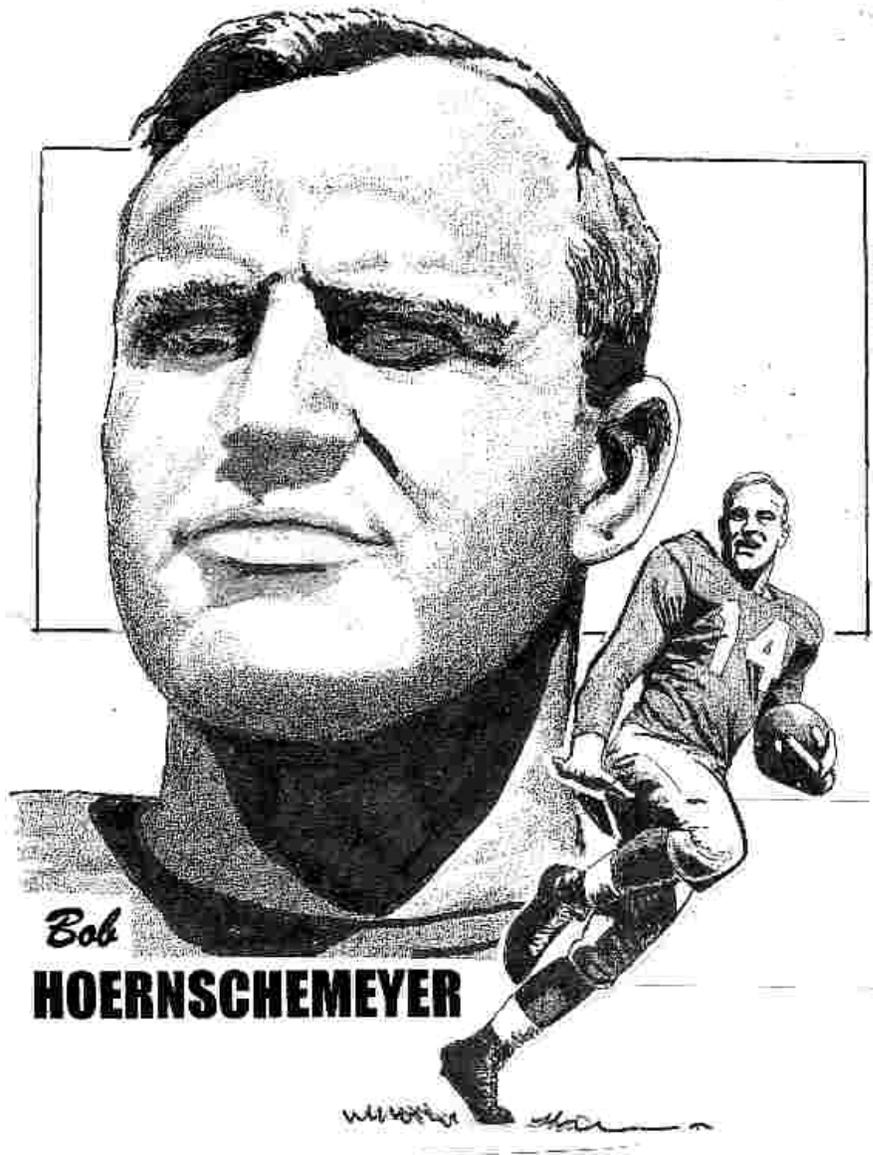
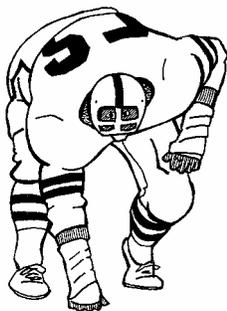


# Vol. 30, No. 2 2008

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PFRA-ternizing -	2
Hall of Very Good	3
Pro Football Players Who Played B-Ball	8
Myths of Integration	11
Effect of Byes #1	14
Research Notes	17
PFRA Committees	21
Words to Live By	23
Classifieds	24



# PFRA-ternizing

## HAY & ROSS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Vince Popo and Andy Piascik are the winners of PFRA's annual achievement awards.

Vince Popo has served as PFRA treasurer since 1981. His efforts for more than a quarter century have helped make PFRA and The Coffin Corner possible. Vince has been named the 2007 winner of PFRA's **Ralph Hay Award**, given for lifetime achievement in pro football research and historiography.

### Past Hay Award Winners

- 2006 Emil Klosinski
- 2005 John Gunn
- 2004 Jeff Miller
- 2003 John Hogrogian
- 2002 Ken Pullis
- 2001 Tod Maher
- 2000 Mel "Buck" Bashore
- 1999 Dr. Stan Grosshandler
- 1998 Seymour Siwoff
- 1997 Total Sports
- 1996 Don Smith
- 1995 John Hogrogian
- 1994 Jim Campbell
- 1993 Robert Van Atta
- 1992 Richard Cohen
- 1991 Joe Horrigan
- 1990 Bob Gill
- 1989 Joe Plack
- 1988 David Neft

For his *The Best Show in Football: The 1946-1955 Cleveland Browns, Pro Football's Greatest Dynasty*, **Andy Piascik** is the recipient of the 2007 **Nelson Ross Award** given to a PFRA member for recent achievement in pro football research and historiography.

### Past Ross Award Winners

- 2006 Matthew Algeo
- 2005 Chris Willis
- 2004 Michael MacCambridge
- 2003 Mark Ford
- 2002 Bob Gill, Steve Brainerd, Tod Maher
- 2001 Bill Ryczek
- 2000 Paul Reeths
- 1999 Joe Ziemba
- 1998 Keith McClellan
- 1997 Tod Maher & Bob Gill
- 1996 John Hogrogian
- 1995 Phil Dietrich
- 1994 Rick Korch
- 1993 Jack Smith
- 1992 John M. Carroll
- 1991 Tod Maher
- 1990 Pearce Johnson
- 1989 Bob Gill
- 1988 Bob Braunwart

An important word from Knute Rockne:

*Be sure to renew your PFRA membership  
Oh, and win one for the Gipper.*



## THE COFFIN CORNER

Vol. 30, No. 3 (2008)

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Melissa Thomas, Assistant  
Ken Crippen, Assistant Editor &  
Website Editor

# Hall of Very Good

By Andy Piascik, Bob Gill, Sean Lahman and Ken Crippen

Its election time again - no, not that election. It's time to vote for the Hall of Very Good Class of 2008. Below is your ballot with the candidates the Hall of Very Good Committee selected from the 75 nominees that PFRA members submitted (there are 22 because of a three-way tie for 20<sup>th</sup> place). For the first time, we are including mini-bios of all of the finalists as a sort of voters guide. All members are encouraged to do their own additional research before voting. A special thank you goes out to Bill Pepperell and T.J. Troup for research contributions to the player bios.

As in previous elections, you must vote for 10 candidates. Any ballot with fewer or more than 10 will be discarded. In addition to the bios, there are several other changes from previous elections. First, ballots will be accepted by e-mail as well as by mail. However, e-mail ballots will only be accepted from members whose e-mail addresses were on file with PFRA as of March 1, 2008. At this point, you cannot send us an e-mail address in order to vote this time around. However, you should provide us with the information if you wish to vote by e-mail in future elections. Unfortunately, if you've changed your e-mail address and now have one that is different than what we have on file, you cannot vote by e-mail this time. We will let you know if this is the case.

Second, unlike all previous elections when we elected 10 candidates, we will be electing a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 7. All candidates who are named on 75% of valid ballots will be elected, up to a maximum of 7. If more than 7 reach the 75% plateau, the 7 highest vote-getters will be elected unless there is a tie for 7<sup>th</sup> place, in which case there will be more than 7. If fewer than 5 candidates are named on 75% of valid ballots, the top 5 vote-getters will be elected.

Please print and sign your ballot in the spaces indicated. Email ballots should be sent to Committee chair Andy Piascik at [andy@nflhistory.net](mailto:andy@nflhistory.net). Mail ballots should be sent to Andy Piascik, 25 Cartright Street, Bridgeport CT 06604 (it is not necessary to include PFRA or HOVG on the envelope). You can also request the list of 75 nominees from Andy.

## **Bruno Banducci (guard) Eagles 1944-45, 49ers 1946-54**

Wherever Banducci went, winning records and rushing titles followed. After shining as one of Stanford's Wow Boys, he joined the up and coming Eagles in 1944. Although undersized, he was a two-way starter right away and the Eagles posted records of 7-1-2 and 7-3

after never having had a winning season. He jumped to the AAFC 49ers and helped San Francisco to six rushing titles in nine years, something they did not do again until 33 years after he retired. The Eagles also won the rushing title his first year, also a franchise first. Four times in his career he blocked for the league-leading rusher.

He was strong, quick, and excelled on offense. Art Donovan said Banducci consistently "blocked me all over the field." With Banducci playing an integral role, the 49ers averaged 35 points and 406 yards a game in 1948-49. He made first team all-pro five times including unanimously in '46 and '47 and consensus in '54 and was second team twice. He was a first team selection on the combined all-AAFC/NFL team once and second team once. Banducci's teams posted a .664 winning percentage and finished in second place eight times. He was named to the all-1940's team by the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

## **Dick Barwegan (guard) Yankees 1947, Colts 1948-49 and 1953-54, Bears 1950-52**

Barwegan was so good at Purdue that he played in four College All-Star Games. After two years in the Army, he became the best offensive lineman in the AAFC and helped Spec Sanders to his record-breaking 1947 season and the Yankees to an 11-2-1 record. At 225 pounds, Barwegan utilized quickness and great technique to best much larger players. When he left New York for the Colts, they went from 2-11-1 to 7-7 while the Yankees fell to 6-8. He earned all-pro (unanimous twice, consensus once) and all-AAFC/NFL (unanimous once, consensus twice) honors in all three of his AAFC seasons.

