville, TN	71
McCoy, Joel	TB	Alabama	1946 Det	08-22-1920, Birmingham, AL	03-07-2007, Birmingham, AL	86
McGee, Max	OE	Tulane	1954-67 GB	07-16-1932, Saxon City, NV	10-20-2007, Deephaven, MN	75
McLaughry, John	BB	Brown	1940 NYG	04-08-1917, New Wilmington, PA	11-28-2007, Providence, RI	90
McRaven, Bill	WB-DB	Murray State	1939-40 Cle, Afl	02-23-1914, East St. Louis, IL	05-13-2007, San Antonio, TX	93
Meeks, Bryant	C-LB	GA, S.Carolina	1947-48 Pit	01-16-1926, Jacksonville, FL	05-30-2007, Dublin, GA	81
Meyers, Jerry	DE-DT	No. Illinois	1975-80 ChiB, KC	02-21-1954, Chicago, IL	11-16-2007, Chicago, IL	53
Miller, Paul	DE	LSU	1954-62 LARm, DalT, SD	11-08-1930, Mandeville, LA	01-24-2007, Livingston, LA	76

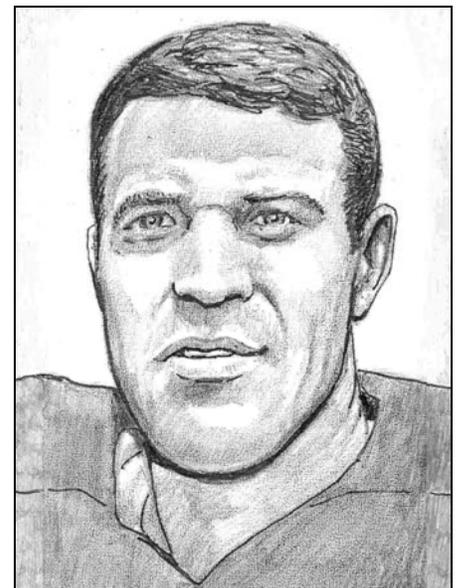
Mitchell, Jim	TE	Prairie View A&M	1969-79 Atl	10-19-1947, Shelbyville, TN	10-20-2007, Shelbyville, TN	60
Mitchell, Kevin	LB	Syracuse	1994-2003 SF, NO, Was	01-01-1971, Harrisburg, PA	04-30-2007, Ashburn, VA	36
Mooney, Mike	OT	Georgia Tech	1993 SD	05-31-1969, Baltimore, MD	03-02-2007, Westminster, CA	37
Moore, Rocco	G	W.Michigan	1980 Chi	03-31-1955, Charlotte, MI	12-21-2007, Kalamazoo, MI	52
Morris, George	C-LB	Georgia Tech	1956 SF	03-19-1931, Vicksburg, MS	12-10-2007, Highland, NC	76
Mott, Bob	OE-DE	Northwestern	1946 ChiA	07-26-1920, Chicago, IL	06-03-2007, Orland Park, IL	86
Myers, Bob	DT	Ohio State	1955 Bal	01-31-1933, Springfield, OH	05-20-2007, Carol Stream, IL	74
Nash, Damien	RB	Missouri	2005 Ten	04-14-1982, St. Louis, MO	02-24-2007, St. Louis, MO	23
Nery, Carl	G	Duquesne	1940-41 Pit	06-17-1917, Lawrenceville, PA	03-09-2007, Pittsburgh, PA	89
Nickel, Elbie	E	Cincinnati	1947-57 Pit	12-28-1922, Fullerton, KY	02-27-2007, Chillicothe, OH	84
Nofsinger, Terry	QB	Utah	1961-67 Pit, StL, Atl	07-13-1938, Salt lake City, UT	10-02-2007, Park City, UT	69
Nolan, Dick	DB	Maryland	1954-62 NYG, ChiC, Dal	03-26-1932, Pittsburgh, PA	11-11-2007, Grapevine, TX	75
Norton, Jim	DB-P	Idaho	1960-68 Hou	10-20-1938, Los Angeles, CA	06-12-2007, Garland, TX	68
Palazzi, Lou	C-LB	Penn State	1946-47 NYG	06-25-1921, Groton, CT	01-07-2007, Dunmore, NJ	85
Peaks, Clarence	RB	Michigan State	1957-65 Phi, Pit	09-23-1935, Greenville, MS	03-31-2007, Voorhees, NJ	71
Perkins, Johnny	WR	Abilene Christian	1977-83 NYG	04-21-1953, Franklin, TX	04-25-2007, Ft.Worth, TX	54
Preas, George	OT-G	Virginia Tech	1955-65, Bal	06-26-1933, Roanoke, VA	02-24-2007, Roanoke, VA	73
Ratterman, George	QB	Notre Dame	1947-56 BufA, NYY, Cle	11-12-1926, Cincinnati, OH	11-04-2007, Centennial, CO	80
Ravensburg, Bob	DE-DB	Indiana	1948-49 ChiC	10-20-1925, Bellevue, KY	02-12-2007, Chesterfield, MO	81
Ramsey, Buster	G-LB	Wm. & Mary	1946-51 ChiC	03-16-1920, Townsend, TN	09-16-2007, Signal Mountain, TN	87
Reed, Rock	HB	LSU	1937, 1939 ChiC	08-17-1912, Bald Knob, AR	07-13-2007, Baton Rouge, LA	94
Rhodes, Danny	LB	Arkansas	1974 Bal	03-18-1951, Lake Jackson, TX	07-22-2007, Matagorda Cnty,TX	56
Ricca, Jim	DG-DT	Georgetown	1951-56 Was, Det, Phi	10-08-1927, Rockville Centre, NY	02-11-2007, Falls Church, VA	79
Ringo, Jim	C	Syracuse	1953-67 GB, Phi	11-21-1931, Orange, NJ	11-19-2007, Chesapeake, VA	53
Shann, Bob	DB	Boston College	1965, 1967 Phi	03-27-1943, Lawrence, MA	06-19-2007, Falmouth, MA	64
Signaigo, Joe	G-DG	Notre Dame	1948-50 NY-A, NYY	02-09-1923, Memphis, TN	01-16-2007, Memphis, TN	82
Skaggs, Justin	WR	Evangel (MO)	2002 Was	04-22-1979, Wentzville, MO	06-15-2007, Salt Lake City, UT	28
Stacco, Ed	T	Colgate	1947-48 Det, Was	04-16-1925, Carbondale, PA	04-06-2007, Mansfield, OH	81
Stehouwer, Ron	OG	Colorado St.	1960-64 Pit	02-04-1937, Hopkins, MI	01-18-2007, San Antonio, TX	70
Stingley, Darryl	WR	Purdue	1973-77 NE	09-18-1951, Chicago, IL	04-05-2007, Chicago, IL	55
Taylor, Sean	S	Miami (FL)	2004-07 Was	04-01-1983, Miami, FL	11-26-1983, Miami, FL	24
Van Every, Hal	TB	Minnesota	1940-41 GB	02-10-1918, Minnetonka Bch, MN	08-11-2007, Minneapolis, MN	89
Voss, Lloyd	DE-DT	Nebraska	1964-72 GB, Pit, Den	02-13-1942, Adrian, NM	03-01-2007, Scott Twp, PA	65
Waller, Bill	E	Illinois	1938 Bkn	12-16-1911, Thomasville, IL	09-25-2007, Powell, WY	95
Walsh, Bill	Coach	San Jose St.	1979-88	11-30-1931, Los Angeles, CA	07-30-2007, San Francisco, CA	75
Webster, George	LB	Michigan State	1967-76 Hou, Pit, NE	11-25-1945, Anderson, SC	04-19-2007, Houston, TX	61
West, David	DB	Central St.	1963 NYJ	06-05-1938, Selma, OH	03-31-2007, Dayton, OH	69
Williams, Darrent	DB	Oklahoma State	2005-06 Den	09-27-1982, Fort Worth, TX	01-01-2007, Denver, CO	24
Willis, Bill	G	Ohio State	1946-53 Cle	10-05-1921, Columbus, OH	11-27-2007, Columbus, OH	86
Woit, Richie	DB	Arkansas St.	1955 Det	07-05-1931, Chicago, IL	05-31-2007, Chicago, IL	75
Wright, Ernie	OT	Ohio State	1960-72 SD	11-06-1939, Toledo, OH	03-20-2007, San Diego, CA	67



