

THE MINIATURE FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION



THE TWEAK[®]

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MFCA

MINIATUREFOOTBALL.ORG

FALL 2007

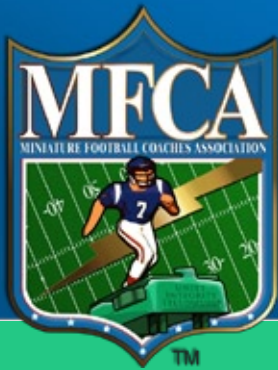
**LIGHTS OUT.
DC ON!**
LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE

**SEAWALL
BRAWL**



THE LAEFL

**BAMA BLAST
G-FORCE SII
LET'S GET NUTT'S
TUDOR EVOLUTION
PAINTING WITH GUTTS
THE TUDOR FACTORY**



THE TWEAK[®]

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MFCA

GREETINGS FROM THE V.P.

Greetings Coaches and welcome to our 2nd edition of the "Tweak". I must confess I was in awe of the first issue of *The Tweak*. I was so hyped that I asked the editors if I could do the intro for the next issue. Well here is my opportunity.

I have said it before and I will say it again, the time is right for this organization to happen. The MFCA is something special to be a part of, if you are a part of this hobby.

My story is not much different then most of yours, in regards to my experience, with this hobby. I have had the opportunity, since childhood, to be able to see that most groups, that have played this game, have tried to add some type of organization and similarity to real football. The innovations to realism have been astounding and the people involved are always looking for ways to come together all across the country. That is where we come in. The MFCA wants to embrace those that want to see this hobby go to the next level and to keep it going into the future. Unifying this hobby is what we are about. We want to

put all styles, all techniques, all innovations and all individuals in one place. We want to announce and educate the world about what we do and most importantly we want to support and recognize these groups or people in the best interest of Miniature Football.

As you will read in *The Tweak* we are gradually formulating data for history and helping coaches with information with current trends in our hobby. This is a revolutionary endeavor. No other organization has put something as complete as this together for the benefit of coaches improving their game play or their artistic creations.

On the weekend of June 28th thru July 1st, I had the pleasure of attending "The Seawall Brawl" in Portsmouth VA. This turned out to be a very special event, as it allowed the MFCA to show case it's first Skills Competition. In addition, five members of the MFCA received awards of recognition and we had six of the original start-up



committee members in attendance. It was all about the UNITY of our hobby. The People in charge of this event put together something very special... something that will be an event for the ages. This is what our organization wants to be part of and represent. We humbly take note of this event because this is how we want to represent to the whole Miniature Football community.

Peace To all and enjoy

Will Travers, VP MFCA

***THE TWEAK* is your magazine!**

We are currently looking for stories, articles, league news and any ideas for the Winter 2007 issue.

If you would like to join our staff of writers or if you have something you would like to see in the next issue, please call Editor Matthew Culp at 574-722-1204 or e-mail: mmmculp@comcast.net. Any and all suggestions are welcome!

The Tweak Winter edition ad and story submission deadline is November 1, 2007

THE TWEAK
OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
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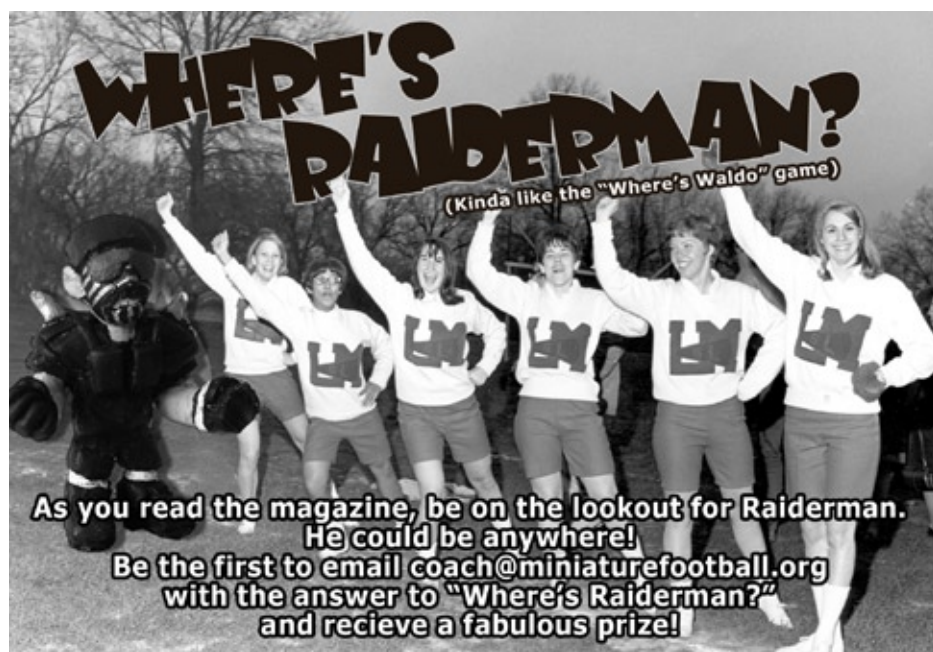
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LETTERS FROM THE EDITORS



by Matthew Culp

Welcome! Here we are again with our second issue of *The Tweak* and I can not be more excited about the issue you are about to read. I would like to take this opportunity to thank two people who make this magazine a reality. Those two guys are Lynn Schmidt and Al Dunham. Without their help, input, ideas and graphic talents, this magazine would never happen and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

I feel the second issue is very exciting for several reasons, as we continue to make each issue better and better. This issue is our first “event coverage” and what an event it was. The Seawall Brawl has become an institution in itself and gets bigger and bigger every year. I would like to especially thank Don Smith and Jimbo Dunagan for all of their efforts towards the one goal we all share...enjoyment of this hobby. This issue will also give some insight into one of the greatest leagues in this country...the LAEFL. I would like to extend a special thanks to Dave Campbell, who has become the ambassador to the MFCA from out west and has opened my eyes to how awesome that league is.

Furthermore, this issue will feature some of miniature football’s greatest coaches. Ray Fanera, our champion of the history of the game, gives us another fantastic article. Other coaches that give us insight are Kelvin Lomax, Geno and Mike Guttman. And this issue will feature “Family Beenutt” with the first ever “wife” perspective on miniature football. Along with Karen Nutt’s article is an outstanding article by Kyle Nutt...to give a kids perspective on things. But “Beenutt’s” family contribution to this issue does not stop there, as the Nutt family, along with “Prettyboy”, gives us full coverage of the Seawall Brawl...a special thank you to all of our contributing writers.

Moreover, the MFCA is starting to gain momentum and it is hard to believe that we are flirting with 90-100 members and we just started only just 5 months ago. Like most newly formed organizations, we are beginning to take our first steps into making this hobby much bigger and more assessable than ever before. As I read the MFCA forum (www.miniaturefootball.com) postings I am witness to so much enthusiasm for this hobby, that it energizes me to really think hard about how we can promote this hobby to the masses. As editor and publishing director of *The Tweak*, I am committed to making each issue, of this publication, better and better, but the magazine alone will not get the MFCA where we want to go. An MFCA convention is going to happen and it must happen to help the MFCA organize, but we must ask ourselves, how much will it promote this hobby. That is why I believe that for our hobby to grow we need to start getting the word out to the masses and one way to do that is to have a presence at a Gen-Con convention (www.GenCon.com). I have talked with many coaches the past few months about this idea and not one has disagreed with me, as a matter of fact, most have said let’s find a way to do it. In case you have never heard of Gen-Con, it is a gaming convention that is held every August in Indianapolis, Indiana. What does Gen-Con have to offer? Well, every “gaming” organization in the world has a representation there and gamers come not just from all over the U.S., but they come from all over the world. War-hammer tournaments, Chess leagues, Axis and Allies leagues...if it was ever a board game, then they are at this convention. I have been to several and they are overwhelming. Normally, it is hard to walk around and see everything because of the sheer amount of people...gamers like us. Every time I go to a Gen-Con convention I always wonder...why doesn’t miniature football have a presence or booth here, it is a perfect fit. We need to be there. In my opinion, it is the one single convention that best fits our hobby and it would be our first major step in growing the MFCA and league membership around the country. My goal if we went would be to sign up another 100 coaches to the MFCA and if we did they would be directed to the league nearest to them...perhaps your league!

Furthermore, we need to consider going to Gen-Con, but we have many hurdles to cross...the biggest being money. It cost \$1500 for a 10’x10’ booth for the four day convention. We would also need volunteers to work the booth, have games being played in the background in the booth, so we could demonstrate how the game is played and we would need coaches to walk around the convention floor to hand out information. We would need to be ready to sign up people to the MFCA...that means money for membership packs, tee-shirts/decals to be sold...etc. But we can do it! There is always a way and it would be my hope that we consider it as an investment in the future of miniature football...this is your organization and together we have gotten off to a great start. We should all congratulate ourselves for a job well done and this is just the beginning. Unity, integrity and fellowship...from sea to shining sea the MFCA has a lot of it!



by Al Dunham

There's been quite a bit of talk over the years about Miniature Football and how to play the game. There's one stop, two stop, multiple stop, strategy board, weighted, unweighted, semi-weighted, passing with the TTQB, dice, passing sticks, front of base, any touch, stacking, unstacked, and several other ways that I can't remember. Some people are very passionate about the way they play, others could care less, they just want to play. Some guys like playing in leagues and others prefer the solitude of solitaire. While there are those that will only play with NFL teams, there are others that like college, high school and even made up teams. I thought about it one day and wondered, is there a correct way to play.

We could try and get the answer by going back in time, to when Tudor first produced the games. Each one came with an instruction book. Surely we all remember reading them from cover to cover when we were kids, and just as surely we all remember tossing them away and making up our own rules. Therein lies the crux of the problem. Was the Tudor instruction manual meant to be the be-all, end-all bible for the game? If it was, it seems that there were too many loopholes from which we all fanagled our ways through. No, I think Tudor meant for the game to be a basic building block, sort of like Lincoln Logs or Tinker Toys. Sure, you could build them into the various objects that were laid out in the manuals that were included, but it was more fun making your own creations with them instead.

Someone once made the analogy that MF was like Poker. Yes, there is the standard way to play Poker. Many people play that way, always had, always will. There are also just as many people that have devised other ways to play Poker. There's too many to list all of them, but some examples are Texas Hold'Em, Seven Card Stud, Five Card Stud, Omaha Poker, Three Card Poker, Jokers Wild, One-eyed Jacks Wild and even my favorite, Strip Poker. The funny thing is Poker hasn't languished because of the different ways that it's played. If anything, it seems to have flourished instead!

Maybe we need to take a cue from the card guys, and stop worrying about how to come up with a 'true' way to play. We already have the NHFL, the most comprehensive effort yet to standardize MF. But instead of trying to make it the official way to play, perhaps it would be best if we "officialized" other systems. If it works for Poker, why can't it work for us? If a newcomer likes the idea of 3.2 and playing in a national league, then we lead him to NHFL, aka Texas Hold'Em. If they want to play unlimited weight and boiled base, then teach him how to play LAEFL, aka Five Card Stud, etc. Instead of letting our different playing styles divide us, let's embrace them to make us stronger. Let's concentrate on making the MFCA a strong, united body of coaches that enjoy different playing styles. As for me, whenever a female expresses an interest in MF, send them my way and I'll teach them all about playing strip football!