In three years as a Bear, he was the best player on a line that included Ray Bray, Bulldog Turner, and George Connor. A unanimous all-pro in 1950 and 1951, he helped the Bears to the 1951 rushing title. "When I joined the Lions, Barwegan was the standard for the guards in the NFL," said Dick Stanfel, "the guy the rest of us looked to as the best." He was second team all-pro in 1952, first team in 1953, then retired after an injury-plagued 1954 season. Barwegan was named as a guard to the all-1950's team but he could also "play defense as good as the best, too," in the words of teammate Paul Stenn.

## **Les Bingaman (guard) Lions 1948-54**

Recognized as one of the best interior linemen against the run, Les Bingaman was versatile enough to also

play center on offense. He was strong and agile, despite his size.

Drafted in the third round by the Detroit Lions in 1948, Bingaman was nominated to two Pro Bowls and was instrumental in the league's best run defense in 1952. He made all-pro four times (once unanimously and consensus once) and second team once. He helped his team to three championship game appearances, with the team winning two.

#### **Ray Bray (guard) Bears 1939-42 and 1946-51, Packers 1952**

Bray was a key two-way player on perhaps the best team of all. In his years with the Bears, they won three crowns, played in four title games, won 77% of their games, and finished second five times. Bray was an early practitioner of weight training and one of the strongest players of his era. Overshadowed at first by Hall of Fame linemates Joe Stydahar, Bulldog Turner, Dan Fortmann, and George Musso, he then missed three years to Navy service just as he was reaching his peak. He blossomed on his return, earning first team all-pro honors in 1946 as the Bears rebounded from 3-7 to win the NFL title.

In 1948 and 1949, Bray was a unanimous all-pro and 2nd team all-AAFC/NFL. Those honors stemmed mostly from his offensive play, and then he made all-pro in 1950 and the Pro Bowl in '50 and '51 for his defense. Bray still played some on offense both years as Chicago remained one of the NFL's most potent teams. In his career, the Bears led the NFL in points five times, something they have never done since. They also led in total yards and rushing yards five times and passing yards three times. Bray was very durable, playing in all of his teams games nine times and missing only six games in eleven years.

#### **Harold Carmichael (wide receiver) Eagles 1971-83, Cowboys 1984**

Carmichael is probably best remembered for his height (at 6-foot-8, he was the tallest outstanding receiver in NFL history) and his 127-game streak with at least one reception, which was the record at the time of his retirement. More to the point, he caught 590 passes in his career for 8,985 yards and 79 touchdowns, figures that ranked fifth, seventh and seventh, respectively, when he hung up his cleats.

His best season was 1973, when he led the league with 67 receptions and 1,116 yards. A consensus all-pro that year and a unanimous all-NFC choice in 1978 and '79, he was also named to a few second teams in 1974, '77 and '80 and played in four Pro Bowls.

#### **Blanton Collier, Browns assistant coach 1946-53, 1962, head coach 1963-70**

After spending nine years as an assistant coach in Cleveland, Collier took over for the legendary Paul

Brown in 1963. The contrast in styles was obvious. Brown was a strict disciplinarian, while Collier gave his players more freedom. Brown favored the passing attack, while Collier preferred to run the ball. Both differences seemed to make an immediate impact. The team had missed the playoffs in its last four seasons under Coach Brown. Collier remedied that in his first season, as he turned Jim Brown loose. The twenty-seven-year old running back dominated opponents in 1963, rushing for an NFL record 1863 yards in fourteen games. A year later, the Browns advanced to the NFL championship game where they trounced the heavily favored Colts 27-0.

Collier led the back team to the title game in 1965, losing 23-12 to Green Bay. Jim Brown's sudden retirement didn't stop Collier from winning. The Browns reeled off four more winning seasons, advancing to the NFL championship game again in 1968 and 1969. In his eight years at the helm, the Browns never finished with a losing record.

#### **Ox Emerson (guard, center and linebacker) 1931-33 Spartans, 1934-37 Lions, 1938 Dodgers**

In the 1930s the Portsmouth/Detroit franchise had the best ground game in the NFL, and Emerson was one of the main reasons why. Joining the team at the same time as Hall of Fame back Dutch Clark, Emerson was named to at least one all-pro first team each year from 1932-37 and played a major role in the Lions' march to the championship in 1935. He spent his final season in Brooklyn, where he rejoined Patsy Clark, his coach during the glory years in Portsmouth and Detroit.

#### **Bob Gain (tackle, middle guard, end) Browns 1952, 54-64**

Gain's excellence at three positions was critical to Cleveland's success during his career. The 1950 Outland Trophy winner played in Canada in 1951. He was a starter as an NFL rookie, then missed most of 1953-54 to the military but was solid at tackle when he did play and Cleveland finished first all three years. He moved to middle guard and was UP's second team all-pro in 1955 as the Browns won the title and accomplished a rare defensive trifecta: fewest points, passing yards, and rushing yards. Gain moved to end in 1956, then back to tackle in 1957 and got second team all-pro honors both years.

Although a very good pass rushing end, Gain's strength was against the run and he remained at tackle most of the rest of his career. He was solid as a rock, often drawing double teams, and few teams ran successfully inside against the Browns. They were first in points allowed in all of Gain's first four complete seasons and gave up the fewest total yards, rushing yards, and passing yards three, two, and three times, respectively. Gain was first team all-pro in 1958, second team a total of seven times, and was named to five Pro Bowls as the Browns finished first five times and won three titles in his career.

**Randy Gradishar (linebacker) Broncos 1974-83**

Gradishar's career of only ten seasons wasn't very long by modern standards, but what it might have lacked in longevity he more than made up in quality. The backbone of the "Orange Crush" defense that led Denver to an appearance in Super Bowl XXII, he hit his peak from 1977-79, when he was a consensus all-pro each season – and the defensive player of the year in 1978.

Though his status, as reflected in postseason honors, declined somewhat after that, he was named to at least one all-pro first or second team from 1980 through his final season, when he made the last of his seven appearances in the Pro Bowl.

**Bob Hoernschemeyer (tailback) Rockets 1946-47, Dodgers 1947-48, Hornets 1949, Lions 1950-55**

Hoernschemeyer began his career as a scrambling quarterback in the AAFC, throwing 14 touchdown passes as a rookie in 1946. After the league's demise, he joined the Detroit Lions as a halfback. It quickly became clear that he was a better runner than passer, and he became one of the key players on a team that won two championships.

Lions coach Buddy Parker used Hoernschemeyer as a short-yardage specialist and receiver, pairing him with the more elusive Doak Walker in the backfield. Parker also liked to use Hoernschemeyer on the halfback option. In six NFL seasons he attempted 26 passes, completing 10 for touchdowns.

**Cecil Isbell (tailback and defensive back) Packers 1938-42**

Isbell replaced Hall of Famer Arnie Herber as Green Bay's main passer, and might have been even better. Taking over the job full-time when Herber retired after the 1940 season, Isbell led the NFL in passing in 1941 and '42. In the latter season he became the league's first documented 2,000-yard passer and also set a record with 24 touchdown passes, but he retired prematurely after that, ruining any chance he had for the Hall of Fame.

Even before emerging as an elite passer, Isbell had earned second-team all-pro mention in each of his first three seasons as a versatile back who could pile up yardage on the ground (his 5.2-yard average per carry led the league in 1938) or in the air. He was a unanimous all-pro in 1941 and earned first- or second-team spots on all major all-pro teams in his final season.

**Charley Johnson (quarterback) Cardinals 1961-69, Oilers 1970-71, Broncos 1972-75**

While at New Mexico State, Charley Johnson was the only player to be named MVP in two consecutive Sun Bowl games. He is a member of the New Mexico State

Sports Hall of Fame and is the only player in school history to have his number retired.

As a pro, Johnson quarterbacked the Denver Broncos to their first winning season (1973) and set a record for passing accuracy, as well as throwing touchdowns in ten straight games, a Bronco record at the time. He made all-conference once and was ranked in the all-time top 20 in completions, yards and touchdowns when he retired. He made the Pro Bowl in 1963 and is a member of the Denver Broncos Ring of Fame.

**Verne Lewellen (halfback) Packers 1924-32, Yankees 1927**

Lewellen and his Green Bay teammate Lavern Dilweg might be the two best players from the early years who aren't in the Hall of Fame. A fine runner and receiver, Lewellen was the first to score 50 touchdowns in the NFL and was one of the main cogs in the Packers' three-time champs of 1929-31. He was a second-team all-pro selection in 1925 and a near-unanimous first-team all-pro from 1926-29.

What really made Lewellen stand out, though, was his punting. He was the best punter of the 1920s, when that was a much more important part of the game than it is now. His average (as compiled unofficially by David Neft) was usually around 41 yards per punt, which doesn't look very high by today's standards, but it was consistently about four yards above the league norm – and since teams often punted ten or more times per game, that gave the Packers a significant edge game after game, year after year.

**Ted Nesser**

The Nesser brothers were among the biggest stars of pro football during the 1900s and 1910s. Six of them were long time members of the Columbus Panhandles, and some historians have argued that Ted Nesser may have been the best player of the bunch. He played just about every position during his career, most notably at tackle.