**CHARLIE ANE**



**CLARENCE PEAKS**



**JIM DAVID**

# PAL Kicker Rating System

by Rupert Patrick ([RupertPatrick@aol.com](mailto:RupertPatrick@aol.com)) 11/3/2007

The all-time single season leader in points scored purely by a Kicker was established in 1983, when Mark Moseley of the Washington Redskins scored a staggering total of 161 points solely on Field Goals and Extra Points, a record that was broken by Gary Anderson of the Minnesota Vikings 15 years later. Moseley did this by converting 62 of 63 extra points and 33 of 47 field goals; it also helped that he had one of the greatest offensive machines of all time giving him all those extra point opportunities and getting good field position for all those field goal attempts. But was it among the greatest seasons ever by a Kicker? My conclusion is no; I'll make the bold assertion that Moseley's 1983 season, while prolific in the number of points scored, was average. I arrived at this conclusion by developing the PAL (Points Above League) Kicker rating system. What the formula figures is the difference, in points, between the Kicker's performance and the performance of an average Kicker in that season given the same number of XP and FG attempts as the Kicker in question.

Sounds complicated? Not really. The PAL formula is:

$$\text{PAL} = (\text{KXPM} + 3 * \text{KFGM}) - (\text{KXPA} * (\text{LXPM} - \text{KXPM}) / (\text{LXPA} - \text{KXPA})) - 3 * (\text{KFGA} * (\text{LFGM} - \text{KFGM}) / (\text{LFGA} - \text{KFGA}))$$

KXPM, KXPA = Kicker Extra Points Made, Attempted  
 KFGM, KFGA = Kicker Field Goals Made, Attempted  
 LXPM, LXPA = League Extra Points Made, Attempted  
 LFGM, LFGA = League Field Goals Made, Attempted

The formula looks pretty complicated but is quite simple when you understand the three components of the PAL formula. Here's how it works:

$$\text{PAL} = (\text{Kicker points}) - (\text{Kicker XP attempts} * \text{League XP success percentage}) - (3 * \text{Kicker FG attempts} * \text{League FG success percentage})$$

When I use the term "average league Kicker" in the context of rating a particular Kicker against an "average league Kicker", what I really mean is the aggregate average of every other kicker in the league except for the one being rated. It is necessary to remove the statistics of the Kicker being rated (in this case, Moseley), from the league totals for 1983 so that he is not being rated against his own performance. Moseley is actually competing against the average performance of the rest of the NFL in 1983 except for himself. With that in mind, here is the PAL for Moseley in 1983:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PAL} &= (62 + 3 * 33) - (63 * (1104 - 62) / (1160 - 63)) - 3 * (47 * (551 - 33) / (771 - 47)) \\ \text{PAL} &= (161) - (63 * (1042 / 1097)) - 3 * (47 * (518 / 724)) \\ \text{PAL} &= 161 - (59.84) - 3 * (33.627) = 161 - 59.84 - 100.88 = 161 - 160.72 = 0.28 \end{aligned}$$

In 1983, Mark Moseley is evaluated by the PAL formula as being a little over a quarter of a point above average, which over the course of a sixteen game season works out to less than two hundredths of a point per game above average, which is virtually meaningless. An average Kicker in the NFL in 1983 (besides Moseley), given 63 XP attempts and 47 FG attempts, would be expected to put up approximately 160.72 points. The fact that Moseley got 161 points in that context is simply not impressive. It would have been impressive if he had scored 170 or 175 points in the 1983 season given the number of FG and XP attempts he actually had.

By comparison, the highest PAL score in 1983 belonged to Ali Haji-Sheikh of the New York Giants, who was 22 of 23 in the XP department and hit 35 of 42 field goals. His PAL score is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PAL} &= (22 + 3 * 35) - (23 * (1104 - 22) / (1160 - 23)) - 3 * (42 * (551 - 35) / (771 - 42)) \\ \text{PAL} &= (127) - (23 * (1082 / 1137)) - 3 * (42 * (516 / 729)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{PAL} = 127 - (21.88) - 3 * (29.72) = 127 - 21.88 - 89.19 = 127 - 111.07 = 15.93$$

Haji-Sheikh scored nearly 16 points above what an average NFL Kicker would have done in 1983 with the same number of FG and XP attempts, which works out to about one point a game above average. An average NFL Kicker in 1983 would have scored about 111 points given 23 XP attempts and 42 FG tries while Haji-Sheikh scored 127. Haji-Sheikh followed up his stellar 1983 season by having one of the worst seasonal PAL scores ever in 1984 when he finished with a score of -22.65, meaning he scored 22.65 points less than an average Kicker in 1984 with the same number of attempts.