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COMPETITION for a CAUSE!

by Karen L. Nutt

In only its second year, the Seawall Brawl in Portsmouth, VA, has developed into a major tournament, attracting about 70 coaches from as far as Texas and California. It's also become a major fundraiser for the Police Unity Tour, organized in 1997 to bring public awareness of police officers who have died in the line of duty. Each year on May 10-12, bicyclists traverse the country to raise money by riding to the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial in Washington, D.C. Riders from the Portsmouth area (Tidewater/Hampton Roads) follow the 240-mile trek to the memorial, joining other chapters across the nation. Nationally, more than \$4 million has been raised through the Tour and the Seawall Brawl, through entry fees and various sponsorships, added \$7000 to the total this past June 23-25, according to Don Smith, tournament coordinator. Smith's wife, Lisa, is a Lieutenant for the Portsmouth Police Department and a key player on her husband's support staff, which organizes the event.



Her involvement in law enforcement and interest in honoring fallen officers helped to convince Smith, a member of Miniature Footballers United, to coordinate the tournament and make it a charity event at the same time.

Jimbo Dunagan, a fellow member of the MFU from Chicago, was also instrumental in helping Smith organize the tournament, Smith said. It was a family affair as the Smiths' son, D.C., won the tournament, only giving up one touchdown

the entire weekend. The lone TD came late in the fourth quarter in the championship game when D.C.'s Dallas Cowboys prevailed 14-7 over Simmie "Tookie" Lassiter's Detroit Lions. D.C., a sophomore business major at the University of Notre Dame, also won the event in its inaugural year, taking home the championship belt. "We had a bigger and more talented field in the tournament this year," Smith said. "Many are heralded coaches who've won major tournaments, such as Miggle and Buzzball." Fifteen-year-old Robert Chalmers, son of "Big Keith" Chalmers, took home the top trophy in the Kids' Tournament.

The organization of the Seawall Brawl involves the use of qualifier rounds in which the field of coaches are placed in groups of four to a table. The coaches in each group play a three-game round robin format. The results of the qualifier rounds determine the seeding for the actual tournament. Norbert Revels and "Jay-Boy" took the top seed spots. Adrian Baxter and D.C. Smith were also top seeds based on last year's performances. Only two number one seeds (Norbert and D.C. Smith) advanced to the quarterfinals as upsets seemed to be the theme of the tournament. The lowest seed who made it to the quarterfinals was seventh seed Brian Healy, who upset number two seed Reggie Rutledge. Number three seeds Greg Hardman and Jimbo Dunagan advanced by pulling off mild up-sets along the way. Fifth seeds Simmie Lassiter and Frank

Johnson advanced to the quarters along with sixth seed Durwood Lundy. In the quarterfinals, number three seed Greg Hardmon pulled off the upset by defeating number one seed Norbert Revels. Defending champion D.C. Smith cruised to the semifinals by defeating Brian Healey. The other side of the bracket included match ups between Jimbo Dunagan and Frank Johnson and Durwood Lundy and Simmie Lassiter. Jimbo and Simmie avoided the upset bug to advance to the Final Four. Thus, the Final Four was set: Greg Hardmon vs. D.C. Smith and Jimbo Dunagan vs. Simmie Lassiter. D.C. Smith utilized a stingy defense to advance to the championship game for the second year in a row. Simmie Lassiter proudly represented the Great Lakes region by defeating Jimbo to face Smith in the final game. In the championship, it was all D.C. Smith and his team of Cowboys. Anyone



Strategy Divider in use.

watching D.C. in this tournament could not miss D.C.'s impressive coaching skills and character. Congratulations to D.C. Smith for winning the Seawall Brawl two consecutive years! Also, congratulations to Simmie Lassiter as runner-up.

A unique aspect of the competition involves the use of the strategy divider, said Smith. "The divider acts as a huddle where you can see the formation but you don't know where the running backs are going," Smith explained. "Here, you have to do more

A TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S WORST NIGHTMARE: BLACKOUT



If there's one thing you have to have during a miniature football tournament, it's electricity...and that's something Don Smith, tournament director for the Seawall Brawl, will no longer take for granted. Smith did not lose his cool when The Holiday Inn lost its power for about an hour, causing an inconvenient interruption to Saturday morning's games.

"Last year, everything stayed on schedule, and it was smooth sailing from the beginning," Smith said. "I thought that running a tournament would be that easy every year. But this year was a challenge as Murphy's Law crept in." Smith said that some other guests in the hotel erroneously assumed the power outage was a result of all those miniature football boards sucking up all of the electricity. Thinking that they would have a few hours to kill until the power came back on, Will Travers and his wife decided to take advantage of the break and take in some of the sights of nearby Norfolk. Just as the couple boarded the ferry for the five-minute trip across the Elizabeth River to the Waterfront at Norfolk, Bryan "Beenutt" Nutt gave Will a call on his cell phone. "Will told me to give him a call when the power came back. He was going to use the down-time to spend time with his wife. I got in touch with him just in time," Beenutt said



Coaches mix it up off the field.

coaching and use more strategy.”

Other highlights of the weekend included the Coaches Mixer, held on the deck of the Holiday Inn (host hotel) overlooking the Elizabeth River. The Green Room Rumble on Friday night allowed “whatever team you have from home, you play with”—That is, a fun competition with no figure specifications.

The Miniature Football Coaches Association sponsored individual competitions for Fastest, Strongest, Best Passing and Best Kicking, with winners receiving awards. Bryan “Beenutt” Nutt of the MFCA described the contests as “a huge success” in part because they were free and open to all MFCA members. The Fastest Man Contest attracted about 25 coaches who competed with more than 40 figures. Coaches who fielded the “Fastest 8” were Will Travers, Adrian Baxter, Keith Chalmers, Ray Fanara, and Steve Martin. In the end, Will Travers captured the Fastest Man title with the fastest two figures in the competition—quite an accomplishment considering the tough playing field, according to Nutt. If anyone feels the need for speed, contact Will Travers: “I know my figures are fast. I just wish they could get open!”

Keith Chalmers took the gold medal in the “Fastest Man—Enhanced Division.” In an unofficial contest, Keith’s weighted figure beat Will’s unweighted figure by 20 yards in a 100-yard race. The crowd was quite surprised at the outcome. In a field of about 15 figures and coaches, Adrian Baxter

dominated the Strongest Man Contest although Jim Davis and Norbert were “no-shows.” A head-to-head or rather, figure-to-figure match up of these three talented coaches would have been a crowd-pleaser. Smith won the “Strongest



Will Travers took first and second in fastest man competition.

Man—Enhanced Division,” beating newcomer Joel Pritchard in the final. Next came the Passing Contest, which set the standard for other contests in the future, according to Nutt. MFCA coaches were allowed to post their scores anytime Saturday and early Sunday morning. The coach with the highest score won the gold medal. This year, Kelvin Lomax was the first to enter and posted an incredible score of 230 out of 300. This score stayed on top until the last five minutes before the end of the contest, when “Old School” entered his score. “Old School,”

the last coach to enter the contest, attracted a big crowd who watched intently as it came to an end. “Old School” missed the target on his last pass but was nearly flawless tying the mark of Lomax with a score of 230. The contest went into overtime, and Lomax prevailed. In the Field Goal Contest, it was “Big Keith”, who performed like the Indianapolis Colts kicker Adam Vinatieri, in the clutch, easily snapping up the gold. His confidence was evident as he missed only one field goal out of 10 attempts.

Organizers of the Seawall Brawl also recognized coaches from around the country for their contributions to miniature football at its banquet on Friday night. “We presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Reginald Rutledge of Arlington, Texas,” Smith said. “It was great to honor Reggie because he’s a guy who’s done so much for miniature football.” John “Coach J” Merida of Foster City, CA, received the 2007 Mystery Unity Award. A total of 20 coaches received medals of recognition as part of “The Brawlies,” awards for those excelling in Innovation, Leadership, Fellowship and Outstanding Players. They are (Innovators): Bruce Watts of Columbus, OH; Chris Fields of Columbus; Damon Lucas of Detroit, MI; Mark Klingbeil of Humboldt, TX; and Anthony Burgess of



Strongest Man Competition

Alexandria, VA; (Leadership): Tom Johnson of Washington, D.C.; Will Travers of Fort Washington, MD; Lynn "Weird Wolf" Schmidt of Parkville, MO; John Merida of Foster City, CA; and Jim Davis of Detroit, MI, accepting for the Great Lakes Electric Football League; (Fellowship): Corey Johnson of Philadelphia, PA; Rene Smith of Baltimore, MD; Sean Carter of Baltimore, MD; Andre Cogdell of Brooklyn, NY; and Greg Hardmon of Toledo, OH; and (Outstanding Players): Adrian Baxter of Washington, D.C.; D.C. Smith of Portsmouth, VA; Simmie Lassiter of Detroit, MI; Ernie Grice of Philadelphia, PA; and Bryan "Beenutt" Nutt of Spartanburg, S.C.

In addition to the strategy divider, there were other aspects that enhanced the style of play during the weekend. For example, the quarterback can not be used to



L to R: Bryan Nutt, D.C. Smith, Keith Chalmers, Ernie Grice, Simmie Lassiter, Jimbo Dunagen

block in a running play. This rule is implemented to more closely imitate "real" football, where the quar-

terback does not typically block his running backs. All games were played on large, custom boards, which allowed for more realistic and fast-paced play, according to Smith. Throughout the weekend, exhibitors were allowed to show, sell and demonstrate their wares, including custom figures, custom big boards, and figure accessories, such as facemasks and decals. Figures with movable parts were especially popular this year. For next year (June 20-22, 2008), Smith hopes to raise more money for the Police Unity Tour and to host more coaches as the event continues to gain national interest.

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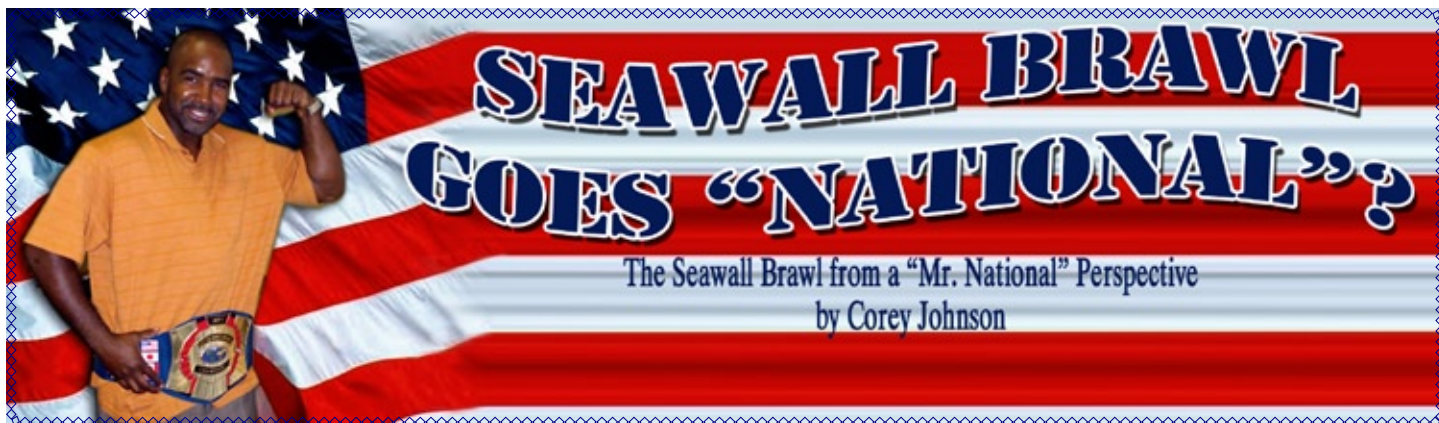
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Another great weekend of EF/MF wrapped up on July 1, 2007. There were a few bumps on the road, but the big rig known as the Seawall Brawl kept on rolling. It (SWB) brought along the GRR to ride shotgun. And if that wasn't enough company, the first ever MFCA skills competition was thrown in for good measure. All three events worked well together, and hopefully we can see this type of teamwork at future events. It's always a sight to see the newbies or first time tourney coaches, meeting the guys they only hear about or chat with via the MF message board. Everyone was happy to finally meet John Merida, aka Coach J, a stable on the message board. Congrats to "The Kid" D.C. Smith for repeating as the SWB champion. Every coach in attendance should give yourself a round of applause for the great sportsmanship that was shown throughout the weekend.

