



THE MINIATURE FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

# THE TWEAK<sup>®</sup>

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FALL 2008

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# THE TWEAK<sup>®</sup>

## THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MFCA

### A Letter from Corey Johnson, North East Regional Rep

I love the sound of pads cracking in the morning. It is football season and don't you love it! Miniature football fall leagues have started across the country...can you hear those boards buzzing? I have the honor of welcoming our readers to the 6th issue of the official magazine of the MFCA-The Tweak. In this issue we will recap the first ever MFCA Convention and 2008 MFCA Hall of Fame class. You will see how my convention was extra special. Plans are already going into motion for next year's convention, so set aside the first weekend in August. This is one event

wouldn't want to do this? I would rather be around a dozen or so guys tweaking, painting, talking, and playing miniature football than I would by myself. Maybe you do not have the time to get out as much as you like but do not let that stop you from promoting this forum, this magazine or this hobby. Guys that do not post as much keep posting. Don't let a disagreement stop you from sharing your thoughts or photos. If it's time to renew your membership to the MFCA, then lets renew it! Even as our numbers grow, there are twice as many coaches out there that don't know we are here;

we have to reach those people. They might be the next Landsman or Smeby or Dirk. Use the MFCA as a vehicle to show people this is miniature football. Electric football was generic players running in circles on little boards. Miniature football is custom poses decked out with decals, chinstraps, and facemask flying across large scale football fields. This game will always be electric football, but we call the advancements, miniature football. We use to have Atari, now

we have the Wii, 360 & PS3.

I am really proud to be a part of the MFCA and I look forward to new products and inventions. Coaches are always pushing the envelope with their creativity. I get blown away by some of the stuff you guys come up with. That is why I travel around



the country...I want to see everything first hand. For the coaches that cannot make the trips, I always have my camera, so at the very least those coaches can feel like they were there.

The MFCA is going into year two. All your regional skills events are coming up again. If at all possible, attend, and compete in the challenges. The Tweak is always looking for fresh articles, and writers. Everyone has a story to tell so let's hear it. In closing, I just want to re-emphasize the need to promote our hobby/sport. Let's continue to pray and uplift those not as fortunate as ourselves. As you ascend in what you do, try bringing as many people with you as you can. Like Billy Dee said, "Success is nothing, without someone to share it with".

The Face of the MFCA  
"Prettyboy"  
Mr. National  
Corey Johnson



**Corey Johnson works the MFCA Skills Passing event during the Ultimate Fan Tailgate Party at the J Babe Stearn Center in Canton, Ohio.**

you don't want to miss! Each issue of The Tweak continues to get better and this issue is a testimony to the fact that we have only touched the tip of the iceberg in this hobby. As I attend the various tournaments and conventions across the country, I get to meet so many wonderful people that I often say to myself...who

# THE TWEAK

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE  
MFCA

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Miggle's email announcement

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# Journal of a Coach

The 2008 MFCFA Convention Experience

Written and Experienced by Matthew Culp

## Fellowship...it is a simple word, but means so much.

It means a fraternity, a brotherhood...camaraderie among people with something in common, something to strive for. Then there is the word unity...it shows wholeness about something...uniqueness like nothing else...an identity. And then there is Integrity...maybe the most important of all...it stands for honor, trust, veneration and esteem. The meaning and purpose behind these three words are what the Miniature Football Coaches Association was founded on and pay's reverence to a group of men, who have distinguished ourselves, as something more than just a hobby, but as a group of individuals who are striving for a common goal...to make the world we live in a little better. It is my pleasure to share with you the weekend of Fellowship, unity and Integrity that took place in Canton, Ohio, on August 1-3, 2008. It was a weekend of coming together for charity and to just enjoy the simple things in life, such as competition, togetherness and to recognize those individuals who have contributed so much to our hobby. It was also the first official gathering of the MFCFA as a group to meet and talk about our goals for the future of this organization and how we would reach those goals...but mostly it was about Football!

Photo courtesy of the Cleveland Plain Dealer  
Photographer Xiaomei Chen



It was a special weekend for everyone and it was a very special weekend for me, because it was in the "Holy Land" of all who play and enjoy the game of football...Canton. With the Hall of Fame as our backdrop, coaches from all over the country and all walks of life gathered in New Philadelphia, Ohio for a convention like no other. At this convention, not only was there miniature football to be played, but there was a Pro Football Hall of Fame to visit, a banquet at the local Elks Lodge put on by the PFUFA group and our first annual Hall of Fame ceremony. There were the events going on in Canton for Hall of Fame week, including the great barbeque at the county fairgrounds, the tailgating party before, during and after the Hall of Fame game...ooh...and there was the Hall of Fame Game on Sunday. There was the MFCFA Painting contest going on, there was the National Skills Competition, the MFCFA first annual Coaches Challenge Tourney and if that was not enough you could do a little shopping with George Diamond, Chris Fields, Mark Klingbeil and DeWayne Jennings. Do all of you get the picture? If you couldn't make it you missed out on something special. But of all the events all weekend, none could compare to the Stearn Center event we put on with PFUFA. To see the smiles on the kid's faces and to talk with the "kids at heart" was all worth the trouble of hauling everything 30 minutes and having to deal with the "Hogettes" giving me a hard time about my Cowboys Mustang. But enough about the "Hogettes" I will discuss them and all the Redskin fans later...I would like to welcome all of you on a journey through what I like to call...the MFCFA Experience. I am about to give you a firsthand take on the outstanding people that make up the MFCFA and the brotherhood that has grown in such a short time. Here is my personal journal of the weekend, I hope you enjoy it.



## Thursday July 31st, 2008 The Journey Begins

**"INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENT TO A GROUP EFFORT -- THAT IS WHAT MAKES A TEAM WORK, A COMPANY WORK, A SOCIETY WORK, A CIVILIZATION WORK."**

**VINCE LOMBARDI**

**PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 1971**

As I sat at home during my summer vacation in mid July, I had no idea that planning for a convention and preparing for a convention could be so much work. As Lynn and I got ready for the convention it immediately occurred to me that I owe a lot of thanks to the Landsman's for putting on the Miggle Convention every year. The preparation also gave me a deeper appreciation for Don Smith, George Diamond, Dave Campbell, Bryan Nutt and Reggie Rutledge just to name a few. The individuals that put on these events really do it for the love of the hobby and the fact that they continue to do it is mind boggling. There were some days I wasn't sure we could pull it off and then there were days like the day I left for the Convention itself...I was excited.

