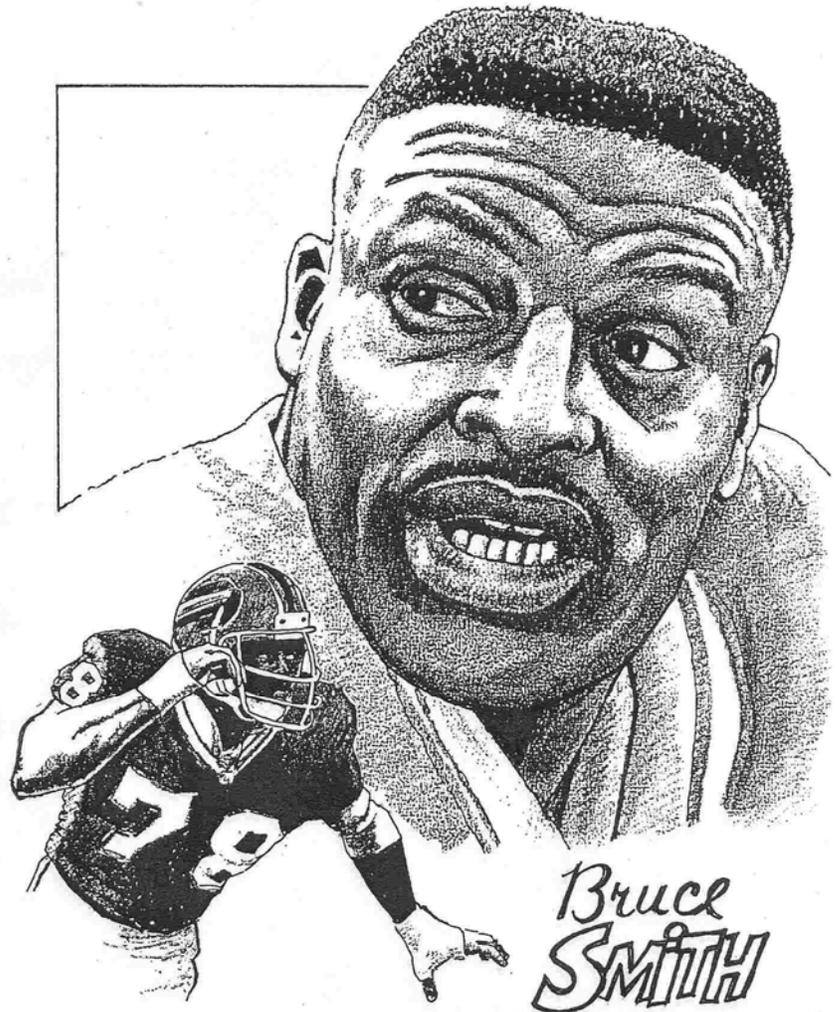


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PFRA-ternizing

Andy Piascik winner of the annual Nelson Ross Award and Vince Popo winner of the annual Ralph Hay Award both thanked PFRA. Vince wrote, "I am humbled and blessed in many ways because of the many friends I have made . . . in PFRA. . . . I thank PFRA for the award, and it will always be one of my favorites. Please pass my gratitude on to all the members."

* * * * *

A recent incident has necessitated the following statement by the CC editor:

Generally, I'm a pretty easygoing editor. Before publishing an original article from a member, I may correct, spelling, grammar, punctuation and obvious factual errors. There's also a CC rule that we do not lobby for the election of anyone to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. (There are too many worthy candidates for us to take sides.) I do not re-write articles. That would be an insult to the pros and discourage those who are not experienced writers.

Therefore, please don't bother to submit an original article with the instruction that **I am not allowed to edit it in any way**. I don't know any editor who would agree to such a usurping of his duties. Certainly, as long as I've been writing, I never had the *hubris* to tell an editor I was taking over his job. If you think your words are so perfect – so sacrosanct – that my humble hands are unworthy of touching them, submit your article elsewhere.

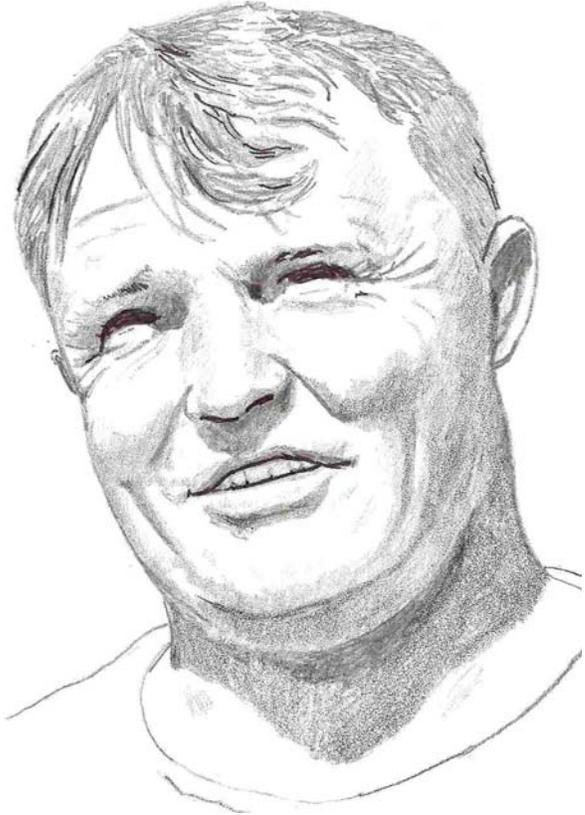
* * * * *

John T. Reed's latest book, *The Contrarian Edge for Football Offense*, a how-to for high school coaches, a dissertation on football strategy at all levels, and a fun read for any fan. His main message can be summed up as "Do the unexpected," but the devilishness is in the details. As John says, "It's not just being different. It's **how** you are different." More than just another coach with a typewriter, Reed is an entertaining writer who knows how to explain his coaching clearly and with an ever-present sense of humor. Even if you don't agree with all of John's ideas, you'll find your own ideas challenged. For more details on this and other books by Reed, go to www.johnreed.com/

* * * * *

GETTING YOUR BUTTS TO THE POST OFFICE AND SENDING IN YOUR PFRA DUES IS A GREAT IDEA OR MY NAME ISN'T WALLY!

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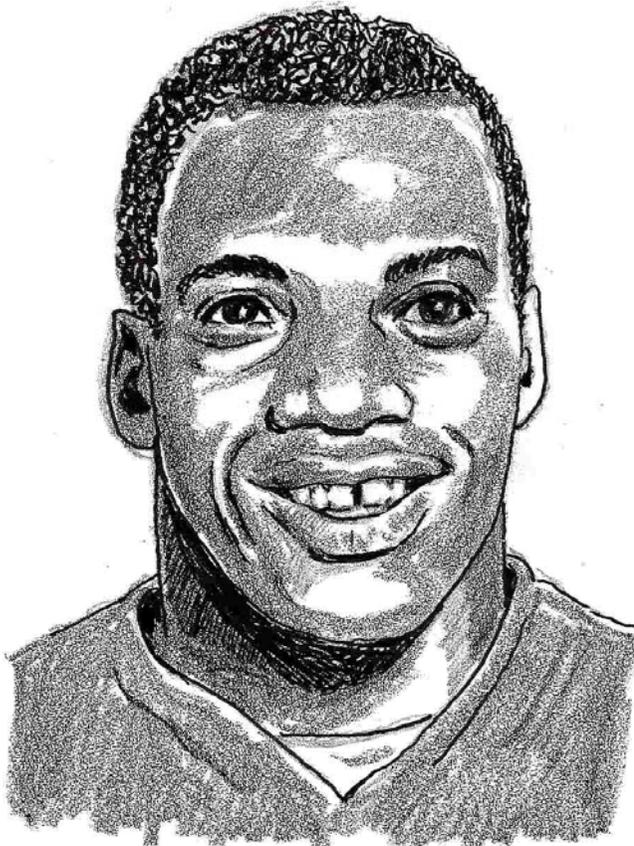


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Fred DEAN

Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2008
 Defensive End 6-3, 230 Louisiana Tech
 1975-1981 San Diego Chargers,
 1981-1985 San Francisco 49ers

Selected in the second round in 1975 draft by Chargers. . . Played linebacker in college. . . Quickness, speed, strength made him a feared pass rusher. . . Career sack total near 100, but unofficial since sacks were not an official NFL statistic until 1982. . . Career best 17.5 sacks, 1983. . . Named All-Pro in 1980 and 1981, All-AFC twice, All-NFC twice. . . Name to four Pro Bowls. . . Born February 24, 1952 in Arcadia, Louisiana



Fred Dean excelled as an All-Southland Conference linebacker during his collegiate football career at Louisiana Tech. The San Diego Chargers selected him in the second

round, 33rd player overall, of the 1975 NFL Draft. Dean was moved immediately to the defensive line where he starred during his entire NFL career, first with the Chargers (1975-1981) and later with the San Francisco 49ers (1981-1985).

Dean's quickness, speed, and strength made him one of the league's most feared pass rushers during his 141-game career. Although the sack did not become an official NFL statistic until 1982, if numbers tallied by the teams were included with his official sack count, Dean's career sack total would stand near 100.

His role as an impact player became apparent very early in his career. As a rookie for the Chargers in 1975, Dean recorded seven sacks, 93 tackles (63 solo, 30 assists), and four fumble recoveries. With Dean doing his part on defense and combined with the Chargers' high-flying offense, the team became a strong playoff contender. In 1978, he recorded 15.5 sacks as the Chargers posted a winning record. He followed that season by adding nine sacks in 1979 and 10.5 in 1980 as San Diego claimed two straight AFC Western Division championships.

Early in the 1981 season, Dean was shipped to the San Francisco 49ers where he continued to demonstrate his extraordinary talent. Dean contributed 12 sacks in 11 games for the 49ers en route to the team's first Super Bowl victory. Dean's finest year came two seasons later when he led the NFC with a career-high 17.5 sacks. Included in that total was a then NFL record six sacks in one game. He set the mark during the 49ers' 27-0 shutout of the New Orleans Saints on November 13, 1983.