BEST MOMENTS

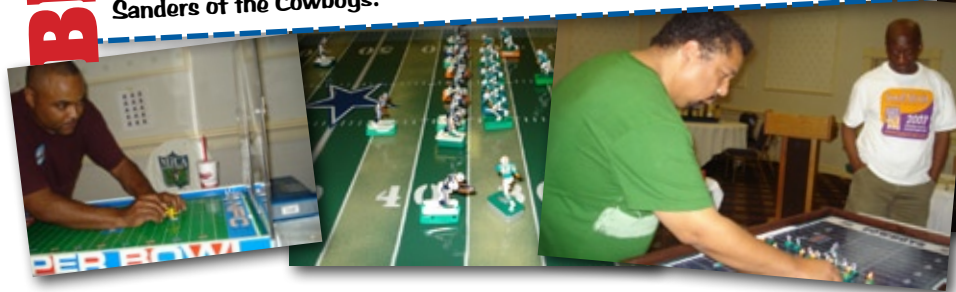
Seeing Reggie get some of his due for the effort he has put into this sport/hobby. No one was more deserving of this honor. The piece was outstanding, what a way to close out the awards ceremony.

Watching Lomax and Oldschool shoot it out in the passing challenge. It went into a extra round after Don (the last coach to enter) matched the 230 pts put up by Lomax (the 1st coach to enter)

Being at the Big Keith vs Durwood game. This was the game of the tourney. It had it all. An overmatched ref (Steven Martin) there was trash talking (both coaches) and last but not least, it had a big audience. Chris (rough house EF) was funny as ever as he heckled both coaches.

When Durwood had to sit on Keith's lap to make pivots because Keith would not move from his chair. It had the whole room laughing.

The unveiling of the figures with moving parts. If you didn't see it, you missed something that is unbelievable. I'm pretty sure it's the work of the Jedi Master Chris Robinson, but I'm not positive. The 2 players were J. Jones and D. Sanders of the Cowboys.



Can you say power outage? When the electricity went out, it was like, who did that!? What happened? Other guests in the hotel blamed those people playing that "electric thing". Really it was the whole grid that went out and had nothing to do with the tournament.

After the time lost to the power being out, some games had to be cut short. This didn't go over too well, but there was no other way around it. But how could you forfeit the NATIONAL One? As he sat out on the deck, his game versus Durwood was being called a no contest.

That Geno H and Kansas Bill couldn't make the trip. It would have been an opportunity to showcase the F5 bases.



WORST MOMENTS

DID YOU NOTICE?

That Dearell and Dre were there, but not there. • How well the SWB handled the power outage. • Jimbo didn't cry this year. • That Ty Ware got sick after the dinner? • That Anthony Burgess and Glen Phoenix arms' were bigger than most coaches legs! • That Brian Healey knocked Reg Rutledge out of the tourney for a second straight year. • That Prettyboy changed clothes only three times on Friday. • That Frank Johnson wasn't playing with the Bears! • That Mega Wattz had just got there when he was called to accept his award. • That a coach named Greco finished in second place again. • The MFCA was taking members on the spot. • There were more fans of the Boys (Cowboys) than any other team.

THEY SAID IT

Beenutt "Once we get more members to join the MFCA, we can do that!" (after being asked about 2nd & 3rd place medals for future skills competitions)

Chris (Rough House EF) "He too loud Keith, do something!" (after Durwood was talking trash to Chalmers)

Don "He's our Babe Ruth and Michael Jordan" (referring to Reginald Rutledge during the lifetime achievement award).

Joel and Mark (Dixie league) "Is he cool or what, he doesn't need anyone around him" talking about MR. NATIONAL sitting on the deck having a cigar.

Ed Roche "I got hosed" (after winning the game on yardage, but then losing it because of a penalty)

CorEy "Don't post these scores please." (after finishing near the bottom in the passing & kicking challenge)

Steve Martin (Detroit) "Keith, you can't look at his play, that's why we have the divider".

Pat Morris "If they don't have a room for me by 4pm, I'm going to stay for free" (referring to the hotel 4 p.m. check in policy)

Joe Greco "There's no fieldgoals in the Green Room Rumble".

D-Legend "Whatever you say T.I." (talking to Tookie, who looks like the ATL rapper)

NYTALK "That's apartments in NY" (after being told he was looking at downtown Norfolk)

D.C. "Since you got National locked up, how does Global sound".

Ty "That's as close as your going to get to that belt" (after Prettyboy took some pictures with the championship belt)

Jim Davis "I want one of those MFCA shirts, do they have 6XL".

The SWB and Police Unity Tour. • Mr. DeWayne Jennings and the way he goes about his business... very humble and professional. • D.C...he's the kind of young man we all hope we can raise. • MFCA, it's only going to get better and is just what the hobby needed. • Ray Fanara working the kids tourney, again, again, and again. • Don, for allowing anyone to sell their products at the show. • Anthony Burgess doing his system demo Sunday morning.


THUMBS UP TO...

The Portsmouth Electric Company. • anyone who said they didn't have a good time. • Smitty trying to sneak a 3.3 fig into the strength competition. • the late start on Sunday... (nobody could get out of bed).

...THUMBS DOWN TO...

I want to thank Karen Beenutt, Bryan Beenutt and Corey Johnson aka "Prettyboy" aka "Mr. National" for their exclusive coverage of the Seawall Brawl. I thank you, the MFCA thanks you and the miniature football family thanks you. Long live football!
Matthew Culp, Editor

THE LAEFL



by David Campbell

As the opportunity to write an article for our beloved magazine presented itself I pondered what to write about. I wanted to share valuable information on miniature football as well as share intimate details about our league, the LAEFL, which is located in the Pacific West region of the MFCA. There are many insights and challenges I'd like to share that I believe will prove valuable to the whole MF community.

The LAEFL, I believe, has been one of the most controversial leagues over the past 6-7 years. We were a league that, it seemed, people wanted to love but loved to hate. Things are changing now as we can see that there have been more deliberate efforts to include us in the national fray, and it's appreciated. However, there was a time when, it seemed, we were shunned as the black sheep of our hobby.

Now our chat page may have had something to do with this. We've always allowed coaches to speak their minds in an uncensored fashion so we have to take the good with the bad. At times it has become a "bash session soap opera" so if you were to

post there you'd have to have thick skin. This may have turned off some coaches, I'm sure that it may have deterred a few potential new recruits. That's why we always encourage new folks to come to gameday to hang out so they can see our environment in person. It's the complete opposite of the chat page, it's just coaches who love the game getting together to get their "MF jones" on.

As wild as our chat page gets I would still have to say that the main reason we were looked down upon by some coaches outside of Los Angeles is because of one word...BOILING. Next to rule sets boiling bases has been the most controversial subject in our hobby and it is perfectly legal in the LAEFL. I've read things on chat pages from "you don't have to coach if you boil" to "I don't want any grease on my field" to "it's like bases on steroids". I've even used the steroid analogy myself but in hindsight I don't like it. Why? Because it automatically creates a negative connotation because of what goes on in real sports. In the real sports world we know that steroids are illegal and it implies an unfair advantage...ba-

sically cheating. If boiled bases are legal in our league there should be nothing negative about it. I wish I had another analogy that was better to offer here but I don't. I'll think about it and get back to you.

For the most part the majority of coaches in the LAEFL felt hated on. Maybe those feelings were warranted, maybe it's a figment of our imagination but nevertheless, that's how some of us felt. So our attitude became "Let's just do our thang". We'll just do the things that we want to do with this league without conforming to the masses or worrying about what people think. That's not to say that we wouldn't participate in national events, or post on other chat pages. We weren't segregating ourselves. This attitude merely meant that we would play how we wanted to without trying to gain approval from the masses. So we pressed on with our all inclusive style of play. By all inclusive I mean that in addition to boiling we add weight to bases. Bases by Tudor, Munro, Coleco, Miggle, Football Figures, Buzzball, ITZ, and Tornado Alley are legal...including boat style bases. Figures by Football Figures, Buzzball, Miggle, Tudor, Electric Gridiron, as well as custom figures are legal. Your whole team can be custom if you like. As long as the figure plus the base is 3.3 grams or less, he is good to go. I love this all inclusive style because each coach's creativity comes out. It's nice to see how different people use different things to accomplish the same goal...win some games and have some fun. Here is a little tidbit, don't sleep on the Miggle proline boat bases. I hate that they have been discontinued. These bases get fast and the extra plastic in the front adds a little "umph". If it hits a base in a good spot it can knock the man over and in the LAEFL that's a Fuuuuuuummmmmmbbbblllleeee!

They make good specialty positions. I use them mostly as receivers, loopers and safeties. If you don't believe me get Smitty 'nem's coach's DVD, he talks about them on there.

For the balance of this article I will highlight points from each of the LAEFL's 8 seasons. You will probably see some stuff you've seen before and some you haven't...maybe some stuff you can implement into your own league. At any rate I'm trying to give it to you raw...the LAEFL in its purest form...uncovered, uncensored and unplugged.

Season I - The Beginning

The LAEFL started from the modest beginnings of Chet's garage. The league was formed in the year 2000 and we were slated to play the DFW rules complete with the action box. There were eight franchises owned by five veteran coaches, Vince Peatros, Al Clegg, Chet Haptonstal, Mike Turner, Derrick Lewis and three rookie coaches, Eric Robinson, Marq Vaughn and myself. Our first season started well but we encountered hick-ups along the way when both my father and Marq's father passed away. This was my first encounter with my commitment to MF. Let me digress...you see I had been hesitant to join a league because I don't like to "half do" things. At the time I had two very small children and didn't know if I would be able to attend consistently. However, I went ahead and committed to our once a month meeting. Now when my pops died, of course MF took a back seat and my league mates were very understanding about that. I could have cared less about my little plastic men or our season. As time healed I came to understand that it was OK for MF to be a part of life even through tough times so long as I always look to God and my relationship with him as my

source of fulfillment and not my men. God is the rock, MF is just a little gravy. So when I was hesitant about making MF a priority in my life, I had to remember it's OK to do so as long as God, family and work come first. After that it's all play. Basically, you have to ask yourself where does MF rank in your extra curricular activities? Will I go

to my scheduled game day or will I blow it off to play golf? Will I go to my scheduled game day or will I go to that BBQ with this new hottie I'm trying to get next to? If it doesn't rank high enough for you to consistently attend league gatherings when they have been prescheduled months in advance, then you shouldn't play in that league...you should just come around and hang out. If you commit to your league gatherings, fail to show up and have to play make up games you are being inconsiderate to your league mates because they showed up at the appointed time and now they have to squeeze you in to make up games outside

of the time they allotted for MF. I just had to get that off of my chest. Even though all of us didn't finish the regular season schedule we decided to have a tournament type of play off where everyone had a shot at the title. I was back baby! Chet and his Cardinals defeated Mike Turner's Broncos 21-20 and our first champion was crowned. This was a good day as Cleon Tate, Jeff Eby, Earl McMillan, and Anthony "Big Nose" Price were

all in attendance. They all signed on for season II. Things were looking up.