I decided to drive my Mustang from Logansport to Canton mainly so I could show my Cowboy Pride among all those Redskin fans. Needless to say that there was little room for anything, after I packed it down with everything we needed for the convention. I left Thursday morning, after taking off the whole week, so I could get there a day in advance to meet with Lynn and get organized. It was a perfect drive to Ohio and I reached John Martin's home by Noon. I met up with Lynn at John's and we immediately sat down and talked about the convention...we both were very excited, but we were also apprehensive. The questions were many...would everyone like what we

had planned? Would the Coaches Challenge go as planned and the United Way event? Did everyone have a room? Was there transportation issues? And the list went on and on. But after about an hour of checking out the awards and making some preparations, we decided it was time to take in the sites in Canton. We knew with everything going on, Thursday was our main day to take in the sites in Canton... something that I would recommend next year. Thanks to John Martin, who by the way was absolutely key to the weekend being a success;

we took off for the local county fair grounds for some of the best ribs this side of the Mississippi... as Mr. Blue Comedy Tour Bill Engvall always says..."They were awesome!" Following that opening run, it was off to what was an emotional visit for me...I had made it...the Pro Football Hall of Fame! Now for some, the Hall of Fame is just a building with NFL memories in it...for me...a Roman Catholic... it was like visiting the Vatican in Rome, except instead of the

chants and songs of the many choirs...I was hearing the music of pads clashing and the roar of the crowds past. For those of you that did not make it to the Hall of Fame, I am sorry, but it was better than I had anticipated. From the old helmets to the leather pads when you first walk in, all the way to the Hall of Fame Bust of past inductees to the revolving theater, it was an experience like no other. Someday, maybe in the not so distant future, but someday it would be great to have a miniature football Hall of Fame that would mirror the one in Canton... hey I can dream can't I!



The visit to the Hall of Fame gave me a real appreciation to the sacrifices that was made in the early 20's to even get professional football moving. I believe many of us sometimes take for granted that the sport we love so much had to begin somewhere and that it took a committed few to make the organization of the NFL flourish. I saw qualities in the early owners and players that I would like to have in the MFCA, because for a group to succeed it takes team work and dedication, but most of all... it takes persistence...that is what I took from my Hall of Fame visit.

Following our visit we were off to the hotel to check in, check out the playing area and meet up with another great guy... William Travers. Thursday night was spent with the three of us stuffing envelopes and separating Hall of Fame passes and Game tickets for the many coaches that would be arriving on Friday. By late Thursday night we were ready to go and despite our reservations, we truly believed that this was going to be a great weekend.

## Friday August 1st, 2008 Day One of the MFCA Convention-Let the fun begin!

**"NOBODY WHO EVER GAVE HIS BEST REGRETTED IT."**  
**GEORGE HALAS**  
**PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 1963**

Friday was a big day for the MFCA. It all started in the morning when coaches started to arrive and register and pickup information for the weekend. It was a reunion of sorts and for me it was just another day of firsts. After many years of waiting and talking on the phone, I finally got to meet a guy I really admired a lot, although I did not say it at the time. He is just a great human being and represents, in my opinion, the spirit of the MFCA...I finally got to meet George Diamond. If I did not do anything else the rest of the weekend, I would have been





McGhee, Ed Roche, Dewayne Jennings, Chris Fields and the list goes on and on. Another person I was happy to finally meet was Kelvin Lomax, as we had worked on some

happy as a clam, but meeting George and his son Spike was really great and he was even nicer in person. But it did not stop there...I got to know Will Travers better, the face of the MFCA... Corey Johnson, Ray Fanara, Jerry

articles together (Lomax X's and O's) and we had spent some time on the phone, but had never met, he was awesome as most of you know. And Finally, I have to mention this guy, although I did not meet him until the next day...Frank Jacobs. The world needs more people like Frank, not because he was on the 1988 National Champion Notre Dame Fighting Irish, which is very cool...but because he loves fel-

lowship just as much as playing miniature football. Thanks Frank for coming!

As Friday morning rolled on we got ready for a full day. Lynn and I had diligently planned for our first annual MFCA business meeting to begin at 11 a.m. It did not happen quite as planned! A lot of coaches (cough and pause...Corey and Dre) did not fly in until 1 p.m. and we had several cell phones going off at the start of the meeting, which got pushed back to 1 p.m. We finally started the meeting at 1:20 p.m. and

with the coaches present, we began planning the future of the MFCA. It was a very productive meeting that lasted two hours. I will not bore everyone with the details, which you can read for yourself on our main website. The

major items that came out of the meeting were the formation of four committees...the Rules Committee, Finance Committee, Code of Conduct Committee and Promotions Committee. The Committee formation is the first step towards the MFCA's future and we hope everyone in the MFCA will look into helping in some way. We also discussed goals for the MFCA, Dues Structure and Licensing. I was very happy with the results from our meeting and I want to thank everyone who gave suggestions and volunteered for committees.

Following the meeting the buzzing began, as coaches began to bring in their boards and set up.

It became very apparent that there was going to be constant buzzing all weekend, but there was no time for football yet...a very busy evening awaited us.

At 6 p.m. most all the coaches began the short drive over to the Elks Lodge for our banquet with the PFUFA organization (Pro Football United Fans Association). Everyone was welcomed with open arms by this group and what a group it was. Almost every super fan you had ever seen on TV was there. We had "Da Pope" from the Saints, "Pantherman", "The Sarge" (Colts), the "Hogettes" ...you get the idea. Andre Cogdell aka "Mantaray-Dre" road over with me to the banquet. Andre was great company, but quieter than I expected. I enjoyed his company and we both had a great time at the dinner. It was a great dinner and PFUFA did a great job with everything, we felt very welcomed. After dinner it was back to the hotel for the main event...the first ever MFCA Hall of Fame induction ceremony...

## Friday August 1st, 2008 9 P.M. The 2008 MFCA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

**"IT IS TIME FOR US ALL TO STAND AND CHEER FOR THE DOER, THE ACHIEVER...THE ONE WHO RECOGNIZES THE CHALLENGES AND DOES SOMETHING ABOUT IT."**

**VINCE LOMBARDI**

**PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 1971**

The time had finally come for one of the main events of the weekend...the induction ceremony. This first class of inductees was very easy for the Hall of Fame committee to pick. Each and every one of them has dedicated some part of their lives to this hobby and it was such an honor for all of us present to give them the acclamation they all were so deserving of. Lynn got things started with some awards not related to the Hall of Fame and the "butt head" caught me off guard, when he presented the MFCA President's award to me. I was surprised and I was honored, not by winning the award (although that was awesome), but by the fact that Lynn got choked up when he was addressing everyone and giving them some insight to the friendship that has grown between us through the last two years. Lynn Schmidt is my best friend...whether he likes it or not and the MFCA is lucky to have him as our President. Good thing that Ray and I had a little surprise for Lynn at the end of the ceremony.