The career PAL score is calculated by adding together the PAL scores for every season of the Kicker's career. Over the course of his NFL career, Moseley had a career PAL score of 15.76, meaning he was nearly sixteen points above average over the course of 213 career regular season NFL games. Moseley's career PAL score is not very good considering the length of his career as the career leader in PAL is over 130. Also, Moseley was the only pure Kicker to win an MVP award in 1982 when he missed only one FG during the course of the regular season and helped lead the Redskins to a Super Bowl title, and the aforementioned 1983 season when he put 161 points on the board for the Redskins..

The career leaders in PAL, needless to say, are those with long careers. There are two different ways of putting PAL into a proper context to put all Kickers on a equal footing; one way is to divide PAL into the points scored by the Kicker to create a per-point context, and the second is to divide PAL into games played to create a per-game context. When dividing PAL into points, it adjusts for the fact that the more points a Kicker scores, the easier it is to compile a good or bad score in PAL simply due to more kicking opportunities. Also, by adjusting PAL for the number of games played, it makes it easier to compare Kickers from eras when their teams played a different number of games. I use a minimum 100 career Kicking points scored for the PAL/Point and PAL/Game lists.

Following are top 25 lists of best and worst seasonal PAL scores, career PAL scores, seasonal PAL per point scored, and PAL per game played. Let the arguments begin.

TOP 25 SEASONS PAL				TOP 25 CAREERS PAL			
RANK	KICKER	TM	YR	PAL	RANK	KICKER	PAL
1	L GROZA	CLE	53N	36.13	1	N LOWERY	131.76
2	J BAKKEN	STL	67N	25.87	2	G ANDERSON	115.43
3	M VANDERJAGT	IND	03N	24.54	3	L GROZA	113.12
4	J STENERUD	KC	69A	23.55	4	J BAKKEN	98.49
5	J TURNER	NYJ	68A	23.12	5	J STENERUD	95.37
6	G ANDERSON	MIN	98N	23.04	6	M ANDERSEN	91.45
7	P SUMMERALL	NYG	59N	22.19	7	M STOVER	87.65
8	G MINGO	'DEN	62A	21.49	8	F COX	84.04
9	F COX	MIN	69N	21.37	9	G YEPREMIAN	73.76
10	N LOWERY	KC	90N	20.63	10	J TURNER	65.24
11	B AGAJANIAN	LAA	47F	20.30	11	M VANDERJAGT	64.21
12	J STENERUD	KC	68A	20.04	12	J CARNEY	63.33
13	J STENERUD	GB	81N	20.00	13	E MURRAY	60.88
14	L GROZA	CLE	52N	18.94	14	D COCKROFT	57.86
15	N RACKERS	ARZ	05N	18.90	15	B GOSSETT	56.09
16	G BLAIR	SD	62A	18.77	16	S BAKER	50.64
17	J WILKINS	SLR	03N	18.56	17	P LEAHY	50.21
18	S NORWOOD	BUF	88N	18.43	18	N JOHNSON	46.71
19	T FRITSCH	HOU	79N	18.26	19	T FRITSCH	44.55
20	F CONE	GB	55N	18.17	20	R SEPTIEN	43.85
21	J BAKKEN	STL	64N	18.03	21	E MANN	42.82
22	G MINGO	DEN	60A	18.02	22	J HANSON	41.84
23	M ANDERSEN	NO	86N	17.95	23	E HERRERA	39.31
24	E MANN	DET	69N	17.81	24	J WILKINS	38.54
25	J TURNER	NYJ	69A	17.69	25	B AGAJANIAN	37.83

**BOTTOM 25 SEASONS PAL**

<u>RANK</u>	<u>KICKER</u>	<u>TM</u>	<u>YR</u>	<u>PAL</u>
1	J AVENT	WAS	61N	-28.85
2	P HORNUNG	GB	64N	-26.96
3	F STEINFORT	BNE	83N	-24.83
4	A HAJI-SHEIKH	NYG	84N	-22.65
5	B TIMBERLAKE	NYG	65N	-22.17
6	P MARTINOVICH	BKA	47F	-21.99
7	B CAPECE	TB	83N	-21.69
8	D GUESMAN	DEN	64A	-20.55
9	K VINYARD	ATL	7DN	-20.35
10	M COFER	SF	91N	-19.99
11	A MICHALIK	PGH	55N	-19.43
12	G CAPPELLETTI	BOP	69A	-19.29
13	J GERI	CHC	52N	-19.14
14	S MARLER	JAX	03N	-18.62
15	C LOHMILLER	WAS	93N	-18.05
16	S SISSON	NE	93N	-17.77
17	J DEPOYSTER	DET	68N	-17.67
18	J O'BRIEN	BAL	72N	-17.65
19	G DAVIS	PHX	92N	-17.56
20	H FELLER	PHI	71N	-17.42
21	G MINGO	PGH	70N	-16.91
22	L BARNES	OAK	60A	-16.71
23	J NEDNEY	MIA	96N	-16.62
24	T DAVIS	SF	63N	-16.31
25	R WERSCHING	SD	73N	-16.28

**BOTTOM 25 CAREERS PAL**

<u>RANK</u>	<u>KICKER</u>	<u>PAL</u>
1	G DAVIS	-65.94
2	N O'DONOGHUE	-50.18
3	M HUSTED	-49.25
4	M COFER	-45.18
5	C BAHR	-44.47
6	S MIKE-MAYER	-43.04
7	B RECHICHAR	-42.93
8	W WALKER	-41.75
9	J HALL	-36.70
10	J DANELO	-36.50
11	J AVENI	-35.71
12	D.GUESMAN	-34.10
13	F STEINFORT	-31.43
14	N MIKE-MAYER	-29.57
15	T DAVIS	-29.11
16	T GARCIA	-25.92
17	C LOHMILLER	-25.23
18	B JENCKS	-24.64
19	TD FRITSCH	-24.04
20	K BROWN	-23.07
21	B THOMAS	-22.98
22	W RICHEY	-22.76
23	J SPIKES	-21.47
24	S SISSON	-21.05
25	D BIASUCCI	-20.68