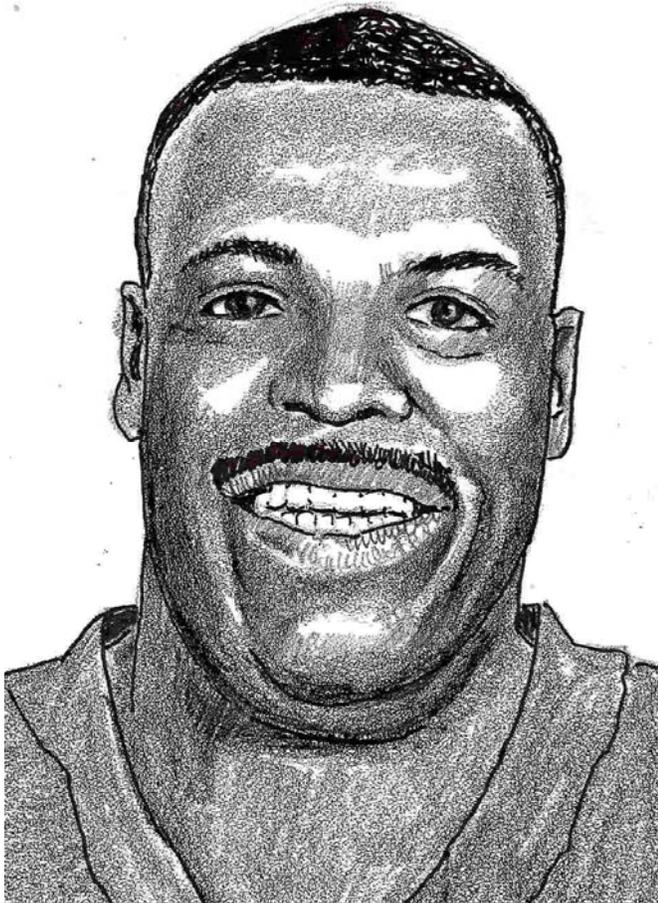
In all, Dean played on five division winners. He played in three NFC championship games and in two of San Francisco's Super Bowl victories (Super Bowls XVI and XIX). Dean earned all-conference honors four times – twice with the Chargers and twice with the 49ers.

He was also named to four Pro Bowls (1980-1982, 1984) and selected All-Pro twice (1980-1981).

Darrell GREEN

Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2008
 Cornerback 5-8, 176 Texas A&I
 1983-2002 Washington Redskins

*First round pick by Washington, 28th overall, 1983. .
 .Intercepted pass in NFL record 19 straight seasons . .
 .Known for great speed. . .Intercepted 54 career passes for
 621 yards, 6 TDs. . .Also returned 51 punts for 611 yards. .
 .Holds team record for longest fumble return, 78 yards. .
 .Named to the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 1990s. .
 .Selected to seven Pro Bowls. . .Named All-Pro in 1986,
 1987, 1990, and 1991. . . Born February 15, 1960 in
 Houston, Texas.*



Darrell Green, a first round draft pick (28th overall) by the Washington Redskins in the 1983

NFL Draft, enjoyed instant success in the NFL. As a rookie, he set the tone for things to come when he scored the very first time he touched the football. That touchdown came on a 61-yard punt return in a preseason game against the Atlanta Falcons. Green started all 16 regular season games during his rookie campaign and finished fourth on the team in tackles with 109 that included a team-leading 79 solo stops. He was runner-up for the Associated Press NFL Rookie of the Year Award.

Green quickly developed into a premier cornerback in the NFL and maintained his high standard of play throughout his remarkable 20-season career with the Redskins. Extremely durable, Green's consistent play was exemplified by his recording of an interception in a record 19 straight seasons. The only year where he did not record a pickoff came during his final season in 2002.

In all, Green totaled a club record 54 interceptions for 621 yards and six touchdowns. He also added two additional touchdowns on interception returns in the post-season. Three times he recorded a career-best of five interceptions in a season (1984, 1986, and 1991). He registered a career-high three interceptions in a game against the Detroit Lions on November 15, 1987.

Known for his speed, something he never lost even as he played into his 40s, Green also had success as a punt returner. He averaged nearly 12 yards a return as he recorded 51 career returns for 611 yards. In addition, he owns the team record for longest fumble return – a 78-yard TD against the Colts in 1993.

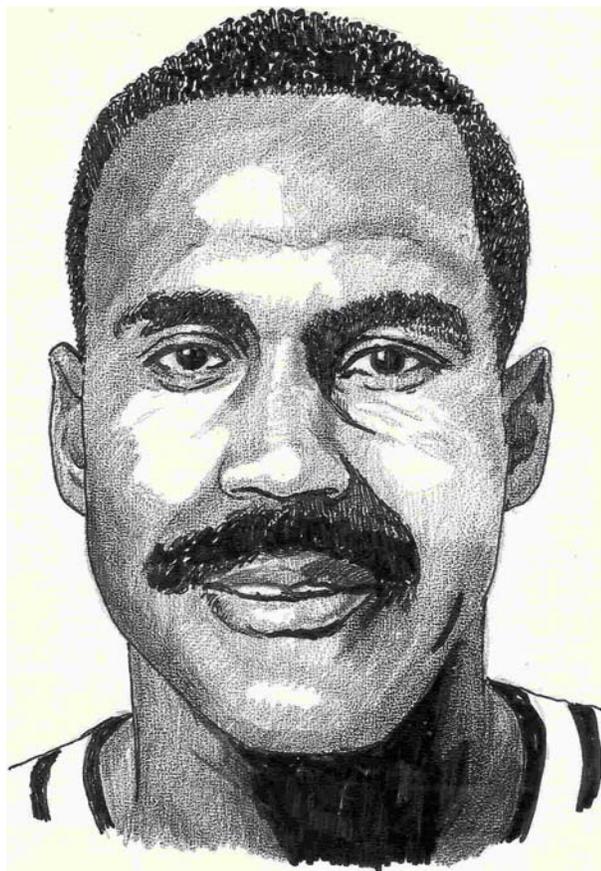
Green played in four NFC championship games and three Super Bowls including the team's victory in Super Bowls XXII and XXVI. In the 1987 NFC Championship Game, on a pivotal fourth-down pass play at the goal line late in the game, Green jarred the ball from Minnesota's Darrin Nelson to secure a Redskins 17-10 victory that catapulted the team into Super Bowl XXII.

Green was named All-Pro in 1986, 1987, 1990, and 1991 and voted to seven Pro Bowls. He is also a member of the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 1990s.

Art MONK

Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2008
Wide Receiver 6-3, 210 (Syracuse)
1980-1993 Washington Redskins, 1994 New York
Jets, 1995 Philadelphia Eagles

First-round pick by Washington, 1980 NFL Draft. . . Caught 58 passes to earn All-Rookie honors, 1980. . . Had 50 or more receptions, nine seasons. . Gained 1,000 yards five times. . . Set then-NFL records for catches in a season (106), most consecutive games with at least one reception (164), and career receptions (820). . Finished career with 940 catches. . Named to three Pro Bowls. . All-Pro choice twice. . Born December 5, 1957 in White Plains, New York.



Art Monk, a first-round draft choice of the Washington Redskins in 1980, wasted little time in establishing himself as a premier wide receiver in the National Football League. He was a unanimous all-rookie selection and his 58 receptions were a Redskins' rookie record. Nine times during his 16-season career with the Redskins, New York Jets, and Philadelphia

Eagles, the former Syracuse star exceeded 50 catches in a season and five times gained more than 1,000 receiving yards. He also set NFL records for most catches in a season (106), and most consecutive games with at least one reception (164). His consecutive games with a reception streak extended to 183 games. In 1992, with his 820th career catch, he became the NFL's then-all-time leader in receptions. He finished his career with 940 receptions.

Monk, at 6-3, 210 pounds, was a prototype for today's bigger, stronger receivers. He got off the line of scrimmage quickly and never hesitated to run patterns across the middle of the field. He was a master of the short pass route that often left defenses unable to adjust, allowing for substantial gains.

Art was a major part of the powerful Redskins teams that were dominant during the 1980s. During his 14 seasons with the Redskins, the team won three Super Bowls (XVII, XXII, and XXVI) and had just three losing seasons. It was, however, in 1984 that Monk had his finest season when he caught eight or more passes in six games, had five games of 100 yards or more and in a game against the San Francisco 49ers caught 10 passes for 200 yards. His outstanding play earned him team MVP honors and his first Pro Bowl selection. His season totals of 106 catches for 1,372 yards were career highs.

Monk went over the 1,000-yard mark in each of the following two seasons, becoming the first Redskins receiver to produce three consecutive 1,000 yard seasons. He also became the first Redskins player to catch 70 or more passes in three consecutive seasons.

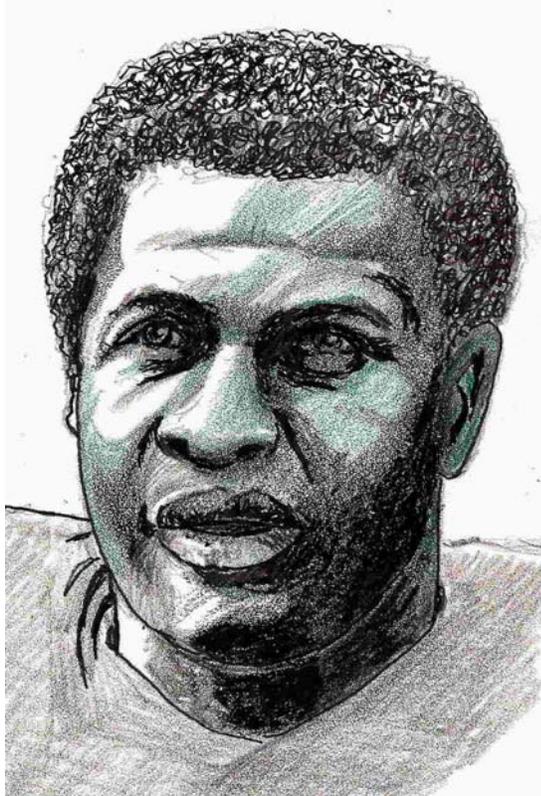
Washington coach Joe Gibbs claimed his star receiver was the complete package. He called him the strongest outside receiver he'd ever coached, and was quick to point out his effectiveness at catching passes inside. "He's big, he's strong, he's intelligent, he has everything," the Hall of Fame coach remarked.

Monk was an All-Pro and All-NFC choice in 1984 and 1985 and was named second-team All-NFC in 1986. He was selected to play in the Pro Bowl following the 1984, 1985 and 1986 seasons.