Season II



new recruits came out. Mark Woodson, Jeronimo Spinx, Marcelo Troilo, and Johnnie Cotson, may he rest in peace, Perry and Barbara Burke all come to mind. We actually met at Marcelo's to discuss rules, gamedays etc. The meeting went well but a few days later it happened...both Chet and Al had to move out of state on business. What would become of our league? Would we be able to play? It was basically decided that the league wasn't going to happen but Eric Robinson lobbed me a call. "Man, I want to play" let's just set something up ourselves. I really didn't want to do this! I barley had time to just show up



and play, how was I going to help run a league? But guess what? My love and desire to play MF prompted me to help get this thing going, so I agreed to do it. At this time Eric and I started to think of all the things that we could do for the LAEFL to gain validity and respect through out the world. Notice I said world and not the MF world. It is my belief that if we only think MF we are thinking too small. Our goal was to do with the LAEFL and subsequently

MF, exactly what this magazine is doing for MF. Bring it to the masses with a bang baby!!! It was on!!!

Remember what I said earlier about how I can't "half do" things. Well this is both an asset and a liability but I'll live with it. We started brainstorming on things we HAD to do if this league was to be successful in our eyes. I had already designed a logo (I actually did this circa 1998 when I first came back to the hobby) but there was more. I'm sure some of the other coaches were wondering why we had to do all of this. Surely it didn't take all of this just to play MF in a league. Our answer to this is "no it doesn't but it sure makes it nice". We wanted to enhance our MF experience. We wanted it to be a REAL league! Here are some of the things we wanted to accomplish:

1. Play at a venue where the general public could observe.
2. Give away championship trophies.
3. Give away a championship ring.
4. Get a website with its' own domain name.
5. Make our championship an entity in and of itself.
6. Give away complimentary gifts to all coaches.
7. Get media coverage.
8. Grow the league with quality coaches.

In season two we accomplished items 1, 2, 5, and 7. We played our games at the Fox Hills mall community room. This was a large store with an all glass front where folks could see inside. We got two trophies for champ and runner-up. We also provided two trophies for the previous

year's winners. We held our championship at a sports bar in Las Vegas where Vince's Chargers defeated Mike's Broncos 80-17. All of these things were possible because we had coaches on board who shared our vision. Jeff volunteered to maintain the web page. Marcelo kept track of and posted the stats. Eric made sure that we always had a place to play. I continued to create logos and other graphics. Earl handled the orientation of new members. However, the biggest achievement for this season was the media coverage. Fox sports in LA covered our gameday on their show "Fox Overtime". They sent out a young lady who would later grace the sidelines of Monday Night Football and the cover of Playboy magazine,

Lisa Guerrero.

This was before "The Best Damn Sports Show Period" In fact, she plugged it during our segment as a new show that was coming out. This was also huge because we picked

up another good coach, Robert "RJ" Jackson from the coverage. He saw us on TV and made it down to the mall to hang out before we left. Can you imagine sitting home watching post game coverage thinking you're the only one who still plays MF and seeing something like this on TV?! This must have been quite exhilarating! As you can see, this coverage also helped us to accomplish item number 8 which was to grow the league with quality coaches.

Season III

Speaking of RJ, he came on board and went on to go 15-1 to win "The Show III" in his rookie season, defeating Eric's Raiders with his Browns,

21-17. I was friggin' sick! This man beat me three times on his way to MF glory! How is a rookie gonna come in and dominate like this?! A new rivalry was born that sits at 5 victories to 3 in favor of RJ.

It was during this season we raised our dues to \$100. That sounds like a lot but trust me, you would spend a lot more per year on golf, bowling, RC cars, HO cars, pretty much anything for that matter. I don't know of a hobby that's more economical than MF. Anyway the goal was to deter coaches who were not committed, i.e., see my little tangent earlier in this article. We don't get paid to play MF so we have to REALLY WANT to play. Most of us do but it only takes one who's only kind of into it to mess up the flow. If he doesn't show, somebody misses a game and that sucks because we all want to play. Shoot, it's an outing for me. I've got to wear my matching team jersey, got game gear in my game bag, got my set, got my plays, I can't even sleep before game days I'm so hyped! I'm always the first one at the venue getting my game face on! Anyway, our logic was that if a guy paid \$100 he'd definitely show up. We were wrong! It helped, but not as much as we thought. We still had guys drop, miss and show up late, but we continued to "play through" and that \$100 per guy allowed us to accomplish a few more things on our list.

We enhanced item number 3 with Champion and runner up trophies, six division winner trophies, medals for stat leaders and plaques for Coach of the year, Most Improved coach and the "Johnny Cotson MVP award" for the coach who gives most of his free time outside of game play to make our league better. Sorry I failed to share that Johnny Cotson passed away of kidney failure during the beginning of season three. With all of these



awards we still weren't able to find a championship ring to fit our budget. However, we also enhanced items number 4 and 5 by purchasing the domain name LAEFL.com and creating our first field cover for "The Show III" respectively. I design the field covers in the team colors of the number 1 and 2 seeds. This way I don't have to figure out what colors to use, it's fair and it matches the game most of the time. The game was held at a sports bar called Yankee Doodles, we try to move it to home cities of different league coaches. We accomplished item 6 for the first time by giving all league members t shirts...what better way to promote your league? How about a film of your championship? That's exactly what Jeff Eby created...our first full video, "The Show III."

This was also the last season I would serve as co-commissioner. From this point until present day

Eric would serve alone as commissioner. However, I'd like to share this with you budding commissioners out there. As commissioner you get all of the accolades and complaints. It's like being in management at your job. If employees have problems with one another, for the most part they go to the person they report to as opposed to the coworker they have the issue with. The same holds true for a MF league. Coaches are coming to you with problems and complaints. It is your job to hear them without being judgmental and to try to solve the problem. I could no longer do this. That's why I had to step down. Upon hearing complaints on rules, to how different coaches play, to different coaches' men, to not liking the location we play at, etc. It became too much like a job that I wasn't being paid for. I was supposed to be having fun but I wasn't so I had to stop being the one that coaches took their issues

to, I would continue to work for the league but I had to stop being a co-commish!

Season IV

By this time we were a well oiled machine. This was evident in many ways but one was that Chet actually flew in from Denver to participate. Many coaches were doing game write-ups for the website consistently. Cleon started to write his column "The Blunt" for the website. As a matter of fact he and Jeff did a souvenir program for "The Show IV" which I won amidst the San Diego brush fires. My Broncos defeated RJ's Panthers in a game that was called with 7 minutes left in the 4th quarter. At the time I was up 38-24 with the rock deep in his territory. I wish we could have finished. Everyone was respectful, no one put an asterisk by my victory and they still don't. But you know...

This was the first year that I actu-



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ally did a poster for “The Show IV”. These posters were to take on the theme of the city where “The Show IV” was to be held. This one featured Qualcomm Stadium with a trophy coming out of it and animal eyes in the shadows to represent the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park. The idea was to sell it to the MF community as a league fundraiser but we didn’t do it because we didn’t think there would be enough interest. This was also the first year we had a championship ring. We found a team ring for \$99 dollars which fit out budget!

Season V

Season five was bitter sweet. I won “The Show” again! I defeated Eric’s Bucs with my Broncos, 21-14. I had to go through the gauntlet to get there defeating my nemesis RJ along the way. This time we were able to find a custom championship ring. We found a fantasy ring from Jostens and had a custom die made for the top for “The Show” This mug is pretty nice and most of all it fits our budget...only \$200.00. When I show it to people they flip out! Wifey even gets into it!

Jeff did it again this time only he took it to another level. This is the feature game on the LAEFL DVD that you can purchase now. But to make the DVD really nice we added “The Show III”, The Lisa Guerrero visit, footage from the first half of “The Show I” and two league promos that I did. Jeff put everything together, I did the interface, and used the poster for “The Show V” as the packaging cover and voila!

Season VI

Season six was business as usual until “The Show VI” weekend. RJ and his Panthers reclaimed the championship by defeating Celo’s Saints, 21-0 who had already beaten the crap out of me and my Bengals in the con-

ference championship game. There were some new faces on our message board. You know, the LAEFL message board where everyone says whatever the heck they want! It was two young producers that said they wanted to come to Vegas to do some filming of us for a mini documentary. Of course we said cool and gave them the pertinent info. But they ACTUALLY came! They were there before most of us. When I spoke with them they said they found the website and contacted Earl, he handles new contacts for the league, and he sent them the DVD. I can’t stress enough how good of a tool that DVD has been for us. At this point I still didn’t know who they worked for. They told me TBWA/Chiat Day and I liked to lost my mind. I started telling coaches on the down low but they were concentrating on the games at hand because they didn’t understand the magnitude of who these folks were. TBWA/Chiat Day is one of the largest advertising agencies in the country with clients such as Adidas, Nissan, Apple, Anheuser-Busch and PepsiCo. Plus they had releases for us to sign, which meant that they may actually use us. Turns out that they felt they needed to “recreate” the atmosphere that we had that day only with us using generic teams, and coaches that they would “cast” to play certain games. Eric and I went into their office which blew me away. When they get creative block they have a hardwood full basketball court in the middle of their offices. No walls no glass, no barriers...just a court in the middle of their work space, this was hot! Anyway they explained that they wanted to cast Perry and Big nose in the championship game, with four other coaches playing preliminary games. They told me they wanted me to give play by play. To this day I think they didn’t cut me completely out because

Eric and I did so much coordination with them. I painted a team, Eric painted two teams, Earl painted two teams, and Celo painted one team. We created jerseys for the coaches to wear to match the teams. They picked the field that they wanted the championship to be shot on. Everything had to run through their legal department so we would provide them with PowerPoint presentations of the team uniforms, field covers, teams’ jerseys, Team end zone names, etc. We wanted to make their job as easy as possible. We weren’t able to use the LAEFL logo in the documentary because of “EFL” and Miggle’s rights to it. They didn’t want to pay and they didn’t want to take a chance on any type of copyright infringements. Miggle, however, did supply new 620 boards for game play.

For the shoot they flew the coaches from Las Vegas out to Los Angeles and put them up in hotels. We were cast as commentator, coaches, refs and fans. We just wanted to get as much participation as possible. We shot it from 12 noon until about 12 midnight. This was MF at it’s finest. Just cats getting together, doing something they love and getting paid for it! Can’t beat that with a stick! This has been the highlight of my EF career. Some may view this as an acting gig but I view it as the day I played MF professionally! Additionally this provided the complete MF community with another quality video to show.

Season VII

This was probably our most controversial season ever. Jimbo was moving to California so this was an opportunity for someone from back east to see what the LAEFL was all about first hand. We showed him alright, just not what we expected to show. There were outbursts on the chat board that caused tension

at gameday. There were outbursts at gameday, one by yours truly...I was Hot!!! Now I can't even remember exactly what it was about. There were coaches who forfeited games simply because they didn't want to even be in the same room with particular coaches (they've since reconciled), and there were attempts to overthrow our league commissioner mid season. Here is the kicker, none of this crap had anything to do with MF. Is that crazy or what!? How did all of this filter into our league? I don't know for sure but in addition to there being a slow build up I suspect an infraction that Eric and I committed started a rippling effect. This was by no means the only infraction nor was it the first, but this one involved money and you know how that can go. Here's what happened:

Just before the season started, one of our members, Ajah who was serving in Iraq, reached out so I got the idea of sending him a care package. I put feelers out for donations and got a couple of responses. Then I remembered that Eric told me that there was money in the league treasury left over from the previous season. I asked him if we could use that money so that the care package could be from the whole league and he thought it was a great idea. So we sent the first package complete with a portable EF set, you may even remember the article in "Plugged In". Weeks later we sent a second package at Ajah's request. These turned out to be two grave errors. Our mistake was thinking that everyone in the league would feel the way we did. After all we were able to lift our brother's spirits, as a league, while he was thrust into battle. We are all down with this right? WRONG! When most of our league mates were elated with this decision there were quite a few who weren't feeling it at all! When I first got wind

of this I got pissed! Then after settling down I got it. They weren't upset about us sending the care packages. They were upset and uncomfortable with the fact that league funds were used and they weren't consulted. They had a very valid point. So Eric and I decided to refund the \$240 for both packages with a verbal apology at game day. This started the room in an uproar. Other coaches got pissed like I did upon hearing the opinions of these disgruntled coaches. They took it as a slight to our league mate. However, once everyone got a chance to say their piece the league decided that Eric and I should keep the money that we were refunding, but also made it mandatory that these types of donations come out of our pockets and not league money. This issue was not about support or lack thereof for Ajah. This was about money and the control of money. Here's what we learned:

1. Always have a proposed budget in writing at the beginning of every season to supply to every coach so they can see where the money goes. Season VII was the first year that this wasn't done and look what happened.
2. Provide an annual report in the off season that includes the actual usage of funds.
3. If an item has not been identified in the budget, i.e., Ajah's care package, take it to the body or Board of Directors for approval before acting.
4. Never assume that everyone thinks like you...especially when it comes to money. If you do you are in for a big surprise.
5. Adopt some league bi-laws as well as rules and regulations and publish them so that league members know what they are being evaluated against if something bad goes down.
6. Strictly enforce all rules and regulations

So, this infraction caused coaches

to question how league funds were being used as well as league leadership in general. At our annual meeting we put a Board of Directors in place as a representation for the complete body of our league. This makes it so that all things don't fall squarely on the commish.

