







### FOR THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

by Tweak Editor, Al Dunham

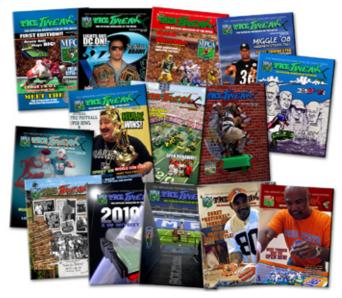
The '60's were a turbulent time. There were massive protests over Vietnam, civil rights, women's rights. It was the establishment versus the youth of America. It was during this time that John F. Kennedy made one of the most famous speeches ever made in politics, when he said "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country!" America had reached a crossroads. It was going through some major changes; there was going to be no looking back.

We, as the MFCA, have reached a crossroads of our own. This March marks the 4th birthday of our organization. It has been a grand ride indeed. There have been 3 conventions complete with tournaments and skills contests. The MFCA Hall of Fame was established in 2008. Our membership has increased from the initial 12 start up people to over 300! This includes members not only from the U.S. but from other countries as well. And, perhaps most importantly we have The Tweak, the only miniature football magazine that has ever been produced in the history of the hobby. Unfortunately though, time stands still for no one. Not in the '60's and not now. As Bob Dylan so eloquently put it, "For the times, they are a-changin'".

I'm not going to sugar coat it. The success of the MFCA has been the result of one man, Lynn 'Weirdwolf' Schmidt. He has likely put more time and effort into making the MFCA work than all of the rest of us combined! Everyone owes him a debt of gratitude. He has held our hands and carried us as far as he could, but, nothing lasts forever. The work he has put forth has not been done without it's wear and tear. He can't keep doing it all alone.

The MFCA is going to go through some changes this year. It will no longer be one person making the decisions. Lynn will be stepping back and will concentrate his efforts on our #1 marketing tool, the website and forum. The time has come for us to sink or swim...to stand on our own and continue to grow together, or individually fade away. After 4 years, it's about time for everyone to step up and take some responsibility. The continuation of the MFCA will depend on the efforts of everyone. United we will stand or divided we will fall or as JFK would have said, "Ask not what the MFCA can do for you, ask what you can do for the MFCA."

Now, for *The Tweak*. It has been no secret that *The Tweak* has teetered on the edge of a cliff as the staff has struggled to get out the last few issues. *The Tweak* faces rising costs and has struggled to gather articles from the membership.



The time involved on a personal level by me, David and Lynn has taken it toll and has reached the level of burnout. The Board of Directors has discussed the issue and rehashed it many times. A couple of solutions were brought to the membership which included going down to two issues per year or changing to an annual yearbook, but neither of these seemed to be the best option. In a last ditch effort, we e-mailed the membership with a "Save The Tweak" campaign.

We are now happy to report that the response was outstanding and the *Tweak* staff now has 12 new reporters who have vowed to produce no less than 4 articles per year. This response from the membership has bought *The Tweak* another year, but simply saying, "I will help" isn't enough and must be followed with true commitment and fulfillment of that promise. *The Tweak* is a special magazine and very few hobbies can boast that they have something its equal. We take pride in this magazine and hope to provide it for many years at the same level that we have become used to.

Al Dunham Tweak Editor

Come gather 'round people wherever you roam
And admit that the waters around you have grown
And accept it that soon you'll be drenched to the bone
If your time to you is worth savin'
Ahh you better start swimmin' or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'

Bob Dylan

### THE TWEAK

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MFCA

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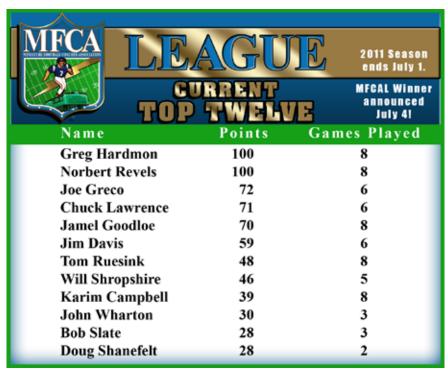
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# COMPENSION SOLLAR



THE ANNUAL MIGGLE CONVENTION IS MORE THAN JUST A HOBBY CONVENTION OR A NATIONAL CHAPMIONSHIP TOURNAMENT, IT IS THE LONGEST RUNNING ELECTRIC FOOTBALL EVENT OF ITS KIND, EACH YEAR IT BRINGS TOGETHER ELECTRIC FOOTBALL ENTHUSIASTS FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. OVER THE YEARS, THESE PEOPLE HAVE BECOME A FAMILY AND MIGGLE IS THE ANNUAL FAMILY REUNION!

THIS YEAR, THE MFCA HAD THREE COACHES FROM THREE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY GIVE US THEIR TAKE ON THE 2011 MIGGLE CONVENTION, CHRIS LEMAY, FROM TENNESSEE, COREY JOHNSON FROM PENNSYLVANIA AND VINCE PEATROS FROM CALIFORNIA.

# WHETHER TO WEATHER THE WEATHER

by Chris LeMay

When it was announced that the Miggle Convention was going to be held in Columbus, OH again this year, I knew that I had to try and make it to this one. I had not made it to the last 3 conventions, either due to family or work obligations, but mostly because they were being held in the North.

Now, you have to understand that being from the South, we don't do snow and cold weather very well. If there is even a hint of snow in the weather forecast, everyone runs to the grocery store for bread and milk. I don't understand how people think that they can survive on bread and milk, but I guess they figure if they have these 2 staples of life they can survive anything.

It also amazes me how the local weather forecasters can make even an inch of impending snow sound like a major "BLIZZARD!!!!!" is coming. We have had record snowfall this

The South brought up one of its biggest delegations ever and many of them sat together at the Miggle welcoming dinner put on free of charge by the Landsmans.





Chris Lemay in his Titans jersey takes on Joel Pritchard. The two Southerners joined the rest of the nation at the Miggle 2011 Convention.

year and one thing about living in the South, and Tennessee in particular, is that we can have 4 inches of snow and 19 degrees one day and sunshine and 50 degrees the next, and this year the week before the convention was no exception.

The snow from the previous week had finally melted, but the weather forecast for Thursday was calling for 1-2 inches of snow to begin around 3:00 pm and to continue through midnight. By the time I got off work, the snow had started to fall and I had to get to the airport to pick up my rental car. Apparently everyone had decided to leave work early and go to the store for their "bread and milk" because what should have been a 30 minute trip turned into 2 hours.

After watching the news all Thursday night and Friday morning and deciding to ignore all the warnings of "Don't get out unless you have to", I finally left for Columbus at 8:00 am. The roads were clear and I had no trouble getting to Columbus where



A hat on backwards usually means getting down to buisness, but the smile on Warren Jefferson tells how much fun the game is even in the heat of competition!

I met up with my Bluegrass EFL league mates, Gary "Tomkat" Tomko and Brian Fox.

One of the great things about attending the Miggle Convention is that you are able to renew friendships and meet new coaches. As you walk into the hotel, you start to see familiar faces from past conventions and to see, in person, faces that maybe you have seen in pictures on the forum. As you talk to people you start to associate them with their screen names and things that they have posted on the forum. The time before the Friday night dinner, just hanging out in the lobby and during the hotel's "Happy Hour", is the best time to do this.

The most surprising and somewhat "anxious" moment this year for me was finally meeting and talking to the "Kingpin", Vince Peatros. It is hard sometimes to really know or judge a person just from reading their posts on the forum, and after meeting Vince in person, I must say "not what I expected". We were able to talk at length and perhaps gain a better understanding of each other and, if I ever get out to California and the West Coast, I will definitely have to visit Vince and hopefully get a personal "tweaking" lesson from him.

The Friday night dinner was great as always, but then came the most important part of the evening. I did not intend to participate in the tournament, but how can you come to the Miggle Convention and not play in the tournament? I sat in on the "tweaking" workshops with Ken Allen, Jim Davis and Vince Peatros, and then went back to the room I was sharing with Gary and Brian and tried to get my team ready for the tournament.

Saturday morning finally came and I turned in my team for inspection. I then watched some of the Spark Bowl tournament games. It was great to see some of the future coaches of the hobby compete and, hopefully, they will be the ones to take our game and hobby to the next generation.

The conference pairings were finally announced and I was placed in the Big 12 along with Norbert Revels, Joel Pritchard, Warren Jefferson, Van, Bill and Damon (apologies to Van, Bill and Damon for not remembering your last names). I knew I wouldn't have a chance against Norbert and Joel but, just maybe, against the others I could at least win a couple of games. Needless to say, I went through 5 games winless, but then came the last game against Warren. When Warren and I found out we were in the same conference, we pretty much were in agreement that neither of us had really prepared our teams properly, we were going to get beat, were only playing because Mrs. Landsman "strongly suggested" that we play and wanted to get this over with as quickly and painlessly as possible.

Warren won the coin toss and went on defense first. This goes against my strategy because I always feel like in this type of tournament format it is best to give the opponent the ball first, hold them to as few yards as possible and then hopefully beat them by gaining more yards. In my possession I was able to complete a pass to my right side wide receiver who was able to turn up field and was headed for the end zone when (as is typical in electric football) my left side wide receiver came from all the way across the field and knocked him out of bounds at the 13 yard line. Fortunately I was able to hold Warren's team to less yardage and actually win my first ever Miggle Tournament game!

Charles Lane took on Ken Allen while Chris and many others watched late into the evening. Ken won to advance to the Final 4 and eventually the championship game.



After relishing in my victory for a while, Gary, Brian and I went out to eat at the Bob Evans close to the hotel. Now I know there are probably better places to eat in Columbus, but not being familiar with the area that was the best we could come up with. After getting back to the hotel, Gary and Brian spent the evening going to some of the rooms where other games were going on, but I wanted to watch some of the Final Eight Bowl Games. I think about 17 coaches from the South had braved the weather to come to Columbus and one of the top coaches of the South, Charles Lane, had made it to the "Great Eight" and was pitted against Ken Allen. I knew this would be a good game to watch. I had played Charles several times over the years in league and tournament play and he is also from Chattanooga, Tennessee. It was a hard fought game, and even Mr. Landsman {despite nodding off and continual pleas from Delayne to "go to bed, Michael") had to watch this game to the end. Of course, Ken won and made it to the Championship Game.