All of the brothers were renowned for their toughness, but Ted may have been the toughest of the bunch. During a 1908 contest, he broke his arm in two places. He didn't want to leave the field, despite the fact that the bone was protruding through the skin. He claimed to have broken his nose eight times. Nesser was also considered a great leader and innovator. He developed several plays – the triple pass, the criss-cross, and the short kickoff – that quickly became part of the standard playbook.

By the time the NFL was formed in 1920, Ted was 37-years old. He spent two more years as the Panhandles' player coach. He was the team's center in 1921, snapping the ball to his son Charlie, the starting tailback.

**Buddy Parker (head coach) Cardinals 1949, Lions 1951-56, Steelers 1957-64; (back) Lions 1935-36, Cardinals 1937-43**

The Detroit Lions have won four NFL Championships in their history, and Raymond "Buddy" Parker had a hand in each one of them. As a rookie fullback, he helped the Lions beat the Giants in the 1935 title game, scoring the final touchdown. After a nine-year playing career, he turned to coaching, and made an immediate impact when he took the reigns in Detroit in 1952. Parker developed what would come to be known as the 2-minute offense, and opposing defenses simply couldn't keep up.

With the explosive offense and stifling defense, the Lions advanced to the NFL championship game in three straight seasons, meeting the Cleveland Browns each time. The Lions beat an injury-ravaged Cleveland team for the title in 1952, and came back to beat the Browns in a 17-16 thriller a year later. The Lions lost to Cleveland in the 1954 title game.

Parker quit abruptly at the end of training camp in 1957, declaring: "It's the worst team I've ever seen." His assessment would prove to be wrong when his replacement, George Wilson, led the Lions to a decisive victory in the 1957 championship game. Parker would spend nine years with the Steelers, and despite achieving some level of success, the Steelers never made the playoffs under Parker.

**George "Peggy" Parratt (back) Shelby, Lorain, Massillon, Franklin, Akron**

In 1905, George Watson "Peggy" Parratt split playing time between Case University and the Shelby Athletic Club. While with Shelby, he played under the alias of "Jimmy Murphy," due to the fact that he was being paid to play for the team. When this was discovered, he was barred from playing for Case. At that point, he left Shelby and played for Lorain.

Throughout his professional career, he bounced from team to team, making each one better if not a champion. From 1906-07, Parratt played for the Ohio powerhouse Massillon Tigers. In 1908, he returned to the Shelby, where he helped organize and financially back the team. They won the state title in 1910 and 1911. In 1912, Parratt left Shelby for the Akron Indians to become a player, coach, owner and manager for the team. Under his leadership, Akron won the state title in 1913 and 1914.

Parratt is credited with the first authenticated pass completion in a professional game, when he tossed the ball to Dan "Bullet" Riley in 1906 against the Benwood-Moundsville team.

**Spec Sanders (halfback, safety) Yankees 1946-48, Yanks 1950**

Sanders went straight from college to the Army and was already 27 when he joined the AAFC Yankees in

1946. Running and passing out of the single wing, he led the Yankees to the league title game and himself to unanimous all-pro honors and the all-AAFC/NFL team. Sanders led the league in rushing, total yards, rushing touchdowns, and overall TD's. He was first in the same four categories in 1947 as the Yankees were again AAFC runners-up. He set pro records with 1,432 rushing yards, 18 rushing TD's, 19 TD's, and 1,445 total yards and won unanimous all-pro and all-AAFC/NFL honors.

In 1948 Sanders finished fourth in rushing and third in rushing TD's, good for second team all-pro recognition even though he was hampered by injuries that would cause him to miss the 1949 season. New York went 14-12 in 1948-49, compared to 21-5-2 in 1946-47 when he was injury-free. He moved to defense in 1950 in the NFL and tied the all-time record of 13 interceptions, a mark that is still the second highest ever. The Yanks went 7-5 and Sanders was again all-pro. He was the all-time AAFC leader in rushing TD's and kickoff returns and ranked second in rushing and touchdowns.

**Jerry Smith (tight end) Redskins 1965-77**

Jerry Smith's career with the Washington Redskins has him fourth all-time in receptions (421) and sixth all-time in receiving yards (5,496) in team history. He made all-pro twice (consensus once), all-conference twice and all-AFL/NFL once. At the time of his retirement, he was first among tight ends in career touchdowns (60) and by the end of the 2007 season, his was ranked third.

A key player in the Redskins 1972 Super Bowl team, he was named as one of the 70 greatest Redskins by a blue-ribbon panel formed to celebrate Washington's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Jim Ray Smith (guard) Browns 1956-62, Cowboys 1963-64**

Smith's career was delayed 1 1/2 years by a stint in the Army and in his first year he played defensive end. Fast enough to regularly hang with Jim Brown, Ray Renfro, and Bobby Mitchell in sprints, he added 25 pounds in 1957 without sacrificing quickness or speed. Paul Brown moved him to guard and he earned all-conference honors. Cleveland rebounded from 5-7 to 9-2-1 and first place as Jim Brown copped the first of five rushing titles he won running behind Smith. An expert practitioner of option or Run to Daylight blocking, Smith was proficient at both inside power blocking and leading sweeps.

The Browns led the NFL in rushing in 1958 and 1959 and cumulatively in Smith's six years as a guard in Cleveland. He made all the major second all-pro teams plus the Detroit News' first team in 1958, then was a first team choice the next four years including unanimously three times. He retired to tend to his Dallas business but returned when he was traded to the Cowboys. After knee injuries limited him to 12

games in two seasons, Smith retired for good. "If he had played twelve or fourteen years," said line mate Gene Hickerson, "he would have been the greatest lineman who ever played."

**Walt Sweeney (guard) Chargers 1963-73, Redskins 1974-75**

Sweeney came to San Diego in 1963 and filled a key role on a team that reached the AFL championship game in each of his first three seasons, winning it all in 1963. The Chargers never reached the postseason again during his time with them, but that didn't keep Sweeney from piling up individual accolades. After being named to a couple of all-league second teams in 1965, he was named to at least one all-AFL or all-AFC team five years in a row, from 1967-71, and was a unanimous or near-unanimous all-AFL selection in 1967 and '68.

One of Sweeney's major attributes was his durability. In a 13-year career he missed exactly one game, in his final season with the Redskins, who he had joined as yet another aging veteran brought in by George Allen as part of his "Future Is Now" approach.

**Wayne Walker (linebacker and kicker) 1958-72 Lions**

An outstanding outside linebacker, Walker started his career playing next to Hall of Famer Joe Schmidt, which might have cost him a bit of recognition, since Schmidt was a fixture on the annual all-pro teams. Still, Walker earned a couple of second-team all-pro selections in 1960 and '63, a mix of first- and second-team honors in 1964 and '66, and unanimous recognition as a first-team all-pro in 1965.

Besides his fine work backing up the line, Walker also did quite a bit of placekicking for the Lions and was their main booter from 1962-65. For his career, he kicked 53 field goals and scored 345 points.

**Billy Wilson (wide receiver) 1951-60 49ers**

When Wilson retired from football, he had caught more passes (407) than anyone except Don Hutson. A six-time Pro Bowl selection, he led the NFL three times in receptions and once in receiving touchdowns. He was a consensus all-pro in 1955 and '57, and earned several second-team selections in 1954, '56 and '58.

The 49ers' only postseason appearance during Wilson's career was the western division playoff game against Detroit in 1957. Though the Lions had the last laugh with a second-half comeback to pull out a 31-27 victory, Wilson did his part, catching nine passes for 107 yards and a touchdown.

**OFFICIAL PFRA HALL OF VERY GOOD BALLOT**

You must vote for 10 candidates. Any ballot with fewer or more than 10 will be discarded.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bruno Banducci    | <input type="checkbox"/> Charley Johnson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dick Barwegan     | <input type="checkbox"/> Verne Lewellen  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Les Bingaman      | <input type="checkbox"/> Ted Nesser      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ray Bray          | <input type="checkbox"/> Buddy Parker    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harold Carmichael | <input type="checkbox"/> George Parratt  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blanton Collier   | <input type="checkbox"/> Spec Sanders    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ox Emerson        | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Smith     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Gain          | <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Ray Smith   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Randy Gradishar   | <input type="checkbox"/> Walt Sweeney    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Hoernschmeyer | <input type="checkbox"/> Wayne Walker    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cecil Isbell      | <input type="checkbox"/> Billy Wilson    |

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return ballots to: E-Mail ballots to: Andy Piascik at [andy@nflhistory.net](mailto:andy@nflhistory.net).

Mail ballots should be sent to: Andy Piascik, 25 Cartright Street, Bridgeport CT 06604

# PRO FOOTBALL PLAYERS PLAYING PRO BASKETBALL IN 1940

By John Hogrogian

For the past few years, I've been studying the 1939-40 professional basketball season. I haven't been poring over reports of old pro football games as I used to. I'm still, however, running across some familiar faces.

In March of 1940, the second annual World Tournament for professional basketball teams took place in Chicago. Fourteen teams competed in a single-elimination format. One team came from the American Basketball League and three from the National Basketball League. The rest were independents. Four of the teams had a professional football flavoring.