Emmitt THOMAS

Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2008
 Cornerback 6-2, 192 Bishop
 1966-1978 Kansas City Chiefs

Joined Chiefs as undrafted free agent, 1966. . . Amassed club-record 58 career interceptions. . . Career interception total ranks fourth all-time by pure cornerbacks. . . Led AFL with nine interceptions, 1969. . . Recorded three more interceptions during '69 playoffs including one in Super Bowl IV victory. . . Had 12 interceptions, two shy of NFL record, 1974. . . Named to five Pro Bowls. . . All-AFL/AFC five times. First- or second-team All-NFL 1971, 1974, 1975. . . Born June 3, 1943 in Angleton, Texas.



Emmitt Thomas joined the Kansas City Chiefs as an undrafted free agent from Bishop College in Dallas, Texas in 1966. He excelled for the Chiefs for the next 13 seasons before retiring after the 1978 season as the team's all-time leading interceptor. Thomas picked off 58 passes in his career which he returned for a team record 937 yards and 5 TDs. His interception total ranked fifth all-time in the NFL at the time of his retirement and is still fourth best among true cornerbacks.

A five-time Pro Bowl selection, Thomas intercepted a pass in every season he played except his rookie year. One of the best cornerbacks of his era, he led the American Football League in interceptions in 1969 with nine.

In 1974, he added a second interception title when he picked off a team record and a career-high 12 passes – two short of the NFL mark. A pair of his interceptions that season went for touchdowns. The first came on a 38-yard score that helped seal an opening day victory over the New York Jets on September 15. He closed out the season with a 73-yarder in the finale against Minnesota on December 14. That return was the longest of his career.

Born in Angleton Texas on June 3, 1943, Thomas was a key component of the Chiefs defense that won AFL titles in 1966 and 1969. He intercepted a pass in each of the Chiefs' playoff victories in the 1969 postseason, including two in the AFL title game against the Oakland Raiders and one in Kansas City's 23-7 upset win over the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IV.

Thomas, who led the Chiefs in interceptions in five seasons, was voted a first- or second-team All-AFL/AFC choice five times and a first- or second-team All-NFL selection three times. He was also selected to the Pro Bowl five times.

Following his 181-game playing career, Thomas began a career in coaching. After two seasons in the college ranks, he moved to the NFL in 1981 where he began a long career as an assistant coach with the St. Louis Cardinals, Washington Redskins, Philadelphia Eagles, Green Bay Packers, Minnesota Vikings, and Atlanta Falcons. In December 2007, he was named the interim head coach of the Falcons.

Interceptions

| Year | Team | G | No. | Yds. | TD |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| 1966 | Kansas City | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1967 | Kansas City | 11 | 4 | 60 | 1 |
| 1968 | Kansas City | 14 | 4 | 25 | 0 |
| 1969 | Kansas City | 14 | 9 | 146 | 1 |
| 1970 | Kansas City | 14 | 5 | 87 | 0 |
| 1971 | Kansas City | 14 | 8 | 145 | 1 |
| 1972 | Kansas City | 14 | 2 | 46 | 0 |
| 1973 | Kansas City | 14 | 3 | 65 | 0 |
| 1974 | Kansas City | 14 | 12 | 214 | 2 |
| 1975 | Kansas City | 14 | 6 | 119 | 0 |
| 1976 | Kansas City | 14 | 2 | 30 | 0 |
| 1977 | Kansas City | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1978 | Kansas City | 16 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Career Total | | 181 | 58 | 937 | 5 |

Andre TIPPETT

Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2008
Linebacker 6-3, 240
Iowa, Ellsworth (IA) Junior College
1982-1993 New England Patriots

Patriots' second round pick, 1982. . .Established team record 18.5 sacks, 1984. . .Led AFC with 16.5 sacks, named AFC Defensive Player of the Year during Patriots Super Bowl season, 1985. . .Recorded AFC-leading 12.5 sacks, 1987. . .At time of retirement, held team marks for career sacks, sacks in a season, opponent fumbles recovered. . .Five straight Pro Bowls. . .Named to NFL's All-Decade Team of the 1980s. . .Born December 27, 1959 in Birmingham, Alabama.



The New England Patriots selected **Andre Tippett** in the second round of the 1982 NFL Draft. Used primarily on special teams during his strike-shortened rookie season, Tippett earned a starter's berth beginning in 1983. That year the 6'3", 240-pound linebacker set the stage for things to come by recording a team-

leading 8.5 sacks. The following season he established a new team record for sacks with 18.5 and earned his first of five consecutive invitations to the Pro Bowl (1985-1989).

In 1985, the Patriots, for the first time in team history, advanced to the Super Bowl. A major contributing factor to the team's success was Tippett's outstanding defensive play. That year he led the AFC in sacks with 16.5 (second in the NFL), recorded three forced fumbles and recovered three fumbles, one of which he returned 25 yards for a touchdown. In four postseason games, he recorded 21 tackles and a sack. His outstanding play earned him All-Pro, Pro Bowl and AFC Defensive Player of the Year honors (NEA, UPI).

Tippett was off to another great start in 1986, when during the ninth game he injured his right knee which required surgery. At the time his 9.5 sacks was second in the NFL. Determined, he returned to the lineup for the final two regular season games and the team's one playoff appearance. Even though he missed five games, he still earned All-AFC and All-Pro Second Team honors, and was named to a third consecutive Pro Bowl.

Although the Patriots dropped to 8-7 in 1987, Tippett's play remained at full throttle. His 12.5 sacks were again an AFC best and were second only to the NFC's Reggie White.

Injuries slowed the hard-hitting linebacker in 1988 causing him to miss four games and a shoulder injury sidelined him for the entire 1989 season. Although his sack total in 1990 dropped to 3.5 in 13 games played, he still proved he was a dominant force, turning in several impressive performances including one against the New York Giants in which he recorded 10 tackles and a forced fumble.

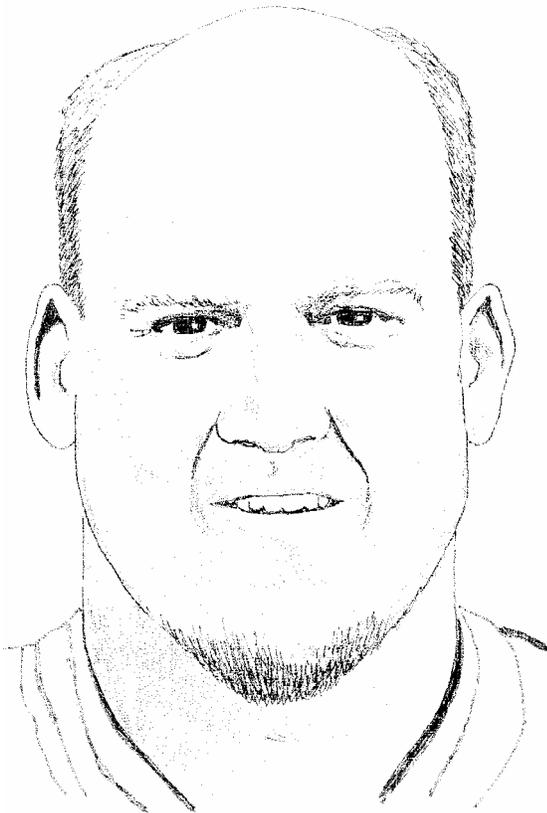
He remained a dominant player with the Patriots right through his final season in 1993. When he retired, his 100 career sacks, 18.5 sacks in a season, and 17 opponents fumble recovered were team bests.

Tippett, a five-time All-AFC selection, was named to the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 1980s.

Gary ZIMMERMAN

Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2008
Tackle 6-6, 294 Oregon
1986-1992 Minnesota Vikings,
1993-1997 Denver Broncos

Third overall pick, 1984 NFL Supplemental Draft by New York Giants. . . Had streak of 169 consecutive starts. . . Anchored offensive line that helped Vikings lead NFC in rushing, 1991. . . With Zimmerman blocking, Broncos led AFC in total combined yards, 1995 and NFL in 1996, 1997. . . Named to two NFL All-Decade Teams, 1980s, 1990s. . . First- or second-team All-Pro honors eight times. . . Seven Pro Bowls. . . Born December 13, 1961 in Fullerton, California.



Offensive tackle **Gary Zimmerman** is one of just a handful of players to earn the honor of being named to two National Football League All-Decade Teams. His superior play earned him a spot on the NFL's 1980s All-Decade Team even though he played just four seasons during the decade. Following the 1999 season, he was named to the 1990s All-Decade Team as well.

Originally selected by the New York Giants in the first round of the 1984 supplemental draft, Zimmerman's signing rights were traded to the Minnesota Vikings for two second-round picks in the 1986 draft. Also drafted by the Los Angeles Express of the failed United States Football League, Zimmerman spent two seasons with the Express before reporting to the Vikings in 1986. Gary was later acquired by the Denver Broncos in a trade with Minnesota prior to the last preseason game of the 1993 season.

After joining the Vikings in 1986, Zimmerman began a streak of 169 consecutive starts that lasted until 1996 when late-season shoulder surgery sidelined him. Along the way he earned first- or second-team All-Pro honors eight times. During the same period he was selected to play in seven Pro Bowls.

In Minnesota, Zimmerman anchored an offensive line that helped the Vikings lead the NFC in rushing in 1991. In Denver, with Zimmerman blocking, the Broncos recorded their most successful offensive output in franchise history. The Broncos led the AFC in total combined yards in 1995 and led the NFL in that category in 1996 and 1997. The team also led the NFL in rushing in 1996.

Zimmerman was equally adept at pass blocking, as evidenced by the fact that Minnesota and Denver quarterbacks led their conferences in passing in 1986, 1988, 1993, and 1996.

Although Zimmerman managed to play in 169 consecutive games and a total of 184 games during his career, he was no stranger to injury and pain. In 1996, the durable lineman played with severe pain in both shoulders. His consecutive game streak reluctantly came to a halt when late-season surgery on one of his injured shoulders forced him to the sidelines.

Zimmerman's ability to persevere and his desire to play, earned him the respect and admiration of teammates and opponents alike. Even though he missed the final two games of the 1996 season he was still selected to play in the Pro Bowl and was voted first-team All-Pro honors.

Class of 2008 bios courtesy of Pro Football Hall of Fame

The Buccaneer Flop

By Denis Crawford



JOHN MCKAY

The December 16, 1984 match-up between the New York Jets and Tampa Bay Buccaneers should have long ago been forgotten to history. The end of the season contest between two teams finishing up sub-par seasons, this game had all the makings of a snooze-fest.