Probably the most interesting game was being played by Jim Davis and Geno Hendricks. I always heard that Jim doesn't pass but being down 6-0 at the 2 minute warning, Jim had to resort to the TTQB. Let me tell you Jim can pass and he almost pulled it out.

That was it for me for the evening and the convention. I had to leave early Sunday Morning to make it back to Tennessee for my Granddaughter's birthday. As much as I love electric football, I love my Granddaughter and family more. But it was great to be able to combine the two in one weekend.

Hopefully I will be able to make it again next year. It was great to see everybody and enjoy the fun and fellowship that this game and hobby provides. I know that by attending this convention that it is worth trying to do everything that I can to further promote the game and make it something to be enjoyed for many more years to come by more and more people.

# KINGPIN'S SURPRISE!

by Vince Peatros

CL

The first person I saw at the convention was Jim Davis. I walked up right next to him, but having come in from behind him he did not see me. When Jim turned, and looked up at me he said he thought was seeing a mirage. "It can't be!" he exclaimed, "Vince Peatros?!"

The waves of coaches filing into the hotel, many with their families and all packing prized belongings, was a sight to see.



Geno Hendricks, from Raymond, Kansas (pop. 95) made it to the Final 4 in a tremendous run defeating Jim Davis in a tightly fought contest that came down to the wire. Unfortunately, Geno was left to wonder what might have been as his plane had to leave early the next morning.



Vince Peatros (left) meets Michael Landsman (middle) and Corey Johnson at the 2011 Miggle Convention!





Soon to be 2011 Miggle champion, Jamel Goodloe takes on past Miggle champion, Norbert Revels while Mike Guttmann referees.

Just being there was amazing. What stood out to me though was what was really occurring at that moment; a great bunch of guys embracing each other as brothers of this beloved hobby. This was what I came for.

Later I found myself standing next to Chris Lemay. At that moment, however, neither of us knew who the other was, so I introduced myself. He

responded by saying, "I don't know if that's a good thing or not." Fast forward to Saturday, the two of us were watching a game together and started talking. In the midst of our conversation Chris paused, looked at me, and said, "You are not the person I thought you were. You're a good guy!" This was my first teary eyed moment of the weekend.

Another fun moment came when I met up with Karim Campbell. For over two years now I have been tweaking bases for Karim and teaching him how to tweak bases him self, but our work has always been done via the phone. Prior to the Miggle tournament I was supposed to send Karim some bases. I told him that I had shipped the bases to his home and that they would arrive before he left for Miggle. All the while I knew my intention was really to make the delivery in person. We met at the hotel and I personally gave him his tweaked bases. I wish you could have seen the look on his face.

Attending the Miggle was not something I had been considering until Mike and Delayne Landsman asked me to come as their special guest. I was so honored by the invitation; how



Karim Campbell contemplates his next play call in one of the many hard fought early games of the convention.



"WATCHING THE KIDS RUNNING PLAYS REMINDED ME HOW MUCH | ENVY THEM. | WISH | WAS THAT LITTLE KID PLAYING THIS BEAUTIFUL GAME AGAIN. | REMEMBER THAT LOOK IN MY EYE AT THAT AGE. TO ME THIS WAS THE MOST SPECIAL TIME OF THE TOURNAMENT, THE KIDS!" Vince Peatros

could I not accept? Meeting the Landsmans was my second teary eyed moment of the weekend. They are such classy individuals, and are the two individuals that saved our beloved hobby. They have been the true Miggle CHAMPIONS for the last 17 years!

It was such a special experience to finally be meeting many the guys that I had come to know online over the past 15 years or so. There are far too many to name individually so I'll make it simple. Everyone in attendance helped make the Miggle weekend a very special and emotional one for me.

Watching so many talented individuals from around the country play this game that I so love, and seeing all the fellowship amongst them highlighted the weekend for me. While just walking through the hotel I bumped into players on every floor. I saw hotel rooms with doors open to anyone and guys inside scrimmaging smoking cigars, and just hanging out together. Seeing National run his campaign headquarters with such style and grace, seeing old friends Joyce Thomas, Bill and Mark Klingbeil, and the grand-daddy of them all, Frank Johnson, was wonderful. I also met the new Miggle champion, Jamal Goodloe (Congratulations), and most of the previous Miggle Champions. Man, what a great class of people the Miggle brings together!

A large part of my time was spent simply observing all that was going on. I got to watch Ed Roche's daughter compete with the big boys. Later we went up to room 407 where I taught Ed some advanced tweaking skills. Ed really touched me with how much he really wants to play this game. His passion spoke volumes to me. When Ed finished tweaking his

first base it beat the base I had been working on! There is nothing more satisfying than to see a man hone in on his craft and watch it come to life.

I also observed Jim Davis winning best comedian of the tournament. He had me laughing from the moment the games began!

On the last day of the tournament Norbert Revels and I shared a special moment. Norbert just loves everyone and has such a kind heart. The words he expressed to me during a goodbye hug brought all my emotions to the surface. I again began to cry; teary eyed moment number 3. What he said is not as important as the effect his words had. HIS WORDS SET ME FREE. Thank you Norbert.

Being that I'm 48 now I tried to focus my attention on the future of the game, the kids in attendance. Watching the kids running plays reminded me of how much I envy them. I wish I was that little kid playing this beautiful game again. I remember very well how that look in their eyes felt to me at that age. To me this was the most special aspect of the weekend; watching the kids!

The saddest thing I saw all weekend...EVERYONE CHECKING OUT OF THE HOTEL ON SUNDAY!

Thank you to Corey for asking me to write about my special moments during the Miggle weekend. It was one of the single most important weekends of my adult life. I'm finally at peace with myself and my new friends in the electric football community. Teary eyed moment number 4!

VΡ



### THE FAMILY REUNION

by Corey Johnson

There have been many, many tournaments showcased throughout the years of miniature football. But the one, the grand daddy of them all, the one that is referred to as a family reunion, is the Miggle Convention. It is like the auto show, circus, and Harlem Globetrotters all coming under one roof! And if your city is lucky enough to have Michael and Delayne Landsman bring this spectacular event, well, just consider yourself blessed. The city of Columbus, Ohio must have been built on a clover field. Not once, but two years in a row, they have been fortunate enough to have the Miggle Convention in their backyard. Embassy Suites was again the hotel of choice, and for good reason. Free made to cook breakfast, and free

Most coaches usually get into the hotel on Friday though, with the convention kicking off on Friday evening with the 5-7pm happy hour. That goes right into the traditional (Free) dinner. It seems like every year the food is getting better (or coaches are really hungry) as no one ever complains about the food.

Once the dinner is over it's every man for himself, an all out assault on the metal gridiron. Break out your candle warmers and tweak pliers. Some head to the big game room to tryout the tourney Rose Bowl boards, some head back to the rooms. With any tourney, the doors to the rooms are always propped open, that's your official welcome. No room gets more traffic than the legendary room 409, the official Mid Ohio league headquarters.

Hosted by the unofficial league commissioner Frank Jacobs,



The convention brings people together from East, North, South and West. (From the left) Brian Hightower, Dewayne Jennings, Kelvin Lomax, Ed Scott, Keith Kroehle, (right photo) Tony Coggins, Joe Ramaglia, Allen Ridgill, Charles Lane and Joel Pritchard.

happy hour. The open atrium surrounded with balconies give it that sort of stadium feel. You can walk out of your room and look out to see the whole hotel. The Miggle conventions were always the best, but ever since they went with Embassy Suites chain of hotels, it has been special. Being that the tourney was in the same location a year earlier, most coaches felt even more comfortable with their surroundings. The turnout was huge, even surpassing last years numbers, how can the Landsman's think of not carrying on this tradition? It still remains the only free tournament that is available to the hobby.

Some coaches like MFCA HOF'er Mike Turner, got in a day early on Thursday. Jim "Hulk" Davis still remains the only coach to be present at every Miggle Convention. He also arrived on Thursday. It is amazing how the time flies by, Jimmy's daughters are growing up so fast, his oldest lil lady, Sheyanne, worked the Miggle reception table. She's now in high school and runs track. She wasn't even born when the first convention was held! Mike Guttmann, Miggle's chatboard admin was there early as well. Guttmann is making a name for himself as he is able to run Miggle, Buzzball, the MFCA and still find time to play games in those tourneys if he so chooses.

Mike Guttmann announces the pairings as one of his many jobs running the convention tournament proceedings.







he makes sure coaches get in their games during this weekend. He doesn't care if you're hungry or just got off work, just play! Written and directed by John Martin, he makes sure everyone has a cigar in their mouth and a beer in the hand. 3 big coolers full of beverages and a humidor full of Cuba's finest. Homemade salsa, dip and cheese balls are just a few of the things he packs. That's a good thing, because starring in this production is no other than Mr. National, and he took up all the drawers, the closet and filled the bathroom with more toiletries than a Hollywood diva. Just about every coach in attendance stopped in at one time or another. The classiest man in the hobby, Mr Dewayne "DJ" Jennings, let the big 3 know that he had a special package coming this weekend. Smoke-Stack and Hoop were regulars all weekend that completed the starting 5.

This weekend had many so many twist and turns, stories and subplots, but they all paled in comparison to "The News". It first started like, that guy is here. What guy? The guy from the west coast, he has the strongest bases. They say he's the best tweaker. Who? Didn't he score 80pts in a league game. Peatros....yeah him, he's in the lobby! The crazy thing from an east coast standpoint is that more people will say they have seen aliens before they say they have seen Vince Peatros. Like Bigfoot and the Loch Ness monster, you only hear folk tales. Mr. National went out to the Open Run a couple of years back and wasn't asked about the weather, the sites, or if he saw any Hollywood stars, he wasn't even asked about the tournament. The number one question was, "Was Vince there? Does

he have tweaking pliers for fingers? Is his head the shape of a base? Did he hit passes with his eyes closed? Can he make the board run without electricity?"