Oh yeah, Perry and his Cowboys were not to be denied as they went on a tear in the playoffs winning "The Show VII" 27-0 over Jeronimo and his Bears.

Through all of this league turmoil, Eric and I courted the NFL Network to gain some additional coverage for our league and hobby. We started in March and after a couple of cancelled dates, they came out to cover "The Show VII". We continue to call them every couple of months to see what's up with this story as they have yet to do anything with the footage.

Season VIII

This is our current season. As I write this article there is one game-day left before "The Show VIII." This season shows our league at fourteen coaches. In addition to the suspended coaches, everyone from Las Vegas and a few coaches from Los Angeles opted not to participate this season.

The LAEFL still breathes...late in the fourth quarter when it seems like nothing is going your way... "play through!"

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RA: First of all, let me say that you don't sound anything at all like your dad.

DC: I don't?

RA: No, you actually sound...well, intelligent. Are you sure you're related? I mean, did you ever have any DNA tests done?

DC: Yeah, he's my dad....but, um, well, if you ever saw us together we do. Some people think we sound alike, people in the hobby. When I was younger they could tell distinct differences.

RA: They call your dad "Old School". Why don't they call you "New School" or "Schooled at Home" or something?

DC: Well, I guess because I don't like that name! Dad picked his name. I don't have to be the opposite of the way that he is.

RA: How long have you been playing Miniature Football?

DC: I think as of now it's been 6 years. I started when I was 13 and I'm about to be 19 here in a month or two.

RA: For the most part, in the last 6 years, you've been kind of out of

the limelight. Not too many people have heard of you. What are you trying to hide? Is there something we should know about?

DC: Limelight, as in championship winning, yes, but I don't think I've been pushed too far back. A lot of people knew I can play. I've been to various tournaments whether it be Buzzball, Miggle or whatever. I've beaten some of the better coaches out there. Now I haven't won all these tournaments that I've been to, but I have beaten some pretty good coaches. It depends on who you ask, a lot of people knew I could play. So limelight, I wasn't hiding or anything. I didn't have big enough game to be a champion I guess. Now that I'm older my coaching strategy has gotten a lot better and I'm a smarter coach mentally. I guess I'm good enough to win some now.

RA: What team do you use when you play?

DC: That depends. The team I used to win both Seawall Brawls was the Cowboys.

RA: I see...(Editors note. Anyone who lives near the nations capital, goes by the name of DC but plays with the Cowboys is not to be trusted

in my book!) So, who tweaked your bases?

DC: Me and my dad. He did the majority of the work. I did some of the rookie bases.

RA: In this particular tournament, who were the actual coaches that you played against?

DC: The first round I had a bye, the second round I played a kid named Rodney Vitek, he's from Toledo and plays in the Detroit League, Great Lakes League. He's basically like Greg Hardmons pupil. In the next round I played Philly's Al Harvey. Then in the next round I played Brian Healey. Then in the semis I played Greg Hardmon and in the finals I played Simmie Lassiter, Tookie!

RA: Oh, Tookie. I think I met him once. So, you didn't actually play against Jimbo then?

DC: Naw, he was on the other side of the semis. He played against Tookie.

RA: So tell me the truth now, when Jimbo lost, he was bawling like a baby, wasn't he?

DC: (Laughing) I'm pretty sure inside he was because we were at

that point last year in the final four. I played Frank and he played AJ and it was like the same story over again.

RA: Now, you guys play with the strategy divider all the time, right?

DC: League play, yeah, but it's not the only way I know how to play. My dad's a well rounded person.....

RA: I'm not even going to touch that line.

DC: What?!

RA: Oh nothing, keep going.

DC: My dad taught me how to play other styles because that's not how... he didn't grow up playing with the divider. But in our league play and in the tournament, then yes, we use the divider.

RA: Now you're going to Notre Dame. Who cooks your meals over there?

DC: Some very excellent cooks, I can tell you. The meals are very good. I guess it's the culinary arts students that cook them.

RA: So you don't have to cook anything yourself?

DC: Nope, we get our 14 meals a week and \$300, well, it's not actual money, but we get \$300 to spend on campus for food.

RA: Wow. So tell me, would you rather be a hammer or a nail?

DC: I would probably have to be a hammer.

RA: If you were a nail you could give somebody tetanus.

DC: Yeah, but if I'm a hammer I can hit somebody hard.

RA: But a nail can hold up a picture, scratch someone's car, give them a flat and ruin their day. It's a lot more versatile.

DC: I just want to hit...

RA: Ginger or Mary Ann? And if you say "What about Mrs. Howell?" I'm hanging up the phone!

DC: Ginger or Mary Ann?

RA: Yep.

DC: So, what's the question?

RA: Ginger or Mary Ann? That's the question.

DC: That's a question?

RA: It is in my book.

DC: Well, I guess I have to go Ginger. I'm thinking it as if I have to have one of them.

RA: I have one last question for you. SuperSumos or Sasquatch?

DC: I'd go Sasquatch.

RA: That's my boy. See, I told you he was intelligent!



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BAMA BLAST

WHERE THE BIG DAWGS PLAY!

by Karen L. Nutt



If it's motto is any indication, then the Bama Blast plays host to some of the most serious electric football competitors in the South. Coaches from Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina gathered in Oxford, AL on June 2-4, 2007 to participate in the event that boasts, "If you think you're the best, come and pass the test." One of the nation's oldest continuously run electric football tournaments, the Bama Blast began in 1996. David Nickles of Oxford, AL, has served as tournament director since its inception, and the event is always held the first weekend in June. While Coaches compete in College and Pro Divisions, a unique aspect of the tournament is its rules...or rather, lack of rules. The only restriction is the 4.0 gram weight maximum. Otherwise, all figures and bases are permitted.

Traditionally, the Bama Blast has been the site for a number of close, exciting finishes, especially during the final rounds. This year's tournament was no different. In the Pro Division, Bryan "Beenutt" Nutt's Dallas Cowboys edged out Nickles' Cincinnati Bengals in a two-point conversion on the last play of the championship game to win 22-21. Nutt, who was playing with his son Kyle's Louisville Cardinals, also captured the College Division title over Jasper Scott and his Georgia Bulldogs, 21-7. Well-known Coaches from across the country have passed the Bama Blast test. They include (in the Pro Division): Steve Miles (1996), Vince Warren (1997, 1998), Edgar Downs (1999), David Nickles (2000), Mike Robinson (2001), Warren Jefferson (2002), Bryan Nutt (2003, 2005, 2006, 2007) and Adrian Baxter/Keith "Big Keith" Chalmers (Co-Coaches 2004).

FROM THE ARCHIVES

1 Year Ago - Adrian Baxter wins Columbus Day Bash in Washington DC

5 Years ago - Keith Chalmers Wins Capital Clash in Washington DC

5 Years ago - George Diamond hosts 2nd annual BuzzBall Convention in Harrisburg, PA

40 Years Ago - Tudor offers Deluxe figures in NFL uniforms in time for Christmas 1967

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the EVOLUTION of Tudor by Ray Fanara figure types

In our inaugural issue of “The Tweak” we paid tribute to Lee Payne, the creator of the three dimensional football figures commonly referred to as the “Fabulous Five” (Fab-5) today. This piece will focus on the 60 year evolution of the Tudor figures up to the latest offerings from Miggle Toys today, to answer the question commonly found on the chat board; What are all the different types of Tudor Figures? Here is a thumbnail sketch of the various figure types you can still find at eBay, yard, sales, thrift stores and EF events.

When Norman Sas of Tudor Metal Products Corporation first introduced Electric Football in 1947, the game came with one dimensional metal figures with metal prongs. The next generation of figures were made of plastic with a form of vinyl for the prongs, still one dimensional. These figure types were the mainstay until the early 1960’s, when Tudor came out with a 3-Dimensional figure with the base and figure molded as one. These figures are non-standard compared to today’s figures as they were larger and slightly heavier than ‘Big Men’ figures. They came in the original Tudor #500 game sets and appeared goofy, unbalanced and awkward to tweak with the base and figure molded together and commonly called Gorilla figures. Today, these figures hold little collector value but are a vital link in the evolutionary process for electric football figures as original Fab-5 poses.

The next generation of figures offered by Tudor began an EF frenzy for young boys across America. In 1967, Tudor offered deluxe figures in authentic looking NFL team colors with logos on the helmets. The advantages these newer figures had over older figures were the realistic 3-D poses and the versatility of having removable bases, so innovative little boys could determine the best base for each figure type based on position. The figures were slightly larger than the figures produced just a few years later and are commonly called, “Big Men” by collectors and hobbyists today. They were well molded with finer details and a single slot in the figure

platform to accommodate a single clip rookie base. You could order all the NFL teams in both dark and white jerseys, the AFL teams were offered only in dark, all had black shoes. These figures were only produced in 1967 and part of 1968 with several variations due to mold changes. Thus, they have high collector value today and demand prices for teams in excellent condition in the \$75 and above range. To correctly identify these figures look for a tackle figure leaning forward and an original bag with “made in Hong Kong” on it.

In 1968, Tudor went to a slightly smaller version of figures to save money. The legs and butts are thicker and wider than the ones produced a few years later, thus the term “Hog Leg.” They also have distinctive circles on the butts, believed to be only 80% of the Big Men weight but you can check with a scale. They have calf bands from just below knees to just above ankles. The more distinctive the butt circles the earlier the mold generation. On close inspection you will also notice a face mask bar painted across the face of the figure. They came in dark and white uniforms for NFL teams, AFL teams were again available only in dark except for the Jets, also available in white. Luckily for Joe Namath fans the Jets in white came with the Tudor AFL #510 set beginning in 1968 and the Tudor Super Bowl III set in 1969. Made in Hong Kong with black shoes, from 68-69, Hog Leg figures demand around \$30 for full teams in excellent condition with no breaks. Many solitaire players enjoy using these figures because of their balance and weight for better playability.

In 1970, again Tudor went to a slightly lighter figure to save money. The legs and butts seem skinny and smaller compared to the figures made in 68/69. These figures have thinner legs compared to Hog Legs, thus, the term Chicken Leg. Made in Hong Kong between 1970 and 1973 with black shoes, these figures are commonly sold in the \$20 price range for complete teams in excellent condition with no breaks. These figures were available in both light and dark jerseys for all NFC and

AFC teams.