The Jets at one time had been making post-season plans. Halfway through the season the Jets were 6-2 and battling the Dolphins for the AFC East lead. Since that day the Jets had nose-dived, losing six of their last seven games, and they were hoping to salvage a .500 season with a win in the finale.

The Buccaneers on the other hand, were preparing to say good-bye to the only coach they had ever

known. John McKay was stepping down at the conclusion of the game after announcing his retirement a few weeks earlier. McKay had been the coach of the Bucs since their first season, 1976. After an inauspicious 0-26 losing streak, McKay had guided the Buccaneers to respectability with three playoff appearances in four years. 1984 had been a frustrating year for McKay as the Bucs put together a top ten offense only to see their once dominant defense falter at key times. At 5-10 the team was still playing hard to send their coach out on a high note, but their playoff hopes had disintegrated shortly after mid-season.

Despite the anticlimactic atmosphere surrounding the game, the final moments of Jets-Bucs '84 made it one of the most infamous events in NFL history.

The Buccaneers were leading 34-14 with just over a minute and a half to play. The Buccaneers offense, led by tailback James Wilder, had hammered the Jets all day. The fourth year back out of Missouri had been the lynchpin of the prolific Buccaneers offense all season and entered the finale with a chance to break Los Angeles Ram super-back Eric Dickerson's NFL single-season record for yards from scrimmage (set the Friday of the final weekend of the season in a 19-16 loss to the 49ers). On what appeared to be his final carry of the season, Wilder took a handoff from quarterback Steve DeBerg and scooted into the end zone for a touchdown to increase the Bucs lead to 41-14. While Wilder's teammates and fans were happy to see him score, they were also a little disappointed that he was going to finish 16 yards short of the 2,245 needed to surpass Dickerson's mark. One of those disappointed people was John McKay. Long known as one of the more iconoclastic coaches in the NFL, McKay decided that since he had nothing to lose he would set proper football etiquette aside and try his utmost to give his tailback one more chance.

After Wilder's touchdown, McKay ordered placekicker Obed Ariri to attempt an on-sides kick.



James Wilder

The kicker did as he was told and tapped the ball forward slightly but a Buccaneer player touched it before it went the requisite five yards, resulting in a five-yard penalty. Jets players were incensed and befuddled all at the same time. Here they were trailing by four touchdowns with just over a minute left in a meaningless finale, and their opponents wanted the ball back again! Normally, the Bucs illegal touching of the football would have given possession to the Jets, but the New Yorkers were so confused when they saw the Bucs "hands" team run to one side of the field that several members of the Jets had jumped offside resulting in offsetting penalties and requiring a re-kick. As they lined up again many Jets players could be seen yelling at the Buccaneer sideline giving McKay a piece of their minds.

McKay ignored the taunts and ordered his kicker to try another on-sides attempt. Ariri's second attempt rolled out of bounds without being touched by either team resulting in an illegal procedure penalty. That penalty moved the ball back five yards, but still did not give the Jets possession. Instead there would be yet another re-kick. Now the Jets were really livid and increased the intensity of their comments to McKay on the sideline. The fans that had been contemplating leaving were now rushing to find their seats again as McKay ordered a third on-side kick with his team up by four touchdowns.

The third on-side attempt by Ariri was recovered by Jets defensive back Russell Carter at the Tampa Bay 35-yard line. With the Jets in possession of the ball it appeared that the game would soon be over and the clock would simply run out. But the depth of the insanity on this day in Tampa had yet to be plumbed.

Even though the Bucs had an insurmountable lead, the Jets did not simply run a few off-tackle plays to run out the clock. Instead, the Jets threw the ball in an attempt to score and close out their season on a positive note. This played right into McKay's hands for he did not care about the outcome of the game anymore, but instead was only interested in getting Wilder a few more touches. McKay's next move was even more bizarre than calling back-to-back-to-back on-sides kicks with a big lead.

The silver-haired coach in the bright orange ball cap ordered his defense to give the Jets a wide-berth in the hopes of quickly getting the ball back. When Jets quarterback Ken O'Brien dropped back to pass, no pass rush whatsoever was applied by the Buccaneer front line. O'Brien easily completed a pass to Wesley Walker who was not very tightly covered by Buccaneer defensive back Fred Acorn. The fourteen-yard gain put the Jets quickly in scoring position. Using a hurry-up offense, O'Brien again quickly hooked up with Walker at the Tampa Bay 12.

The Jets had moved the ball 23 yards in just ten seconds, but that still was slower than McKay wanted. McKay and his defensive coordinator Wayne Fontes, who also had nothing to lose considering he was not a viable candidate to replace McKay as coach of the team, put up a defense that had all the effectiveness of the Maginot Line in deterring the Third Reich. The Bucs defense was ordered to "flop." On first down from the 12, running back Johnny Hector took a hand-off from O'Brien and ran through a defensive front that **moved away** from Hector. The loose pass defense the Bucs employed made the Jets suspicious, but the flop removed all doubt. The Bucs wanted the Jets to score so they could get the ball back.

This had never been seen before in the NFL but was not without precedent. In 1971 the University of Florida Gators defense had famously flopped late in a blow-out victory against the University of Miami Hurricanes. Gator quarterback John Reaves was just 14 yards short (very close to the same amount needed by Wilder) from setting the NCAA record

career passing mark. The Gators flop allowed Miami to score. The Gators got the ball back and one play later Reaves set the mark. No doubt, this was McKay's plan as well and the Jets were none too pleased to be used as pawns.

Hector was heading unmolested to the end zone when one member of the Buccaneer defense couldn't overcome his instincts. Safety Mark Cotney saw an opposing tailback making a beeline for the end zone and did what he had been paid to do for a decade. Cotney tackled Hector at the two-yard line. In a bizarre display, Cotney stood up and started to yell at himself for making the tackle. According to a report in the *New York Times*, Cotney was heard yelling "What did I do?" to himself. The fans, who had figured out what McKay was up to, booed the popular Cotney for making the tackle.

From the sideline, Fontes also yelled at Cotney, "What are you doing?" This may be the only time in the history of the National Football League that a defensive coordinator and the home fans have been angry with their own star safety for making a touchdown-saving tackle late in a football game. According to the *St. Petersburg Times*, Cotney looked both hurt and bewildered by the reaction of the fans and his defensive coach.

Properly chagrined, Cotney and the rest of the Bucs defense parted like the Red Sea as Hector trotted into the end zone uncontested on the next play from scrimmage. The Bucs defenders didn't just get out of Hector's way, they almost sprinted away from him like he was armed with an assault rifle. As Hector hit the hole, linebacker Keith Browner appeared to back-pedal out of the hole with his hands up as though he was surrendering to the 101st Airborne.

Meanwhile on the Jets sideline, head coach Joe Walton was beside himself with anger. Walton had been ridden hard by the New York press for the second half collapse of the season and he would be damned if he was going to be embarrassed by McKay also. If the Bucs thought the Jets would just roll over and allow Wilder to set a record at New York's expense, Walton planned to show them they had another think coming. After the Jets' touchdown, Walton ordered his kicker, Pat Leahy, to try an on-sides kick to keep the ball out of Wilder's hands. Leahy's attempt was recovered by Buccaneers reserve running back George Peoples. Unlike Ariri's attempts, Leahy's was without penalty so the Bucs had the ball with 54 seconds left. McKay dedicated

that last minute to his tailback by calling nothing but running plays to Wilder.

The Jets, who knew exactly what McKay would do, attacked the line of scrimmage as though a Super Bowl berth were at stake. On first down, Wilder swept left but was tackled two yards behind the line of scrimmage by nose tackle Tom Baldwin with 47 seconds to play. That dropped him to eighteen yards behind Dickerson's mark.

On second down Wilder attempted another sweep left and gained the two yards back before being tackled by defensive end Ron Fautot. This brought Wilder back to needing sixteen yards to pass Dickerson but only 27 seconds in which to do it.

On third down, with just eleven seconds on the clock, Wilder swept right but was hit at the line of scrimmage and tackled for no gain by defensive end Mark Gastineau. As the players unplied, the clock ran out and Wilder finished the season with 2,229 yards of total offense to Dickerson's 2,244.

The locker room set-up of Tampa Stadium required the Bucs and their opponents to cross paths on the way off the field. This lay-out brought the very angry Jets face-to-face with the head coach of the Buccaneers and a near brawl broke out. New York assistant coach Mike Faulkner, offensive lineman Ted Banker, defensive lineman Barry Bennett and back-up quarterback Pat Ryan ran to McKay and lobbed obscenities and insults as McKay made his way across the field toward the Tampa Bay locker room. "You a##-hole" was yelled by all four at McKay as well as, "You deserve to be out of the league." Seeing their coach under attack, several Buccaneer players interceded and formed a human tunnel for McKay to run through.

The fans also took up for their coach, booing the Jets vociferously and showering them with debris. The *New York Times* reported that Jets wide receiver Johnny "Lam" Jones was struck by a chair on the way to the locker room. Said Jones after the game, "It was no worse than the butt-kicking we suffered on the field."

After everyone got to their locker rooms the Jets really let loose with vituperative. "The way it ended was a total embarrassment to the League," fumed Joe Walton. "It set it back 20 years. It was totally uncalled for." Other Jets swore revenge when the two teams played again in 1985. "We get them next

year at Giants Stadium,” said Pat Ryan. “The only problem is McKay won’t be there.”

If there was any saving grace in the game for the Jets it was the fact that they had prevented Wilder from setting the record. “They thought we’d just lie down and let him get the record,” said Russell Carter. “But we didn’t, and I guess that gives us a little satisfaction.”

In the Tampa Bay locker room McKay explained his reasoning for ordering the defense to not stop the Jets. Given that his popularity with the fans had soured over the past two seasons and that some of his players were still hurt by his resignation, he thought attempting to help a very popular player in the community and locker room set a League record was the best move “If I hadn’t done that, I would have been lynched. I’m not too popular around here anyway.” As for the verbal abuse heaped on him as he left the field, McKay partially channeled Claude Rains’ Captain Renault character in *Casablanca*. McKay stated that he was shocked, shocked, to hear language like that on a football field.

McKay did state that he understood why the Jets felt the way they did, but he also felt he owed it to Wilder to give him a shot at a record. “I’m sorry we didn’t get the record for Jimmy but we tried, and the Jets almost attacked me.”