The man who is slowly defeating his fear of flying...one flight at a time, was at a Miggle convention and he didn't let a soul know about it. The looks on coaches faces as he introduced himself was priceless. All weekend he made his rounds and shared his knowledge of tweaking. Saturday morning you saw a lot of tired looking coaches standing in line for breakfast. The tourney was about to start up. The Miggle store was open. Vendors were at their tables. Ronnie (46defense) Bradley showcased his teams. Warren Jefferson had a little of everything. But the show stopper were the extremely detailed

cheerleaders done by Chris Robinson. Pictures can not do them justice. These pieces could turn into a must have for your field accessories.

The MFCA set up was a site to behold. Don (detroitchild) Lang passed out promo



cards and answered questions as he held down the fort. The day went so fast that it was hard to remember everything you did. There were several great match ups in the conferences. As coaches lost, teams and bases went up for sale! Coaches from the Great Lakes and the Deep South just kept on winning as the format changed from 4 plays to full games.

Guttmann and AJ were thrust into action. The small town hero story was being played out by a real small town hero. Geno (G-force) Hendricks was showing everyone that he can play ball with the best of them. As the tourney was winding down for the night, it was Happy Hour time, and a chance to kick back. Plans were being made on what to do later that night, where's National,, he will know what's going on. You want to know? Well, you should have been there. What happens in Columbus stays in Columbus!

Sunday is the final four and check out day. Everyone is making their last ditch sales pitch offers. Buying Miggle products before the store closes. Loading up the shuttle van for a ride to the airport or packing your car for the trip back home. This particular Sunday was also Championship day in the NFL, so there was no shortage of things going on. Once again the

day starts with a lot of tired faces in the breakfast line. The omelet's were especially good this weekend and seemed to be choice of many that ordered.

Back in room 409, more Mid Ohio league games were played, and the guys were down to just one cooler. Jump back to the Miggle tourney, David Redmond has just sung the National Anthem and the game is under way. There's Frank Johnson, but where's Ken Allen? Oh, he's in the championship game! Don Lang filled in and did a fantastic job as a commentator. Jamel (Swagz) Goodloe was the opponent and they put on a great game for all that were there, and the viewers that watched from their laptops via Steven Martins ustream footage. He grabbed Michael Landsman for a quick interview, he got the face of the Miggle tourney, Ron Bell, and the face of the hobby for a halftime interview. Flashbulbs were popping all game and all weekend. Don Lang snapped a good one.... titled "The Icon, The Savior and the F.O.T.H." Can you tell me who was in this picture? A nervous J-Swagz pulls out the victory and adds another Great Lakes coaches name to the list of Miggle Champions. Are they the greatest? Let the debate begin!

Aaron Johnson, "A.J." served as referee through many of the adult and youth division games. He an Mike Guttmann have both played instrumental roles in the past, present and sure to be, future Miggle Tournaments.





Above: The kids "Spark Bowl" has been a Miggle event almost from the beginning. All kids come out a winner with medals and great prizes! These kids will be the future champions and will share the memories of playing miniature football with their children, just like we have with them.

Right: Edgar Downs shows off his "Tournament MVP" trophy.

Bottom left: Delayne Landsman awards Joe Greco, the "Good Vibrations" award, which is given each year for outstanding contributions to the hobby. Joe plays in numerous leagues and exemplifies good sportsmanship and fellowship wherever he plays.



By the time Happy Hour arrives, most of the convention has checked out. Because it is such a small crowd the scene shifts into the bar where Frank Jacobs, Peatros, Mike Turner and National are sitting and talking. Vince (Kinpin) Peatros has a late flight and exits the hotel, Frank and National chase down 1 long island iced tea after another while watching the Jets vs Steelers game. They stumble back to room 409 and crash..... National wakes up to a spinning bedroom, cotton mouth and wondering how he got from the couch to the bed. Frank Jacobs wakes up to more N.O. Xplode. John Martin is still snoring away and doesn't want to have breakfast. Frank says "National, you alright? I think you had too many ice teas last night." National answers, "You think!?"

The chime of the elevators sounds like a thud on his ears. No tired looking faces in line for breakfast. The Miggle room is not the Miggle room, some company is in there having a presentation. Then it hits you... it's all over. Mike Turner had an early flight, he's already gone. Frank is now telling National that he was playing their Mid Ohio game. "Naw Frank, you must have been drunk, I passed out on the couch" says



National. "Seriously, you were playing a few plays, then you went on the couch because you were laughing and almost fell. Then you got up and staggered into the bedroom. Mike Turner came in the room last night, don't you remember?" " Stop lying Frank! Ask John when we get back in the room." So they head back, National walking like a 10 month old baby. John confirms the story of a staggering, drunken National trying to play miniature football. "Frank wasn't much better, you guys were doing "In Living Color" skits and laughing at each other. What were you guys drinking?" John asks. Frank says he had 2 ice teas, but National had 3 cranberry & vodka, 3 ice teas and had some beers before we went down there! "No wonder you don't remember anything, I'm surprised you are moving around" says John as he's shaking his head. The big 3 finish cleaning up room 409 and head downstairs. Will Travers, Adrian Baxter and Anthony Hough are waiting for the shuttle as well. Now it's really over, the last of the Miggle group are checked out and heading back home.



"In Living Color" skit-meisters, John Martin, Corey Johnson and Frank Jacobs are tournament regulars and where ever they are, the party generally follows.

### Best Moments of the Weekend!

The whole weekend, but in particular, Vince Peatros showing up.

The OT thriller between Zack Greco and Ryan Roche.

The Mid Ohio game between Corey National Johnson and Bruce "Megawattz" Watts.

The Ustream broadcast of Vince and Kenny's tweak session. Big props to Steven Martin.

### Thumbs Up!

To Chris Robinson. Thanks for making those cheerleaders.

To Joe Greco for winning the Good Vibrations award.

To AJ and Guttmann. Mike is making running a convention look too easy.

### Did you notice?

Corey selling the super bowl blocks.

That room 409 was sandwiched between Bruce Watts room and the Geno/JoeRam's room. Talk about a hot spot.

How well John's Redskin board ran after Joe Allore mounted his motor to it.

That awesome Raiders field and team of Jeff Priest.

The Miggle title game was broadcast over the internet for the first time ever.

igcap Hoop checked out of his first room because it had a bad view.

### They Said It.

Don Lang - "Another boneheaded penalty by Ken Allen!"

Corey Johnson - "Bruce, you over customized your player."

Jamel Goodloe - "White dials are frowned upon, in this establishment."

Ken Allen - "My teams play with such physicality..... Ssshaaa!"

John Martin — "Why do they call it n.o. xplode, after you take it, you are exploding right away."

Delayne Landsman - "Corey I like your style!"





### Worst Moments

- When we realized the Miggle tourney was running late and took up all the time for free play in the big room.
- When Electric Gridiron products sold out of the new cover corner.
- When Sunday came and everybody started checking out.
- When Geno couldn't change his flight and had to forfeit his final 4 game.
- When Ed "Roo" Morgans showed up with the new bases on his team, but they weren't allowed!

### Thumbs Down!

- Raiderman for making his son cry. He wasn't where he was supposed to be and RM let the whole hotel know about it... what a voice!
- For not having a Green Room Rumble.
- To Matt Culp, RayF and Weirdwolf for not making it
- To Frank Jacobs, taking all that N.O. Xplode, then having the bathroom on lockdown 5mins afterwards.
- At Andrew Stewart for taking bases out of room 409.

INTENSITY, RIVALRY, FELLOWHIP, SPORTSMANSHIP, FUN!!

Missle IT'S FOOTBALL ALL YEAR!

Missle





When Dad told us that Miggle was having their convention in January at a hotel in Columbus, Ohio, my brother Eli and I quickly informed him that he would not be going alone this time.

We only had two months to get ready for our first tournament. We had to order figures, bases and supplies. Next we had to decide on a team. Evidently I didn't get the memo that I had NO CHOICE on what team I could use! I'm allowed to make my own decisions on things like that right? Not when you live with the Raiderman. You use the Raiders that he's painting for you or you stay home. Those are your choices!

So, Dad painted teams for Eli and me and got them based up. His friend George came over and tweaked the bases. for our linemen. He did a real good job because our lines held up against some pretty strong bases that the other kids had on their team.

For a month, I worked on learning how to play this game. Dad called some guy he calls "GUTTMAN" a bunch of times to ask him about rules and make sure I was learning them right. I was in mini camp for a month with intense training from my dad. Sometimes I think he's



sniffed a little too much burnt plastic,... if you know what I mean.

By mid January I knew where my players needed to go, what to look for on offense and defense and, most importantly, how to pass. Dad played me tough each time we practiced. I never beat him. I thought I wasn't playing good but he assured me I was. Little did I know he was getting me ready. By the time I was ready to leave for my first tournament I was coaching a 26 man team and I knew what every player did. I wasn't sure how good I would do but I was going to try hard.

We arrived at the hotel and what a place! It looked like a palace! That huge room in the middle and those glass elevators! Dad was done coming to these events by himself. This would be my first of many trips with him. We got to our room that we shared with dad's friend AJ and his two kids, Amaya and Aric. We set up a board and started running plays. Dad and AJ talked like they knew each other for years. AJ said he remembered me when I was a baby. He said dad would hold me in one hand and teach people how to pass with the other. I must have been paying attention because I really like to pass the ball.

Saturday morning came and I was so excited. My first tournament. There were ten of us that played in the Junior Spark Tournament. My first game was against Aric. I played good on offense and I scored a touchdown. On defense I played good until my final play and Aric almost scored a touchdown but his player ran out of bounds. My next game was against my brother Eli. He won his first game and now I had to play him.

He scored a touchdown on his first play. After that my defense tightened up. I had a player out of position on defense on that first play and it cost me. Now I had my work cut out for me. On my third play I scored a touchdown to tie the game. I had to beat Eli in overtime on yards to win that one. That win sent me to the Junior Spark Bowl Championship!

They told me the game would be later that day. The boy who won the other side of the bracket was named Marcall. He was a funny boy. He told me not to feel bad when I lose to him later because his defense is really good. I guess he was just looking out for me.