The next generation of figures were made in Haiti in the mid to late 70's. Painted with black shoes in 1974/75, known as Haiti black shoe these figures sport excellent paint jobs, and details. The second-largest and heaviest standard figures compared to the Big Men of 67 and taller and more angular with excellent balance. A distinctive characteristic is the duckbilled mouth on these figures. You will also notice a smaller circle on the butt of the blocker figure compared to the hog leg figures. The switch to white shoes occurred in 1976 (we think) and considered of slightly less quality and weight than the Haiti black shoe version they still offer excellent details and paint. The Black Shoe Haiti teams typically demand \$25 for complete teams in excellent condition with no breaks, while the white shoe teams have a slightly lesser value.

By the end of the 70's, Tudor was manufacturing its teams in Hong Kong with white shoes. A little lighter than the Haiti figures with less detail and poorly painted compared to the Haiti teams, they first appeared in the Vikings vs. Raiders Super Bowl game 77-78. Commonly called Hong Kong Smalls, these figures were the mainstay until Tudor sold out in the late 80's. The figures produced in the late 80's were of the poorest quality ever produced with the all too common off centered slot in the figure stand and burrs of plastic on the legs and arms.

Miggle Toys started producing painted figures in the early 1990's, the paint was poor but the white plastic was of decent quality. The painted figures have a weight closer to Haiti white shoe teams while the stamped helmet teams produced in the late 1990's have a weight closer to the Hong Kong teams of the late 80's,

meaning slightly less weight. None of these figures sported the traditional slot in the figure platform but were solid requiring the double clip style base. In 2002, Miggle started offering a limited number of NCAA College Teams to complement the NFL teams they offered and plans to unveil a new set of teams under a new licensing agreement this year. In the spring

of 2003, after hearing the countless requests from EF hobbyists, Miggle Toys began offering "67 Big Men" in the latest NFL paint schemes with a better quality of detail, paint job and the customary slot in the stand for greater versatility with different types of bases. Unfortunately, Miggle Toys was unable to reach an equitable agreement with the National Football League this year, causing the 40th anniversary of Lee Payne's achievement to go unnoticed, unlike the Summer of Love, 2007 will provide a new set of opportunities and challenges for the toy company.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the late Dr. Kurt Smeby of the UK, Mike Pratt of Hollidaysburg, PA, Paul L. Gardner of NY, NY and Rene' Smith of Baltimore, MD for their contributions to the Miggle Chat Board over the years which served as the primary source of information and facts for this article. This compilation is as factual as the memories and observations of my fellow hobbyists and should not be taken as the absolute truth, in time we will collectively fill in the gaps and create the EF archive with increased accuracy for future research and information. If you have additional knowledge, pictures, old Tudor Rule books with

information that could add to our collective knowledge base, please forward it to rfanara@verizon.net.

Ray Fanara, Brookeville, MD, Contributing Writer



The Woman Behind The Coach

By Karen L. Nutt

There is an old English proverb that goes, “Behind every great miniature football player, there is a woman with the patience of Job”... or something like that. That patient woman is most likely one of the following:

A) Your mother who bought you your first miniature football game in the 1970s or

B) Your wife who secretly wishes your mother never bought you that electric football game period.

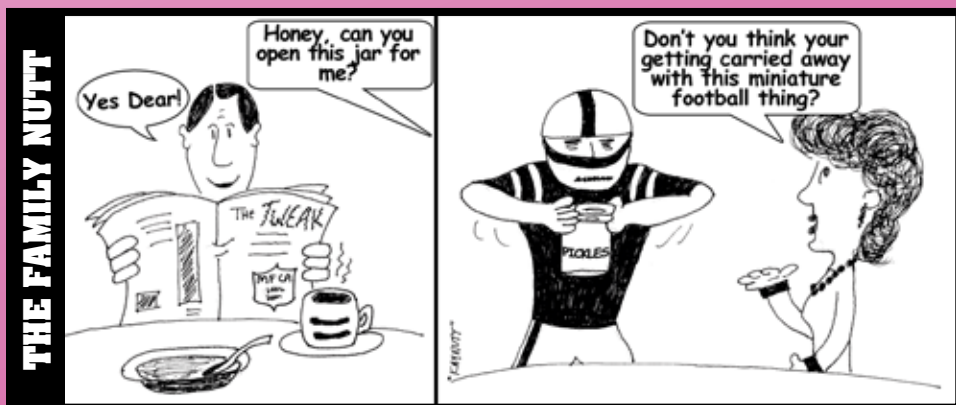
I fall into Category B. I’m Mrs. “Beenutt,” and it’s important to keep the quotation marks around “Beenutt” because that’s not a real name. It’s my husband’s Miniature Football Name. Only the guys who also have Miniature Football Names in quotation marks (like “Big Keith” or “Weird Wolf”) call my husband, whom I call Bryan with no punctuation marks, “Beenutt.” In all fairness, I don’t believe my mother-in-law could have imagined the marital problems that would develop for her son when she bought Bryan that first board at a Roses department store in

Spartanburg, S.C. Though long vacated, the Roses building still stands today, and we pass it often when we drive by. At each passing of the defunct Roses store, Bryan tells our wide-eyed children the story of his first miniature football game. Depending on their mood at the time, they sit and listen or maybe just sit.

I believe Bryan’s mother was simply in search of a toy to occupy Bryan’s time when he opened it up one Christmas morning. She was simply looking for something for him to play with at least until early afternoon. I wish she’d bought him Rock’em Sock’em Robots instead. A GNIP-GNOP game would’ve been nice, too. If only Bryan had the chance to develop a love for GNIP-GNOP instead of Miniature Football, our 21-year marriage would’ve been so different. Not just because of the “Beenutt” thing...I’ve gotten used to that. Guys call all the time, asking for “Beenutt.” Sometimes they don’t use the quotation marks, but I know who they’re talking about. Take our house for ex-

ample, it is a normal, contemporary ranch in the middle-class suburbs of Spartanburg. Yes, there are suburbs in Spartanburg. Anyway, on the outside, our house appears normal, but on the inside, well, that is a different story. It is a story that is difficult to explain to visitors to The Nutt House (no quotation marks needed). At least I don’t have dust bunnies under the beds, which is not a testament to my extraordinary housekeeping skills, but rather, it’s a testament that my husband owns so many boards that they are stored under every bed in the house. Finally! A practical use for bed skirts!

Bed skirts can’t hide “the little men” who lurk throughout every room in the house, except maybe my 17-year-old daughter’s room. However, it’s so cluttered in there, it’s hard to tell what’s lurking in there, and I don’t really want to know. Then there are these little men that need to be painted and decaled, which means little bitty pieces of decal paper sticking to the furniture, the carpet, the dogs. Our Beagle mix, Blue, unwittingly wore Emmitt’s #22 for three weeks before I noticed it. I say “unwittingly” because Blue is a Packers fan. It seems my 14-year-old son inherited his father’s love of miniature football. The miniature football gene is located on the “Y” chromosome...which, I bet, explains his dad’s quotation marks.



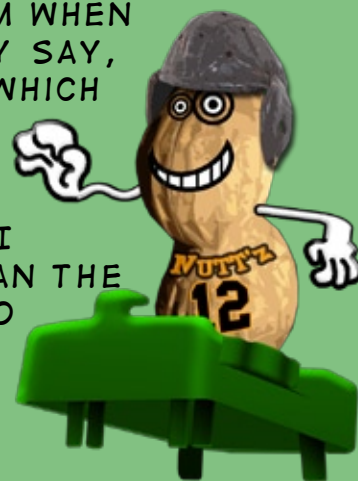
GOOING

BY KYLE NUTT

THIS IS A COLUMN FROM A KID'S POINT OF VIEW OF MINIATURE FOOTBALL. I LOVE PLAYING THE GAME WITH MY DAD AND MY DAD'S FRIENDS. I ENJOY GOING TO THE "BAMA BLAST" AND THE SEAWALL BRAWL AND PLAYING IN THE DIXIE LEAGUE. IT'S REALLY GREAT WHEN I GO TO THESE PLACES AND FIND OTHER KIDS MY AGE WHO PLAY MINIATURE FOOTBALL. IT'S FUN TO DO THINGS WITH OTHER KIDS BECAUSE IT'S SOMETHING WE HAVE IN COMMON. WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT, AND COMPARE OUR TEAMS. I LIKE PLAYING WITH THE ADULTS. I CAN BEAT THEM BECAUSE I CAN PASS BETTER THAN THEY CAN. MOST OF MY DAD'S FRIENDS PLAYED WHEN THEY WERE KIDS A LONG TIME AGO.

NOT MANY OF MY FRIENDS AT SCHOOL AND IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD KNOW ABOUT MINIATURE FOOTBALL BUT I'M TRYING TO GET THEM INTO IT. THEY REALLY LIKE LOOKING AT OUR TEAMS. WE HAVE A LOT OF TEAMS. I'VE GOT MOST OF THEM.

"GOOING" IS WHEN MY DAD MAKES ME BRUSH ON A GLOSS TO MAKE THEM SHINY AND PROTECT THE DECALS FROM COMING OFF. MY FRIENDS HAVE CHORES LIKE TAKING OUT THE TRASH OR MOWING THE GRASS. MY MOTHER DOES MAKE ME FEED THE DOGS SOMETIMES WHEN SHE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT. BUT MY NUMBER ONE CHORE IS GOOING THE FIGURES. I'VE GOOED IN THE MORNING. I'VE GOOED AT NIGHT. I DON'T THINK THERE'S AN HOUR OF THE DAY DURING WHICH I HAVEN'T GOOED. I'LL BE HONEST. GOOING IS **BOOORRRING**! I CAN'T JUST SIT AT MY DESK AND GOO. I HAVE TO HAVE THE TV ON. I PARTICULARLY LIKE "DRAKE AND JOSH" AND "HANNAH MONTANA." MOM WILL COME IN THE ROOM (MY DESK IS IN THE FAMILY ROOM) AND WATCH "I LOVE LUCY." I DON'T LIKE TO GOO DURING "I LOVE LUCY." I'VE SEEN EVERY EPISODE UP TO THE SHOW'S LAST SEASON. I LIKE LUCY OKAY, BUT I DON'T **LOVE** LUCY. THEN I TRY TO TELL MY FRIENDS THAT I HAVE TO GOO. THEY SAY, "HUH?" IT'S KIND OF HARD TO EXPLAIN TO TEENAGERS JUST EXACTLY WHAT GOOING IS. I TELL THEM WHEN THEY LOOK AT OUR FIGURES THAT I GOOED THEM. THEY SAY, "HUH?" THEY DON'T HAVE A VERY LARGE VOCABULARY, WHICH IS WHY IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN GOOING TO THEM. I TELL THEM I PUT ON TWO COATS OF GOO ON THE PLAYERS AFTER THE PAINT AND DECALS HAVE DRIED SO THEY LOOK SHINY. I THINK THEY GET IT EVENTUALLY. IN A WAY, I THINK THEY'D RATHER HAVE THE CHORE OF GOOING THAN THE CHORE OF TAKING OUT THE TRASH BECAUSE IT IS SO DIFFERENT. BUT GOOING GETS OLD, JUST LIKE TAKING OUT THE TRASH GETS OLD. I GUESS GOOING IS ONE CHORE I SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR, ESPECIALLY IF MY FRIENDS THINK IT'S NEAT.



PAINTING WITH GUTTS

by Mike Guttman

I've been getting a lot of questions about how I get such a clean looking figure with crisp straight lines. The following tips are meant to help you better understand the art of painting miniature football figures. Let us begin with brush selection.

BRUSHES

The most important thing about brushes is that I get new brushes about every three teams I paint. I'm sure you have noticed that the bristles are not very reliable and do not stay in the same position every time you pick up the brush. The brushes I personally use are a #10 and a #18 brush. I do not use the #5 brush that a lot of people recommend. I feel that there is too much room for error with this size brush.