The next award went out to a very deserving coach as Adrian Baxter won the 2008 MFCA Coach of the Year award. This guy has been winning tourney after tourney and before the weekend was out, I would get to see firsthand just how tough he is. Following that presentation Ray Fanara took center stage. Ray spent countless hours getting the awards and preparing for this moment, he deserves our gratitude. The first inductee was Lee Payne. Ray presented a slide show of all of Lee Payne's accomplishments and he accepted the award on his behalf. Next Ray gave a great presentation on Michael Landsman's accomplishments and what he has done for the hobby. Jimbo Duna-gan accepted the award on his behalf and read a statement sent by Michael for his induction. The next inductee was George

Diamond, who accepted his induction award in person and gave a good reception speech. Ray contin-

ued with the presentation of Dirk Thomas next. This part of the ceremony was a pleasant surprise, as Mike Turner came up and accepted the award on behalf of his friend. His speech was very sincere and quite honestly it was very touching...it was one of those moments that you remember always and Mike's words were from the heart. The last inductee was presented by Ray- Doc Smeby. Doc was very deserving of the award with his many years of dedication to the hobby. It was a great way to open the convention! One more time, I would like to offer a final congratulation to all the inductees. Which brings me to remind all of you to be proactive and start nominations for next year's inductees; I am sure it will be another great class. Doc, however, was not the last winner of the night. At this point Lynn thought everything was over, but he was in for a surprise. Ray Fanara and I had one last award, one that Lynn had no idea existed...it was the MFCA Lifetime award. Ray and I believed that two years ago, without him, the MFCA may have never gotten off the ground. It was Ray's idea to get him a clock with his award engraved on it. We had everyone sign

a football for him as well and I would like to believe Lynn felt a little humbled by the whole experience. Following the induction ceremonies the buzzing began! The Coaches Point Challenge began Friday night and went all the way to Sunday afternoon. Friday



night was a great night... let's just say: I got to bed at 4 a.m. (Friday night turned into Saturday morning by the time I hit the bed at 5 a.m.). It was an all nighter for the 29 coaches who participated in the Coaches Points Challenge Tourney. Friday night also featured the first rounds of the National Skills Competition and some awards were handed out on the spot. What a great start to the weekend!

**Saturday August 2nd, 2008**

## Day two-The J.Babe Stearn Event

**"WINNERS, I AM CONVINCED, IMAGINE THEIR DREAMS FIRST. THEY WANT IT WITH ALL THEIR HEART AND EXPECT IT TO COME TRUE. THERE IS, I BELIEVE, NO OTHER WAY TO LIVE."**

**JOE MONTANA**

**PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2000**

Saturday's highlight was the J.Babe Stearn event and following an all nighter of football, Saturday morning came and the convention got into full swing. Coaches

began to check into the convention painting contest. All the figures were great, but the talk of the convention was Mike Guttman's rendition of the now famous "Wide Right" play from Super Bowl XXV. His custom made scene caught every-one's imagination and was displayed with all the figures. We had 22 entries into the painting contest, all were outstanding...your winners were... For the "individual" category (Oregon Duck)....Damon Lucas, for the "owner" category (Derrick Thomas figure).....Dirk Thomas owned by Joyce Rodgers and for the "scene" category (by a landslide) with "Wide Right" scene...Mike Guttman. The contest ended on Sunday and was a success. Saturday morning was also the wrap up for the National Skills Competition. With coaches from all over the country competing in the Passing, Kicking, Strongest Man, Fastest Man competitions. Your 2008 MFCA Skills Competition winners were: Passing: Damon Lucas 220 pts (qualified that day with 240 pts), Kicking: Joe Greco 300 pts, Fastest Man: Will Shropshire 41 total inches, Fastest Man Enhanced: Adrian Baxter 31 5/8 total inches, Strongest Man: Will Shropshire 16 2/8 total inches, Strongest Man Enhanced: Adrian Baxter 52 total inches (Man with base was 17.3 grams).

As Saturday morning wore on it was time for the major task at hand...get everyone and their equipment to the Stearn Center in Canton. This was a major undertaking, but after some last minute transportation arrangements and some prompting, we got everyone to the event on time at 1 p.m. for the 500 kids and their parents. On a personal note, this event was hard to beat for the entire weekend. I mean this is what the MFCA is all about. We assembled in a line on the east side of the gym





and the PFUFA super fans assembled in a square at the center for kids to come through and get prizes and autographs. We had Corey Johnson first in the line of coaches with a passing skills demonstration. Then Ray Fanara had a demonstration set up next to Steve Martin's Browns table

and right down the line we went with me and the Fastest Man station and Joe Greco and the strongest man table. Al Dunham displayed his fantasy teams and all the kids and parents received us with both curiosity and excitement. We had plenty of help as several coaches lent a hand, including Adrian Baxter, George Diamond, Jimbo Dunagan just to name a few. We passed out figures, MFCA cards and various prizes to the kids. At my table it stayed busy through the entire event, as kids came up, picked out players and put them to the test to see who was the fastest. I am not sure who had more fun, but the kids and parents gave me all the more reason to come back again and do it next year. It was also a new experience for the kids, who had no idea that this hobby existed. It was great exposure for the hobby and I believe it really added something to the charity event for PFUFA.

After a couple hours at the J.Babe Stearn center we wrapped up and began to head back to the Hotel...that is when things turned ugly. As I was making trips out to my car I ran into some new friends. It appeared that the "Hogettes" Redskin mobile just happened to be parked next to my Cowboy Mustang. Five of them surrounded my car for a show down; apparently they had no love for the Cowboys. After a few tense moments during a stare down I was wondering if I was going to make it home alive...that is when they finally let me off the hook, as some of them could not keep a straight face. Actually, I ended up visiting with these guys for about 20 minutes. They gave me the riot act, but it is required of them with so many Redskin faithful around. It would have looked bad for them if they would not have harassed me at least a little. Great group of guys and it was an unexpected treat. Everyone made it back to the hotel, as games went on all day. I took up my vigil at the registration table for a long night of collecting game sheet and keeping track of Coaches Challenge Tourney Points. We also had a lot of coaches that attended the Pro Football Hall of Fame Induction ceremony in Canton. All of them made it back for some football action. I got in a few games, but quite honestly I enjoyed walking the room and watching all the games going on. I never get tired of coming to these types of events. The fellowship and competition gets the best of you and it is just sheer enjoyment. Frank Jacobs and I played a marathon



game later that night that lasted until 4 a.m. Jimbo Dunagan had his Arena Football game out and many coaches who had never played before got some high quality gridiron time. Lost in all the shuffle was the kids in all this. I sat down and watched Ed Roche's son play along with George Diamond's son and Dewayne Jennings' kids. Saturday night was not that great for Joe Greco. The kids were playing football out in the parking lot and his son Zach fell and broke his arm. Today Zach is in great shape and recovering fine even though he spent most of the Summer in a cast above his elbow. Saturday

night also had some more bright spots. We were paid a visit from Cleveland's top newspaper, The Plains Dealer who ran a nice article in the Sunday edition. "Pantherman", the President of PFUFA, paid us a visit to say thanks for all of our efforts on the charity event. Saturday was a busy day, but more was yet to come.