The time came that we could finally play our game! This game was a little different because we each had two possessions of four plays. Marcall won the coin toss and he wanted the ball. In four plays he had negative yards. Maybe I should have told him that my defense was pretty good too. I didn't know, this was my first tournament; do you let people know about these things? (Why is my dad chewing on his finger nails?). My first play I ran it for two yards. Time to pass. Running is so boring. My next play I passed to my running back who went 48 yards and scored a touchdown. I would begin with the next possession and I passed again. This time to my running back again who didn't score but he got inside the 20 yard line. My next pass was a touchdown to my tight end. Dad said I was 3 for 3 for 98 yards and (2) touchdowns. I think that's good. Marcall did his final possession and he played a little better. On the final play he scored a touchdown run. I won 14-7.

The Landsman's gave me my trophy. I was so happy! They were really nice to me all weekend. They told me I was the Junior Spark Bowl Champion. I like that!





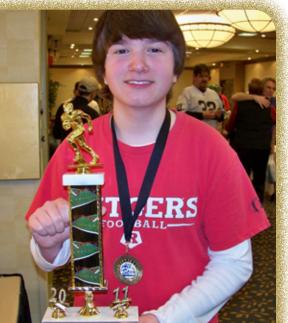
while back, I saw "Clash of the Titans" at my local movie house. Fun movie, good special effects, decent story. What I didn't know at the time was that I would see the real Clash of the Titans in Columbus, Ohio on a cold winter's night at the Miggle Electric Football Convention between Zack Greco and Ryan Roche.

That night I saw one of the grittiest, gutsiest and intense competitions between two players of any game of any kind that I have ever observed. It was something to see.

Two very evenly-matched competitors slugging it out like a couple of determined prize-fighters at the top of their games. Ali vs. Frazier had nothing on Greco vs. Roche.

The offenses started slow with both players testing the other's defense for weaknesses. The score was 0-0 at the half, with lots of incompletes thrown and most running plays stopped at the line of scrimmage. Then, in the 2nd half, things started to give. Zack Greco scored a touchdown and it looked like he might win 7-0. But just before time ran out,

Ryan Roche tied it up. And that's when overtime started.



The game is a bit of a blur from here. I had just played for hours that day myself and when Mike Gutmann asked me to keep score and referee their game, I figured it wouldn't take too long. Little did I know that there would be three overtimes that lasted till 12:30 Saturday night and two more overtimes the next morning. I had no idea the outstanding game I was in for. Thanks, Mike, for the experience of a lifetime!





When the two got into overtime, their offenses kicked into high gear. Zack would score a touchdown; Ryan would score a field goal; Zack would score a field goal. There were brilliant fourth down plays, incredible passes completed and several close calls with field goals barely made. All this occurred under the watchful eyes of both boys' fathers (veteran MFer's themselves), Joe Greco and Ed Roche (both of which appeared more nervous about the game than the actual players). They tried not to hover, and wandered around the room checking in every so often to inquire about the score. When the dust settled, a 7 to 7 score after regulation had become 27 to 27 after 5 overtimes! Two touchdowns and two field goals were scored by each player, with one overtime segment yielding no score by either player.

The game was finally called on Sunday because Ryan had to catch a flight that day. He literally tied the score for the 5th time, while his father, Ed, had a cab waiting outside to take them to the airport. It was the end of an incredible game. I felt privileged to witness it and was glad I didn't have to play either boy the day before in the tournament. My record would probably have been a little lower. Zach and Ryan, thanks for the great experience. Hope to see you both next year for the rematch (I'll bring my recliner and some popcorn!).



tournament. I missed this opportunity two years ago, the last time I played, by one game, losing to Jim Davis, the eventual winner of the championship game. My strategy was to take the strong side of the field in the second half. Therefore, winning the coin toss was huge for me right out of the gates. I won the toss against Norbert Revels and Edger Downs, two great previous champions, so lady luck was on my side again against Kenny in the championship game. I called heads and the referee called out, "Heads it is". I had won the toss. Kenny elected to receive, and I took the weak side of the board.

My strategy was to play strong defense and not lose the game. The first drive by Kenny was, to me, the game breaker. I saw all that he had on the first series and told myself if I can figure out the slides on his receivers and get a good feel for his line strength, I would be okay. I barely held Kenny to a four and out and I do mean barely. Ken had a any Miggle game.

Traditionally Great Lakes Electric Football League (GLEFL) coaches build a team the week before Miggle or the Friday night before. Every year I do it the Friday night after dinner with the free team and bases. This year I built a defensive and offensive line the weekend before, and then built the rest of the team Friday after the Miggle din-

Kenny had a bunch of weapons. He had about 7 receivers that were strong, fast and tough to cover. This showed on the first couple of series. He missed his first two passes; both could have easily gone for big gains. I dodged a bullet on that first series. Ken then punted. My first series was a run for minus 4, a run for plus 4 and then a pass attempt which ended with an interception for Ken, but it would be my first and only turnover of the game. Ken picked off the pass attempt deep on my own 48 yard line.

by Jamel Goodloe

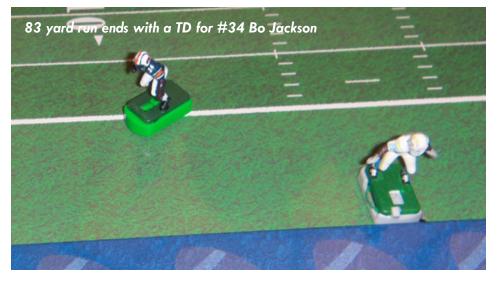


was bringing the house from the outsides and noticed he moved both of his inside linebackers out to double stack against the tight ends to free up his loopers. I switched up my personnel and put 4 wide with a single back angled out. On my motions, I angled my slot guy to chip his left looper and angled my single back to attack the guard. Ken made his adjustments and on third and 30 I called a run off the left guard. My guard picked up the defensive lineman and #34 Jackson took it 83 yards to the house to tie the game with just under two minutes until half.

This was huge for me because I knew I was getting the strong side of the board and the ball to start the second half. I held Ken to 3 plays and we had a 7-7 halftime tie. I was feeling very confident because my team held up great on the

Two plays later he hit #85 Antonio Gates for a nice short pass which turned into a 39 yard gain for the first score of the game.

My next possession ended with a big run for 15 yards by #34 Bo Jackson, and then a quick three and out with me being conservative trying to time his two outside loopers who were the strength of his defense. Ken received the ball on his 40 and again took to the air. By this time I had figured out the movement of three of his receivers, but there was one (his #80 Winslow) who could slide open, but again Ken missed the pass. We both went back and forth for our next two possessions with 3 and outs. Ken punted to me and I had the ball with about 3 minutes left before the half. I had to get a score. This would give me the edge at the half if I could tie the game and then move to the strong side of the board. I got the ball on my own 47. I went for a pass on first down, but the play ended with a sack by one of those loopers (minus 10). On second down I went for another pass play which again resulted in a sack by the other looper this time (another minus 10). I now had the ball third and long from my own 27. I saw Ken





weaker side of the board, I figured out the slide movement on Ken's boards and I knew if I could get the lead my defense would hold.

Here we go, third quarter and Ken was kicking off to me. I decided to change my return guy from the proline based tail back to the Miggle rookie receiver #18. He was faster on the slower Miggle board. Sure enough the kick off came, I had a few inside blockers and 3 seconds later I took the lead with a 100 yard return by #18. I then kicked off to Ken and he quickly reminded me how dangerous his team is with a 52 yard return. We held him to a 3 and out as my defense stepped up.

Ken was unable to get his receivers open like he did in the first half. I had a little of my strength now, playing on the strong side of the board. We traded two series each, this time the pressure of the game was starting to show as Ken received three penalties, one for off sides and two penalties for 12 men on the field. I took possession of the ball with 4 minutes to play. My goal was to run out the clock. The first play was

an attempted sweep to the left. Those darn loopers. The left looper held up the play by taking out my lead blocker and then the right looper came from the other side of the field for the tackle and 0 gain on the play. My next play was a penalty for being off sides. That was followed up with a sack by Ken. He now had the ball back with 3 minutes left in regulation.

His first play was a run for minus 8. Next was a run for minus 9, followed by yet another run for minus 3; that made it 4th and about 30. Ken went for it hitting a pass for 29 yards. With just a minute and 46 seconds left to go in regulation, and Ken having no time outs I was thinking, "Damn, I just beat Joe Greco, Norbert Revels, Edger Downs and now Ken Allen in four straight games to earn my first Miggle!" That wasn't a bad run, not bad at all.

Throughout the game it felt great to have my Great Lakes family looking on. When you're in a big game it helps to see some familiar faces to calm the nerves. I also got a few chuckles watching my wife of ten years put her head



down or turn away because she didn't want to jinx me. That was too funny. It was a great game if you like tough defense. It's hard to beat coaches that know your style but it felt great to leave with the bling. Sweeeet!

JG



by Corey Johnson

### 64 GREATEST COACHES OF THE FIRST 64 YEARS OF MINIATURE FOOTBALL

Over the many years of Electric Football there have been some great coaches. With so many rule sets, weight limits and equipment specs, then throw in all the different leagues and tournaments, we had an huge challenge ahead of us. Our objective was to give you a list of the best of the best in our sport/hobby. A who's who of the MFCA were recruited to our expert panel of judges for this task. Every aspect of coaching was taken into consideration for entry to this list. Mastering one style of play is good, but winning under various rule sets is better. Do not get it twisted, this was no popularity contest. With the panel being chosen from all 7 regions of the MFCA the chance of favoritism being a factor was an non-issue.

In order to make the list, each coach has to have played in several tournaments and been held in high regard across the country. But at the same time, it would take more than that to seed high on the final list. Each judge

submitted his own top 20 list, so even if we got a homer list it would not affect the overall rankings. Our panel did not forget about our old school coaches that may be out of the game but dominated during their era.

In 1947 Tudor games created electric football, it was an immediate hit. More than 40 million of the games have been sold since it's creation. Here are the greatest 64 coaches of the first 64 years of electric football.



By the Numbers...

24

The number of coaches chosen to be on the voting panel

103

The total number of names entered by the panel.

35

Days it took to get all the info analyzed, added and sorted for the final list.

4

Different ways list were submitted. Text, PM's, Email and Phone calls.