The vast majority of players in the locker room defended their coach’s decision. Defensive back Jeremiah Castille probably summed up the attitude of the team best. “I have never been in anything like it, but it was something the defense wanted to do as a sacrifice for James because he is a special player.”

While most of the Bucs shared the opinion that McKay had done the right thing and the Jets were over-dramatizing the effect of the Buccaneer Flop, one man did stand up to say it was wrong. Safety Mark Cotney, who had been booed for his tackle, stated that it was not a unanimous decision in the huddle and that he had just done his job in making the tackle. “We talked about it (laying down) in the huddle, but it wasn’t unanimous. Consensus was, ‘Hey, this is the NFL.’ It was the craziest thing I have been involved with in football.”

Almost a quarter of a century later, it still might be the craziest moment in NFL history.

Epilogue

There were several footnotes to the Buccaneer Flop:



Lee Roy Selmon

- The game marked the final appearance in a Tampa Bay uniform for Lee Roy Selmon. Since the team’s inception in 1976, Selmon had been the most dominant force on what had been until 1984, one of the League’s top defenses. The Hall of Fame defensive end that came to be known as “Mr. Buccaneer” injured his back in the 1984 Pro Bowl and retired one year later. It is a melancholy footnote that his last game involved an intentional flop.
- The game was also the last played by Mark Cotney. Along with Selmon, Cotney had helped turn the Bucs defense into one of the most dominant in league history. The beloved safety, who had earned the nickname “Captain Crunch” for his hard-hitting style had the ignominy of being booed on the final tackle of his career by the very fans that had cheered for him since 1976. If anything, Cotney should be credited for taking a very public stand for what he thought was right even if it wasn’t popular.
- The next season the Jets did get revenge by drilling the Buccaneers 62-28 in Giants Stadium. The final Jets touchdown came with just over a minute to play. They did not kneel on the ball, but at least they didn’t try an on-sides kick afterward.
- The Buccaneers have not beaten the Jets since that day. The all-time series record stands at Jets 8 Bucs 1. Perhaps McKay had the right idea, but karma seems to favor the Jets.

Research Notes

By Ken Crippen

Comment on the AAFC Dispersal Draft (Published in Coffin Corner Volume 30 Number 2):

The following are comments by PFRA member Ron Wolf. Mr. Wolf wanted to add to the information published in the Research Notes section of Coffin Corner Volume 30 Number 2, regarding the AAFC Dispersal Draft.

From an e-mail dated April 23, 2008:

I read with great interest the list of players who were reassigned from various reserve lists of AAFC teams. For your information there are names missing and several of these players were also on the reserve lists of NFL teams at that time.

What the league did that was intelligent was eliminate escalating salaries by cleaning up their reserve lists which explains why players like Lou Creekmur who was on the Eagles reserve list and played at William & Mary in 1949 ended up with the Lions, he was their second round choice off of that allocation draft. The same holds true for Chuck Drazenovich who was 2d of the Redskins in that draft, as well as Roland Dale who was a 3d in that draft. Dale was not previously drafted by the NFL but Drazenovich was. Both of these players played collegiately in 1949 with their respective institutions.

Lindell Pearson played in 1949 for the Sooners of Oklahoma and was a first round pick of the Eagles in that draft without any AAFC or NFL prior designation.

I do not understand why the NFL refuses to acknowledge this draft and put the players in the correct draft order that they were selected.

George Allen gave me a copy of that draft when I visited with him in Chicago in 1962 while he was a coach with the Bears and also was their chief talent scout.

From an e-mail dated April 24, 2008:

This is a very important area for me because I find it unbelievable that the NFL refuses to recognize a very sensible draft which occurred the 2d of June 1950, to me it was a simple way to avoid problems and let the teams draft or re draft players in order to solve reserve list dilemmas.

Ted Cook of the Packers is one of those, he played with Green Bay for two or three years, was cut before

the last two games of 1949 and redrafted by the Packers and he played in 1950 with them.

Fifty Years Ago – The Best Ever

The following was a thread started by Bob Carroll on the PFRA Forum (<http://www.pfraforum.org>).

Posted by Bob Carroll:

Fifty years ago, in Dell's Pro football Annual, recognized expert Stanley Woodward picked a 44-man squad of the greatest players in pro football history. Active players were not eligible. It was not indicated if Woodward had any help in choosing his squad. What may be most interesting is those once listed among the greatest who have not been enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. They are in all caps below.

QB-Passers: Arnie Herber, Sammy Baugh, Sid Luckman, ED DANOWSKI, Bob Waterfield, Otto Graham

HB: Paddy Driscoll, Jim Thorpe, Red Grange, Dutch Clark, Johnny Blood, Cliff Battles, Tuffy Leemans, Ace Parker, Bill Dudley, Steve Van Buren

FB: Ernie Nevers, Ken Strong, Bronko Nagurski, Clarke Hinkle, PAT HARDER, Marion Motley
E: Ray Flaherty, Don Hutson, Bill Hewitt, KEN KAVANAUGH, JIM POOLE, Pete Pihos

T: Steve Owen, Fats Henry, Cal Hubbard, Joe Stydahar, Turk Edwards, Bruiser Kinard, AL BLOZIS

G: Ed (Sic) Michalske, Danny Fortmann, BILL RADOVICH, LEN YOUNCE, DICK BARWEGAN

C: George Trafton, Mel Hein, Bulldog Turner

Posted by paulksandiego:

It's hard to argue with the majority of the picks, however, there are a few I'd change:

QB: Benny Friedman over Danowski

E: Lavie Dilweg over Poole

T: Duke Slater over Blozis

G: Ox Emerson & George Musso over Radovich & Younce

I'd like to make room for Verne Lewellen but I don't know if he should go ahead of Johnny Blood

Posted by Coach TJ Troup:

hein & turner were great centers, and linebackers.....have seen hours of footage of charley

brock of the pack...the guy could really play, both center, and linebacker.

1944-1945 USFL Meeting Minutes:

Submitted by Ken Crippen

Below is the text of the memo released after the first organizational meeting of the United States Football League (USFL) in 1944. This league would never get to the point of actually playing a game, but it is an interesting footnote in football history.

MEMORANDA OF MEETING OF PROPOSED NEW MAJOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The meeting of the proposed new major football league was held at the William Penn Hotel Sunday, April 2, 1944, at 10:00 A. M. until about 5:00 P. M. The following persons were present:

- Mr. Frank M. Strock, representing Mr. William D. Cox of New York and Seattle
- Mr. John J. Ahrin – Philadelphia
- Mr. E.L. Gaertner, representing J. W. Yates, St. Louis
- Mr. F. Cesare of Scranton, Pa., for Buffalo, New York
- Mr. J. P. Ludgate, representing Lt. Hal Pennington for Cincinnati
- Mr. Charles A. Burns – Akron, Ohio
- Mr. Andrew W. Visnansky – Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Mr. Roland D. Payne

The meeting was opened by Mr. Payne giving a brief history and summary of the negotiations with persons in the proposed cities up to the present. After the brief history was given, it was proposed and voted unanimously

1. That Mr. Payne be made President pro tem of the League until permanent officers are elected.
2. It was unanimously decided that the League is to consist of two divisions of approximately six clubs each.
3. It was agreed by all present that if possible the Eastern division should include the following cities: New York, Washington, Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh. The Western division should include Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Akron, Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.
4. The League name: The possibility of naming the League "The American Football League" was discussed, and it was decided to call the League by that name provided the legality for such action could be established.

5. Season to begin the first week in September and end about the first week in December, playing two games a week the first six weeks of the schedule.

6. It was unanimously agreed that the franchise cost is to be \$10,000.00.

7. It was suggested and approved by all present that a Certificate of Operation be issued immediately to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Seattle. Mr. Cesare (Buffalo) and Mr. Burns (Akron) felt for various reasons that they should avoid any publicity at this time such as might attend the issuance of Certificates to them.

This Certificate of Operation is to enable the groups to go ahead on the basis that upon surrender of the Certificate along with certified check for franchise fee and satisfactory proof to the League of financial stability they would be given a franchise in the city for which it was issued. This is to be done at the next meeting of the Certificate holders.

8. Mr. Payne advised that he is still negotiating with Boston (two groups), San Francisco, and Los Angeles (two groups), and he feels that by the time of the next meeting these cities will be represented. The representatives present advised Mr. Payne to continue with negotiations with these groups.

9. The group also requested the President pro tem to keep them informed as to the progress that each group is making in the form of bulletins to be issued from time to time.

10. It was decided that the next meeting would be at the call of the Chair, probably some time later this year, that at this meeting the constitution would be ratified, franchises issued, League headquarters established, and permanent officers elected.

The above matters were adopted after full discussion by the various groups present. There were two sessions, the one in the morning, which was closed, and one after lunch at which reporters and photographers from syndicated news agencies were received. The rest of the afternoon was given over to discussion of our new plans with them.

[signed]

R. D. Payne

*Submit your research note(s), comments or questions, to Ken Crippen at:
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 215-421-6994
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Bruce Smith: The Road To Greatness

By Lori Chase

Fact: Bruce Smith is one of the greatest players in NFL history.

He'd be quick to agree, of course, as would all but the most contrary Buffalo Bills fan, but the unbiased views of players and coaches around the league provide a truer measure of Smith's impact on the game:

"He's an opposing coach's nightmare," said Larry Beightol, one of several Jets offensive line coaches who tried – but failed, more often than not – to keep the perennial All-Pro from pummeling their quarterbacks. "You watch film of him, you don't sleep that week. I don't really think there's a way to stop him. He's at another level." Veteran coach Jim Hanifan agreed, saying he was "the most formidable player since Deacon Jones."

Colts tackle Zefross Moss was even more emphatic after Smith's 11-tackle, three-sack performance against him in a 38-0 Bills beatdown: "He's the greatest defensive lineman to ever play the game."

You want numbers?

- 200 career sacks, more than any other player since the sack became an official statistic in 1982.
- A franchise-record 11 Pro Bowl selections in 15 seasons with the Bills.
- Two Associated Press Defensive Player of the Year awards, a feat previously accomplished only by first-ballot Hall of Famers Joe Greene, Mike Singletary, and Lawrence Taylor. (Reggie White would join the group two years later.)

A résumé like that is impossible to ignore. The day before the 2008 draft, a selection committee composed of Buffalo-area media and club personnel took all of ten minutes to name Smith the next member of the team's Wall of Fame, with the ceremony set to take place at the Bills – Raiders game on Sept. 21, 2008. After that, an inevitable appointment in Canton awaits.