**Top 25 Careers PAL/POINT**

<u>Rnk</u>	<u>KICKER</u>	<u>PAL/PT</u>
1	B LAYNE	13.1
2	R POOLE	12.4
3	G BLAIR	12.2
4	K STRONG	11.4
5	HJOHNSON	9.6
T6	W CUFF	8.3
T6	R GROSSMAN	8.3
8	P HARDER	8.2
T9	N LOWERY	7.7
T9	D WALKER	7.7
11	P COTHREN	7.4
T12	L GROZA	7.1
T12	J BAKKEN	7.1
T12	B WATERFIELD	7.1
15	G YEPREMIAN	6.9
T16	E HERRERA	6.5
T16	D CHANDLER	6.5
18	D HUDSON	6.4
19	F COX	6.2
20	M VANDERJAGT	6.0
21	T FRITSCH	5.9
22	B AGAJANIAN	5.8
23	J STENERUD	5.6
T24	D COCKROFT	5.4
T24	B GOSSETT	5.4
T24	J SMITH	5.4

**Top 25 Careers PAL/GAME**

<u>Rnk</u>	<u>KICKER</u>	<u>PAL/G</u>
1	G BLAIR	0.739
2	R POOLE	0.573
3	N LOWERY	0.503
4	M VANDERJAGT	0.469
5	J BAKKEN	0.434
6	L GROZA	0.416
7	G YEPREMIAN	0.408
8	D CHANDLER	0.403
9	F COX	0.400
10	H JOHNSON	0.380
11	B WATERFIELD	0.377
12	P COTHREN	0.371
T13	B GOSSETT	0.364
T13	E HERRERA	0.364
15	J STENERUD	0.363
16	D WALKER	0.357
17	T FRITSCH	0.356
18	B LAYNE	0.347
19	M STOVER	0.344
20	G ANDERSON	0.327
21	J SMITH	0.319
22	E MANN	0.315
23	D COCKROFT	0.308
24	K STRONG	0.302
25	P HARDER	0.299

**Bottom 25 Careers PAL/POINT**

<u>Rnk</u>	<u>KICKER</u>	<u>PAL/PT</u>
1	B RECHICHAR	-27.7
2	D GUESMAN	-26.4
3	J AVENI	-25.9
4	T GARCIA	-24.0
T5	B JENCKS	-18.3
T5	J WITTENBORN'	-18.3
7	J SPIKES	-15.9
8	B MCCLARD	-14.7
9	TD FRITSCH	-14.1
10	S SISSON	-13.8
T11	W WALKER	-12.6
T11	D BIELSKI	-12.6
13	S MIKE-MAYER	-11.9
14	D GREEN	-11.1
15	D LIVINGSTON	-11.0
16	G HUNT	-10.7
17	F STEINFORT	-10.1
18	D RAYNER	-10.0
T19	N O'DONOGHUE	-8.7
T19	V ABBOTT	-8.7
21	A ELLING	-8.5
22	J GERI	-8.4
T23	B LUSTEG	-8.3
T23	B CAPECE	-8.3
T23	B BELL	-8.3

**Bottom 25 Careers PAL/GAME**

<u>Rnk</u>	<u>KICKER</u>	<u>PALIG</u>
1	T GARCIA	-1.296
2	D GUESMAN	-1.003
3	J AVENI	-0.940
4	B RECHICHAR	-0.795
5	J WITTENBORN	-0.771
6	S SISSON	-0.752
7	D RAYNER	-0.642
8	B JENCKS	-0.587
9	J SPIKES	-0.580
10	S MIKE-MAYER.	-0.538
11	B MCCLARD	-0.535
12	D BIELSKI	-0.506
13	A ELLING	-0.503
T14	F STEINFORT	-0.499
T14	D LIVINGSTON	-0.499
16	W WALKER	-0.485
17	B LUSTEG	-0.468
18	T SEDER	-0.462
19	N O'DONOGHUE	-0.448
20	D GREEN	-0.447
21	M COFER	-0.443
22	B CAPECE	-0.441
23	G HUNT	-0.429
24	M HUSTED	-0.428
25	B BELL	-0.413

# THE LONGEST PLAYS OF THE 1940s

By Gary Selby

There have been a plethora of long, eye-popping plays in the NFL during the last few seasons. Interceptions, kickoff returns, and those wild missed field goal returns! In 2007 Oakland's Sebastian Janikowski just missed what would have been a record-setting 64 yard field goal. Not because it was short; it hit the uprights!

In an attempt to document the longest plays in various categories for each season, I've found the following for the 1940's. As you can see, there are gaps in the data, especially in the earlier years.

Speaking of longest missed field goal returns, I found only one that went the distance during this decade, and it wasn't in the NFL. Brooklyn's Mickey Mayne returned one 104 yards against the Buffalo Bisons on 9/8/46 in the All-America Football Conference. I could not find one prior to this, and the first one in the NFL occurred in 1951.

## 1949:

Run – 97, Bob Gage, Pitt vs. CH Bears, 12/4/49  
 Pass – 85, Charlie Conerly to Gene Roberts, NYG vs. CH Bears, 10/23/49  
 Field Goal – 48, John Patton, Phil vs. Pitt, 10/30/49  
 Interception Return – 102, Bob Smith, Det vs. CH Bears, 11/24/49  
 Kickoff Return – 95, Jack Salscheider, NYG vs. CH Cardinals, 10/30/49  
 Punt Return – 85, Verda Smith, LA vs. ?  
 Fumble Return – 45, Tommy Mont, Wash vs. ?  
 Punt – 82, Joe Geri, Pitt vs. GB, 11/20/49

## 1948:

Run – 74, Noah Mullins, CH Bears vs. NYG, 10/31/48  
 Pass – 86, Sammy Baugh to Dan Sandifer, Wash vs. NYG, 10/3/48  
 Field Goal – 47, Bob Waterfield, LA vs. Pitt, 12/12/48  
 Interception Return – 89, Joe Golding, Bos vs. Phil, 12/5/48  
 Kickoff Return – 99, Joseph Scott, NYG vs. LA, 11/14/48  
 Punt Return – 70, Jerome Davis, CH Cardinals vs. NYG, 10/17/48  
 Fumble Return – 93, Dick Poillon, Wash vs. Phil, 11/21/48  
 Punt – 88, Bob Waterfield, LA vs. GB, 10/17/48