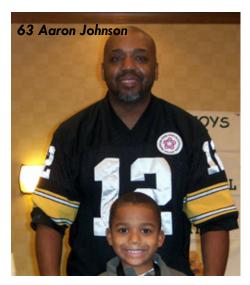


# Eric Robinson

One half of the Open Run duo, this coach can do more than host a tourney. A 2-time LAEFL runner up and Open Run final 4 participant in 2008, Eric also won the 05 Duel In The Desert. Has promoted the sport of EF/MF on TV in front of millions of viewers. Eric was instrumental in getting the Nissan: Shift Passion Miniature Football ad, cast and produced. Along with his partner David, Eric could be in the next duo for MFCA Hall of Fame induction.

# Agron Johnson

Mostly known as an ambassador of the hobby. He did make the Mid Ohio title game in '08, and won the COEFL in '99.



# Charles "Abby" Vaughn

Charles advanced to the title game at Miggle's South Bend convention and has many wins in the Harrisburg Leagues as well. Abby made the playoffs in his only season in the NEFL in '01.

### **Geno Hendricks**

The Melee's first champion. Two time TAEFL Champ. Two time Mid Kansas MKMFL Champ. '06 Shootout Elite 8. Over all record of 73-13. Geno is also the creator of the TDQB and TDK.

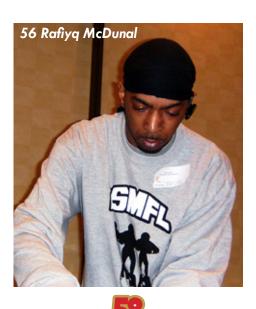


# Damon Lucas

"ForU2Hate" is an accomplished figure maker, but at night he brings out the game. Damon was the Detroit City runner up in '05, GLEFL AFC West champion in '09, and Beltsville College Tourney runner up in '10.



Brian is a perennial playoff coach in the NEFL and was runner up in SB X in '08. Later that year he went undefeated in the BAM to take the first BAM league title. Brian made it to the final 4 in his only season in the BEFL.



### Chet Haptonstal

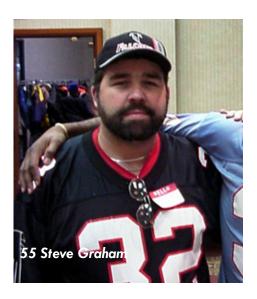
Chet won the first LAEFL title "The Show 1" and is also co-founder of the league. Many star coaches in the hobby owe their knowledge and skills to this great ambassador and all around great person.

# Paul Daniels

Paul is one of the Philly EF legends and has won the NEFL title. He won the Miggle tourney the year it was held in Phillidelphia and was runner up in the PEFL.

# Rafiya Medunal

Rafiyq is new on the scene but that hasn't stopped him from making the





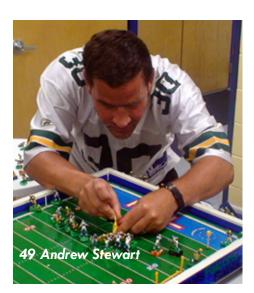
playoffs all 3 of his seasons in the DSMFL. He was runner up in the 2010 DSMFL College League.

# Steve Graham

During the late '90's & early 2000's, Steve regularly placed high in the Miggle tourneys. He is also the cofounder of the Bama Blast tourney and Oxford Football League.

# Darrian Ross

Darrian won back to back BMEFA titles by taking Super Bowls IV & V. He defeated Adrian Baxter on his way to winning his first championship.





### Jimbo Dunagan

# Kevin Boddie

Kevin adapts to any style, but has been most successful in the Shootout rule set. He won the BAM title in '09 beating coaches ranked over him along the way and made the playoffs every season he played in the MPFL.

# Pat Casey

Was the first coach to go undefeated in the Great Lakes. He entered two

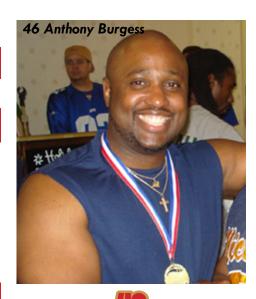


tournaments and was runner-up the first year and champion the next in AJ's college tournament.

### Dave Nichols

### Andrew Stewart

Andrew defines intensity! He is one of the best passers in the country and exploded on the scene at the Miggle Detroit convention making it to the final 4. He is always a threat to win it all at Miggle and the NEFL.



# Dave Campbell

Dave won back to back LAEFL titles in 94 & 95 and made the final 4 in 96. Most know him for being the other half of the Dave & Eric's Open Run tourney.

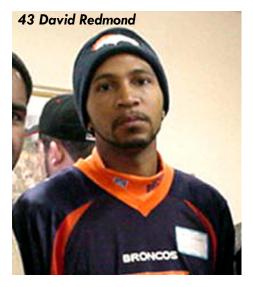
# George Diamond

George is a MFCA Hall of Famer for his contributions to the hobby. Most do not realize he plays at a very high level and has come either in 1st or 2nd in the Harrisburg College and Pro Leagues.

# Anthony Burgess

The inventor of the MPFL system, Anthony has been the only coach to hoist the trophy. Coach Burgess has been





around the EF scene for many years and he used all that knowledge in coming up with a great way to play electric football.

# Perry Burke

The star of the Nissan commercial, Perry won the LAEFL title, "The Show" in '07 and was in the final 4 in '05. He won the Open Run in '09 and those who saw it said it was the best game they ever watched!

# Jamel Goodloe

Jamel is a 3-Time Detroit City Champ 03-05, with an over all record of 47-3. His over all record in GLEFL play is 95-33. Jamel made the final 4 in his only Buzzball tourney. His over all record in 3 Miggle Tourneys is 15-2-2.

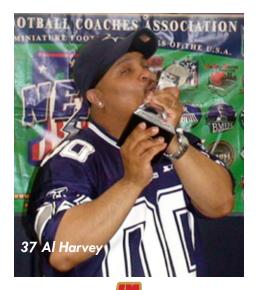


# David Redmond

A former Miggle runner up, he is a true veteran in the hobby who has won titles in the old GAEFL. Dave has played in every type of weight class and always succeeds.

# **Eric Thompson**

Eric won the GLEFL title in 04. The game was played during the Miggle convention in Chicago. He moved to the west coast and had success in the LAFEL. Eric is presently working on a new league in the Vegas area.



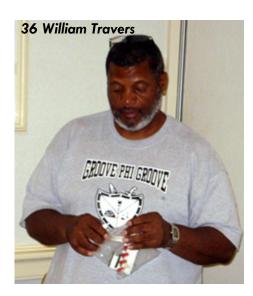
Vance Warren

### Robert Jackson

Robert has won the LAEFL title 2 times, going 15-0 in one of those seasons; the only undefeated season in league history! Robert was runner up in another season and has 5 straight years of leading the league in passing.

### Robert Chalmers

Robert won the Beltsville Bash in 2010 and was runner up in the SWB III. He



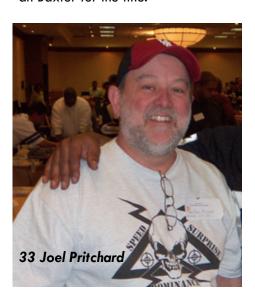
beat the two time defending champ, "The Kid" to get there. He made the playoffs in his first NEFL season. BEFL final 4 in '09.

### Frank Jacobs

One of Mid Ohio's finest, Frank was runner up in 07 & 08. He is the defending back to back champion winning the title in 09 & 10. That's four straight Super Bowl appearances. He is also one of the best custom figure makers around.

# Al Harvey

One of the most underrated coaches in the sport. '04,'06,'08 & '09 PEFL Champion. Al was runner up in '07. NEFL 2010 champion defeating Adrian Baxter for the title.





# William Travers

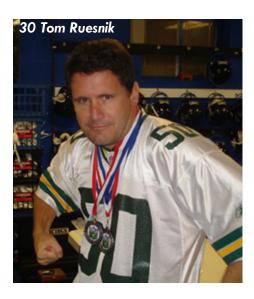
# Don Hudson

Don is arguably the best passer in the country. He has won the DFW title 2 times. Hasn't made the rounds in the MF circuit but when he does, watch out.

# ध

### D.C. Smith

The Kid as D.C. is known in the EF world showed everyone at the SWB what the Tidewater area already knew; he got game. D.C. won the 1st two Sea Wall Brawl belts by defeating some of the best coaches in the country.



# Joel Pritchard

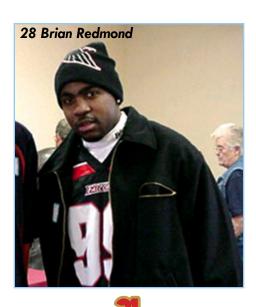
2010 was a banner year! Joel was Bama Blast college runner up, DSMFL NFC runner up, Dixie league final 4 and Miggle Breakthrough Coach. In '09 he was the Bama Blast 3.3 Champ and Elite 8 in Dixie & DSMFL.

# Frank Johnson

Frank has been Miggle C.O.T.Y. 4 times. He is one of the founding fathers and authors of Miggle tournament rules and format. He has final 4 finishes at Miggle, Buzzball and the SWB. In the late 90's Frank won



the Columbus College Tourney and was runner up at the Texas Shootout. He has won division titles in the DFW & GLEFL.. A 2-time MWEFL champ, Frank has also appeared on WGN TV Chicago, CBS News Seattle and The Ben Loves Chicago TV show. As a frequent contributor to the old Miggle forum he tackled controversial topics, and posted EF songs. Frank was perhaps the first coach ever to travel by plane to play in an out-of-town league. He is also one of the pioneers of the strategy divider rules. He is the long time voice of the Miggle Super Bowl, has also done play by play for the TX-SO and serves as bracket consultant for many tournaments including the Green Room Rumble.



### Mare Thompson

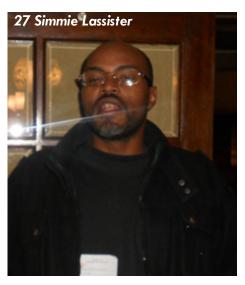
Marc could be the most decorated coach in NEFL history with 4 Super Bowl appearances, winning 3 titles. Nobody had more wins during his era ('98-'03) He also is the original inventor of the field cover concept.