## Sunday August 3rd, 2008 Day three-Naming a champion

**"SETTING A GOAL IS NOT THE MAIN THING. IT IS DECIDING HOW YOU WILL GO ABOUT ACHIEVING IT AND STAYING WITH THAT PLAN."**

**TOM LAUNDRY**

**PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 1990**

Sunday came and the convention was drawing to an end, but we had a tourney to finish and it was not over yet. Sunday morning was busy. We had coaches making their way to a very busy and overcrowded Pro Football Hall of Fame. It was so overcrowded that a lot of coaches did not even get in. That was a shame...that is why next year...come on Thursday. Sunday morning rolled on and the Tourney would end at 3 p.m., time for some final games. Lynn and I decided not to post the points as the game sheets were added in. This kept everyone guessing until 3 p.m., but was there ever any real doubt who would win?

Adrian Baxter had a monster tournament, after losing his first game in an upset; he rolled for seven consecutive wins to finish with a total score of 393 points. Adrian Baxter is a true Coach of the Year and now has the 2008 MFCA Coaches Point Challenge Title to add to his many championships. Second place went to Jimbo Dunagan with 312 points. And third place went to Joe Greco, although he pleaded with me to give him some extra points, so he could finish in second like he has in so many tourneys...all pleading aside...he had a great tourney with 308 points. The new Daley Award went to the region with the most points and the top three from that region...that region was the Great Lakes. Jimbo Dunagan, Steve Martin and Damon Lucas took home awards for this honor. With everything that went on I believe the tourney format was a complete success. I kept hearing all weekend how everyone liked playing with different rule sets and it made of a much more interesting competition. Not to mention, coaches went



out of their way to share their own rule sets and learn new ones. There was a tremendous amount of information sharing and that was the purpose...to build on ideas.

## Sunday August 3rd, 2008 Until next time...

**"THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AN ORGANIZATION ARE THE RESULTS OF THE COMBINED EFFORT OF EACH INDIVIDUAL."**

**VINCE LOMBARDI**

**PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 1071**



Although the convention ended Sunday afternoon, the party was just beginning in Canton. Many coaches headed to a cookout put on by John Martin not two blocks from the stadium where the Hall of Fame Game was to be played that night. I got in my car and headed out around 4 p.m. listening to the game on the radio... but I am told I missed out on some great food and partying that went on all night...bummer. In closing I just wanted to say that the MFCA is just starting out. As I was driving home I could envision 10 years from now meeting in Canton and enjoying the fruits of our hard labors to come. The hobby is going to grow and it is going to happen soon. The convention succeeded because we chose for it to do so. That is true with everything in life. If we want it bad enough and are willing to work for it, then we will make it. You might have noticed quotes from various coaches throughout this article. They are a reminder that an ordinary man doing extraordinary things can not only succeed, but thrive. Let's take a lesson from the Hall of Famers... if you believe, then it will happen. Until next year...as we like to say in Indiana... keep "Crackin' Plastic". God Bless





# COACH

**DIRK THOMAS**  
CARDINALS

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Born/Passed 1954-2000
- Dominate electric football coach, Texas Shootout Winner
- 1999, BuzzBall Summer Slam Runner-up
- “Best in Class” Painter in his day, best at details
- Practiced great “sportsmanship” meant more than winning
- Tutored many of his opponents in electric football
- Most respected of all coaches in his day, as a competitor and a person
- Coaches sought his advise on all topics electric football
- Loved coaching Peewee Football, ages 12-14
- His family was his number #1 priority
- Enjoyed playing Softball

# HOBBYIST

**DR. KURT “DOC” SMEBY**

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Doctors Degree in Physics
- Coached team Force USA in the UK
- 1997-Minor League Football HOF
- 127-50 as a head coach
- They say, his greatest coaching attribute was his ability to read a defense in a split second and teach those around him how to exploit it.
- One the first faces of the chat board
- Always provided help to the new guys
- Used a unique multi-stop playing style, based on real football situations
- Gave us much of the history of the game we have today
- Maintained a miniature football web page devoted to the 1967 NFL season (Timewarp 1967 League)
- His story began in 1967 when he first saw the game in a hobby shop, 620 grass
- Had played from 1967-2004, the time of his death
- Today, Division named in his honor at Miggle Super Bowl Tournament

# CONTRIBUTOR

## LEE PAYNE, JR. TUDOR METAL CORPORATION

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Born/Passed 1934-2003
- Played on the University of Georgia freshman football team
- Graduated from University of Cincinnati, 1958 with a degree in industrial design
- Early 1960s, employed at Walter Dorwin Teague and Associates, NY, NY
- Worked on AMF monorail exhibit, 1964 Worlds Fair
- Worked projects for Tupperware, General Electric, and Tudor Metal Corp
- 1964-1968, worked directly for Tudor
- Developed 3-D figures, fab-five, NFL Lic, for Pro teams and logos for games and figures
- 1967, Grass field 620, 510, 520, 613/618, Boards, making Electric Football a household name, putting it on every boys wish list
- Later, established Lee Payne Associates, chaired the industrial design program at Georgia Tech
- Served on Olympic Torch Design teams, in 1996 and 2002

## MICHAEL G. LANDSMAN MIGGLE TOYS, INC.

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Born, 1936, Chicago. IL (North Side)
- Attended the University of Illinois
- 1969, purchased, Superior Toy Co.
- 1992, Miggle Toys purchases Tudor Games
- 1995, First Miggle Electric Football Super Bowl and Convention, Chicago
- Created one of the first Newsletters dedicated to Electric Football, the "Plugged In!"
- First, Internet Chat Board dedicated to Electric Football
- Connecting people Worldwide and creating lifelong friendships within the hobby
- Gained National media coverage for Electric Football to include; ESPN, CBS, ABC, FOX, CNN
- Created large scale Electric Football playing surface
- Produced Stamped Helmet Teams, showing greater detail
- Produced ProLine Figures and ProLine Bases
- Produced New "620" board and Rose Bowl Game Board
- Two children, Barry and Stacy, and 3 grandchildren, Michael, Rachel and Ryan
- 1974 Married Delayne "Mrs. Commish"
- Enjoys Swimming and Golfing

## REGINALD RUTLEDGE FOOTBALLFIGURE.NET

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Born, 1961
- Youngest of 8 siblings, very creative as a child
- First MF game experience was on a Tudor 645 model, he was hooked at age 11
- 1974, First NFL Stadium experience, Texas Stadium
- 1974, First NFL Stadium Replica Texas Stadium, constructed using old shoe boxes, tape, glue and a vivid imagination
- 1990, Graduated, University of Texas at Dallas, Electrical Engineering
- Started FootballFigures.com, Signature product, realistic custom MF figures
- Developed larger scale 308 MF board
- 1995, Starts DFW MF League and holds first Texas Shootout (TSO) Tournament
- Introduces the TSO rule-set complete with random related football events, making games more realistic
- Constructs museum quality replica football stadiums