## 1947:

Run – 92, Kenny Washington, LA vs. CH Cardinals, 11/2/47  
 Pass – 88, Frank Reagan to George Franck, NYG vs. Wash, 10/12/47  
 Field Goal – 50, Ted Fritsch, GB vs. CH Bears, 11/9/47  
 Interception Return – 96, Clyde Turner, CH Bears vs. Wash, 10/16/47  
 Kickoff Return – 95, Steve Van Buren, Phil vs. Wash, 9/28/47  
 Punt Return – 88, Tom Harmon, LA vs. Det, 11/23/47  
 Fumble Return – 83, Vince Banonis, CH Cardinals vs. NYG, 11/30/47  
 Punt – 86, Bob Waterfield, LA vs. GB, 10/5/47

## 1946:

Run – 84, Tom Harmon, LA vs. CH Bears, 10/13/46  
 Pass – 88, Dave Ryan to John Greene, Det vs. Pitt, 11/10/46  
 Field Goal – 46, Ted Fritsch, GB vs. Phil, 10/13/46  
 Interception Return – 85, Tom Harmon, LA vs. GB, 10/6/46  
 Kickoff Return – 105, Frank Seno, CH Cardinals vs. NYG, 10/20/46  
 Punt Return – 70, Jack Wilson, LA vs. ?  
 Fumble Return – 36, Dave Ryan, Det vs. GB, 10/27/46  
 Punt – 81, Bill DeCorrevont, Det vs. Wash, 10/6/46

## 1945:

Run – 77, Bill Paschal, NYG vs. Cle, 11/4/45  
 Pass – 84, Bob Waterfield to Jim Benton, Cle vs. GB, 11/11/45

Field Goal – 49, Ted Fritsch, GB vs. CH Bears, 11/4/45  
 Interception Return – 74, Sammy Baugh, Wash vs. ?  
 Kickoff Return – 98, Steve Van Buren, Phil vs. NYG, 12/2/45  
 Punt Return – 81, Charles DeShane, Det vs. Bos, 11/4/45  
 Fumble Return – 37, John Morton, CH Bears vs. ?  
 Punt – 73, Roy McKay, GB vs. CH Cardinals, 10/28/45

## 1944:

Run – 80, Bob Davis, Bos vs. Bkln, 11/19/44  
 Pass – 86, Sid Luckman to Ray McLean, CH Bears vs. Bos, 11/12/44  
 Field Goal – 49, Roy Zimmerman, Phil vs. Bos, 10/22/44  
 Interception Return – 83, Don Perkins, GB vs. Card-Pitt, 10/8/44  
 Kickoff Return – 97, Steve Van Buren, Phil vs. NYG, 11/12/44  
 Punt Return – 60, Frank Seno, Wash vs. Bkln, 10/22/44  
 Fumble Return – 63, Frank Liebel, NYG vs. Phil, 10/29/44  
 Punt – 76, Sammy Baugh, Wash vs. Cle, 11/5/44;  
 76, Cecil Johnson, Bkln vs. Phil, 11/5/44

## 1943:

Run – 79, Dante Magnani, CH Bears vs. Bkln, 10/24/43  
 Pass – 86, Lou Brock to Harry Jacunski, GB vs. CH Cardinals, 11/14/43  
 Field Goal – 45, Ward Cuff, NYG vs. CH Cardinals, 11/21/43  
 Interception Return – 91, Jack Hinkle, Phil-Pitt vs. NYG, 10/9/43  
 Kickoff Return – 98, Ned Mathews, Det vs. Phil-Pitt, 11/21/43  
 Punt Return – 77, George Sinkwich, Det vs. Wash, 11/14/43  
 Fumble Return – 81, Harry Clark, CH Bears vs. Phil-Pitt, 10/17/43  
 Punt – 81, Sammy Baugh, Wash vs. Det, 11/14/43

## 1942:

Run – 80, Lloyd Cardwell, Det vs. Cle, 11/15/42  
 Pass – 73, Cecil Isbell to Don Hutson, GB vs. CH Cardinals, 11/1/42  
 Field Goal – 46, Chet Adams, Cle vs. GB, 11/8/42  
 Interception Return – 66, O'Neal Adams, NYG vs. Wash, 9/27/42  
 Kickoff Return – 98, Andy Uram, GB vs. Det, 10/25/42  
 Punt Return – 89, Ray McLean, CH Bears vs. CH Cardinals, 10/11/42  
 Fumble Return – 69, Dan Fortmann, CH Bears vs. CH Cardinals, 12/6/42  
 Punt – 74, Sammy Baugh, Wash vs. CH Cardinals, 11/8/42  
 74, Dean McAdams, Bkln vs. Wash, 11/18/42

## 1941:

Run – 70, George McAfee, CH Bears vs. CH Cardinals, 12/7/41  
 Pass – 80, Ray Mallouf to John Hall, CH Cardinals vs. GB, 10/10/41  
 Field Goal – 43, Len Barnum, Phil vs. Pitt, 9/21/41  
 43, Clarke Hinkle, GB vs. CH Bears, 11/2/41  
 Interception Return – 91, Hal Van Every, GB vs. Pitt, 11/23/41  
 Kickoff Return – Currently unknown  
 Punt Return – 90, Andy Uram, GB vs. Bkln, 10/12/41  
 Fumble Return – 60, Bruiser Kinard, Bkln vs. CH Cardinals, 10/19/41  
 Punt – 75, Sammy Baugh, Wash vs. NYG, 9/28/41

## 1940:

Run – 75, Banks McFadden, Bkln vs. Phil, 10/26/40  
 Pass – 81, Sammy Baugh to Dick Todd, Wash vs. CH Cardinals, 10/13/40  
 Field Goal – 52, Lee Artoe, CH Bears vs. NYG, 10/27/40  
 Interception Return – 68, Clarence Parker, Bkln vs. Cle, 11/17/40  
 Kickoff Return – 98, Bill Leckonby, Bkln vs. Phil, 10/26/40  
 Punt Return – 76, Dick Todd, Wash vs. NYG, 9/22/40  
 Fumble Return – 76, Howie Weiss, Det vs. Wash, 10/27/40  
 Punt – 85, Sammy Baugh, Wash vs. Phil, 12/1/40

# Research Notes

By Ken Crippen

One section of *Coffin Corner* that we would like to resurrect is the Research Notes articles. This is where PFRA members can share nuggets of information that they come across that may be too short for a full-length article or to ask the membership a research question. We would like to see this become a regular feature in *Coffin Corner*, but that will be determined by the contributions of the membership.