# Brian Redmond

Brian has taken his game to another level the past 3yrs. He has been the





'07 and '09 Dixie League Champion. The '09 DSMFL runner up and the 2010 DSMFL College Champion.

### Simmie Lassister

"Tookie" is the only back to back champion in GLEFL history and the only coach to appear in 3 straight Great Lakes super bowls. He is a Buzzball & SWB runner up. 1 CBSMF and 2 Miggle final 4's.

### Charles Lane

Charles was the 2008 Dixie League Champ and runner up in 2009 and 2010. He is the back to back DSMFL Champion winning it all in 2009 & 2010.



# Marcelo Troilo

Marcelo has been to the "Show" 3 times, winning the title once. He has been runner up in both Open Run tourneys he has attended. 2 PAC-10 championships in the CBSMF & 1 final 4 showing in '10. Overall Record 123-35

# Butch Carter

Butch, Miggle's '09 Breakthrough Coach was the Bama Blast 4.0 Champ the same year. He followed up that year by winning the Dixie, Palmetto and Miggle titles. Yes, 2010 was a great year.



# Ken Allen

Ken has never had a losing season. Ever. 37-2 first two years in GLEFL and has appeared in 3 Super Bowls winning 1. He has been to the semifinal at Miggle, quarterfinals twice, semis at Al's College Tourney, won the DCEFL college championship over Norbert and 2010 MFCAL runner up.



2000 CPEFL Champion, 2001 I-78 EFL Champion, 2001 CBA Championship - lost to Paul "Raiderman" Bar-

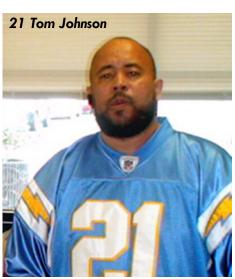


tels, 2002 HPBL Playoffs - lost in final four to George Diamond, 2003 HPBL Playoffs - lost in the final four to Larry Stoner, 2005 NHFL Playoffs - lost in the playoffs, 2006 NHFL Championship game - lost to Keith Chalmers, 2008 NHFL Playoffs - lost first round to Dave Bartels, 2009 NHFL Championship Game - lost to Mike Guttmann, 2010 NHFL Championship game- lost to Paul Bartels.



Next issue, look for the top 20 greatest coaches from the first 64 years of miniature football.

CJ







by Derrick Gross aka "Drk"

Electric Football is by no means new to me, but the modern version of the game with all its custom players, big boards, tournaments, conventions, leagues, solitaire play, and of course the Miniature Football Coaches Association (MFCA) sure is.

Growing up I was crazy about football. I got my Tudor 500 Super Bowl game (Cowboys/Steelers) when I was around eight years old. I played with that game for hours on end, long into my teenage years. As it does for many in those late teen years though, life started to happen fast, and electric football faded into a childhood memory.

Fast forward fifteen or twenty years; my wife and I purchased an Excalibur game for our oldest son, Conor, as a Christmas present. We played it a number of times but soon it was back in the box and placed down the basement with my old Tudor board. The door to the modern world of MF had been opened though.

Fast forward a couple more years; my youngest son, Owen, drug out Conor's Excalibur game. He liked it, and kept playing. We played together a few times. I showed him how to line the players up and run plays. Owen kept that game set up in the living room for weeks. So, one day I decided to

show him my old Tudor game. He was hooked!

In light of Owen's new interest we did a web search and found the MFCA site. I was hooked! Now, thanks to my sons and the MFCA, electric football has entered back into my life in a huge way; for good!

Like you, I've read the posts about the great need for Tweak articles, but being so new to the hobby and having more questions than things to offer, I never even consider contributing. Then I PMed RavennaAl with a question. In his response he asked if I would consider writing a few paragraphs about my MF experiences for the Tweak. I figured what the heck. It is an honor to be able to contribute to such a wonderful organization even though I've only been a member for a few months.

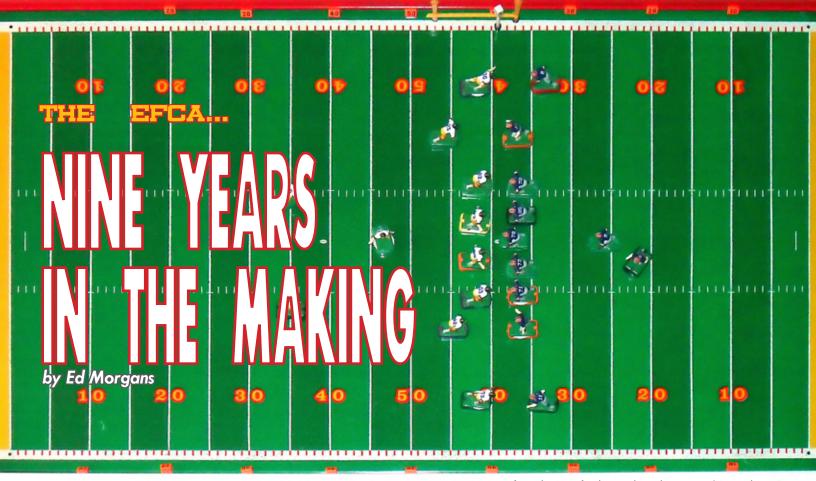
Before I'm done, however, I must thank those who have helped me get started in this wonderful hobby. All who have posted answers to the many questions I have tossed out on the forum; especially eflfanatic, the french guy, hoop 27, Canadiantabletopgames, and WEIRDWOLF. Without your encouragement I would have boxed my old Tudor field up again by now. RavennaAl who encouraged me to write this, Raiderman who provided me with

(very economically) ATTAC passing kits, Roomorgan, Batman, & Dogwood30 for showing me through their posts what solitaire play could be, SweetKa, Hoop, and Geno for guiding me in tweaking, Coach J who sent me my first PM suggesting I contact Guttmann, Guttman, the first person I contacted and the one who encouraged me to look further into the MFCA, and finally, MpIsTom.

Tom responded to my first post. He sent me his phone number, and when I called him up he answered many questions, offered much advice, and invited me to spend an afternoon with him. On a Friday afternoon, when I was passing through the Twin Cities, Tom showed me all his stuff. We ran some plays, talked MF, and just visited. Tom sent me home with a variety of bases and unpainted figures to play around with. He even offered the use of his custom BYU team so I could participate in an afternoon of MF he was planning. Thanks Tom.

This is a wonderful hobby. Even though I've only met Tom face to face, and live closer to Canada than any American members, I feel like I know many of you through the forum. I'm sure some day this hobby we enjoy will bring us together for a friendly game.

DG



View from the MetLife Blimp sailing above an EFCA matchup.

Ed's College Football Association (ECFA) began at a time when the miniature football world was much different than it was today. There was no MFCA, and the old Miggle Chat Board was where the few, the proud, those that played electric football, congregated on a daily basis.

Another change from then to now is back then, circa 2001, Miggle didn't offer painted college teams. There also wasn't yet the influx of talented painters that we see as members of the MFCA today. Because of this, and my love for college football, I decided I needed to start painting my own.

Those four original teams, Kentucky, Marshall, West Virginia, and Nebraska, were the founding fathers, as it were, of the ECFA. Everyone played everybody else once, with Kentucky going 3-0, and West Virginia 2-1. Those teams met in the first Commonwealth Bowl, to decide the national champion. Kentucky won the game, 21-9, to take the first title.

Not being a fan of moderation, I decid-

ed to go all out for what was going to be the second ECFA season for 2002-03. I was going to add 20 teams. I wrote out a detailed rules set that many folks, in what was by then the rapidly growing electric football community, asked me for, and also downloaded from Tom Ruesink's EF website.

The plans of mice and men often go awry, and my plan turned out to be more of a mousetrap than an effective schedule. The season never got past the first week, because I didn't have time to get all the teams painted up between working as a sports writer, and beginning to paint teams for other folks in the hobby.

As a result, the league sat in hiatus over weeks and then months, which stretched on to years. Part of that time I wasn't playing at all, as I concentrated my gaming efforts on Subbuteo, a game of table soccer. I got back into EF competitively again with the establishment of the BMEFA in 2005, but I never did have the urge to restart the solitaire league.

Fast forward to 2010. With a surplus of college teams that hadn't sold, for whatever reason, and with some other teams I'd painted through the years in anticipation of restarting the league someday, I began getting serious about finally embarking on the ECFA's second season. I revamped the rules, moving closer to a Shootout style, but still keeping some of my own things in the rules set that I liked. I brought back two of the original four teams - Kentucky and Nebraska – but I updated their uniforms so none of the original four teams I painted 10 years ago are active now. I designed a 14-team league with two 7-team conferences, the winners of which will meet in Commonwealth Bowl II.

The revamped league, played first on a Miggle AFC/NFC board, and now on an old-school Tudor 610, took off in October 2010, with the 14 teams playing an 8-game schedule (6 in conference, 2 non-conference). Two weeks are complete, meaning 14 of 56 regular-season games have been played. I'm hoping to speed up the pace through the Spring,



so I can get the season completed and spend the summer painting up 11 new squads to expand to 25 teams and five conferences next fall.

The current lineup of schools looks like this, with their records through two weeks. Their overall record is listed first, followed by their conference record.

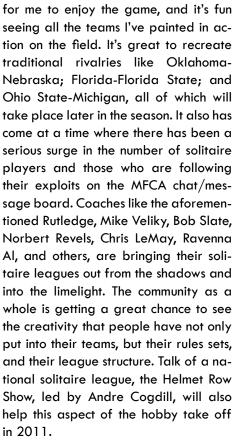
EAST: Purdue (2-0, 1-0); Syracuse (2-0, 1-0); Virginia (1-1, 1-0); Clemson (0-2, 0-0); Florida (1-1, 0-1); Kentucky (1-1, 0-1); Florida State (1-1, 0-1).

WEST: Illinois (2-0, 1-0); Oklahoma (1-1, 1-0); BYU (1-0-1, 0-0-1); Texas (0-1-1, 0-0-1); Nebraska (1-1, 0-0); Michigan (0-2, 0-1); Ohio State (0-2, 0-1).