And now, a few words from the always-quotable guest of honor:

"I always dreamed of being rich, to be someone special. I guess everything worked out OK."

– ***Olean Times Herald, April 30, 1985***

The Bills earned the No. 1 overall pick in the draft with a brutal 2-14 season in 1984, losing their first 11

games, allowing a franchise-record 454 points, and redefining "run for the bus" with a pathetic 52-21 finale in Cincinnati. The fans wanted Doug Flutie, but in January, he signed with the New Jersey Generals of the rival USFL. General manager Terry Bledsoe and director of pro personnel Bill Polian then concentrated their focus on Smith, the Outland Trophy winner and consensus All-American whose 16 sacks in his senior year at Virginia Tech eclipsed the performance of the entire Bills defensive line (10.5). The Baltimore Stars – who held his USFL rights – made a few preliminary overtures, but after signing a reported four-year, \$2.6 million contract with Buffalo in February, Smith said, "I guess it's every young boy's dream to play in the NFL."

Smith ranked near the top of most draft boards, but the evaluations weren't uniformly positive. From the Times Herald's draft-day preview:

"For the record, one scouting service tabbed the 6-3, 275-pounder as the best DE in the draft and rated only four players higher overall: running backs Herschel Walker (in the USFL) and Ethan Horton (North Carolina) along with wide receivers Eddie Brown (Miami) and Al Toon (Wisconsin).

"In assessing Smith's strengths, the service noted, 'He's massive and extremely mobile with great initial quickness. Naturally strong. Can flat-out dominate a game when he plays up to his ability.' On the negative side it added, 'He doesn't always play hard and has a weight problem.' In summing up Smith's future, it noted, 'He could be King Kong in shoulder pads, or just another guy.'"

He started the first two games of his rookie season, but was relegated to pass-rushing duty after the Jets administered a 42-3 beating in Week 2, with running back Freeman McNeil gouging the Bills for a franchise-record 192 yards. The benching didn't last long. Kay Stephenson's head-coaching tenure staggered to a merciful end at 0-4, and when Colts RBs Randy McMillan (112 yards) and Albert Bentley (100) welcomed Hank Bullough to the top job by trampling the defense in another blowout loss, Smith regained his spot at right end – a position that he would keep, barring injury or suspension, for fifteen seasons.

"If someone is going to go out there and single block me, I don't think that's fair to

the offensive lineman. I can't be single-blocked."

– *Olean Times Herald, Oct. 22, 1989*

By the end of the 1988 season, Smith was gaining recognition around the league ... and seriously thinking about leaving Buffalo. He'd made his second straight All-Pro squad despite missing the first four games to a drug suspension that stirred up the hate-mail crowd, and the Buffalo News was reporting that the team had hired detectives to follow him. So when the Broncos presented him with a five-year, \$7.5-million offer sheet, he strongly suggested that the Bills not match it. At least one local sportscaster agreed with him, saying the team would be better off with the two No. 1 picks they'd receive in return (and without his off-the-field issues). Polian, by then the general manager, knew better. He matched the offer sheet, and Smith remained a Bill.

Bad news for the quarterbacks in the rest of the AFC East. He blew past the franchise sack record (previously set at 51 by Ben Williams) before the midpoint of his fifth year in the league, dumping favorite target Ken O'Brien three times as the Bills pounded the Jets. The season would come to a disappointing end in the wild-card playoff game at Cleveland, but better days were ahead.

"I think that, right now, on defense, I'm the hottest thing going. It's as simple as that. When I walk down the street, I want people to say, 'There goes Bruce Smith. He's the best defensive player in the league.' I don't want them to say, 'Hey, he's second to Reggie White, or he's second to Lawrence Taylor.' I want them to say, 'He's the best there is in the league right now.'"

– *Olean Times Herald, Dec. 10, 1990*

Smith made that bold claim before a business trip to Indianapolis, where he proceeded to back up his bravado by sacking Colts rookie quarterback Jeff George four times – IN THE FIRST HALF. By the end of the game, an easy-as-it-looked 31-7 Bills victory, the shell-shocked George was reduced to muttering expletives as Smith bore down on him yet again. Chuck Pollock's column in the next day's Times Herald began with the quote, "If you can do it ... it ain't bragging!"

The performance against Indy gave him 19 sacks for the year – just three shy of Mark Gastineau's record – with three games left on the schedule. The next game was a nationally-televised affair against the Giants, and he provided the New York media with something to write about: "Over the last 10 years, Lawrence Taylor has been the most dominant player in the league, but I

think I've taken it up a notch above that. You've got to give credit to the person who deserves it. It would be an injustice if I don't get the MVP."

Although Taylor declined to discuss the comments, some of his Giants teammates took predictable offense. The media apparently agreed with Smith's assessment, though, as the AP, UPI, Football News, and Pro Football Weekly all awarded him Defensive Player of the Year honors.

The individual accolades were piling up, but one thing was still missing ... a championship. Nobody knew it then, of course, but Scott Norwood's final field goal attempt in Super Bowl XXV was the closest any of those star-studded teams would ever come to capturing the Lombardi Trophy.

"I have said over and over again, I am not in this game to be second best to anyone."

– *The Sporting News, Dec. 8, 1997*

While the Bills never managed to cross that last river, Smith's personal quest continued with a single goal: to be the best there ever was. The kid who tipped the scales at 300 pounds after his rookie season now played 30 pounds lighter than that, spending countless hours in the gym to sculpt his physique. He studied film until he became an expert at diagnosing plays from the line of scrimmage, the better to create havoc in the other team's backfield. And if he felt disrespected – by contract disputes with management, stories suggesting someone else might be better, whatever – woe to the quarterback unlucky enough to face him in the next game.

He added another AP Defensive Player of the Year award to his trophy case in 1996, and probably should have repeated the honor in 1997. Switching to a 4-3 defense at midseason, after playing his first 12 seasons in a 3-4? Didn't matter. He led the AFC in sacks again, made first-team All-Pro again, and did it on an aching knee that would require microfracture surgery after the season.

"I wish I had the opportunity to play in front of our fans one more time knowing that it was my last time. After 15 years in one place, the fans deserved better. I never got a chance to say goodbye."

– *New York Times, Feb. 27, 2000*

By the end of the decade Smith was no longer the consistently dominant force he had once been, but he was still good enough to lead a playoff team in sacks, quarterback pressures, and forced fumbles. He took Drew Bledsoe down twice in a playoff-clinching

overtime win in Foxborough, then added another 2.5 sacks against Steve McNair in the wild-card loss at Tennessee.

But he was about to turn 37, and he was due to make \$4.8 million in 2000. With 10 players (including six starters) slated to hit free agency and the team already snug against the cap, general manager John Butler decided he had no other recourse than to lop off the aging, high-salaried core of the Super Bowl squads. Smith refused a 50 percent pay cut – as Butler knew he would – and joined Thurman Thomas and Andre Reed on the road out of Buffalo. He didn't stay unemployed for long, though, as new Washington Redskins owner Dan Snyder jumped at the chance to throw a boatload of money at yet another big-name player.

“Being in the stadium with 70,000-plus fans — I felt their energy, and I hope that they felt mine.”
 – *Olean Times Herald, Oct. 20, 2003*

Smith played in 217 regular-season games for the Bills, second only to Andre Reed's 221. But on this afternoon, he walked out of the tunnel at Ralph Wilson Stadium toward the visitors' sideline, wearing Redskins burgundy and gold. The uniform may have looked out of place, but the grin was instantly recognizable as the fans serenaded him with a familiar chorus of “Bruuuuuuce.”

He came into the game with 196.5 sacks, two shy of taking Reggie White's record and making it his own. Facing Bledsoe, a quarterback he'd flattened more often than any signal-caller not named O'Brien, must have seemed like a good omen. Not this time, though. He left Orchard Park with the same number, and the Bills rolled to an easy victory.

Although frustrated with the loss, Smith made sure to note the 'hometown' fans in his postgame comments. “It was certainly an emotional experience for me, coming back and seeing so many fans who were yelling and chanting and saying polite and kind words,” he said. “It was certainly a memorable experience for me. For all the years I’ve been here, they supported my career, and I just want to tell them thank you.”

“I know I'm not in second place any longer,” Smith said. “When they print up the football cards, they won't say, ‘Second place.’”
 – *Washington Post, Dec. 8, 2003*

So who was the unfortunate record-breaker? Jesse Palmer, the Giants' backup quarterback. (Smith knocked starter Kerry Collins out with a high ankle sprain earlier in the game.)

He picked up one more sack two weeks later to make his career total an even 200 – the Bears' Rex Grossman is the answer to that trivia question – then retired when Washington released him after the season.

Smith founded a commercial real estate development firm, Bruce Smith Enterprise, LLC, in 2004. The company is headquartered in Virginia Beach, where he, his wife Carmen, and their son Alston reside.

Precisely where he ranks in the pantheon of NFL legends is open to debate – Bruce or Reggie, and how does either one match up against Deacon Jones or Gino Marchetti? – but his place in Buffalo Bills history is secure. Simply put, he remains the best defensive player the franchise has ever seen, and that's not likely to change for a long, long time.

Bruce Bernard Smith

Position: DE
 Height: 6' 4"
 Weight: 268
 Born: 6/18/1963, in Norfolk, VA, USA
 High School: Booker T. Washington (Norfolk, VA)
 College: Virginia Polytechnic Institute

| Year | Team | Games | Fumbles Rec. | Sacks | INT |
|--------------|----------|------------|--------------|------------|----------|
| 1985 | BUF | 16 | 4 | 6.5 | 0 |
| 1986 | BUF | 16 | 0 | 15.0 | 0 |
| 1987 | BUF | 12 | 2 | 12.0 | 0 |
| 1988 | BUF | 12 | 0 | 11.0 | 0 |
| 1989 | BUF | 16 | 0 | 13.0 | 0 |
| 1990 | BUF | 16 | 0 | 19.0 | 0 |
| 1991 | BUF | 5 | 0 | 1.5 | 0 |
| 1992 | BUF | 15 | 0 | 14.0 | 0 |
| 1993 | BUF | 16 | 1 | 14.0 | 1 |
| 1994 | BUF | 15 | 2 | 10.0 | 1 |
| 1995 | BUF | 15 | 1 | 10.5 | 0 |
| 1996 | BUF | 16 | 1 | 13.5 | 0 |
| 1997 | BUF | 16 | 0 | 14.0 | 0 |
| 1998 | BUF | 15 | 2 | 10.0 | 0 |
| 1999 | BUF | 16 | 1 | 7.0 | 0 |
| 2000 | WASH | 16 | 0 | 10.0 | 0 |
| 2001 | WASH | 14 | 1 | 5.0 | 0 |
| 2002 | WASH | 16 | 0 | 9.0 | 0 |
| 2003 | WASH | 16 | 0 | 5.0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | - | 279 | 15 | 200 | 2 |

The Effect of a Bye, #2: (Arena Football2; Bye #2)

By Bob Irving

It was shown in paper #1, in Arena Football, that both before and after the bye week, in both win / loss ratio and in ratio of plus points to minus points, they had a virtually perfect "flip-over" --- losses and minus points predominating before the bye, wins and plus points after the bye. Results for the NFL were also excellent, in the same manner, though not as spectacular. Bye #1 of Arena Football2 was somewhat erratic, barely convincing in the same way. Bye #2 of Arena Football2 was a different story.