## GEORGE DIAMOND BUZZBALL

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Born, 1959
- First EF game played as a first grader, lost 6-0 on a Tudor 500 model
- First board, Tudor 500 model
- 1970, Christmas Received Tudor 613 with Bears and Cardinals
- 1982, Graduated from Shippensburg University
- Married, 3 children, Sophia, Paul (Spike), Priscilla
- 1998, Reunited with Miniature Football
- 1999, SI Warehouse/BuzzBall opens
- 1999, First SummerSlam Tournament
- 2000, Started Harrisburg BuzzBall League, with Paul Bartels
- 2001, Initiated first MF convention devoted to coaching and player development
- 2002, First WinterFest Tournament
- Responsible for Speed Diamond bases
- Responsible for Haiti Repro Figures
- Responsible for Mag 7 Buzzball Figures
- Developed large scale BB boards
- Developed the Diamond Directional base
- Most prized possession, his PD 2620, but still enjoys playing on a Tudor 500

# A NATIONAL TREASURE

## Hang'in with Mr. National at the Fred Dean Enshrinement Party

by Corey Johnson

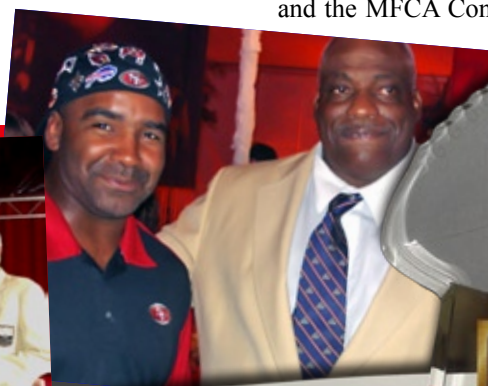
I know everyone had a great time during the first ever MFCA convention, but my experience was extra special. It all started when Wolf introduced me to a Raiders fan, who was interested in buying my extra HOF enshrinement tickets. We exchanged numbers Friday evening during the banquet with the Pro Football's Ultimate Fans Association (PFUFA). While there I met a couple from San Francisco, Harry and Kitten Trout, who were life long 49ers fans. They invited me to come to a party celebrating Fred Dean's enshrinement in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Now it's Saturday and we are at the Stearn Center doing the United Way kids tailgate event. I find the Raiders fan and this time he was dressed in all black with his face painted. I didn't even recognize him until Wolf pointed him out. He said he couldn't make the enshrinement but he had also been invited to the Dean party... Raiders...49ers, go figure! Well, now I'm bummed, I'm stuck with these tickets. We wrap things up at the Stearn Center and head back to the hotel. The Stearn Center is close to the HOF, the hotel is about 30 minutes the other way. All the coaches that went to the enshrinement just drove over from the Stearn Center. We are back in the hotel playing games. Not everyone there is going to the enshrinement and I have no ride to the enshrinement ceremony. Not only did I not get rid of my extra tickets, now my enshrinement ticket is going to waste. To top that off, I have no way of getting to the Dean party! What a jam! The "Face" of The Hobby had the face of a sad puppy dog.

I'm thinking to myself; how can I get there? I didn't want to bother the coaches who were playing in the points challenge. Then it popped into my head, the Raiders fan, let me try him! I call, no answer. I call again, no answer. I leave a message. I'm now reserved to the fact that this is the worst event ever!!!! I'm sitting in my room nearly in tears when my phone rings, it's the Raiders fan. He says he can swing by and pick me up! A few moments later, he's in front of my hotel (dressed in black of course) driving a convertible. That's what NATIONAL is all about...Styling baby and off we ride!

Once there, we gave the name of the couple who invited us to the reservationist. We get a wrist band with the SF logo embedded on it. (I kept that thing on for 3 weeks after the convention) I head straight to the bartender who's bar is stocked with nothing but top shelf products. There's a chef cutting roast beef and just about everything else. Strobe lights are going. The DJ is playing music. There's a hundred or so guests enjoying the great atmosphere. We finally find the Trouts who are seated right by the entrance.... I must have walked right by them going to the bar! "Now is this a party?" they ask! Yes this is! Before long, there are former 49er players coming over to our table to say hello. "Meet my friend Corey" they say. Now I'm shaking hands, and making small talk with the likes of Earl Cooper, Freddie Solomon, Keena Turner, Bob St. Clair, Bill Ring, and numerous others. The MC says let's all rise and give a round of applause and there he is... the man of the hour, Fred Dean! I talk to him for awhile. I go outside for a moment to catch my breath. I can't believe what's going on! "Are you having good time young man?" I turn around while saying of course and guess who asked me the question? Eddie D!! The man, who put all those great 49er teams together. He's the only man I've ever met that's shorter than Mike Turner! I go back in and everyone's dancing and having a great time. The MC calls for all of Fred's college teammates to come up. Then he asks for all the former 49ers to come up for a picture. I see NFL commish Roger Goddell is here as well. I posed for so many pictures and most of the people I was in the pictures with, I didn't know! The evening came to a close. They gave us an acrylic trophy with a Fred Dean card and signature inside of it. On the way back, the Raider fan stopped by his hotel to catch the PFUFA tailgate. Somebody had a Madden cruiser type of RV, equipped with a plasma TV. We only stayed a few minutes and then I'm back at the MFCA hotel with a story to tell.

This is a night I will never forget...Fred Dean...the Hall of Fame and the MFCA Convention all in one weekend...I can't wait till next year!



# THE DALEY AWARD

by COREY JOHNSON

You might be saying to yourself, why is CorEY sitting down with this Daley guy? Who is Mike Daley? To most of the MFCA, he is just member 101. But let's find out a little more about him, and why is he in The Tweak.

Mike Daley grew up in Johnstown, PA. Following in his Father's footsteps, he learned to work hard and above everything else, love what you do. Mike moved to the Philadelphia area in 1988. Daley started out working for a plastering company. He became a mainstay with the company, never missing any days from work. He quickly became a foreman, but Mike wanted to be an owner. So just like his old man, he started his own company, Daley Plastering or DP. DP started out doing small jobs such as plastering in homes and chimneys. As the business grew from residential jobs to small commercial jobs, DP progressed into working with well known general contractors in the area. Mike has anywhere from 15-55 men on his payroll and sometimes more. He always takes the time to get to know his guys. Not just what goes on at work, but what they do when they get home? Are you married? Do you have kids? What's your favorite TV shows? These are the questions you get from the boss man. From talking to his employees, you get the feeling that Daley Plastering is a close knit family. Although Mike started out doing plastering, he was not afraid to venture into other areas such as fire proofing and veneer stone.. DP has just about mastered all phases of the construction industry. Mike told me that he adheres to his motto of "quality work at a reasonable price." Daley Plastering was also a major contractor on the Extreme Makeover, home edition show. Mike got to hang out with Ty and the crew before the work started on the house in the Northeast section of Philly. With all that, can you believe the guy had time to get married and have family? I asked Mike, how do you make everyone happy at home with all you do? He had this to say, "even though my work can last into the late evening hours, I still set aside time for my lovely wife of 15 years, Monica. I also make time to attend my daughter Melanie's soccer and softball games and my son Mason's football and baseball games. Mason and I really like to go deep sea fishing which my pictures can attest to". OK, I know what you (the readers) are thinking. How does any of that tie in with miniature football? He sounds like a nice guy and he has his own business like his dad, but can he tweak an old school RL? Does he make figures? No, and no. Here is what ties Mike Daley forever to the MFCA.