As you can see, the league features some of the legendary programs in college football history, with more to come next year. Notable events this season have included Kentucky's 10-6 loss to Purdue, which snapped the Wildcats' 5-game all-time winning streak and signified their first loss. Texas and BYU played the first-ever ECFA tie. There is no overtime in the ECFA. BYU also set a record in a win over Clemson with 399 passing yards.

The league features any-touch tackling; all TTQB passing; with 22-man rosters, 11 offense in dark, 11 defense in white, for each team. The Box, with the supporting chart for incompletions, fumbles, injuries, and penalties - as developed

> and shared by Reginald Rutledge - is used for all ECFA games. Defenders are given a chance to react to both runs and passes. Dice included for use to determine punt lengths and if a team can attempt a field goal, based on the distance of the kick.





I am glad to be a small part of it, and I hope it inspires others to get their solitaire league off the ground. Solitaire play can be a great complement to league and tourney play either in your area or around the country (or both). At its heart, solitaire is a great way to get practice in and sharpen your coaching eye for when you are in a competitive situation against another coach.

And while I do run a small 4-team EPFA for pro teams, the college league is my main focus right now in terms of solitaire. I am curious to see how it plays out.

After all, I've waited 9 years to get this season going!





Have you ever wondered who the best electric football coach in the country is? I know I have. Yet, year in and year out this question goes unanswered. Say no more..... The National Miniature Electric Football League (NMEFL) Tournament, scheduled for May 20-22 at the Platinum Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, will attempt to answer that very question.

Can such a long standing, hotly debated, difficult question really be answered in just one short weekend? We're not sure, so if one weekend is not enough, The National Miniature Electric Football League, scheduled to start its first full season in September, 2012, will continue the quest for answers. The NMEFL season will run for about 6 months, and so far, it is shaping up quite possibly become the most competitive league ever established.

My name is Erick Thompson. I am the founder of the NMEFL. My background as an electric football coach extends back over 25 years to my days in Michigan. My first championship came in 2004 in the Great Lakes Electric Football League at the Miggle convention in Chicago. I started my championship run against Ken Allen. Ken was my mentor; he had beaten me quite a few times, so to finally get the upper hand on him was a thrill. (Thanks Ken I owe you a lot!!!) In round two I had to beat the great Greg Hardmon. This was probably the best coached, best played, game I ever had. It took everything I could do to get by Greg. Finally, in round 3, which was the Super Bowl, I played Simmie Lassiter. I was drinking beers by halftime. Sorry Simmie, but it's the truth! It took a lot of time, effort, and hard work: everyday practice, many scrimmages, and games against some of the best coaches in the country, to reach that level of success. Without intense determination I wouldn't have gotten as far as I did. The purpose of my sharing this is to show that I know electric football, and I can play with the best of them. The above named coaches are all champions, from many different leagues with many different styles of play. What I accomplished was not an easy thing to do, and I am proud of my achievements! It is this type of achievement and experience that prompted me to create the NMELF.

The NMEFL Tournament will debut a new set of rules that allows for a new style of play that will make you the best electric football coach you can be. I know most of you can pass the ball and tweak a base. I also know you have your favorite trick plays and, just like me, a win at all cost mentality. The real question, whose

answer separates the men from the boys, is this: "Can you coach?" What happens when you have a neutral third party official? I mean an actual trained referee making the calls instead of a long time buddy who can bail you out? What happens when the rules are the same no matter where you play and there are no limitations on anything? What if your opponent comes out with eleven cover corners? Then what are you going to do? Want to play eleven boat bases? In the MNEFL you can go for it Coach! Should you kick an eighty yard field goal? Since you can kick a field goal whenever and wherever you want you'll have to decide for yourself. Should you punt? You don't have to punt just because it is 4th down and you didn't cross a certain yard line. A good coach will know when it's the right time. If you don't, you're likely to find yourself down 35 points before halftime.

Why do all this you ask? Three reasons:

- 1) The NMEFL is a professional league! Yes, I said professional! My goal is to have coaches being paid for their time and effort. I see professionals in other endeavors being paid for what they love; why not us? In order to accomplish this I decided to build from the ground up, with a foundation of rules that will be strong, fair, and professional; with paid referees, who are neutral and impartial to everything.
- 2) I envision building a whole new community of coaches. There are over 2 million people in Las Vegas and fewer than ten coaches; WOW!!!! The same is true for most any major city in the country. As I see it, we are not doing what we can to open up our hobby to others. The NMEFL will open it up.
- 3) Sportsmanship and integrity; Many coaches say they know what these character traits are but don't show them in the heat of battle. The rule structure, refs, new community, and being accountable for our actions will help us to create and grow a league like no other. That league is the NMEFL.

Ultimately, as with any professional sporting event, the goal is to answer the original question; "Who is the best?" The NMEFL will need your participation in order to have the level of competition that will be required to make this all come to fruition. We need coaches with an understanding of, and a belief in, what the NMEFL is attempting to bring about. As you read this article the NMEFL has commitments from several of the most competitive coaches in the country, as well as a number of coaches who haven't played competitively in several years. There are many more that will be signing on in the near future. I sincerely hope you will be on of them.

To be the best you have to beat the best! To be the man, you have to beat the man! The question then really is, "Who's the man?"



# League TOURNAIVIENT



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Thursay, May 19 **Board of Directors Party** 9pm Friday, May 20 **Meet and Greet Dinner** 7pm Saturday, May 22 **NMEFL Tournament** 9am

www.NMEFL.com

For more info email: nmefl@aol.com or call 702-499-9465



By Paul "Raiderman" Bartels

f you have been involved in this hobby for any length of time you know the name Norbert Revels. His contagious "Popeye" laugh, his bases, his success in tournaments and his local league in Michigan. However, what you may not know is that on a cold winter Saturday afternoon in Harrisburg, Pa back in March of 2004 it was a young twelve year old boy who really put Norbert on the map. Norbert was just entering the hobby scene and attended his first tournament. The annual Winter Fest tournament hosted by George Diamond. Norbert shows up with his comic book t-shirt boasting that his strength would be too much for us to



Norbert Revels

handle. "You guys might as well pack up now and give the trophy to me," boasted Revels. Well as tempting as that sounded we decided to hang around and play anyway. The prelims ended and Norbert landed Nick



**Nick Brinson** 

Brinson in round one of the bracket. Nick was a twelve year old who played in the local Harrisburg Buzzball Leagues. He didn't have much experience but he had heart. Norbert quickly found out that having a TTQB and kicker would be important if he planned on advancing. He also became very quiet as the game moved on. No more laughing, no more boasting just a focused man who was on the brink of "one and done." Play after play Nick was stopping Norbert's "power" run game. When the final play concluded it was young twelve year old Nick Brinson humbling the great Michigan coach. Having played in the same League as Nick for a number of years I caught up with the now young man who put Norbert on the map. He's a freshman in college now in Indiana, Pa. Although he no longer plays the game he remembers that day well. So does Norbert and the rest of us who were there to witness it.....

RM: Nick, how old are you now?

NB:19, birthday April 28th

RM: What was your greatest accomplishment in electric football? It can be more than one.

**NB:** Beating Norbert in the Buzzball tournament in Harrisburg, Pa.

RM: What years did you play?

**NB:** From the time I was age 11 to 15

RM: What League(s) did you play in?

**NB:** The Harrisburg Pro Buzzball and Harrisburg College Buzzball

RM: Who was your biggest rival in the game?

NB: My dad

RM: Was there anyone that you hated to play? Why? (I have to ask some tough questions too).

**NB:** Matt Burkey because it was always a tough game but I could never come out on top

RM: Who was your favorite coach to play and why?

**NB:** At the same time I loved playing Burkey because we were close friends and I always had hope of a victory. Basically a love hate relationship.

RM: What was the final year that you played? Why?

**NB:** My freshman year of high school because I started playing varsity basketball and the games were on Buzzball nights.

RM: When you look at the game now did you ever think it would get this detailed?

**NB:** It is amazing to see the numerous options a coach has on each play. With the run and the pass he has more control than he ever has. When I was first introduced to Buzzball the bases were basic and could only 'buzz' in one direction. Now the players are far more detailed and the basics give the coach total control. Tiny adjustments to the base can make the difference between a long play and a stop for a loss. I am very thankful to play in the era of Buzzball where coaches are given more control.

RM: What would it take to get you back in the game again?

**NB:** I would love to play with some friends. I would get into playing again for fun at first, but eventually would join a league because I love the competition.

RM: Do you know Corey Johnson? Do you believe he is the face of the hobby?

**NB:** Who? Huh...What?



We did some digging and were able to find this shot from Buzzball Winterfest. The kid in the yellow shirt is Nick. He's looking pretty calm as Norbert fights to stay in the game.

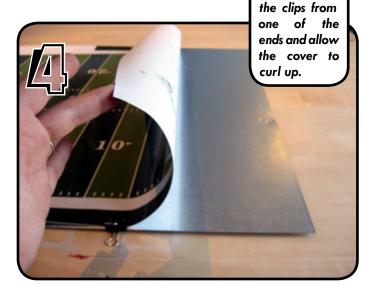
### **HOW TO PUT DOWN** AN ADHESIVE FIELD **COVER** AND **FANTASTIC RESULTS!**

by David Roller

I don't know how many times I've been asked or have seen this question from coaches, "How can I get my field cover down without wrinkles, bubbles, or getting it down crooked?"

I've been using field covers exclusively for my custom gameboards from the beginning and I've invested quite a bit of time and materials into getting them right. I put together this tutorial to pass along some of the tips and tricks I've developed to get this perplexing task done, and done right!

Before you begin make sure to have all of your materials close by and to work on a flat sturdy surface. Also, make sure the area is clean and free from hairs, carpet fibres, dust, dirt and other debris that can cause surface imperfections.



Remove



Using a non-residue spray cleaner (glass cleaner) clean the field surface thoroughly and allow it to dry completely. Make sure the surface is free of hairs.



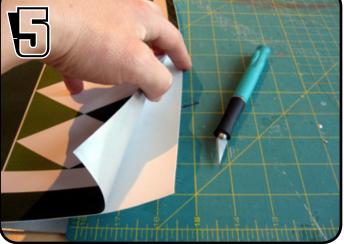
Unroll the field cover and get it into position using paper clips. This will ensure that it goes on straight.