Bye #2 of Arena Football2 didn't conform to the general pattern of the Arena Football league and the NFL. The foregoing was based on the hypothesis that teams would do better after a bye week than before. Evidence for the erratic behavior of Bye #2 (AF2) was apparent both before and after the bye week. For the six comparisons of Bye #2, losses predominated over wins four times, with one comparison being equally divided. Only once was there more wins than losses; that one unusual comparison however, was by a convincing margin.

Background

The season total of differential scores was calculated for every team and the teams then ranked from one to 30. In the rank-order of differential scores several disturbing facts emerged. Rio Grande Valley (RGV) of the National Conference, Southwest (SW) was the leader in season differential scoring among all teams, with +379 points, 114 points above the second team. This was *about seven times* the typical margin of difference between rank-ordered adjacent teams. At the bottom of the scale, ranks 27, 28, and 29 were Corpus Christi, Laredo, and Texas respectively, all from the same National Conference SW, and #30 Cincinnati, from the American Conference Midwest. Corpus Christi, at #27, was 117 points lower than team #26 above it, again an amount *about seven times the typical margin*, but in the opposite direction! The best team among all 30 was from the same division as #'s 27, 28, and 29 and the 4th ranked team overall, Bossier, was also from the National Conference SW, composed of those five teams named. The very best and very worst were from the same division, separated by 871 differential points! To visualize the distance between Rio Grande Valley *at the top* and the "group of four" *so FAR at the bottom* is a genuine challenge for the senses. Mt. Everest versus Death Valley!

Considerations in Handicapping

In examining the rank-ordered list of teams it seemed that the list should be split into groups because of the way scoring 'gaps' had occurred in the list of differential totals. Thus, RGV was omitted at this point, to be considered individually, and Corpus Christi, Laredo, Texas and Cincinnati were put into a separate group, leaving 25 teams to be grouped. Ultimately, three other groups or tiers were created. Top, Middle, and Bottom, composed of seven, eight, and ten teams respectively, again the result of scoring 'gaps'. To get some idea of the magnitude of differences among groups, an analysis of variance was calculated with the four named above included, making four groups to be examined. The resulting overall F-ratio showed enormous differences between the groups. An F-ratio of 9.994 was necessary to demonstrate that the huge numerical differences between tiers would occur by chance alone was less than one time in 10,000. The actual differences were convincingly genuine since the calculated F-ratio was 93! Top, Middle, and Bottom tiers were all significantly superior to the group of four, each with an F-ratio much greater than 9.994.

This finding, in turn, suggested that all games in which RGV, Corpus Christi, Laredo, Texas and Cincinnati were involved (31 games) should be deleted from the analysis because of their deleterious effect on Bye #2. RGV, at the top extreme, had won all four of the games surrounding its bye, by a margin of +126 points. Cincinnati lost all 4 of its games by a margin of -127. Texas lost all 4 games by a margin of -149, the bottom extreme. Laredo and Corpus Christi each lost 3 of their 4 games; Laredo's margin was -35, Corpus Christi's -29. These four teams were in a class by themselves, ***severely mismatched against all others.***

The Problem

The task was to devise a numerical handicap system pertaining to AF2, Bye #2 in order that Corpus Christi, Laredo, Texas and Cincinnati could be considered on an equitable footing with the other 25 teams. Rio Grande Valley, at the other extreme, would be dealt with as a one-time "exception to the rule". Two contradictory problems were immediately evident: (1) avoid any perception of selectively altering excessively low or high scores, but at the same time, (2) boost all low scores and penalize all high scores adequately to attain "equitable footing" for all.

Attempts at a Solution

In order to carry out number (2), each team was initially identified as to its tier dependent upon its season-end

differential rank-order among all the teams. Teams in the Top tier (seven) were penalized the most points for unexpected losses, teams in the Bottom tier (eight) were awarded the most points for unexpected victories. Teams in the Middle tier (ten) were awarded an intermediate amount for unexpected victories or penalized an intermediate amount for unexpected losses. An example of "expected / unexpected" was as follows: by virtue of their position, Top teams were expected to win over Middle and Bottom teams, Middle expected to win over Bottom; the reverse of this would pertain to Bottom teams. Unexpected losses by Top and Middle teams to teams lower in standing resulted in penalty points. If a Bottom team won over a Middle or Top team it was awarded extra point value and by the same token, the loser was penalized (-) an equal point value. Point values were determined by using the *season average differential score* as the point award for winning over an opponent of equal tier status. Initially, this value was 18 (the mean or average) and +1/4Aver, +1/2Aver and +3/4Aver scores were 4.5, 9.0 and 13, respectively. Minus scores were awarded the opposite sign. Scores were awarded as high and as low as + and - 27.

Original values (paper #1) appear under Column I in the table. Column II represents the best attempt among eight tries to handicap. In the original, the point values were the actual differential scores. Wins and Losses have been simply counted throughout.

Partial List of Values: Attempt to Handicap

| | I | | II | |
|---------------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| | Wins | Losses | Wins | Losses |
| | + | - | + | - |
| 2 games Prior | 13 | 17 | 13 | 17 |
| Diff Points | 188 | 275 | 180 | 153 |
| 1 game Prior | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Diff Points | 236 | 178 * | 225 | 171 * |
| Total, W : L | 28 | 32 | 28 | 32 |
| Total, + : - | 424 | 453 * | 405 | 324 * |
| | B Y E W E E K | | B Y E W E E K | |
| 1 game After | 10 | 20 * | 10 | 20 * |
| Diff Points | 172 | 261 * | 153 | 243 * |
| 2 games After | 17 | 11 | 17 | 11 |
| Diff Points | 397 | 195 | 193.5 | 108 |
| Total, W : L | 27 | 31 | 27 | 31 |
| Total, + : - | 569 | 456 | 346.5 | 351 |

*Opposite of expected result. Note that in all cases games Won and Lost are the same in both Col. I and Col. II. Differential Point values differ due to an unsuccessful attempt to 'handicap' in Col. II

The table above lists values from an attempt to handicap low and high scores in an effort to 'squeeze' extremely low scores into a common pool of scores. In all, eight attempts were made to create a common pool; none were successful.

Conclusions

Column I in the table above shows four starred values (*) where results were the opposite of those expected, one of them minor. Column II is no better. It must be concluded that **scores of the four "low" teams were so far 'out of sync' with the other 25 teams that they could not be overcome by any of the eight attempts made to handicap.**

What could we learn that might contain a clue about the relationship between the scores of the 25 teams (Top, Middle, and Bottom) and the 31 scores deleted? First, an analysis of variance of all 30 teams between all their scores before and after the 2nd bye yielded an F-ratio of 2.47. This was large enough (odds of 1,000 to 1) to show that they were **NOT** from a randomly constituted population source (the deck had been 'stacked', perhaps inadvertently). Second, another analysis of variance, between the 31 discarded scores and those 177 scores retained was even higher, 6.74. The chance that those disparate scores were from a common population, by chance, was less than one in 10,000. Therefore, deleting the 31 scores was necessary because their inclusion would have even further distorted other conclusions, above.

An attempt to devise a numerical handicap system to Bye #2 was a dismal failure. We learned that the distance between the "rogue four" teams and those 25 teams that made up the balance (minus RGV), was so enormous that artificially creating a common pool of scores was impossible. In like manner (but opposite), Rio Grande Valley was "light years" above everyone else. **It's assumed that Arena Football2 is aware of the problems discussed / analyzed here.** It isn't necessarily assumed that Arena Football2 is **aware of the magnitude** of these problems. The 2008 season will be an interesting one to watch --- the field of play, the scoreboard, and results in the National Conference South West.



PFRA COMMITTEES

By Ken Crippen

COMMITTEE UPDATES SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF COFFIN CORNER:

PFRA Radio Show:

PFRA member Mark Ford owns a radio station in Harlan, Kentucky (<http://www.wtuk1051.com>). He has graciously offered to put together four radio shows for the PFRA. As of the printing of this issue of *Coffin Corner*, three of those shows have panelists and the fourth is underway. Over the summer, the panelists will record the shows and the finished product will be broadcast on Mark Ford's radio station and streamed over the internet. The exact dates and times of the broadcasts have not been determined, but they should be finalized by the next issue of *Coffin Corner*. The preliminary show topics are the following:

The 60th Anniversary of the 1948 Cleveland Browns Perfect Season

Host: Mark Ford

Panelists: Andy Piascik and Ken Crippen

Guests: Art Statuto (1948-1949 Buffalo Bills), A Cleveland Browns player TBD.

Show premise: Discussions will be focused on the perfect season of the Cleveland Browns, with emphasis on the Championship game between Cleveland and Buffalo. Players from the Buffalo Bills and Cleveland Browns will give their first-hand perspectives on the game and the 1948 season.

The 50th Anniversary of the 1958 NFL Championship Game

Panelists: Mark Ford, John Turney and Ron Wolf

The "Other" Leagues

(Exact Topic TBD)

Panelists: Mark Ford, Bob Gill, Steve Brainerd

The Lombardi-Era Packers

(Panelists and exact show topic TBD)

If these four shows are successful, more shows will be created and a committee will be formed to put together those shows.

The All-America Football Conference Committee:

The committee is still working on tracking down all surviving members of the AAFC. As of the printing of this issue, the committee has located 111 surviving members. They still need to locate 22 members. The remaining 470 have passed away.

For those that have been located, the committee is working to interview the players for an oral history of the league. Of the 111 surviving members, 19 have been interviewed and three have refused interviews. There are a few other surviving members who cannot be interviewed for health reasons.