PLANNING

The first step I take in painting is to plan out ahead of time which sections of the figure I am going to paint first. By taking a moment to plan, you can save considerable time and energy. Some of the questions you need to ask are: will I be putting the jersey collars on the figure-if so, are they a circular shape or the V-shape? How high do the socks come up on the figure? Are the helmets getting stripes? You get the idea. The reason for the planning is so you can prep the figure before painting. An example of this is the helmet. If the helmet is getting stripes then out comes the exacto knife and Dremmel tool to get rid of all the excess plastic and ridges on the helmets. This little tip makes it much easier to put on the striping decal later in the process.

PAINT CHOICE

The kinds of paints to use are a personal preference. I use Testors enamels, unless I can't mix them to get the color I want, then I'll use Mike Beals paints. I also use Brush 'n Blend extender with all acrylic paints. This gives the paint a more consistent flow and allows you to take your time so it won't dry out.

PAINTING SKIN TONES

Skin tones are the first area that I paint. I always paint the necklines on figures and I also paint the entire arms as well; the reason for this is that the paint acts as a primer (It is easier to paint over paint). I never prime my figures; I take them right out of the bag and begin.

Furthermore, when you are painting the face and neck, there is no need to be careful here. I pretty much paint the entire head and the upper part of the jersey with the skin tone. In doing this it will ensure a consistent coat of paint with no discoloration if you miss on some of the areas. You will be painting the jersey anyways and this way you will not have to come back later with a touchup on the skin. Finally, I paint the sock area of the figure.

PAINTING THE JERSEY, PANTS, HELMET AND BASE

The helmet is next to be painted. If the jersey or pants are the same color, I will paint those at this point also. It all depends on whether or not the helmet has the Metallic look to it. If it does, then I add Decoart's Pearlizing

Agent-Medium Blend to the paint. Be sure not to mix too much into the paint or it will separate. I paint my helmets like real helmets, with the curved shape and ear hole. This is also where you can cover up the skin tone painting you did earlier. Next to paint is the jersey and pants. On some of the figures there is a ridge or a hump where the pants and the jersey meet. These can be tough to paint into. This takes a lot of P & P as I call it...patience and practice! If painting these areas becomes too frustrating, you can take a piece of small cut paper and place it against the figure in the gap and then paint the



jersey or pants and the paper will act as a guide for you. This is another reason why I do not use a #5 brush. There are too many bristles and the brush can easily slip. You must have complete control of your stroke.

The shoes and gloves are painted when I'm ready to put the decals on those areas. This is done because the decals for the shoes and gloves will adhere to the figure better when they are somewhat freshly painted. They cling better and it gives the gloves a more realistic look.

Finally, the base. If you are painting on Big-men or Football Figures, it looks better if you paint the base. I will use Testors Green or Green Beret. At this point I will put Delta



WHEN YOU ARE
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Ceramcoat (sealant) on. I use this as opposed to Modge Podge. The reason for this is that Modge Podge will get tacky if the figures get too warm such as the heat in a car on a sunny day.

TIME TO DECAL

Putting on decals can be a challenge. I personally decal a figure in the following order: Helmet-Jersey-Pants-Shoes and finally the gloves.

First is the helmet. Put the stripe decal on first. I can not stress this enough. In doing this, it will help in the positioning of the helmet emblem. Then you may put on the team's logos and the helmet chaps (Ridell/Team name). If you are putting on the NFL shield or other numbers on the back of the helmet, then put those on after the chaps. This will help for positioning of the other decals. I then put a layer of sealant on the helmet. I do this so I have something to hold onto when I am decaling other areas and I do not have to worry about rubbing off the decals and having to redo them later. The helmet's sealant will then have to dry before continuing on to other areas.

Second step... the jersey. For this process you need to think "Top to Bottom". This is important for positioning

the decal correctly. First, look at the uniform. What's on the sleeves? Is there a number, emblem or stripe? Are there any other logos? Start with the sleeves. After the sleeves, do the front and the back of the jersey. Again, the final step is to put the sealant on to protect your work.

Third step...the pants. In doing the pants, put the pants stripe on first. I try to cut the leg stripe close to size. Being exact is not necessary as I will explain later. I will position the leg stripe right at the edge of the jersey. If the stripe extends a little into the skin or sock area on the figure, then let it. (This is where you see how the crisp painting and decaling happens). After the leg striping and any other decals are applied to the pants, put your sealant on. Now, the next thing to do is to cover up your pants stripe decal that went into the skin or sock area. This is why I paint them sloppy at the beginning. Get that decal on there nice and snug, let it dry and then paint over the decal! This is the secret to getting the crisp look of the pants ending at the sock or skin. Finally...the gloves, shoes and accessories. Using the skills you have acquired throughout this process, attach the gloves, shoes and any other add-ons to the player. When you are finished put the sealant on in these areas. At this point most painters will put gloss or dull coat over the entire figure. Others will wait until after the chinstrap and facemask are put on. I prefer the second option and put mine on after the chinstrap and facemask.

Now your figures are done! Or are they?

CHINSTRAPS AND FACEMASKS

The process goes like this. After I have bent the facemask using tweezers I take it and dip the two ends into Modge Podge and glue it to the curve of the helmet. I never put Modge Podge on the rest of the figure as I mentioned earlier. After the mask is attached, I then lay the figure on its back. This will let the facemask dry, towards the figure. If you stand the figure up, it will tend to slide away from the figure. (Raiderman gave me this little trick.)

The last step is of course is putting the sealant on the entire figure. On some figures, you will need to weigh them before using them in a tournament or league that has weight restrictions.





TWEAK CLINIC 911

DOCTOR ON CALL GENO HENDRICKS

In this article I will introduce you to the Tornado Alley F-5 base. The F-5 was released in February, 2007 and is still new and unknown to most. The following tweaking tips will unveil some of the F-5's qualities and should help you to get your F-5 through training camp and onto your starting roster.

At first glance the F-5 looks like any other base. Upon further inspection the rear prongs are not only longer but also thicker allowing you, the tweaker, more options in creating a base that performs specific tasks. This will become clear as we cover four performance categories: **1.Power 2.Speed 3.Power/Speed Combo 4.Specialty**. To accomplish this we will set the F-5 in motion in 8 different ways.



In figure-1 the F-5 is shown in its production form (out of the bag) and after it has been tweaked for strength. Note the difference in prong width. **The tweaked version is the starting point from which all other tweaked versions are created.** To achieve this, squeeze the prongs until the desired look is achieved, then angle the prongs rearward on all four corners. In figure-2 the inner front prongs have been removed to achieve a standard dial base performance. In figure-3, the F-5 rear prongs have been trimmed shorter to carry a figure that has more weight towards the front half of the figure platform. Shortening the back prongs help balance and level the figure. In figure-4 the F-5 front and rear prongs have all been "re-angled" to change the direction of travel. This will create a great speed/strength base and or an offensive lineman or defensive lineman with great movement. In figure-5 the F-5 has had the inner front prongs removed and trimmed narrower to achieve the wide top base type performance. In figure-6 the F-5 has again had the prongs re-angled to reverse the travel and then split with fine scissors or an x-acto knife to get a rookie style base performance. Finally, in figure-7 the F-5 again has had the prongs re-angled to reverse the travel. You then cut vertically and slightly larger at the top of the prong on the rear, removing the inner prongs for speed. When in this mode slight turns of the dial will create unique movement lending itself to be a very efficient looper (outside blitzer).

In closing I will offer up a couple of general tips. First, for pure power, pay special attention to the prong angle, making little adjustments at a time until you hit the sweet spot. Second, for additional strength, lightly run prongs across fine grade sand paper or emery board or equivalent. For instance, run the base forward the length of the emery board then back and then forward again. Finally, when tweaking a base be sure to test all types of figures to truly test the performance. That's all I have for now. Until next time may the G-FORCE be with you!



LOMAX'S AND O'S

FORMATION CHALK TALK

BY KELVIN LOMAX



Last issue, we focused on more of an overview of offensive football that can be used in Miniature Football. This issue, we will take a look at some defenses that can be executed or used. We will also explore some standard defenses like the traditional 4-3, 3-4 and then take a look at some of the variations that find their way onto the miniature football fields.

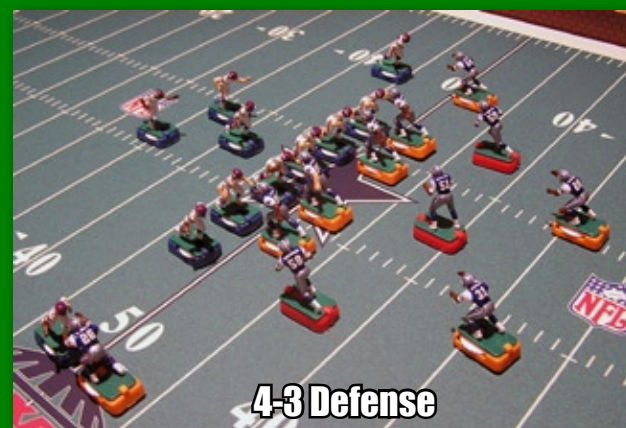
The 4-3 Defense is used to slow down the running game by filling all of the gaps and forcing one-on-one blocking where the linebackers make the plays or tackles. In this defense, you can do a variety of things to disguise your pass coverage and blitzing angles. Keeping it on the miniature football level, to make this defense effective, you need strong defensive linemen and fast, accurate linebackers combined with versatile cornerbacks and safeties TO RUN Pro types of schemes.

The 3-4 Defense is a quicker defense because it employs four linebackers. The defense relies on the Nose Tackle to be the dominate player on the defensive line. He has to command a double team on every play. He must effectively clog up the middle enabling the LB to make plays.

Now in Miniature Football, both of these defenses get some types of modifications to take advantage of the offensive formations to basically get the defense's main playmaker outside linebacker a.k.a. Looper free to make plays in the offensive backfield.

In Miniature Football, quick pressure is the best defense in passing situations. What that means is getting your defensive playmaker in the face of the QB before the offensive play has a chance to develop. This pressure forces the QB to get rid of the football or be sacked.

Some of the most effective defenses are balanced to the point that they are equal in both the run and the pass. **The 4-4 Stack**, as I call it, is one of the most effective Miniature Football defenses because of its two-fold capabilities. First, it gives you a strong push in the middle to stop the inside running and force the offense to go outside where the Looper will be waiting. Second, this defense is also very effective against the pass. Again, quick pressure is the key to your defense being successful, that is why so many coaches use this defense. The push up front combined with both outside linebackers/looper coming from both sides create max pressure to force the offense to get rid of the football before they are ready or before the play develops.



THE FACTORY

by Andre Cogdell



Once in a great while does a man have the opportunity to experience a life changing revelation. I understand that getting married and having children are quite significant in it's own relevance, but what was bestowed on to me will be forever etched into the fabric of my being. Return with me now to the period of 19 and 73 where huge afro's and bell bottoms were the overwhelming choice of style. This was the order of the day for common folk on their way to and from. Christmas day of that miraculous year, there was an unusual looking present lying under the tree waiting to be born. In the midst of curiosity and excitement, my brother and I took a couple of kitchen knives to the situation. The house that we called home was now beginning to resemble a crime scene I hasten to add. There were all kind of wrapping paper, tape, and shrapnel covering the floor. After our parents toured the riot area assessing the wreckage, there, ladies and gentlemen, lied the greatness that is, our first Super Bowl field.

I began to take a liking to football during that era, it was hard not to take notice of the Miami dolphins during their glory days. Our parents must have known what the perfect gift would be and certainly delivered on it. We marveled at the object for awhile and could not determine how to operate it. There

was a mechanism attached to the cord that plugged into the outlet, we pushed the button on the mechanism and the entire field began to buzz. We placed the players that came with the game on the field and like the late Hank Stram once

said, "It looks like a Chinese fire drill out there". Some of the players did not move, while others ran in circles. Every now and then some would be like OJ Simpson and would take a stab at the end zone.