When the MFCA started, we needed funds. I went to Mike to see if he could help us out. No problem, take this check. He asked a few months later, how we were making out, and gave us another check. When I told him about the MFCA convention and that we were doing a United Way kids event, he again wanted to help us. He wanted to make sure that we would have enough giveaways for the kids. He wrote a check for \$1,000 and said if we needed more, let him know! With every Tweak issue that comes out, Mike gives me a call to say that the guys are doing a great job. I had to beg him to put this article together, as he didn't want any recognition. But for me, Gutt, Matt, Al, Will and the Prez we felt it was time for the MFCA to know about this guy. As I sat in the Daley's beautiful self built home in Royersford, Pa, we had some one on one time and I asked him a few questions...



CJ - Mike did you like your electric football game as a kid?

**MD - Yes, I can remember my older brother playing and teaching me how to play as a child.**

CJ - Why have you been so generous to the MFCA?

**MD - I admire the dedication of the members and the way the traditions are kept alive within the organization.**

CJ - You are a paying members of the MFCA what do you think of the TWEAK Magazine?

**MD - I think it is an excellent publication the graphics are very professional and the writing and publications are very informative and entertaining.**

CJ - You are a self made owner, what kind of advise do you have for our coaches who might be looking to dive into the world of business ownership?

**MD - I would say that you have to love what you do, take pride in your work and be a hard worker with a good attitude in order to succeed.**

CJ - We named our perpetual annual team trophy after you, The Daley Award! How does that make you feel?

**MD - I was very surprised and did not expect any benefits or recognition for my contributions however I am very pleased and honored that your organization would recognize my company and I for this trophy. It certainly adds to my many accomplishments that I have been blessed with.**

CJ - Mike, you feel like getting something to eat?

**MD - I sure do, how bout a cigar too?**

CJ - Of course...you buying?!!

**MD - Don't I always.**

*Editor's Note from Matthew Culp...on behalf of the staff from The Tweak I would like to personally thank Mike Daley for his continued support of the MFCA. Because of people like him, the MFCA is going to continue to grow and prosper, giving our organization a very bright future. Thank you Mike!*





# THE NEFL

BY THE NEFL COACHES

## THE NEFL (NATIONAL ELECTRIC FOOTBALL LEAGUE)

started in the spring of 1998, as an off-shoot of the PEFL (Philadelphia Electric Football League) which was established by Myron Evans in July 1996. Marc Thompson and Harold King felt that they could vastly improve on the rule set of the PEFL. There was also a strong interest from guys in the PEFL to continue playing electric football beyond the PEFL schedule. The NEFL was not going to challenge the PEFL in 1996, as that season ended, the NEFL would start. The main contributing factor for forming the league was that we felt that no one person should be able to dictate to the whole league, which was how the PEFL was being run. Therefore our first order of business, when we formed was to create the Committee, which gave all members a representative voice for their concerns, input and problem resolution. Marc Thompson, Harold King, Greg King and Ed Scott would be that committee. The active committee wasn't perfect, but it was effective in establishing and resolving league policies. They ruled with a strong hand. Lateness was not tolerated. If a coach was 15 minutes late, then the waiting coach was awarded the victory. Two or more forfeits and you were expelled from the league. Order had to be implemented and no one had a problem with it. All games were played at Carmella Recreation Center in the Frankford section of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The inaugural season kicked off with the following coaches: Harold King, Marc Thompson, Ed Scott, Greg King, Ed Scott Jr, Kenny King, John Bullock, Paul Daniels, James Crews, Cliff Gibbs, David Fox, Mark Spivey, Steve Emerson, Bill Dennis, Randy Jackson and

Philly, Coaches Daniels and Crews played for the title. Kenny won the first ever Spark Bowl for kids. Marc Thompson was selling his creation-field covers. That's right...the original inventor of field covers was Philly's own coach Thompson. Harold King was giving advice on board repair. He was there fixing any and every board problem that was presented to him. Mark Spivey was buying everything. He was said that he spent \$50 for one base and this was 10 years ago!

Super Bowl II was won by Coach Thompson, and his Patriots. After that season, a few coaches were unhappy with the way the NEFL was being run and they decided to start their own league. The Urban Grid Iron league (UGI) was Philly's 3rd active league. They played front of base tackling and they use any and all figures. If they all could just come together, they could have all 32 teams, but all the powers that be could not find a common ground. Some coaches would just play in one league, but not the other and vice versa. It seemed like the heavy hitters played in the NEFL.

**IN JUST ITS THIRD SEASON**, the NEFL was already showcasing some of the best talent in the country, but with Coach Corey Johnson joining the league for the upcoming season, the NEFL was at the pinnacle of electric football. With his flair, digital camera and ideas on how to promote the league, he was an instant hit with the committee, and league members. Along with Ed Scott and Brian Healey, they set up the NEFL website. Corey was the main contributor to the site's design and direction. Even though he always alleged that there was a web master doing all the work

Myron Evans and Corey Johnson



San Diego coach, Tom Johnson adjusts his QB as he goes on to win Superbowl X

Norris McCraw. Super Bowl I was tabbed the "Boil Bowl," as Bullock defeated Daniels. Both coaches used boiled bases to advance to the title game. Boiled bases were not outlawed then, but after that season they were.

**THE SECOND SEASON** saw new coaches Clayton Cargill, Brian Healey and Doug Davis join the league. Some of the biggest spenders in the MF world played right here in this league. Coaches Bullock, Daniels, Spivey and Crews sparred no expense when it came to equipping themselves with the best talent money could buy. Since tweaking was not allowed, these coaches used the technique of matching shell and dial numerals to get the maximum power and speed from a base. During the Miggle convention in

on the site. The site was a huge hit with coaches around the country. With "Key Match ups", "The Power Rankings", "Mid-season grades", game action photos (with text) and the very popular "Shopping Club", the site put every coach in the league on your computer screen.