As you can see, there is a LOT of work that still needs to be done and time is running out. Players are getting older and their health is deteriorating. Anyone who is willing to help the committee with interviewing players for the oral history project is encouraged to contact committee chair Andy Piascik using the contact information below. No interviewing experience is required.

Hall of Very Good Committee:

The results are in and can be found in the next issue of *Coffin Corner*. The committee sends out their Thanks to all who participated in the voting. We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of votes and the final results were extremely close.

Linescore Committee:

The committee is still working to update the PFRA website (<http://www.profootballresearchers.org>) with the latest linescore information.

Western New York Committee:

The committee is continuing its work on the book about the Buffalo Bills of the All-America Football Conference. Interviews are almost complete with all surviving members of the team and several family members of players, as well as the son of owner Sam Cordovano and daughter of Red Dawson, have been interviewed.

COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

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If you would like to help out with a committee or if you want to form your own committee, contact Ken Crippen at:

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PUNT RETURNS FOR TOUCHDOWNS

Part Two: The 1960s

Compiled by Gary Selby

| No. | Date | Scoring Team | W / L | Scoring Player | Opponent | Yardage |
|-----|--------------|--------------|-------|------------------|-----------|---------|
| 153 | 09 / 09 / 60 | Broncos | W | Gene Mingo | Patriots | 76 |
| 154 | 12 / 11 / 60 | Chiefs | W | Johnny Robinson | Patriots | 62 |
| 155 | 09 / 24 / 61 | Packers | W | Willie Wood | 49ers | 39 |
| 156 | 09 / 24 / 61 | Jets | W | Dick Christy | Broncos | 70 |
| 157 | 09 / 24 / 61 | Jets | W | Dick Christy | Broncos | 64 |
| 158 | 10 / 08 / 61 | Packers | W | Willie Wood | Colts | 72 |
| 159 | 10 / 08 / 61 | Browns | W | Bobby Mitchell | Redskins | 64 |
| 160 | 10 / 15 / 61 | Cardinals | L | Bobby Joe Conrad | Eagles | 73 |
| 161 | 11 / 05 / 61 | 49ers | T | Abe Woodson | Lions | 80 |
| 162 | 11 / 26 / 61 | Steelers | W | Johnny Sample | Cardinals | 55 |
| 163 | 12 / 03 / 61 | Eagles | W | Timmy Brown | Steelers | 66 |
| 164 | 12 / 03 / 61 | Broncos | L | Al Frazier | Patriots | 55 |
| 165 | 12 / 09 / 61 | Chargers | W | Keith Lincoln | Bills | 57 |
| 166 | 12 / 17 / 61 | Rams | L | Dick Bass | Packers | 90 |
| 167 | 12 / 17 / 61 | Vikings | L | Hugh McElhenny | Bears | 81 |
| 168 | 10 / 14 / 62 | Jets | L | Dick Christy | Titans | 58 |
| 169 | 10 / 21 / 62 | 49ers | L | Abe Woodson | Packers | 85 |
| 170 | 10 / 28 / 62 | Jets | W | Dick Christy | Chargers | 73 |
| 171 | 09 / 29 / 63 | Vikings | W | Bill Butler | 49ers | 60 |
| 172 | 10 / 06 / 63 | Lions | W | Tom Watkins | 49ers | 90 |
| 173 | 11 / 03 / 63 | Raiders | W | Claude Gibson | Chiefs | 85 |
| 174 | 11 / 10 / 63 | Jets | L | Bill Baird | Titans | 93 |
| 175 | 12 / 22 / 63 | Raiders | W | Claude Gibson | Titans | 69 |
| 176 | 09 / 26 / 64 | Bills | W | Hagood Clarke | Chargers | 53 |
| 177 | 09 / 27 / 64 | Cardinals | W | Jimmy Burson | 49ers | 68 |
| 178 | 10 / 04 / 64 | Lions | W | Tom Watkins | Giants | 61 |
| 179 | 10 / 18 / 64 | Packers | L | Elijah Pitts | Colts | 65 |
| 180 | 10 / 25 / 64 | Browns | W | Leroy Kelly | Giants | 68 |
| 181 | 11 / 15 / 64 | 49ers | W | Kermit Alexander | Packers | 70 |
| 182 | 11 / 15 / 64 | Broncos | W | Odell Barry | Jets | 48 |
| 183 | 11 / 29 / 64 | Cowboys | L | Mel Renfro | Packers | 69 |
| 184 | 12 / 13 / 64 | Lions | W | Tom Watkins | 49ers | 68 |
| 185 | 12 / 20 / 64 | Titans | W | Bobby Jancik | Broncos | 82 |
| 186 | 09 / 12 / 65 | Raiders | W | Claude Gibson | Chiefs | 58 |
| 187 | 09 / 26 / 65 | Chargers | T | Leslie Duncan | Chiefs | 64 |
| 188 | 11 / 14 / 65 | Broncos | W | Abner Haynes | Titans | 57 |
| 189 | 11 / 21 / 65 | Browns | W | Leroy Kelly | Cowboys | 67 |
| 190 | 11 / 21 / 65 | Redskins | W | Rickie Harris | Steelers | 57 |
| 191 | 11 / 28 / 65 | Browns | W | Leroy Kelly | Steelers | 56 |
| 192 | 12 / 12 / 65 | Bears | W | Gale Sayers | 49ers | 85 |
| 193 | 12 / 12 / 65 | Chargers | W | Leslie Duncan | Titans | 63 |
| 194 | 12 / 19 / 65 | Chiefs | W | Willie Mitchell | Broncos | 71 |
| 195 | 12 / 19 / 65 | Eagles | L | Bob Shann | Lions | 63 |
| 196 | 09 / 04 / 66 | Chargers | W | Leslie Duncan | Bills | 81 |
| 197 | 09 / 11 / 66 | Chiefs | W | Mike Garrett | Bills | 79 |
| 198 | 09 / 11 / 66 | Bills | L | Ed Rutkowski | Chiefs | 73 |

| No. | Date | Scoring Team | W / L | Scoring Player | Opponent | Yardage |
|------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 199 | 09 / 18 / 66 | Bills | W | Butch Byrd | Dolphins | 72 |
| 200 | 10 / 02 / 66 | Cardinals | W | Johnny Roland | Eagles | 86 |
| 201 | 10 / 23 / 66 | Packers | W | Donny Anderson | Falcons | 77 |
| 202 | 11 / 06 / 66 | Eagles | W | Aaron Martin | Cowboys | 67 |
| 203 | 11 / 24 / 66 | Lions | L | John Robinson | 49ers | 79 |
| 204 | 11 / 27 / 66 | Redskins | W | Rickie Harris | Giants | 52 |
| 205 | 12 / 11 / 66 | 49ers | W | Kermit Alexander | Bears | 44 |
| 206 | 11 / 05 / 67 | Browns | W | Ben Davis | Steelers | 52 |
| 207 | 11 / 19 / 67 | Colts | W | Jerry Logan | Lions | 43 |
| 208 | 11 / 23 / 67 | Cowboys | W | Bob Hayes | Cardinals | 69 |
| 209 | 12 / 03 / 67 | Bears | W | Gale Sayers | 49ers | 58 |
| 210 | 12 / 03 / 67 | Broncos | W | Floyd Little | Jets | 72 |
| 211 | 09 / 15 / 68 | Chiefs | L | Noland Smith | Jets | 80 |
| 212 | 09 / 15 / 68 | Raiders | W | George Atkinson | Bills | 86 |
| 213 | 09 / 29 / 68 | Cardinals | W | Chuck Latourette | Saints | 86 |
| 214 | 10 / 06 / 68 | Eagles | L | Alvin Haymond | Redskins | 54 |
| 215 | 10 / 13 / 68 | Packers | L | Tom Brown | Rams | 52 |
| 216 | 10 / 13 / 68 | Raiders | L | George Atkinson | Chargers | 82 |
| 217 | 11 / 03 / 68 | Vikings | W | Charlie West | Redskins | 98 |
| 218 | 11 / 03 / 68 | Bills | L | Hagood Clarke | Jets | 82 |
| 219 | 11 / 10 / 68 | Steelers | T | Roy Jefferson | Cardinals | 80 |
| 220 | 11 / 17 / 68 | Chiefs | W | Goldie Sellers | Patriots | 76 |
| 221 | 11 / 17 / 68 | Broncos | L | Floyd Little | Titans | 67 |
| 222 | 11 / 24 / 68 | Chargers | L | Leslie Duncan | Jets | 95 |
| 223 | 12 / 08 / 68 | Cowboys | W | Bob Hayes | Steelers | 90 |
| 224 | 12 / 15 / 68 | Cowboys | W | Bob Hayes | Giants | 63 |
| 225 | 12 / 15 / 68 | Saints | W | Charlie Brown | Steelers | 53 |
| 226 | 09 / 28 / 69 | Lions | W | Lem Barney | Giants | 74 |
| 227 | 10 / 19 / 69 | Redskins | W | Rickie Harris | Giants | 86 |
| 228 | 11 / 02 / 69 | Packers | W | Travis Williams | Steelers | 83 |



LEROY KELLY



BOB HAYES

CLASSIFIEDS

1 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

1 Wanted: Photo copies of Canadian Football League game-day rosters during the 1950s – all teams. E-mail: MLemongello@optonline.net / Home address: 5 Brookline Avenue, East Hanover, NJ 07936.

2 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 idealseldon@aol.com

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

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.

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A Documentary of the 1951 University of San Francisco Dons Football Team (Hardcover - 184 pages) By: Kristine Setting Clark - (Griffin Publishing 2002). \$20.00

In 1951 the USF Dons went undefeated and untied. Yet, despite being among the best college teams, the squad was not invited to play in a bowl game. Why?

ST. CLAIR: I'LL TAKE IT RAW!

An exclusive, authorized biography on former San Francisco 49er, five-time Pro Bowler and Pro Football Hall of Fame member, Bob St. Clair (Booksurge.com - 2005 - 188 pages). Author, Kristine Setting Clark recounts the flamboyant lifestyle of one of the National Football League's most colorful players. (\$20.00 signed by Bob St.Clair)

GATHERING OF FOOTBALL RESEARCHERS

Where: Red Roof Inn, Monroeville, PA
When: June 21, 2008

If you are interested in attending, please R.S.V.P. to
Ken Crippen
(215) 421-6994
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