The reason why we would like to revive this section is to create more dialog among members. We have the PFRA Forum, located at: <http://www.pfraforum.org> for discussions, but not all of our members visit the forum and participate in the discussions. We would like to make sure that all members can be included in research discussions. Most of the research questions published here will be new, but occasionally we will publish notes from the Forum.

Whether it is to add a tidbit of information, ask the membership a research question or to discuss notes from a previous issue, we encourage all members to participate.

## Rochester Jeffersons:

*Submitted by Ken Crippen*

This little nugget appeared in the October 22, 1925 edition of the *Appleton Post-Crescent*:

"Way back in 1898, the Rochester Jeffs started making professional football history in New York State. That year, several of the University of Rochester Gridders gave too much attention to the pigskin and not enough to midnight oil. As a result, university authorities suggested to them that they take the air while the going was good.

This they did. Nevertheless these fellows wanted to play football. They laid their case before the Jefferson Club, one of the most exclusive in Rochester and the club members decided to back the ousted collegians.

In those days, there were not many pro football teams and the pickings were pretty lean but the Jeffs stuck to it and wound up their season by playing a tie game with the Massilon Tigers, who at the time, ruled as title holders on the money gridiron."

It looks like the Rochester Jeffersons started earlier than previously suspected. I am in the process of verifying this information. I currently have games as early as 1902, but more research is needed to see if they did, in fact, start in 1898. If they did and the club operated continuously, that would make them, according to PFRA member Roy Sye, the oldest consecutively operating franchise to become a founding member of the APFA.

## The NFL, AAFC and PCFL:

*Submitted by Ken Crippen*

From the January 16, 1946 edition of the *Syracuse Herald Journal*:

The trio, owners in the Pacific Coast football league, signed a working agreement with the National Football League and immediately proclaimed themselves the instruments which will break the rival millionaire supported All-American football conference...The reward—two future franchises in the national football league...They are expected to be at Los Angeles, in competition with the N.F.L. Rams, and at San Francisco...Part of the agreement is that the P.C.L. will not play in the same city as the N.F.L. on that same day. Another part is that on days when the N.F.L. is not playing on the West Coast, the P.C.L. will step in and do gate battle with the A.A.'s. It means that the N.F.L. has only the A.A. to buck, while the A.A. has to fight both the N.F.L. and the P.C.L...That, and the promise of the first two cracks at N.F.L. franchises promises plenty of reward. San Francisco would get the first bid and, [J. Howard] Sullivan explained, the Los Angeles and Hollywood franchises of the P.C.L. would be merged to form a N.F.L. Hollywood entry.

So, knowing that Bob Gill was a PCFL guru, I contacted him for additional information on this agreement and this was the first that he had heard of it. He sent me a quote for a Coffin Corner article that he had written, talking about an additional agreement with the NFL:

"The new state of things was confirmed on March 25, when the PCFL joined with the AFL (formerly the American Association) and the Dixie League to form an association of top

minor leagues recognized by the NFL. Most important in the agreement was the stipulation that the three minor leagues would uphold a five-year ban on players who had jumped contracts with NFL teams."

This led to a discussion on the feasibility of the NFL allowing the Los Angeles and Hollywood teams to merge and compete with the Los Angeles Rams. We both agreed that this was highly unlikely.

The best theory we could come up with is that the AAFC and NFL were raiding the rosters of minor-league franchises. In order to stop the bleeding, the PCFL may have just agreed to anything to keep the NFL out of their teams. Could it be wishful thinking on the part of the PCFL that they would get a franchise or two in the NFL? Yes, but it was unlikely that they actually thought they had a shot to be in the NFL.

**The AAFC wanted to start a minor league?:**

*Submitted by Ken Crippen*

This was found in the May 8, 1946 *Port Arthur News*:

Plans for the formation of an American Association Football league made up of the same cities in the American Association baseball loop were announced in Toledo today by Sam Cordovano, vice president and general manager of the Buffalo club of the All-America Football Conference. Cordovano, in explaining his plan to Toledo sportsmen, said the American Association teams would be affiliated with the All-America Conference. He revealed that Toledo's club would be sponsored by the Buffalo club and that the other All-America outfits were ready to underwrite each affiliated association team. He added, however, that he hoped local interests would assume a substantial part of the financial backing of their teams. Cordovano said that arrangements were being made for the use of American Association baseball parks for games played by the new football league. Final plans for operation of the league would be made at an All-America Conference meeting in Chicago, May 20, he said. Present plans are for opening of the league's schedule late in September on an East-West playoff system.

No additional information has been found on this league, so I am guessing that the American Association teams refused to financially support this venture.

**Public ownership of an NFL franchise question:**

*Submitted by Ken Crippen*

Regularly, you hear discussions of Green Bay's publicly-owned franchise and why teams are not allowed to do this. Here is the specific rule, outlawing this action and how Green Bay is grandfathered into the agreement.

Excerpt from the 1960 NFL Constitution & By-Laws on Football Team Ownership:  
Article V, Section 4

(a) New members must pledge that their organization is primarily for the purpose of operating a football team.

(b) Charitable organizations and/or corporations not organized for profit and not now a member of the league may not hold membership in the National Football League.

(c) All stockholders in a corporation or persons owning any interest in a franchise in the National Football League must be approved by a ten-twelfths (10/12) vote and any transfer of stock or of any interest in a franchise must also be approved by a ten-twelfths (10/12) vote of the membership.

(d) If any stockholder or holder of an interest in a league franchise violates this provision, said stockholder or the holder of the interest involved must sell or dispose of his stock or his interest in a National Football League club within thirty (30) days. The price and terms of such sale or disposition shall be fixed by two arbitrators, one of whom shall be chosen by the league member and the other by the stockholder or the holder of the interest involved. If said arbitrators fail to reach agreement on the price or terms then the two arbitrators shall select a third arbitrator and the decision of the majority of said arbitrators shall be binding on both parties. (This provision shall not take effect until January 28, 1960.)

Now, everything that I have seen states that 1961 is when the NFL banned publicly-owned franchises. So, my question is when, exactly, was this rule ratified: 1960 or 1961?

*To submit your research note(s), comments or questions, just send it to Ken Crippen at:*

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# BRIAN BRENNAN

By Roger Gordon

Originally published in The Orange and Brown Report

He was all but anointed mayor.