The Shopping Club was a page set aside for items that any NEFL coach wanted to sell such as 620's, vintage teams (Honk Kong & Haiti), as well as, rare, old school bases. Ed Scott and Corey took full advantage of the site, as they had more things to sell as anyone in the country. If you didn't want to go thru the hassles of online bidding, you could just email these guys and they would take care of you. The website shot Coach Johnson to superstar status amongst coaches around the country who were fans



of the NEFL site. Don Smith, Pat Morris, Rich Parks, “NO” Dave, Ed Vaughn and AJ were just a few of the coaches who emailed Johnson to say what a great job he was doing with the site. The NEFL was the talk of the EF world. They had the swagger to go with it. For example, a much hyped game of East vs. West or James Crews vs. Vince Peatros never materialized, but was always front page gossip on the old Miggle chat board. There were several tournaments that were attended by NEFL coaches in which they usually didn’t lose many games. During Miggle convention scrimmages, they didn’t want to lose. If you get called out, you better “step up” is their motto. If a Philly coach was losing or in a tough game, he was heckled by his league mates and phone calls were made on the spot. Corey would call Marc, “Ed is losing to Vance Warren”. Ed Scott would call Paul Daniels, “Corey is losing to Mike Pratt”. Raiderman coined it the “Philly prayer line”.

The 3rd season ended with Marc defeating rookie coach Corey Johnson in SB III to repeat as league champ. Coaches Glen Phoenix, Ed Vaughn and Ernie Grice of the PNJEFL joined the fold the following year. The 4th season also saw the arrival of two Harrisburg coaches and they were Charles “Abby” Vaughn and “Big” Al Klyee. The league seemed to float around 18-22 coaches. This was the first venture of having out of state coaches play in the league. Both coaches were up to the challenge as they made all their scheduled games. Abby adjusted to the style and made the playoffs, while Al struggled a bit with the faster pace and didn’t qualify. Coach Abby Vaughn earned the nickname of “Mod Podge” after throwing a bottle of the substance at a wall inside Carmella’s rec room during a game! The coaches in the NEFL didn’t know what to make of this fiery out-of-towner. It must have rubbed off on Coaches Ed Scott and David Fox during that same season. They got into a shoving match and they weren’t even playing

Coaches Billy Campbell and James Burton filled in to keep the league around 22 teams. Marc returned to the title game, SB V, but he was denied a third championship. James Crews and his Cardinals avenged their Super Bowl defeat from the previous season. Crews was remarkable, going undefeated on the field and he had two losses due to forfeits. With the Miggle convention in South Bend just ending, it was time to kickoff a new NEFL season. This 6th season seemed different. Coach David Fox had a fatal heart attack right before Thanksgiving. The committee didn’t want to fund the website, so it was terminated. Some of the big names in the league were not playing their games during the season and finally dropped out. By the time the playoffs came around in May, coach Crews, Daniels, Bullock, Spivey and Johnson were done. Coaches Thompson and Healey were forfeited into Super Bowl VI that was never played. The interest just wasn’t there anymore. Some of the same things that made the league so strong were now hurting it. Buzzball and FF.net had new figures that weren’t allowed. Coaches around the country were tweaking prongs, this was not allowed. The committee that had stood so strong for so long was being challenged. The firm grip on old school virtues had to be loosened. Harold King really felt like the league didn’t need these new figures to improve game play. The committee was against smashing prongs or making hot rods out of the bases (Having the back raised higher than the front). Corey really felt like this would help the league not only in season play, but when NEFL coaches traveled outside the league. Philly had fallen to the back of the food chain when it came to top leagues around the country. Philly never had a large posse attend tournaments, but the few that did, always did well. But with untweaked bases and only fab 5 figs, they were outgunned. Finally the committee allowed three Buzzball poses on the field at a time

and you could have tweaked prongs for the season. For this 7th season the new face was Jamie Harris, and his Seahawks. Bullock was back, but there was no Crews or Daniels. Jamie completed a perfect regular season going 10-0 with 2 wins over Coach Johnson’s 49ers. Bullock dropped out, and never showed for his playoff game.

It is a dream come true for the great Myron Evans. If only David Fox could see the NEFL now, and maybe he does, how proud he would be to see how far his league has come.



each other! Cooler heads always prevailed in these incidents. It showed the sheer intensity and pressure of playing in the NEFL. This season had to be the best collection of talent that the NEFL had seen in its existence. Abby lost to eventual champion Paul Daniels, who defeated James Crews in SB IV. Paul also knocked off back-to-back champ Marc Thompson on his road to the title.

**THE NEXT SEASON,** Big Al and Mod Podge didn’t come back. The NEFL didn’t want waver on their policy of one game per weekend. That was a bit much for the two coaches to travel two hours each way for one game apiece. They were missed, but the league moved on. Rookie

Healey defeated Ed Scott and Corey before being blown out in the NFC championship game by Coach Harris. Marc Thompson was also blown out in his final game of his NEFL career by coach McCraw. There was some controversy on the AFC side of things as Coach Phoenix was forfeited into the Super Bowl. Coach McCraw didn’t show up for the AFC title game and the contest was never rescheduled. Jamie went on to win SB VII over the Ravens. The third straight Super Bowl played at Carmella rec. There wasn’t much fanfare made of the game and only a few league members showed up.



# The NEFL story is more than a committee history, honor, integrity and a code of conduct

## CHANGE, GROWING PAINS, NO REFS AND HITTING ROCK BOTTOM

There was a major problem going into the 8th season. Marc Thompson, co founder of the NEFL was finished. He had always done the schedules and stats for the league. Brian Healey stepped into those shoes and what big shoes they were to fill. Another major change was going to happen this year. Harold had proposed to have no refs during league games! He had talked to Corey about it and they both agreed that it could be done, but they had to make the league believe that it could be done. Any disagreements would be settled by a coin flip. A lot of coaches questioned the idea of playing without a ref, but eventually bought into the idea. You could have as many stock Buzzball figures as you wanted, but only two cover corners on defense at a time. The other proposal was that games could be played on any day and anywhere. As long as you completed your game before you started your next game, so it was like having a full week to get that game in. Before this, all games had to be played at Carmella and only on Saturday or Sunday. Healey was making any and all executive decisions now. His first decision didn't go too well by allowing two coaches to play with the Bucs. Coach Greg King wasn't happy. Being a committee member and never missing a season, he wanted to know why he wasn't made aware of this decision. The new coaches this season were Al Harvey and Jerry Fulton.

Things went pretty smooth until the end of the season when the untested schedule making talents of Healey showed its ugly head. The tie breakers had to be thrown out because no one had the same amount of division, conference, or common opponents. Healey's final and probably his worst executive decision, was to delay the playoffs for his benefit, but not allow Kenny King to play his AFC title game. Norris was forfeited into the Super Bowl. Harold was disgusted and so was Kenny who was in college and needed the following weekend to play his game. The defending Super Bowl champ Seahawks didn't make the playoffs. The #1 seeded 49ers were knocked out by the Falcons. That was the last game played at Carmella rec center. When the playoffs resumed a couple weeks later, the locks were changed on the rec center. The NFC title game between Coach Al Harvey (10-0 Cowboys) and Healey's Falcons was played at Coach Harvey's house. Super Bowl VIII was played at Ed Scott's house, maybe 2 to 4 coaches was there to watch the biggest game of the year. The league had hit rock bottom. Nobody liked the way the season ended; there was no trophy presentation, and on top of that, there was no facility to play at.