The Oshkosh (WI) All-Stars were a top-notch team from a city near Green Bay. They finished in a first-place tie in the NBL's Western Division, then lost the championship series to the Firestone Non-Skids. They immediately headed to Chicago for the tournament. In the first round, they beat the House of David 42-23 on March 17. In the second round, they lost in overtime 40-38 to the Chicago Bruins, owned by football titan George Halas. Oshkosh's star player was Leroy Edwards, a strong 6'4 center who led the NBL in scoring with a 12.9 average. Second on the team in scoring was Connie Mack Berry, a 6'4 forward with a 6.9 scoring average. Berry made the honorable mention list on the NBL's all-league selections. He was also a professional football player. In the fall of 1939, he played three games as an end for the Detroit Lions. In the fall of 1940, he played football for the NFL Cleveland Rams and for the New York Yankees and Kenosha Cardinals of the AFL. He played pro football and pro basketball until after World War II.

Another member of the Oshkosh starting five was Lou Barle, a sturdy 6'1 player whose greatest talents were on defense. In the fall of 1939, he played three games for the NFL Cleveland Rams, then joined the AFL Cincinnati Bengals. His pro basketball career extended to 1943. To my knowledge, he didn't play pro football after 1939.

Another Wisconsin team in the Chicago tournament was the Kenosha Bernacchi Drugs. Several Kenosha High School graduates, most of whom had played football and basketball at Creighton University in Omaha, filled the roster. The Bernacchi's were a good independent team that frequently played NBL teams in non-league contests. Kenosha lost their first-round game 50-26 to the Harlem Globe Trotters, then a strong barnstorming team that played real opponents. Three Kenosha players had played for the AFL Kenosha Cardinals in 1939: Art Buck, Tony Borak, and Matt Bokmueller. Borak had played two games with the Green Bay Packers in 1938. Only Buck played football for Kenosha in 1940.



**Joe Stydahar**

Another team in the Chicago tournament was the Clarksburg (WV) Oilers, an independent team that frequently played ABL and NBL teams during the season. In an upset, the Oilers lost 41-32 to the

Waterloo (OH) Wonders in the first round. The Oilers had several players who had graduated from the University of West Virginia. Among them were Joe Stydahar and Len Barnum. Stydahar, a bruising 6'4 center, was the team's leading scorer. He also was an All-Pro tackle for the Chicago Bears. Barnum was a fullback for the NFL New York Giants. Both players broke off their football careers for military service in World War II.

The Chicago Bruins of the NBL lost the tournament championship game, dropping a 31-29 cliffhanger to the Harlem Globe Trotters on March 20. None of the Chicago starters were pro football players. For bench strength, however, George Halas had two of his 1939 Bears in uniform. Bob MacLeod had been an All-American basketball player at Dartmouth, while George Wilson hadn't played the game since high school. MacLeod left professional sports after this, while Wilson went on to a long football career as a player and a coach.

## II

The Bismarck (ND) Phantoms were a good professional basketball team in a part of the country where there were few pro teams at all. The Phantoms played town teams, college teams, and a variety of barnstorming pro teams. At the high end of the barnstorming scale, they played the Harlem Globe Trotters. At the low end, they played the Hong Wah Kues, an all-Chinese team from San Francisco. The core players on the Phantoms were graduates of the University of North Dakota and the North Dakota Agricultural College.

On January 4-6, 1940, the Phantoms played a three-game series against the NFL All-Stars. Six NFL players made up the All-Star team. Two giant Chicago Bear tackles brought size to the floor. Russ Thompson was 6'5 and 250 pounds. Jack Torrance, a former world record holder in the shot put, was 6'3 and a reported 285 pounds. Also on the team were 6'4 Les McDonald of the Bears, 6'1 Bernie Scherer of the Pittsburgh Pirates, and 6' Joel Mason of the Chicago Cardinals. Rounding out the squad was 6'3 Bill Callihan, a 1939 Nebraska graduate who would begin his NFL career with the Lions in the fall of 1940. The Bismarck Tribune didn't report on who was the coach or captain of the All-Stars. According to Ben Green in his book Spinning the Globe, Abe Saperstein (the organizer and promoter of the Harlem Globe Trotters) was the organizer and promoter of the All-Stars.

On Thursday evening, the Phantoms and the All-Stars opened their series in Fargo. At halftime, the All-Stars led 19-17. The Phantoms were a young team that liked to fast break and run a lot. The All-Stars were no doubt fit, but they could not keep running with the Phantoms. After a one-sided second half, the Phantoms won 53-38. Mason led the All-Stars with 14 points. Callihan scored 7, Thompson 6, McDonald 6, Torrance 5, and Scherer 0.

The next night, the two teams played in Bismarck before "a large crowd." The game followed the same pattern. After a close first half, the Phantoms led 25-21. The Phantoms ran away in the second half to win by a score of 60-35. McDonald led the All-Stars with 12 points. Callihan and Torrance scored 6 points apiece, Thompson 5, Mason 4, and Scherer 2.

On Saturday night, the series concluded before another "large crowd" in Mott. The All-Stars led by 4 points at halftime. Once again, the Phantoms dominated the second half and won 63-47. Joel Mason scored 21 points for the All-Stars. Torrance scored 8, McDonald 7, Thompson 4, Scherer 4, and Callihan 3.

I still have lots of cities to research in my basketball project. At any rate, to this point, I haven't seen any other games by the NFL All-Stars.

## III

On December 10, 1939, the Green Bay Packers beat the New York Giants 37-0 in the NFL championship game in Milwaukee. On January 14, 1940, the Packers beat the NFL All-Stars (the football variety) 16-7 in the second-annual Pro Bowl in Los Angeles. That was the end of the 1939 professional football season.

On February 12, 1940, a syndicated Associated Press sports column reported that "the championship Green Bay Packers have organized a basketball team and are barnstorming through Wisconsin to sellout houses." That was the only sentence about the Packers, or pro basketball, for that matter, in the column.

On Sunday night, March 3, 1940, the basketball Packers lost 60-36 to the Edgerton Meyers in the high school gym in Edgerton. A crowd of 700 watched the exhibition. At halftime, the Meyers

led 26-22. The Wisconsin State Journal reported that “between halves, Don Hutson and Arnold Herber gave a football passing demonstration.” The other Packers answered questions about football posed by members of the audience. In the second half, the Packers faded badly and lost by a final score of 60-36. Don Hutson led the Packers with 9 points. The other names in the box score for Green Bay were Fitchett, Bruder, Goldenberg, Blood, Herber, and Gantenbein.

On March 14, 1940, the Kenosha Evening News had a sports-page headline reading “Green Bay Packers Here for Cage Tilt With Bernacchi’s.” The teams would meet that night at the local high school. The story stated that “heading the Green Bay delegation is Don Hutson, a perennial all-American end and probably the best pass receiver in the football sport today, and Arnold Herber, a veteran of 11 seasons with the champions and generally recognized as the peer of all pro passers.”

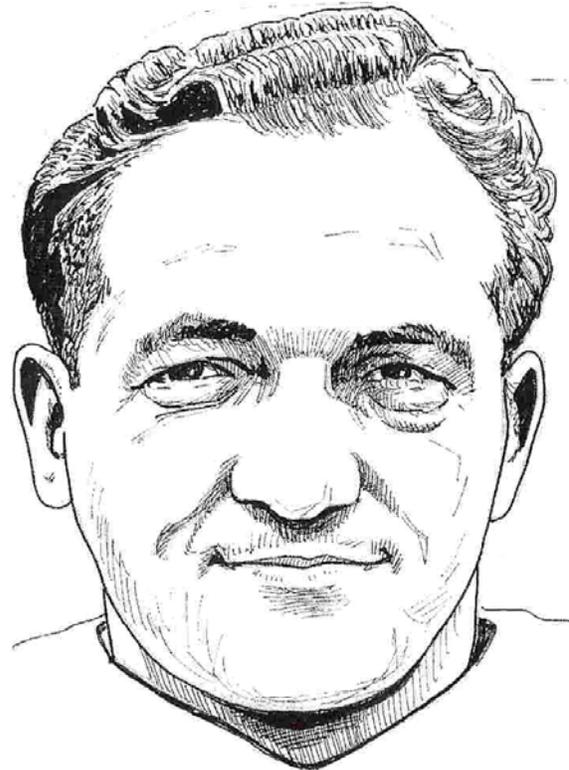
The story went on to report that “Johnny Blood, a former Packer luminary who was the first outstanding aerial artist among the play-for-pay players and more recently has been the headcoach of the Pittsburgh Pirates, will assist Herber and Hutson in a passing exhibition between halves of the basketball tilt.”

The story described the other members of the Green Bay team: “Manager Buckets Goldenberg, who also doubles in wrestling as well as football; Cecil Isbell, one of the most versatile players in the pro circuit; Hank Bruder, a veteran of 10 years with the Packers; Carl Mulleneaux, Harry Jacunski, and Milt Gantenbein, three of the best ends in football; Fred Vanzo, a blocking back of all-league caliber with the Detroit Lions last fall; and Larry Fitchett.” All I know about Fitchett is that he played high school basketball in Green Bay in 1935.

The following day, the News reporter made clear his low opinion of the game, won by Kenosha 47-37. He called the game “a dispirited session” and noted that “the Packers, while strictly football players, managed in spots to flash a fairish brand of the cage sport.” The Packers had only five players in uniform for the first half. Herber, Blood, Bruder, Goldenberg, and Gantenbein held down the Green Bay fort until Hutson and Isbell arrived at halftime. Herber, Gantenbein, Hutson, and Isbell put on “a too brief passing exhibition” during

the intermission. Hutson and Isbell provided “good floor play and fair sniping” in the second half. Bruder led the Packers with 10 points. According to the News, “Gantenbein, Buckets Goldenberg, and Hank Bruder added much color to the affair with their antics and good-natured baiting of the officials.”