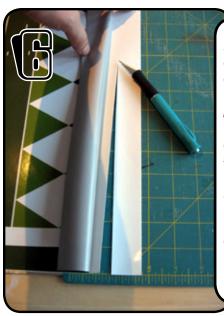


The field cover should be in its final position when clipped into place. It is important to clip the field cover in at least all four corners and in a few places along the sides.

Binder clips work best, but you can also use masking tape or any other method of keeping the cover in place.

Slide a cutting mat or other protective material underneath the cover and peel back about 1-1/2" of the decal backing paper.





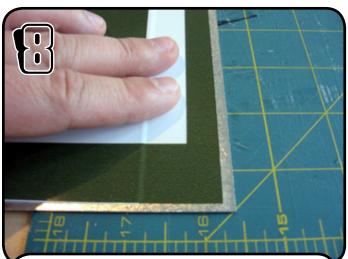
Using a sharp hobby knife or scissors, trim away about 1" of the decal backing paper.

Be careful to get a smooth and clean cut with whatever you use. Frays can cause fibers which can cause air bubbles.



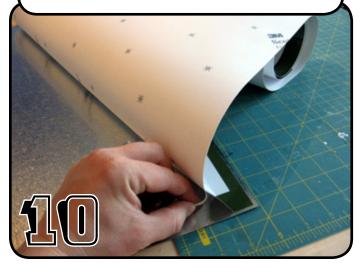
This will be the starter strip for the field cover.

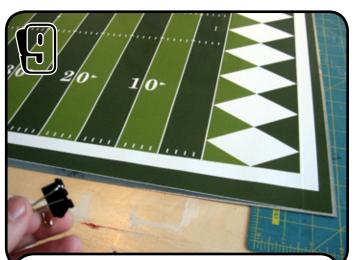
Using a starter strip and the binder clips will keep everything square and on the right track.



Gently stick the starter strip down beginning in the center and working out to the edges. Check for square throughout.

Lift the unstuck portion of the field cover up and flip it over itself as pictured below.





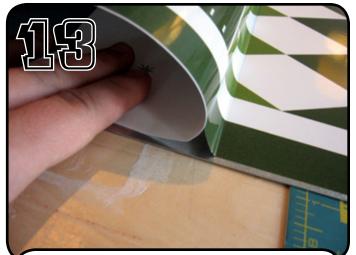
Remove the binder clips. Again, check for square.

Carefully begin to pull the backing paper away
- just enough to get started. Once you have exposed
about a half inch, flip the cover back over.

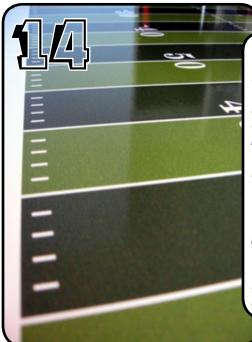




Use a soft cloth or cotton sock to slowly push/ smooth down the field cover in 1/2" - 1" swaths, moving from sideline to sideline. Move slowly.



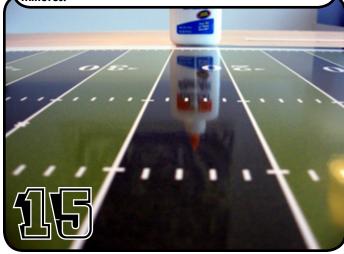
You might need to gently pull the backing paper away from the cover while you push down with the cloth.



Work all the way to the other end zone. Check every few inches to make sure you don't have any imperfections. If you do happen to encounter an air bubble or hair, you can try to extract the debris, but many times it will be permanent.

That's why it is important to work in a CLEAN area.

Beautiful results are the reward for a job well done. This whole process should take about 20 minutes!



Finished!!!



# Meet some of the great solitaire coaches from across the country who play the game with unique sets of solitaire play rules in the





Name: Dong Shanafelt "The Rookie" League: Shanataire Solitaire League

Type: NFL

Number of teams in-

volved:

Texans replaced by the

week one, no champion Yet Past champions: NONE

All 32 except no Houston Oilers Years in existence: First Current champion: In

Short summery of rules and history: I am basing my rules off of the Shootout rules. I have changed a few things. The weight of the players are based on how good they were in the year that they were chosen. Example; the rating system research that I used rated the 2007 N.E. Patriots Randy Moss as a 17 out of 25. I set the offense up and then set the defense up to stop the offense.

The way my teams are set up is based on their past true history, not just pot luck on the players. The best bases go to the best players based on their history for the year that they were chosen. I also use the best throwing quarterbacks for the best rated quarterbacks. I have an unlimited amount of boat bases per team. I play in a stadium named the SSL Memorial Stadium.

Name: Mark Robin

League: Golden Triangle MEFL

### Tudor Classic Electric Football

Number of teams involved: Around 500 different NFL and College teams to pick from. The GTMEFL is usually the league where figures and teams are non-tudor/miggle produced players, the Tudor Classic is all teams manufactured before 1980.

Years in existence: TCEFL- Summer-1974 estimated 300 games played. GTMEFL-Summer 1999 estimated 200

games played.

Current champions: TCEFL- Hogleg

white jersey Cowboys

GTMEFL- Buzzball white jersey Rams

Past champions: N/A

Short summery of rules and history: The Tudor league uses the mid 70's rules with the addition of 1 click stop/adjust on every offensive play. Adjustments can be made by all unengaged players, both offense for blocking and defense for tackling. The GTMEF league is an ongoing rule set comprising several

Golden Triangle

The TCEFL has had a few names. The first name was North End Lectric. My division was Swift street. There were 2 other divisions. Fairway street and the Trinidads. All names were coaches street address names. There were 6 coaches at the max, and always at least 2 coaches from '74 until about '79, when we moved away, and I got a little older. I only played solitaire mostly from '89 on. This brief history is regarding solitaire leagues and the eventual playoffs from the surrounding leagues of the 70's in the north end of Beaumont from '74 until '79.

rule sets similar to tournaments around the country.



Name: Ed Morgans

**League:** *ecfA* (Ed's College Football Association)

Type: College

Number of teams involved: 14

Years in existence: This Is The 2nd Season Current champion: Kentucky Wildcats Past champions: Kentucky Wildcats

Short summery of rules and history: Any touch tackling No weight limit, but weight isn't added to any player or base, so it's basically 3.2g Dice are used for The Box (same as the one Reggie uses in the NFLGTSL), and as part of punting (to determine distance) and field goals (to determine if attempt can be made) Single stop on runs, multi-stop on completed passes (defense given chance to react twice after completion) Normal line structure, no unbalanced lines, no wide splits, no lining up at the hash marks. Defense has 4-man line, 3 LB's 8 yards off back of DL bases; safeties 8 yards off back of LB bases. In 1-yard to go situations, defense may use 5 DL, LBs are 4 yards off, but safeties must still be 8 yards off. No chart to determine run/pass or formation. Penalties/fumbles/interceptions/incompletions/ injuries all available from the box (I added a reading for interceptions). No multi-game injuries; injured players stay on field, but base is replaced by untweaked rookie base or TTC with no dial, depending on what the player had to start with. Teams have 22 players, 11 offense in dark, 11 defense in white - no substitutions. Teams are aligned in two 7-team conferences (East & West). Conference winners at season's end (8 games total, 6 conference games for each team) will meet in Commonwealth Bowl II for the national championship. Mix of personal AP and online computer rankings used to determine matchups for other bowl games, if desired. Games feature four 60-minute quarters. Running clock in the 1st and 3rd quarters (except for injury time outs, charged to the team with the injury), and running clock in 2nd and 4th quarter until 5-minute warning, when normal football timing rules apply.

Games average 100 to 105 plays.

The ECFA was formed in 2001, featuring Kentucky, West Virginia, Marshall, and Nebraska. These were the first four college teams I ever painted, and they played a 3-game season with Kentucky and West Virginia reaching Commonwealth Bowl I. The Wildcats beat the Mountaineers that day, 21-9, to capture the first national championship. I then expanded to what would have been 24 games, and wrote my rules set out. It's a bit different than what I use now, as the rules I have now are heavily Shootout influenced.

My intention is to finish this season by June 2011, and begin the process of adding 11 new teams for 2011-12. Teams are based on current depth charts in real life. Players who graduate will be given new numbers and new bases. Next season will feature five conferences with five teams each.

I also run a pro league, the EPFA, which is in its first year and features four teams with their 1973 rosters - Pittsburgh, New England, Denver, and San Francisco. I chose those four teams because they are all squads I used to run in leagues and/or tournaments. That league will expand to include the Minnesota Vikings and the Los Angeles Rams for 1974, once the current season is complete.

### Name: Peter Bearse "Lindyhopper49"

**League:** Miniature OUA (located in Ontario Canada) **Type:** Ontario University Football teams (might expand to

include more universities and my custom team)

Number of teams involved: Currently 10 Iron man teams of

12 players (it is Canadian ball).

Years in existence: Almost 1 year, finished 1 season.

Current champions: Queen's Gaels

Past champions: N/A

Short summery of rules and history: I use FOB for the first 10 yards then any touch after that. Miggle 'original' size players. I play one stop (on a running play the offense can stop, then re-angle the runner and one other player to block and the defense can re-angle any unengaged players. Then the board runs. On a passing play the offense stops when they want to pass, the receiver can be re-angled and the defense can reangle any unengaged players). I have a deck of formations for offense and defense that I randomly choose from (thinking about converting to a chart and dice for time). Offense always sets up first and then defense. I use a version of 'the box' with a chart supplied by Reginald Rutledge. I pass, kick and punt with G-Force TDQ, TDK and TDP. I play on a 2x4 metal field that I made, I have 2 field covers (designed by me and produced beautifully by Larue). My league plays on a Canadian field with 20 yard deep end zones and a 55 yard line!. I also play by Canadian rules: 3 downs, 12 players per side and 'no yards' penalties on punts and kicks. I have also made some video recaps and broadcast style videos of my league. I have also created a press box, some miniature Queen's Fans and a miniature version of the Queen's University Marching Band to add some atmosphere.