Brian Brennan had just scored on a 48-yard catch from Bernie Kosar in the late stages of the AFC Championship Game against the Denver Broncos on January 11, 1987. A deafening din cascaded throughout cavernous Cleveland Stadium.

Brennan, the third-year wide receiver from Boston College, caught Kosar's underthrown aerial at the 16-yard line, completely faked out Dennis Smith, and waltzed into the end zone. Brennan's heroics gave the Browns a 20-13 lead – and an apparent berth in Super Bowl XXI – with just 5:43 remaining in the game.

“Bernie threw a duck,” laughs Brennan, who made a circus catch. “I think Bernie would look to me in one-on-one situations where Webster Slaughter and I were always on the same side of the ball, or a lot of the time. And (the defense) liked to double (cover) Webster, and that puts the free safety, or strong safety, or the nickel back, more on me, so it was always a good matchup for Bernie.”

Kosar looked Brennan's way and saw that Smith, the strong safety, was one-on-one on Brennan.

“I remember the play – catching the pass and going into the end zone – was a special moment for me,” says Brennan, Doug Flutie's main target in college. “Here I am, a chance to shine kind of without Doug Flutie. I remember coming over to the sideline and almost shaking with excitement, standing next

to Gary Danielson and just hoping and believing we were going to the Super Bowl.”

Brennan – and his teammates – became even more optimistic when rookie Gene Lang muffed Mark Moseley's kickoff and pinned Denver on its two-yard line.

“We had every expectation we were going to win the game,” Brennan recalls. “But John Elway's a scary guy. Certainly, anything can happen on any play, so you're never sure. We were on pins and needles watching John Elway back there, but we weren't sure.”

The fourth-year “Browns Killer” took charge. Elway marched the Broncos on a remarkable 98-yard touchdown drive – including a 20-yard throw to Mark Jackson on third-and-18 – to tie the game with 38 seconds left. “The Drive” was the impetus for Denver's stunning 23-20 overtime win.

A fourth-round draft pick of the Browns in 1984, Brennan was the definitive possession receiver, compared by countless observers to future Hall of Famer Steve Largent. Brennan wasn't big (5-9, 178) nor fast, but could he ever catch the ball. His most productive season came in 1986, the season of “The Drive” when he led the Browns with 55 receptions and 838 receiving yards, and had six touchdown catches. In all, Brennan caught 315 passes for 4,148 yards and 19 touchdowns in his Browns career that lasted eight seasons.

Brennan's postseason numbers were not too shabby, either – 23 catches for 321 yards and four touchdowns. He was a central figure in

"The Denver Dilemma," the painful three-part mini-series in which the Broncos denied the Browns Super Bowl berths each time. Besides "The Drive," there was the infamous "Fumble" in 1987 and the final chapter two years later in which Brennan nearly helped rally the Browns from the dead with two touchdown catches from Kosar, the second of which was a Herculean diving effort.

Brennan did double duty for a few seasons as a punt returner. He even returned one for a touchdown, a 37-yarder against the New York Jets on December 22, 1985.

Bill Belichick's first season as Browns head coach, 1991, was Brennan's last with the team. The new boss cleaned house and pink-slipped Brennan and countless other veterans from the glory days of the late-1980s. Brennan spent the 1992 season with the Cincinnati Bengals and San Diego Chargers, seeing limited action with both clubs. He felt he had some gas left in the tank but decided to call it quits.

These days, the 45-year-old Brennan is employed as a national sales manager for KeyBank and resides in the Cleveland area with his wife of 22 years Bethany, daughter Courtney, who will be a senior at Boston College, son Brian, a recent graduate of Gilmour Academy in Cleveland, and daughter Grace, who will be a sophomore there.

Golf takes up a good deal of Brennan's spare time, not just playing the sport but organizing it. Next year will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Brian Brennan Boys Hope Girls Hope of Northeast Ohio Open that raises money for the Boys Hope Girls Hope charity that aids academically capable and motivated yet abused, abandoned and neglected young men and women.

This year's event, held on May 21 simultaneously at The Country Club in Pepper Pike, Canterbury Golf Club in Beachwood and Shaker Heights Country Club, was

highlighted by speaker Phil Savage, the Browns' Senior Vice President and General Manager.

Brennan has stayed active with the Browns in recent years on the media end. He was a pre-and post-game analyst on the team's flagship radio station for a few seasons and enters his third as a television analyst on exhibition games.

Brennan's playing days will always hold a special place in his heart.

"I was proud to have played in Cleveland, and it was a privilege to play for the Cleveland Browns organization and the Cleveland Browns fans," he says. "Football means a great deal to these fans, and they deserve the best product."

\* \* \* \*

### VERN HUFFMAN - BOMC

The term BMOC may not be in vogue these days, but back when Vern Huffman was at Indiana University (1934-1937) it stood for Big Man On Campus. And he certainly was. At 6-2, 220, he was hard to overlook. The fact that he was an All-America quarterback for the Hoosier football team added to his status. Couple that with being an All-America basketball forward and he was even "bigger." He's still the only Hoosier in history to gain All-America status in both sports. And probably will remain uniquely so.

To further burnish Huffman's resume, he won the Chicago Tribune's Silver Cup as the Big Ten's Most Valuable Player in both sports.

He was drafted in the third round by Detroit in 1937. His NFL (1937 and 1938) stats were quite modest, but he was a versatile performer for the Lions, playing single-wing quarterback (blocking back), tailback, wingback, and defensive back.



**CLASSIFIEDS**

! Program Wanted: Eagles-Carolina, NFC Championship Game, January 18, 2004. Contact: Bob Lyons, 1214 Dennis Road, Southampton, PA 18966. Phone (215) 355-4749.

2 WANTED: "The Second American Football League Fact Book" and "The Unofficial 1940-41 American Football League Guide," both by Tod Maher and Bob Gill. Charley Hall, 1410 Lake Pointe Way #9, Centerville, OH 45459, [hallbuckete@Sbcglobal.net](mailto:hallbuckete@Sbcglobal.net)

2 2007 Cuts and Keeps (covers 2006 season). Registry of nearly 2500 rookie and first year NFL, CFL and Arena players with bio data and career transactions; Big, definitive, comprehensive 444 pages. \$75 plus \$5 postage. For researchers, pro personnel, and serious students of football. Sports Information and Research, 1515 Radcliff Ct. Visalia, CA 93277.