I have not examined the Green Bay Press Gazette for the early months of 1940. I’ll bet that paper had stories about other basketball games of the Green Bay Packers.



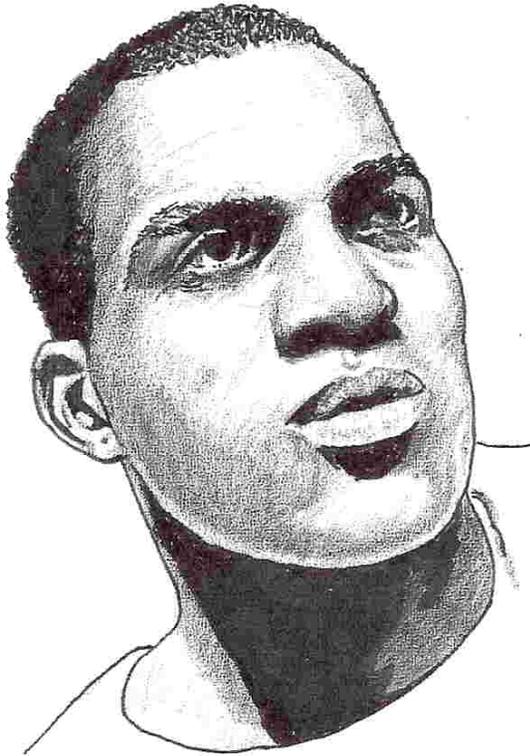
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# Challenging the Myths Surrounding Integration of Pro Football

By Gretchen Atwood



Ken Washington

The story of Jackie Robinson integrating major league baseball in 1947 has been told and re-told in detail. However, little has been written about pro football's path to integration a year earlier. (African-Americans played in the NFL's early years but none had since 1933.)

When mentioned in books and articles it rarely warrants more than a paragraph and is distilled into something like this: When the Rams moved from Cleveland to Southern California the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission pressured the team to hire African-Americans if it wanted to lease the 100,000-seat stadium. The team agreed and signed Kenny Washington on March 21, 1946.

The problem? It's not true. Recently, the Commission shared minutes from several meetings that spring and summer that show the organization was more passive and disengaged in the integration efforts than often assumed.

Rams owner, Dan Reeves, had long sought to transfer his franchise to the West Coast. But his peers had

resisted, citing the prohibitive cost of air travel. After World War II a new league, the All-America Football Conference, announced it would begin play in 1946 with two teams in California, one in San Francisco and the other in Los Angeles.

Not wanting to cede the fast-growing region to their new rival the NFL approved the move at its annual gathering in New York in mid-January. Rams officials immediately descended on Southern California, eager to strike a deal with the Coliseum Commission, who was to meet on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The organization had been formed in 1945 to manage leases for the venue and was made up of city, county and state elected officials.

USC and UCLA were the stadium's main tenants and had previously demanded pro teams be excluded from using the site. This time, though, Commission President Leonard J. Roach met with the managers of the college squads prior to the full meeting and convinced them to accept a limited pro schedule.

At the session, General Manager Charles "Chili" Walsh, submitted a formal application. The AAFC's local entry (later named the Dons) also sought rights to the stadium but their general manager, Edward "Slip" Madigan, was caught off guard by the fast-moving Rams. Madigan was still at his league meeting in Chicago and didn't even have a tentative schedule.

Several individuals who did make the gathering were African-American sportswriters, Halley Harding of the Los Angeles Tribune and Herman Hill, west coast correspondent of the Pittsburgh Courier. The black press had long pushed baseball and football to sign African-American players. In fact, Wendell Smith of the Courier influenced much of Branch Rickey's strategy for hiring and promoting Jackie Robinson. Most of the time, however, their repeated arguments and appeals were ignored.

Walsh presented his case and then Harding spoke. "Harding's presentation was both dramatic and unsuspected," Hill wrote in the Courier. Harding traced the beginnings of pro football and the prominent role of black stars such as Fritz Pollard and Paul Robeson. He talked about the American ideals of freedom and equality fought for in World War II and said it was "singularly strange" that UCLA standout Kenny Washington had never been considered by any team in the National Football League.

The appeal was received politely by members and Walsh declared any "qualified Negro football player is invited by me at this moment to try out for the Los Angeles Rams."

Harding's speech was noted the next day in both the Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Daily News. He later recalled, "When the Coliseum Commission was considering a request of the pro footballers for the use of the citizen-owned stadium and we were at hand with our own committee representing the minority taxpayers, County supervisor Leonard J. Roach . . . drafted a resolution which stipulated that no user of the stadium was to discriminate against anyone because of race, color, or creed, which was exactly our reason for being there."

Unconvinced of Roach's sincerity Harding pressed further, "We had a talk with the good supervisor and he has assured us that the insert wasn't there just to fill out the page. He said the rest of the commission will stand back of that resolution."

In most reports the story ends later in March with the Rams signing Washington to a two-year contract. Soon after they also signed end Woody Strode, one of Washington's teammates at UCLA. The 12-year color barrier in pro football had been broken.

However, several events that followed cast a new light on the Commission's involvement.

Mainstream newspapers mostly ignored the racial issues and focused on whether the AAFC franchise would also get dates at the Coliseum. And they did at the end of February. They Dons were hiring in earnest but still resisted integration, even after Washington and Strode inked their deals. So Harding kept attending Commission meetings demanding the team change its hiring practices.

The franchise continued to drag its feet through the summer and, as the season approached, Harding sought to bar the team from the Coliseum. On August 10, Harding reported in the Tribune that he had previously sent a petition to Roach asking the Dons be denied use of the venue because of racially discriminatory hiring.

He claimed the policy was in opposition to the terms under which the professionals were granted use of the stadium, referring to the written statement Roach signed at the January 15 session. (No record of that document has been found.) Harding's petition was signed by sportswriters from other local black newspapers, Abie Miller from the Los Angeles Sentinel and Eddie Burbidge of the California Eagle.

Harding was told that the Commission was unaware of the petition and asked to put the matter on the agenda

for the August 12<sup>th</sup> gathering. The official minutes note what happened:

*Representatives from newspapers edited by colored people appeared before the Commission and asked that the contract with the Don's professional football club be cancelled as they believed there was discrimination as to the hiring of colored players.*

*They had advised that they had not been able to talk with Mr. Madigan regarding this discrimination, and that any colored player that they had suggested be hired by the Dons had not even had an interview, nor had Mr. Madigan replied to any of their letters . . . Herman Hill, Editor of the Pittsburgh Courier, said . . . that he felt that the Commission should tell the Dons that they must live up the contract as laid down at a meeting some months ago before the season starts or that their contract would be revoked.*

*Mr. Faries said he believed that a meeting should be held between these gentlemen and the Dons and that this difficulty be worked out. Mr. Miller said that he did not believe it in our province to tell the Dons or anyone whom they could or could not hire. The colored petitioners then left.*

*It was moved by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Wilson that this matter be taken under advisement and when more of the members of the Commission were present this matter would be thoroughly discussed. Unanimously adopted.*

*It was then moved by Mr. Fairies, seconded by Mr. Periera that the Dons be advised that the colored representatives had been to this meeting and that they felt they had been discriminated against. Also while they were not being ordered to be present at such a meeting, that an effort should be made to get these representatives together for a discussion, and that the Commission would discuss this matter at a future meeting. He also wished it to be understood that the Commission was not threatening the Dons.*

Roach did not attend the session but signed the minutes with no comment. At this critical moment when his earlier declaration would have warranted direct engagement from the Commission it punted the issue.

Commission President Roach is often presented as a Branch Rickey-like character who worked behind the scenes to convince the Rams owner to end segregation in the NFL. This view prevails today. Several years ago a representative story surfaced at a Los Angeles Rams reunion.

A columnist from the San Gabriel Valley News talked with current Coliseum Commissioner David Israel

about the group's role in integration. According to Israel, Roach was a renowned liberal who despised Jim Crow laws. "Roach said, 'If you bring an integrated team here, we'll give you the lease,' " Israel said. "Dan Reeves was glad to go along."

But it doesn't make sense that the Commission would take such a strong stance with the Rams, the NFL Champions, and then acquiesce so meekly to their AAFC counterpart. It's possible they felt enough had been accomplished with Washington and Strode. Or maybe they believed the lack of African-Americans on the Dons was not due to discrimination?

The most likely explanation, however, is that the Commission didn't really push either team on the integration issue. Roach may have privately encouraged Reeves but his lack of action with respect to the Dons suggests he intended the anti-discrimination pledge to placate Harding and company. If anything, the organization went out of their way to not get directly involved.

So why did the Rams then act? It likely was a combination of things that ultimately tipped the balance in favor of integration. Harding and Hill's commitment to getting in front of the team's management and the Coliseum stewards made the most difference. Though the Commission notes showed that members were sometimes dismissive of Harding, he kept constant pressure on them and Walsh.

Harding's efforts also got Walsh to meet with a gathering of black reporters in late January, shortly after the team's lease was officially approved. There, the general manager explained another rationale (or excuse) for his hesitancy to hire black players.

He said he wouldn't sign anyone who was contractually bound to another team. At the time, Washington and Strode both played for the Hollywood Bears, a local semi-pro outfit. The sportswriters immediately questioned W.R. "Bill" Schroeder, manager of the Bears, and he said he would absolutely not stand in the way of either jumping to the NFL.