We became tired of playing with the same teams all the time and wanted more for our collection. My mother knew of our greed and said these magic words "I think the factory that makes these things is somewhere around here". We immediately headed into the streets in search of this place like the townspeople searching for the Frankenstein monster. The building was located on a side street from the main avenue. We must have walked by it several times. We decided to see what was on that side street and there it was ladies and gentlemen, one of the great addresses known to man, 176 Johnson Street. If you are an electric football loyalist, this address is more famous than 1600 Pennsylvania Ave down in the nation's capital.

The building itself was old and unassuming, nothing very eye catching. It was not the pyramids in Cairo, or Westminster Abbey over in London. The architectural structure does not quite measure up to Angkor Wat in Cambodia, nor does it have the posh décor that brightens the palace of Ver-



sailles in France. We all know that inner beauty is far more rewarding than outer beauty. One trip inside will bring your appreciation for electric football to a level never experienced by the human condition.

That smell, I can still smell the plastic simmering like a credit card after your wife leaves the mall. My friends...that was the Fab Five being baked to perfection. A freight elevator stopped on every floor to transport the factory workers to various posts throughout the facility. It also picked up the customers from the first floor who were taken to the third floor to make their team purchases. I will never forget the elevator operator, an older gentlemen, with a distinct voice that announced "going up", once the doors opened. The elevator stopped on every floor, we would peek out onto the floors to see what was going on. On the different floors we saw various Super Bowl fields lined against the wall in mid completion. That was like getting a glance at Rome during it's construction process. The ordering transaction was quite painless. It was done by submitting your money with an order form to a woman behind a glass window. The waiting period for your teams to arrive was, without question, very painful. It was the

equivalent to waiting for a doctor's news in an emergency room in regards to a loved one.

To wait no more, who would think the sound of an elevator in motion can be as beautiful as a musical piece performed by Beethoven? Do you remember the scene in Saving Private Ryan, right before the last battle? The soldiers were in front of a building reminiscing about their school teacher. Suddenly they hear the slow rumble of a German panzer tank in the distance, then they dispersed to their assigned area's preparing for battle. That's what the elevator on it's way back to our floor sounded like. It was a slow, creepy, rusty sound. We were not preparing for battle but we knew our orders were on it's way. That elevator was music to our ears. When the elevators doors opened, there was Santa Claus with white boxes in arm. Back then, your teams came in white boxes. "Who has the broncos?" the gentleman uttered, "Which one of you ordered the Patriots?" You have no idea what it felt like to receive your white box. Simply put, it was special. During the journey home from the great facility, you felt as if you left some quaint jewelry shop along the Champs d' Elysee in paris.

My friends and I would visit the factory at least 3 times per week. we would buy teams with allowance money, some even sold newspapers daily to raise funds for more electric football gear. As a young child, your allowance can only take you but so far. It became so addictive looking to get more football items, we took to the

dumpsters. The factory had an area on the side of the building were they kept 3 dumpsters for their garbage. There was a gate they always left open and we took it as a sign of, "Come on in"! The dumpsters were always filled to the top with scoreboards, dials, bases. I once found an entire bag of TTQB's. The 84th police headquarters was right next door. I guess some disgruntled factory employee decided to give them a buzz one fall afternoon. Four plain clothes detectives showed up at the dumpster entrance asking "Is anybody in there?" I myself was on the outside keeping watch so technically, I was not doing anything wrong. My pockets were filled to the brim with TTQBs but they did not notice. I turned around and did not see my friends anymore, they climbed inside the dumpsters taking up residency with the game we love. That is electric football up close and personal.

To live a stones throw away from a place we all love is an experience I would not trade for anything in the world. I wish you could have all seen our Taj Mahal. If there was ever a building in American history that should have been memorialized and pegged as a public landmark, the Tudor factory is quite deserving of such a stature. This is where it all began. It could have been home to the electric football hall of fame and museum. Economics, developers, and city restructuring had far different plans for our beloved home. Yes ladies and gentleman, The Tudor factory is no-more. It has been converted into condos and lofts that begin at a pricy \$475.000. It

is now home to the Muckity Mucks (the well to do), looking for a shorter commute into downtown Manhattan. I call this the Muckrilization of a nation. These city and state wide construction projects are causing cherished properties to be torn down due to economics. These new buildings are going up faster than a Mr. National(Pretty Boy) wardrobe change throughout the course of an afternoon.

There are many disturbing images that are unavoidable throughout the duration of your time here. If there was ever a picture that was worth a thousand words, take a look at the Tudor building during its construction phase. It reminds me of the scene in the "Godfather" when Don Corleone brought Sonny to the coroner and said "look how they massacred my boy". Is their anything sacred anymore? Bob Dylan, the great song lyrist once asked "Where have all the flowers gone?", I'm beginning to wonder myself.

The Tudor building will always live in memory but we are on a path to building something much more significant. I always said we will be bigger than US Steel and we are headed in that direction. In closing, light a candle for the great building that once was. When the tenants of 176 Johnson street go to sleep at night, lets hope the ghost of a 50 foot TTQB is peeking in their windows.

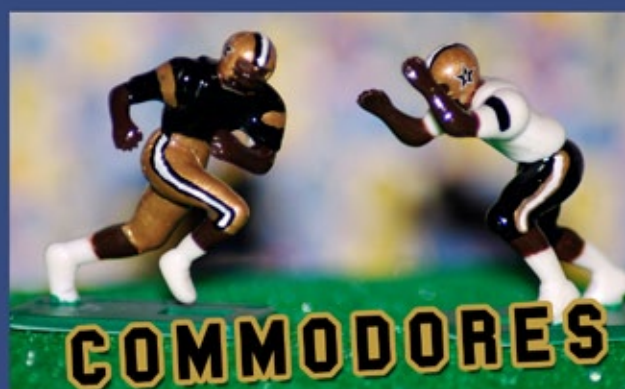
This is Mantaray-Dre saying goodnight from New York city. If you're ever in town matriculating down Broadway, look left or look right, I'm probably in the area. We'll head over to the Russian tea room for a cup of earl grey, and don't worry, it's on me.

"Lets hope the ghost of a 50 foot TTQB is peeking in their windows."

THE TWEAK FALL 2007 31



COLLEGE



PHOTOS FROM DAVE CAMPBELL, SEAN CARTER, BRAD COL

REVIEW



LINS, MIKE GUTTMANN, CHUCK LAWRENCE, BRYAN NUTT

The National League Directory

Presented by The Miniature Football Coaches Association

Welcome to the National League Directory, a service provided by coaches from around the country and your MFCA. The purpose of this directory is to provide key information to everyone interested in the hobby of miniature football, especially newcomers to the hobby. This directory will be available in every issue of The Tweak and it is our hope to continue to add leagues to this list. If you do not see your league in this list and you would like to be in the next issue, then please contact the staff of The Tweak and we will make sure you are in the next issue...Thank You.



The Beltsville Electric Football League

League Contacts: Tom Johnson (240) 304-8955
or e-mail at footballwork1@verizon.net
League Website: www.Beltsville-EFL.com
Number of members: 30-35 Coaches
Locations: Beltsville, Maryland



The MWEFL

League Contacts: Jimbo Dunagan
or e-mail jmdunagan@yahoo.com
League Website: www.leaguelineup.com/mweel
Number of members: 8 coaches
Locations: Chicago Land area-Illinois and Indiana



The Dixie Electric Football League

League Contacts: Bryan Nutt
League Website: www.miniaturefootball.com/forum
Number of members: 16-24 Coaches
Locations: Spartanburg, South Carolina



The Los Angeles EFL

League Contacts: Earl McMillian (909) 574-9576
or e-mail at revemac@hotmail.com
League Website: www.laeefl.com
Number of members: 14 Coaches
Locations: Los Angeles & San Diego, California



The Harrisburg Buzzball League

League Contacts: Paul Bartels (717) 599-5133
or e-mail raiderman@hotmail.com
League Website: www.leaguelineup.com/hpbl
Number of members: 10-16 Coaches
Locations: Camp Hill/Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



The Tidewater Miniature Football League

League Contacts: Don Smith (757) 407-0926
or e-mail DrBuzznstyne@aol.com
Number of members: 27 coaches
Locations: Portsmouth, Virginia



The Hoosier Heartland EFL

League Contact: Matthew Culp 574-722-1204
League Website: www.leaguelineup.com/hhefl
Number of members: 4 coaches
Locations: Logansport, Kokomo, Anderson and Indianapolis, Indiana



The Tornado Alley EFL

League contact: Bill Brent 316-945-5950
League website: <http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=taefl>
Number of members: 8 members
Location: Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, Iowa



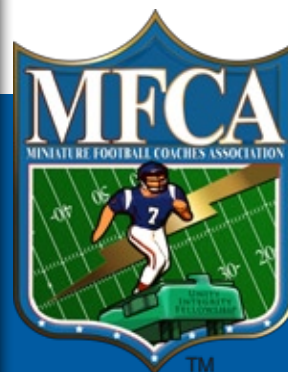
The Great Lakes EFL

League Contacts: Steven E. Martin (248) 821-0375
Greg Hardmon (419) 508-8994,
Kenny Allen (248) 252-3623
League Website: <http://glefl.com/>
Number of members: 23 Coaches
Locations: Ann Arbor & Detroit, Michigan



The Twin Cities EFL

League Contacts: Michael Guttman (612) 720-4127
or e-mail at mtgutt@yahoo.com
League Website: www.leaguelineup.com/tcefl
Number of members: 10 coaches
Locations: Minneapolis, Minnesota



The Miniature Football Coaches Association

Our Name: Due to the trade marking of the words “electric football” and “EFL” a name was chosen which the committee members felt best represented the game and hobby we have all come to love and play. It in no way is to be confused or assumed to be a part of any existing leagues and or companies which carry the use of the word, “miniature” in their title. The MFCA is an independent and all inclusive association open to all forms, rules, leagues, coaches and products which fall under the “Miniature Football” definition below.

Miniature Football Definition: Miniature football players on bases which are propelled over a miniature football field through the vibration created by an attached electric motor.

Our Logo: The number 7 represents the 7 regions which make up the MFCA. The player is a generic custom figure representative of the advanced detailing that now exists but also carries a somewhat traditional recognized miniature football form. A dialed base was chosen to show the ability to control the figures directions and the ability to coach the teams. The lightning bolt represents the power that propels these miniature men on their bases. Blue shield and red trim were chosen for the representation of the United States, green represents football and gold for the high standard and integrity that the MFCA will achieve. The shield represents the Association and defends our hobby. Seven stars, one for each region.

Our Mission: Unifying the miniature football hobbyist by promoting miniature football, educating the public and providing a unified association which recognizes and supports the diverse coaches and leagues.

Membership Costs: \$30.00 annually

Membership Benefits: (includes future and immediate benefits. Future benefits are marked with an *)

- Quarterly Magazine featuring tips, league announcements, coaches articles, photos and interviews.
- Membership Card
- Annual all inclusive MFCA educational event and convention with seminars, national awards ceremony, contests and vendors.
- Discounts to events and products
- National and Regional MFCA sponsored events with awards including painting/customizing, fastest man, strongest man, best passer, etc.
- Coach of the Year award
- League and members contact lists
- Regional elected representation to the National MFCA Board of Directors
- Bylaws regulating the workings, voting processes and procedures of the MFCA
- * Coaches Rankings *
- * Online Hall of Fame recognized on MFCA website *
- * Promotional materials and tools for new leagues and coaches *
- * Educational, promotional and training DVD's *
- * Online historical database including league records, rule sets, coaches records *



How to Join
Go to www.miniaturefootball.org
Click on “Signup” and follow the instructions.
Payments can be made with PayPal or personal check.



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