2 Old Pro Football Films (1944-1969) are now available on ultra high-quality video and DVD! Call 1-800-603-4353 for FREE LISTING of over 50 different titles! Doak Ewing, 1126 Tennyson Lane, Naperville IL 60540. [www.raresportsfilms.com](http://www.raresportsfilms.com)

2 TAR – The Autograph Review -- \$14.95 annually, 6 editions. Special to PFRA members for new subscriptions 5/\$9.95. Payable to JW Morey, 305 Carlton Road, Syracuse, NY 13207. Publishing 18 years – Addresses, info, helpful to researchers... Try us.

WANTED: Game films or highlight films from Washington Redskins games 1970-76, especially need 1974 Miami Dolphins game. John Jacob / P.O. Box 4155 / Merrifield, VA 22116 / (703) 909-6395.

2 **EARLY AMERICAN & CANADIAN 'FOOTBALL': BEGINNINGS THRU 1883-84.** Mel Smith / 1<sup>st</sup> Books Library 2959 Vernil Pike / Bloomington, IL 47404

2 Need the following NFL team photos from the 1950s to complete my research: 1950, 1953-1957 Baltimore Colts; 1950-51 NY Yanks; 1952 Dallas Texans; 1953 NY Giants; 1957 Redskins; 1951 Bears; 1951 Lions; 1958 Rams. Michael Lemongello / 5 Brookline Ave. / East Hanover, NJ 07936. Tel. 973-428-3752. Fax 973-844-1433.

2 LOOKING for AFL video/film footage, 1960-1969. Please contact John via e-mail at [jcrart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcrart@sbcglobal.net).

2 "Pride & Poise: The Oakland Raiders of the American Football League is the most takes a definitive look into the formation and turbulent early history of the American Football League." For info please visit [www.raidershistory.net](http://www.raidershistory.net)

2 WANTED: Any Philadelphia Eagles items from 1933-43. Programs, contracts, wire photos, newspapers, etc. Photo copies work but I may ask to buy the original if it is for sale. Also interested in 1902 Athletics, Frankford Yellowjackets, 1926 Quakers, Allentown Demons and Bethlehem Bulldogs. E-mail Steve at [homebuilder@epix.net](mailto:homebuilder@epix.net)

2 "Keep A-goin': the life of Lone Star Dietz" by Tom Benjey. Softcover \$19.95, hardback \$32.95, s&h \$6.00. Put PFRA on order for a 5% discount. Benjey Media / 546 E. Springville Rd. / Carlisle, PA 17015. 717-258-9733 voice / 717-243-0074 fax / [www.LoneStarDietz.com](http://www.LoneStarDietz.com)

2 Collage/Poem: "Glory of the Black and Gold" (Steelers first 4 Super Bowls) or "Seven Blocks of Granite, the Golden Rams of Yesteryear" (Fordham Football Golden Years, 1929-42). For a copy of illustrated color collage poem, 8 1/2 x 11 \$5, 11 x 17 \$10, laminated add \$5, plus \$2.50 shipping. Send check or money order to: Victor Mastro, 1907 Narragansett Ave., Bronx, NY 10461.

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WANTED: Information on the backgrounds of the players on the rosters of the 1917-1926 Akron Pros and Canton Bulldogs teams. Specifically interested in where they worked and where they lived. Please contact Lee at (805) 981-8678 or [speedylee@sprynet.com](mailto:speedylee@sprynet.com)

2 **FREE FULL-LENGTH FOOTBALL BIOGRAPHIES!** More than 30 biographies of top football stars are available free of charge at [JockBio.com](http://JockBio.com). Also, great deals on gridiron memorabilia. PFRA members get free shipping! VISIT [WWW.JOCKBIO.COM](http://WWW.JOCKBIO.COM) AND GET A LIFE!

2 WANTED: Stadium views of venues used in the regular or post-season, from 1946 to the present, by the AAFC, AFL, and NFL. Aerial, exterior, and interior views needed. Postcards, photos, clips from programs and magazines, etc., are all desirable. Will purchase or trade from my collection. Contact Bill

Pepperell at 3427 Overland Dr., Holiday, FL 34691, or [billpepperell1@yahoo.com](mailto:billpepperell1@yahoo.com)

2 BOOK: "McKay's Men: The Story of the 1979 Tampa Bay Buccaneers," published by Seaside Publishing of Palm Harbor, FL. Written by Denis Crawford, 218 pages with photos. Tell how John McKay led the Bucs from 0-26 to the brink of a Super Bowl in just two short years. Contains first hand accounts from Lee Roy Selmon and Doug Williams. Book is available for \$14.95 (plus S&H) at [seaside-publishing.com](http://seaside-publishing.com) or call (888) 352-2665.

2 FOR SALE: A 10-minute documentary commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of modern American football and the single-wing. Carlisle played Villanova at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 26, 1906 in what was called "the first important game to be played under the new rules" on Indian Field at Carlisle Barracks. Cost for the DVD is \$9.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling (PA residents add 6% for sales tax – even on the shipping). Order through [www.TuxedoPress.LoneStarDietz.com](http://www.TuxedoPress.LoneStarDietz.com) or send a check or money order to: Tuxedo Press, 546 E. Springville Rd., Carlisle, PA 17015.

2 NEW STEAGLES BOOK: "Last Team Standing: How the Steelers and the Eagles – 'The Steagles' – Saved Pro Football During World War II" by Matthew Algeo is now available in bookstores and from Amazon.com and other online booksellers. Based on interviews with every surviving member of the team, it tells the incredible true story of the 1943 merger of the Steelers and the Eagles, includes eight pages of photographs. For more information, visit [www.steagles.com](http://www.steagles.com)

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All 3 books for \$35 from: [www.LoneStarDietz.com](http://www.LoneStarDietz.com) or Tuxedo Press, 546 E. Springville Rd, Carlisle, PA, 17015.

No S&H for PFRA members.

Wanted: Any individuals that are interested in writing about the great game of football. If you have a desire to write game previews, feature articles, draft profiles and are interested in the chance to conduct interviews with players of today and tomorrow, then [footballdialogue.com](http://footballdialogue.com) is the place for you. It's not a pay position yet but it's a great chance to have fans, media, and football die-hards read your stuff. If this sounds appealing to you, send me an e-mail at [Patrick@footballdialogue.com](mailto:Patrick@footballdialogue.com) and we can discuss it further.