So from the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to the gathering of African-American sportswriters and through numerous Commission meetings the Rams general manager was under constant pressure to address the issue. It is also probable that Roach encouraged Reeves as well. Given all of this, the path of least resistance likely shifted from not hiring African Americans to hiring them, even if only to end the debate.

And while the Dons chose to ignore this precedent, which the Rams vehemently denied was a precedent; another franchise in the AAFC did take note. Cleveland Browns Head Coach Paul Brown was building his team and had coached several standout African-American athletes at Ohio State and on service teams during the

war. Several months after Washington and Strode signed with the Rams, and well after training camp had started, Brown invited Bill Willis and Marion Motley to "try out" for his squad. He then quietly announced they had made the team.

Brown claimed in his autobiography he would have hired them regardless of what had happened out west. And it is possible he would have. But he was more of an opportunist than an activist. The reality is that what happened in Los Angeles meant he would be less scrutinized if he signed black players.

Motley and Willis went on to not only start but star for the Browns, four-time AAFC champions and later NFL Champions. Both men are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Back in California, Washington and Strode were not as lucky. They rarely saw the field in 1946 or 1947. Washington's knees were worse off than realized and both were underutilized even when they could play.

In "Outside the Lines: African Americans and the Integration of the National Football League" historian Charles K. Ross wrote that Bob Snyder, Rams backfield coach, later conceded Washington and Strode were hired to boost attendance and help get the Coliseum lease. "Outside the Lines" is the only book dedicated to the topic and concluded that the Commission played an important role in integration.

However, Ross was not privy to the later Commission notes proving their intense reluctance to get involved. And Snyder probably did believe what he said. At the time, breaking Jim Crow customs often warranted justifications to assuage white employees and fans that may have been uncomfortable with the decision. It would have been convenient for Walsh to put that on the more powerful Commission and the team's financial interests than admit that African American sportswriters exerted influence on his actions as general manager.

It's unfortunate that Washington and Strode never got a real shot to prove themselves on the field and reap the deserved rewards for their talent. But because of their skills, and Halley Harding's courage and dedication, many others like Motley and Willis did so in the years to come.

*Author's note: One of the challenges in piecing together what happened is that copies of African-American newspapers like the Tribune and the Sentinel are not available for the early months of 1946. I have checked city, county, and university archives for this information. If other researchers have knowledge of these lost issues, knowledge of Harding's whereabouts after the late 1940s, or access to personal papers of commissioner Roach please contact me at [gretchenatwood@yahoo.com](mailto:gretchenatwood@yahoo.com).*

# The Effect of a Bye #1: An Inquiry

Bob Irving



Every sports fan knows what a bye means to a team even though accepted usage of the term doesn't quite correspond to its dictionary definition. Newspapers often use the term "open date." But regardless of the choice of term it's a "week off," a reprieve from the usual hurry-up, almost frantic preparation for next Sunday's opponent.

In the violent world of professional football a bye means additional time – to heal, to fall back and re-group and to take an additional deep breath before beginning again. For coaches it's some additional time to prepare, to evaluate, to plan and maybe to experiment. Perhaps for a team "on a roll" a bye may not be particularly welcome but for almost all others it must surely be something they look forward to amidst a furious, packed-full season.

If the foregoing explains the essence of a bye or open date, what it's 'used for' and briefly what it means to a player or a coach, it can also be viewed from another angle, so far unexamined. Week by week scores were available for Arena Football (19 teams), Arena Football2 (30 teams) and the NFL (32 teams).

The first and last of these leagues assigned one bye per team per season; AF2 granted 2 byes per team (60) for a total of 111 byes to be examined. Thus, a sizeable number was available from

which to seek an answer to the questions, "do teams perform better (more victories) after a bye or before a bye" and, whether they perform better or worse, "is that performance beyond normal expectation (statistically significant)?" Statistically considered, each team has the same chance of winning and losing game by game throughout a season; the odds are 50:50 until a winner is decided. Odds of 50:50 mean there is statistically no difference between teams.

The same reasoning is applied to a bye. In a previous paper the concept of "differential scores" was used – illustrated by two teams which play to a score of 20-17; the team with 20 points is awarded a +3 and its opponent a -3. To keep track of scoring in this paper dealing with the bye, differential scores were used. For each of the leagues named above a sheet was prepared showing all the teams down the left margin with the weeks of the season across the top; the intersecting cells contained the differential scores (+'s and -'s) and the week in which a bye occurred for each team.

For each team a comparison was made of the two games prior to its bye to the two games following its bye. A comparison of the 'prior' games to the 'following' games was necessary to answer the question, "what was the effect of the bye?" In statistics, there is 'no difference' between teams, the number of victories and defeats before and after a bye should be the same within normal limits.

## Analysis

The analysis consisted of (1) a count of the ratio of Wins to Losses by each team PRIOR to the bye compared to the ratio of Wins to Losses AFTER the bye. (2) a count of the ratio of + differential points by each team to their - differential points PRIOR to the bye compared to those ratios AFTER the bye. A separate count was made of each of the three leagues but combining them would have been pointless. The two-part table below summarizes each of these counts.

The Effect of a Bye: Simple Count; Ratio, Number Wins : Losses  
 : Simple Count; Ratio, Number of + : - Points

	<u>Arena Football</u>	<u>Arena</u> Bye 1	<u>Football 2</u> Bye 2	<u>NFL</u>
2 games Prior*	W 7:10 L	W 3:5 L	W 13:17 L	W 14:18 L
Diff. Points	+ 127:141 -	+ 52:70 -	+188:275 -	+215:246 -
1 game Prior	W 6:12 L	W 9:13 L	W 15:15 L	W 16:16 L
Diff. Points	+ 52:270 -	+129:273 -	+236:178 -	+192:178 -
Total, W:L	W 13:22 L	W 12:18 L	W 28:32 L	W 30:34 L
Total, + : -	+179:411 -	+181:343 -	+424:453 -	+407:424 -

	<u>BYE WEEK</u>	<u>OPEN DATE</u>		<u>BYE WEEK</u>
1 game After*	W 10:8 L	W 16:14 L	W 10:20 L	W 20:12 L
Diff. Points	+ 140:97 -	+305:266 -	+172:261 -	+263:135 -
2 games After	W 11:6 L	W 16:14 L	W 17:11 L	W 17:15 L
Diff. Points	+ 160:124 -	+285:335 -	+397:195 -	+177:167 -
Total, W:L	W 21:14 L	W 32:28 L	W 27:31 L	W 37:27 L
Total, + : -	+300:221 -	+590:601 -	+569:456 -	+440:302 -

A clarification is necessary concerning the table above.

{In the Arena Leagues\* Wins plus Losses should total 19 for AF and 30 for each bye in AF2. However, unlike the NFL, the Arena leagues assigned a few byes in the first two weeks of their season as well as in the final two weeks. Thus, those assigned early may have had no opponent prior to its bye and those with byes in the final two weeks perhaps lacked an ‘after bye’ opponent. Therefore, wins plus losses were not always full totals}.

**Conclusions**  
**Arena Football**

If it's assumed, as a hypothesis, that the effect of byes should be positive, that is, that teams ought to have better records following a bye, Arena Football 2007 fit that assumption almost perfectly. Its turnaround ‘after bye’ was, in effect, a mirror image of its ‘prior bye’ record. Note that the prior bye Total, W:L was 13:22 while its after bye Total, W:L was 21:14, mathematically an almost perfect “flipover.” Concerning Differential Points Total, + : - the figures were +179:411- prior to its bye; after its bye the figures were +300:221-. The former figure (179:411) was highly significantly negative (chi square was 91.2; 11.514 was required to verify odds greater than one in ten thousand). The latter figure (300:221) was also significant (chi square was 11.96) favoring the positive side, but not nearly as spectacularly. The important finding was the complete turnaround from a highly

significant *tendency to lose before the bye* to a highly significant *tendency to win after the bye*. Thus, whether calculated as a ratio of wins to losses or by the ratio of plus points to negative points, the bye as it affected Arena Football was convincingly positive.

**Arena Football2**

Within the two Arena leagues, the ratio of wins to losses was in all cases within the limits of normal probability; **this is an important point**. The same could NOT be said however about the ratio of plus points to minus points before or after a bye. Furthermore, the two byes in Arena Football2 were VERY different.

Bye #1: There were slightly more losses than wins prior to the bye and slightly more wins than losses following the bye. In Total +:- Points prior to the bye, 343 minus points was significantly greater

than 181 plus points at odds greater than 10,000 to one. At two games post-bye minus points were greater than plus points and that condition was found also for Total plus and minus points but neither were beyond normal. In almost all comparisons, Bye #1 of Arena Football2 resembled Arena Football.

Bye #2: At two games prior to the bye losses outnumbered wins and minus points significantly outnumbered plus points. At one game prior to the bye however, *virtually a mirror-image reversal* took place. However, by contrast, when the two games were combined into Totals for W:L they were 28:32 and points were +424:453-, both well within normal probability limits. Thus, when combined into Totals, the two games prior to the bye were close to what would be expected when teams approach a bye.

After the bye the ratio of wins to losses and the ratio of + points to - points resembled the work of a tornado. Losses hugely outnumbered wins and minus points outnumbered plus points (what had happened?), the latter beyond 10,000 to one odds at one game after the bye. At two games after the bye both win / loss ratio and points ratio completed a convincing "flip-over" – *another mirror-image reversal* identical to but even more persuasive than prior to the bye week. When the two 'after-bye' games were combined into Totals for wins and losses they were well within normal limits but winning points still outnumbered losing points at more than 10,000 to one odds.

As stated earlier, conclusions about Arena Football2 were more difficult to sort out but vaguely similar to Arena Football in that, in general, a tendency to win rather than to lose, occurred after the bye. **The Win / Loss ratio was a more reliable statistic than the Points + : - ratio.**

Both Arena leagues displayed several instances where minus or plus points predominated overwhelmingly. There were a number of such occurrences seen in the table which suggests a question: How can such disparity occur when statistical expectation dictates otherwise? Could the answer be that opponents were often severely mismatched in ability which led to large deficits and excesses? In Arena Football2, the largest + value was 379, largest - value was 492, an amazing 871 point spread! For Arena Football,

the comparable figures were +251 and -229 for a 480 point spread. If AF and AF2 point spreads are combined it's seen that AF2 contributes more than 64% of the total. Isn't it possible that if opponents were more evenly matched the 'mirror-image' reversals seen in Bye #2 might not have occurred?

It seems worth an effort to attempt to handicap opponents in Bye #2 making them more evenly matched and thereby leading to a much more realistic outcome.

### NFL

First, the ratio of wins to losses was always within normal limits both before and after a bye. Second, the NFL was quite similar to the Arena Football league in ratio of + points to - points; the difference was that in no case was the ratio beyond the range of normal expectation in the NFL, prior to the bye. At one game after the bye (+263:135-) and again as a Total, (+440:302-) the figures were highly significantly positive, easily surpassing the odds of 10,000 to 1. At two games after the bye, + figures were greater than - figures but not significantly. For the NFL, the highest differential score was +254, the lowest negative score was 110, for a spread of 364.

**Overall, we can conclude that both in the ratio of wins to losses as well as in the ratio of + points to - points, the tendency to win after a bye was greater than to lose after a bye.** This conclusion applied to Arena Football, Arena Football2 in Bye # 1 and to the NFL. Conclusions about AF2 (Bye #2) must be postponed until after further study.

For this paper (#1), differential scores were consistently used without any regard to whether opponents were mismatched. For Arena Football and for the NFL the results turned out even better than expected and in the direction anticipated (positively). Since it appears that severe mismatches occurred in Arena Football 2 often pitting weak against strong, an effort should be made to 'handicap' opponents (paper #2) to determine whether that results in changes more in accordance with findings in Arena Football and the NFL.

# Research Notes

By PFRA All-America Football Conference Committee

When the All-America Football Conference dissolved in 1950, the NFL put together a draft to assign players from the Buffalo Bills, Chicago Hornets and Los Angeles Dons. The draft order was determined by the order of finish of the 1949 season. Therefore, the draft order was: Baltimore, New York Yanks, Green Bay, Detroit, Washington, New York Giants, Pittsburgh, Chicago Cardinals (Tied with Pittsburgh), Chicago Bears, San Francisco 49ers (Tied with Chicago Bears), Los Angeles, Cleveland and Philadelphia. Since Baltimore and Green Bay were the weakest teams, they were given five extra draft picks each.

Here are the results of the dispersal draft:

<u>Player</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>1950 Playing Status</u>
<b>BALTIMORE COLTS</b>				
Chet Mutryn	B	Xavier	Buffalo Bills	Baltimore Colts
Robert Livingstone	B	Notre Dame	Buffalo Bills	Baltimore Colts
Albin "Rip" Collins	B	LSU	Chicago Hornets	Baltimore Colts
Art Donovan	T	Boston College	Buffalo Bills ( <i>Drafted in 1949, DNP</i> )	Baltimore Colts
Ed King	G	Boston College	Buffalo Bills	Baltimore Colts
George Buksar	B	Purdue	Chicago Hornets	Baltimore Colts
Bob Oristaglio	E	Pennsylvania	Buffalo Bills	Baltimore Colts
Mike Perroti	T	Cincinnati	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play
William Gompers	B	Notre Dame	Buffalo Bills ( <i>Retired after 1948 season</i> )	Did Not Play
William Stanton	E	North Carolina State	Buffalo Bills	Did Not Play
Vito Kissell	B	Holy Cross	Buffalo Bills	Baltimore Colts
Robert Hatch	B	Boston University	?	Did Not Play
Lou Tomasetti	B	Bucknell	Buffalo Bills	Did Not Play
Lou Agase	T	Illinois	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play
<b>NEW YORK YANKS</b>				
George Taliaferro	B	Indiana	Los Angeles Dons	New York Yanks
Nate Johnson	T	Illinois	Chicago Hornets	New York Yanks
Dan Edwards	E	Georgia	Chicago Hornets	New York Yanks
John Clowes	T	William & Mary	Chicago Hornets	New York Yanks
Bob Kennedy	B	North Carolina	Los Angeles Dons	New York Yanks
Chet Adams	T	Ohio University	Buffalo Bills	New York Yanks
Paul Crowe	B	St. Mary's	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play ( <i>Played for the 1951 N.Y. Yanks</i> )
John "Mickey" Colmer	B	Mira Monte J.C.	New York Yankees	Did Not Play
Orban "Spec" Sanders	B	Texas	New York Yankees	New York Yanks
Tom Colella	B	Canisius	Buffalo Bills	Did Not Play
<b>GREEN BAY PACKERS</b>				
Billy Grimes	B	Oklahoma A&M	Los Angeles Dons	Green Bay Packers
Alton Baldwin	E	Arkansas	Buffalo Bills	Green Bay Packers
Homer Paine	T	Oklahoma	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play
Denver Crawford	T	Tennessee	N.Y. Yankees( <i>Retired after 1948 season</i> )	Did Not Play

<u>Player</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>1950 Playing Status</u>
Charles Schuette	B	Marquette	Buffalo Bills	Green Bay Packers
Zigmont Czarobski	T	Notre Dame	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play
Vic Schleich	T	Nebraska	Chicago Hornets ( <i>Retired after 1947 season</i> )	Did Not Play
Paul Duke	C	Georgia Tech	N.Y. Yankees ( <i>Retired after 1947 season</i> )	Did Not Play
R.M. Patterson	T	McMurray (TX)	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play
James Lukens	E	Washington & Lee	Buffalo Bills	Did Not Play
Abner Wimberly	E	LSU	Los Angeles Dons	Green Bay Packers
Wilbur Volz	B	Missouri	Buffalo Bills	Did Not Play
John Kerns	T	Ohio University	Buffalo Bills	Played in the CFL
Ted Cook	E	Alabama	Rookie (?)	Green Bay Packers
James Bailey	T	West Virginia St.	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play

**DETROIT LIONS**

Bob Hoernschemeyer	B	Indiana	Chicago Hornets	Detroit Lions
Lou Creekmur	T	William & Mary	Los Angeles Dons ( <i>Drafted in 1948, but did not play.</i> )	Detroit Lions
Bob Jensen	E	Iowa State	Chicago Hornets	Baltimore Colts
George Benigni	E	Georgetown	Chicago Hornets ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Gerald Morrical	T	Indiana	N.Y. Yankees ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Warren Huey	E	Michigan State	Chicago Hornets ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Ray Coates	B	LSU	New York Giants	Did Not Play
Gil Johnson	B	SMU	New York Yankees	Did Not Play
William Kay	T	Iowa	Buffalo Bills ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Dick Rifenburg	E	Michigan	N.Y. Yankees ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Detroit Lions
Joyce Pipkin	B	Arkansas	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play

**WASHINGTON REDSKINS**

Jim Spavital	B	Oklahoma A&M	Los Angeles Dons	Baltimore Colts
Chuck Drazenovich	B	Penn State	Los Angeles Dons ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Washington Redskins
Roland Dale	T	Mississippi	Brooklyn Dodgers ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Washington Redskins
George Smith	B	Texas Mines	?	Did Not Play
Leon McLaughlin	C	UCLA	Los Angeles Dons ( <i>Drafted in 1948, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play ( <i>Played for 1951 L.A. Rams</i> )
Murray Alexander	E	Mississippi State	Brooklyn Dodgers ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Dewey Frank Nelson	B	Utah	New York Bulldogs	Did Not Play
Lloyd Eisenberg	T	Duke	Los Angeles Dons ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Hardy Brown	B	Tulsa	Chicago Hornets	Washington Redskins
Ed Hirsch	G	Northwestern	Buffalo Bills	Did Not Play

**NEW YORK GIANTS**

John Rapacz	C-T	Oklahoma	Chicago Hornets	New York Giants
Ollie Cline	B	Ohio State	Buffalo Bills	Detroit Lions
Vince Mazza	E	(None)	Buffalo Bills	Played in the CFL
Alfred Schmid	E	Villanova	Rookie	Did Not Play
Joe Sullivan	E	Dartmouth	Rookie	Did Not Play
Dick Woodard	C	Iowa	Los Angeles Dons	New York Giants

<u>Player</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>1950 Playing Status</u>
Henry Foldberg	E	Army	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play
Robert Heck	E	Purdue	Chicago Hornets	Played in the CFL
Henry Calver	T	Oklahoma City	New York Yankees	Did Not Play
Dwight Edelman	B	Illinois	Rookie	Did Not Play

**PITTSBURGH STEELERS**

Robert "Buddy" Tinsley	T	Baylor	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play
Ray Richeson	G	Alabama	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play
Shorty McWilliams	B	Mississippi State	Los Angeles Dons	Pittsburgh Steelers
Bob Verick	B	Wisconsin		Did Not Play
James Percy	G	Marshall	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play
Robert Farber	B	Florida		Did Not Play
Robert Meinert	B	Oklahoma A&M	Los Angeles Dons ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Dan Dworsky	C	Michigan	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play
Herb St. John	G	Georgia	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play
George Grimes	B	Virginia	Buffalo Bills ( <i>Drafted in 1948, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play

**CHICAGO CARDINALS**

Bob Reinhard	T	California	Los Angeles Dons	Los Angeles Rams
Marty Wendell	G	Notre Dame	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play
Ray Ramsey	B	Bradley	Chicago Hornets	Chicago Cardinals
Ted Hazlewood	T	North Carolina	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play ( <i>Played for the 1953 Washington Redskins</i> )
Jim Still	B	Georgia Tech	Buffalo Bills	Did Not Play
Jim Turner	T	California	Chicago Hornets ( <i>Drafted in 1948, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Alexander Sarkisian	C	Northwestern		Did Not Play
Phil O'Reilly	T	Purdue		Did Not Play
Ralph Sazio	T	William & Mary	Buffalo Bills ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Vaughn Mancha	C	Alabama	Boston Yanks ( <i>Retired after the 948 season</i> )	Did Not Play

**CHICAGO BEARS**

Glenn Dobbs	B	Tulsa	Los Angeles Dons	Played in the CFL
Al Beasley	G	St. Mary's	N.Y. Yankees ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
John Cunningham	E	California	?	Did Not Play
Harper Davis	B	Mississippi State	Los Angeles Dons	Chicago Bears
Fred Negus	C	Wisconsin	Chicago Hornets	Chicago Bears
Jim Clark	T	Mississippi	Los Angeles Dons ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
John Donaldson	B	Georgia	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play
George Maddock	T	Northwestern	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play
Robert Leonetti	G	Wake Forest	Buffalo Bills ( <i>Retired after the 1948 season</i> )	Did Not Play
George Bernard	G	Illinois	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play

**SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS**

Knoz Ramsey	G	William & Mary	Los Angeles Dons	Chicago Cardinals
Ed Henke	T	USC	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play ( <i>Played for the 1951 San Francisco 49ers</i> )
Odell Stautzenberger	G	Texas A&M	Buffalo Bills	Did Not Play

<u>Player</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>1950 Playing Status</u>
Carl Howell	B	Mississippi	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play
John Brown	C	N. Carolina College	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play
George Murphy	B	USC	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play
John Maskas	T	VPI	Buffalo Bills	Did Not Play
Paul Cleary	E	Southern California	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play
Ernest Tolman	E	Southern California	N.Y. Yankees ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Dick Lorenz	E	Oregon State	Los Angeles Dons ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
<b>LOS ANGELES RAMS</b>				
Art Statuto	C	Notre Dame	Buffalo Bills	Los Angeles Rams
Vic Vasicek	G	USC	Buffalo Bills	Los Angeles Rams
Dick Wilkins	E	Oregon	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play ( <i>Played for the 1952 Dallas Texans</i> )
Jack Swaner	B	California	Chicago Hornets ( <i>Drafted in 1948, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Dick Scott	C	Navy	Brooklyn Dodgers ( <i>Drafted in 1948, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Edward Kelley	T	Texas	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play
Dale Armstrong	E	Dartmouth	Brooklyn Dodgers ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Wade Walker	T	Oklahoma	Buffalo Bills ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Ernie Williamson	T	North Carolina	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play
Bill Renna	C	Santa Clara	Los Angeles Dons ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
<b>CLEVELAND BROWNS</b>				
Hal Herring	C	Auburn	Buffalo Bills	Cleveland Browns
Len Ford	E	Michigan	Los Angeles Dons	Cleveland Browns
Charles Schroll	B	Louisville	Buffalo Bills	Detroit Lions
Alex Wizbicki	B	Holy Cross	Buffalo Bills	Green Bay Packers
Walter Clay	B	Colorado	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play
George Strohmeyer	C	Notre Dame	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play
Lynn Chewning	B	Hampdon Sydney	New York Yankees	Did Not Play
Paul Patterson	B	Missouri	Chicago Hornets	Did Not Play
William Reinhard	B	California	Los Angeles Dons ( <i>Retired after the 1948 season</i> )	Did Not Play
Lewis Holder	E	Texas	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play
<b>PHILADELPHIA EAGLES</b>				
Lindell Pearson	B	Oklahoma		Detroit Lions
Jerry Krall	B	Ohio State	Los Angeles Dons ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Detroit Lions
George Pastre	T	UCLA	Los Angeles Dons ( <i>Drafted in 1949, but did not play.</i> )	Did Not Play
Don Panciera	B	San Francisco	New York Yankees	Did Not Play
Caleb Warrington	C	William & Mary	Brooklyn Dodgers ( <i>Retired after the 1948 season</i> )	Did Not Play
Paul Gibson	E	North Carolina State	Buffalo Bills	Did Not Play
Joe Sutton	B	Temple	Buffalo Bills	Philadelphia Eagles
Hosea Rodgers	B	North Carolina	Los Angeles Dons	Did Not Play

*Passed ninth round and gave tenth round to Detroit.*

# PFRA COMMITTEES

By Ken Crippen

The Hall of Vary Good Committee has whittled down their initial list of 75 candidates to 22. Voting and biographies will appear in its own article in this issue. We have an excellent group of candidates and the committee encourages everyone to make their voice heard and vote for the Class of 2008.

One of the tasks the All-America Football Conference (AAFC) Committee has decided on is the interviewing of former AAFC players to create a kind of oral history archive. Interviews would be taped and the tapes and/or transcriptions made available to anyone doing related research. Interviews can be done either in person or on the phone. Thus far, we have contact information for dozens of players (we also welcome volunteers who would like to help locate others). Anyone interested in volunteering to do interviews should contact committee chair Andy Piascik at [andy@nflhistory.net](mailto:andy@nflhistory.net).

Bill Pepperell reports that the Stadium Committee is moving along in its work slowly but surely. He would like to thank PFRA member Tony Lanza of Cincinnati for providing some very nice images and information on Nippert Stadium, the old home of the Bengals from 1968-1969. Again, any help that can be provided, in whatever form, is very welcome.

The Western New York Committee, in conjunction with the All-America Football Conference Committee, is continuing their work on the Buffalo Bisons/Bills of the AAFC. Interviews with players, family members of players, and other related persons will continue for the next several months. The committee expects a final manuscript to their book to be done sometime in 2009.

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

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. 3-1  
 Brooklyn, NY 11209  
 (718) 680-1710  
[jhogrogia@msn.com](mailto:jhogrogia@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

**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](mailto: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:**

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

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

We will start at 10AM on Saturday. For those of you who will be in town on Friday, a group of us will be getting together for dinner. For those of you still in town Sunday morning, we can get together for breakfast before everyone heads home. All attendees are welcome both Friday night and Sunday morning.

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

Please R.S.V.P. to Ken Crippen.

You are still responsible for your own arrangements.

**A FEW WORDS TO LIVE BY  
THAT HAVE NOTHING TO DO  
WITH FOOTBALL BUT SOUND  
WISE AND FILL AN EMPTY  
COLUMN**

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him to fish and he'll start taking Fridays off from work.

All that glitters is not gold; some of them are gay.

A bird in the hand will probably crap on your thumb.

There's many a slip 'twixt a cup and the panties.

Some people see the glass half full; others see it as a great place for breeding mosquitos.

A friend in need should be avoided like the plague..

You can teach an old dog new tricks but he'd rather spend his time sniffing your crotch.

A horse of a different color will still finish out of the money.

If a thing is worth doing well, you can overcharge for doing it.

A fool and his money shouldn't talk to telemarketers.

Sticks and stones can break your bones. Damn straight!

The early bird makes a helluva racket outside my bedroom window.

Where there's smoke there's someone bitching about breathing it second-hand.

All's fair in Love, War, and lately in Baseball.

If a tree falls in the forest, the Sierra Club will blame the loggers.

A stitch in time is all some actresses wear to the Oscars.

The future is unwritten, but a bunch of people are already trying to edit it for us.

If at first you don't succeed, you'll delight the people who hate you.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

1 Wanted: Offering top price for 1962 book "Football Scouting Methods" by Steve Belichick. Sheldon Mulman, 5680 Rembrandt Ave., Apt 606, Montreal, QB, Canada H4W 3G3 [idealsheeldon@aol.com](mailto:idealsheeldon@aol.com)

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

3 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)

3 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.

3 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)

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.

2 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.

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

3 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.

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

3 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)

3 "Keep A-go-in": 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)

3 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.

3 Researcher's Delight on thousands of rookie and first-year pro players of NFL, NFL Europe, CFL, and Arena of 2006 season with their career transactions. After 20 years, now on Internet. Please look: [www.cutsandkeeps.com](http://www.cutsandkeeps.com) / 2005 season disc and publication available. Unique, comprehensive and definitive information for quick facts.

3 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)

**3 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!**

3 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)

3 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.

3 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.

3 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)

**Have you taken care that your Coffin Corner classified ad will run in the next issue? Two runnings = \$5**

3 -Reprints of Pop Warner's Single-Wing Trilogy. Follow the early evolution of the single-wing:

1908-10 correspondence course offense pamphlets from Warner's "A Course in Football for Players and Coaches" with introduction and analysis by Tom Benjey, \$10

Warner's 1912 book "A Course in Football for Players and Coaches," \$15

Warner's 1927 book "Football for Coaches and Players," \$17.

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.

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