## THE NEFL RE-EMERGES A BETTER LEAGUE

Another Miggle convention had just ended and that's usually when the guys are getting ready for the NEFL season. There was no talk this year though. Nobody wanted to say it, but they didn't want to play under the Healey administration. To Brian's credit, he was trying to keep the tradition alive and he did his best with not much help. That being said, the guys wanted something they could be proud of, they didn't want excuses. So Corey and Brian talked on the phone about the upcoming season. Corey told him flat out that he needs to step down. Brian didn't agree, but did so for the league's sake. Corey's next task was to get the committee back to the forefront. Greg and Ed were ready. Next he had to talk to Harold, who was basically done with playing MF. Harold agreed to play, but didn't want a lot of duties for the upcoming season. He only wanted to get Coach McCraw his SB VIII

trophy from the previous season and then he was going to give the remaining balance of league money to Corey. The league still needed a place to play. He tried to get back Carmella, which had been home to the league since its inception. No availability was the answer. He had tried at least 3 other options until he took a gamble on the John M. Perzel Center. I say gamble because just looking at the place, it was so modern, so perfect that there was no chance of landing it. After a few phone calls and visits, the impossible, was possible. The NEFL had a new home, now let's find out who wants to play. Emails were sent, phone calls were made. Never had there been more new faces coming into an NEFL season! Andrew Stewart headlined six rookie coaches making their league debuts. Jerry Fulton was instrumental in bringing in new coaches; he alone was responsible for 4 of the 6. That brought the league total to 24 coaches playing a 12 game schedule. Now Corey was making most of the executive decisions and the heat was on. His first priority was to go out of league for a schedule maker and

he did just that. His main objective during the season was to put the committee back in power and have no forfeits. That also was accomplished. Another goal of his was to get a new website for the league. Goal achieved! His vision was to have Super Bowl IX be a big event and seen not only by league coaches, but coaches from other leagues. Philly MF legends Myron Evans and Marc Thompson were there. George Diamond was there and had a table set up to sell his Buzzball items. Dearell, Ty Ware and Dre (People's Champ) all made the trip to see Ernie Grice vs. Jamie Harris play for the hardware. Another big achievement was having the trophies present at the big game. He also paid homage to coach Fox, who had passed away a couple years ago by naming an award in his name. Jerry Fulton won the plaque for displaying integrity, unity, fellowship, and sportsmanship throughout the season. The league and season was a huge success, and the NEFL was back on the map! Coach Grice was acknowledged during the Seawall Brawl, being named a top coach for winning the NEFL SB IX title. Things couldn't get any better than this..... But they did! At the start of the 2008 season the decision was made to allow all custom figures, as long as they came in at 3.2 grams. This was big news for all coaches, mainly Healey, who had fought for custom figs to be allowed for many years. Corey wanted to use the action box to incorporate fumbles and injuries and he wanted to bring dice into Philly! Now he was going too far. "Who does he think he is", asked some of the league members? During a league meeting an unauthorized vote on a rule was passed, that rule was later vetoed by the committee, but some coaches felt that this was Corey's doing. He's trying to be a dictator. A few coaches disagreed with these ideas and quit. Some tried to get others to sit out in protest of what they felt Corey was doing. The guy that is loved throughout the world of MF was despised in his own town. The league was crumbling around him. Just after such a successful season, how was this happening. Ed Scott said, "that we gave them what they wanted". Myron said "they will revolt if they feel they are being told what to do". Healey took back his dues at one point, saying the league is over, nobody is going to play! Everything was hectic; there was a feeling of chaos and yet the man they call Mr. National, remained calm, as cool as the other side of the pillow. He simply said, "We will move on with them".



# . It is more than one individual. It's about conduct that has withstood the hands of time.

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

### THE IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES REALITY-32 COACHES

Another bold move was to bring in coaches from out of state. That wasn't the bad part. ... Corey was now messing with the schedule. For all 10 seasons the league played one game per week, in order, no skipping. He wanted to change that, he wanted to play an open the schedule. He told the out of town coaches they could come every other weekend and double up games to keep up. What he did was put a bull's-eye on his back, chest, neck, and head, all the doubters were taking aim. So he made some calls, he told coaches that teams were available in the upcoming NEFL season. He talked to Mike Carr, Joe Greco, and Morgan Scott. He called Tom Johnson, he told him bring your best, bring your most reliable. Within 48 hours the 10th NEFL season that was on the brink of self destruction was looking at 32 coaches ready to play. Lomax, Kevin Smith Sr & Jr, Dearell, Kevin Boddie, and Ty Ware were all on board. Big Keith joined in week 4.

Opening day looked like a tournament. Just about all 32 coaches showed up, as well as, some other local coaches. Wally Jabs and his son came to see all the excitement. "This is unbelievable", he said. It was crazy, but it was a good crazy according Corey. "I can't believe they all came thru for me", he said. Everyone was in amazement of the Pezel center. The most asked question Corey had to answer was, "How did you find this place?" Morgan Scott asked Corey if he wanted his dues for the 2009 season now! Ed Scott said he never saw anything like it. Greg King who has been playing in the NEFL since the start said, "It doesn't get any better than this." Most of the coaches were there from 8am to 8pm. ... it was awesome and it pretty much stayed that way the whole season. The league was on a national stage and was the talk of most coaches on the MFCA message board. There were a few minor bumps here and there, but overall it was divine. The NEFL started with 32 and basically ended very close to that number (30). All 32 coaches played at least 5 games.

The regular season had some of the best action you could find anywhere. The most intriguing thing was seeing coaches that had never met, let alone play a game competing on the board. The 49ers and Titans dominated from start to finish. The NFC east went to NY, but it was a tight race between Al Harvey's Cowboys, and the Giants coached by Joe Greco who were up and down as he adjusted to the new league. He actually lost his first game to the Vikes coached by Ed Scott, who rarely makes the playoffs. The Falcons coasted thru a favorable schedule, but took it on the chin mid way thru the season versus Andrew Stewart and his Pack Attack. Coach Stewart had a winning record, but had to drop out, that left the division crown to Big Keith's Bear's and his playoff spot went to Greg and his Bucs. The two teams that played in last years' super bowl didn't make the playoffs. The Patriots had to fight for the division title this season as the Bills and most improved coach Kern Robinson came up short, but made the wild card. Glen Phoenix and his Ravens locked up another division crown in rather easy fashion. The Colts, Texans, and Chiefs all had a chance to make the playoffs going into the final two games. K. Smith's Colts had two games versus the Titans so things didn't look good for them. The Chiefs just had to beat the Pats and they were in. Coach Lorenzo Obranty looked like the long shot, but he went 5-1 in a week's time to finish his schedule and earn the last playoff spot. The West went to the Chargers who started the season 0-2. They then went on an 11 game winning streak before losing to the chiefs for a second time.

It was an adjustment for the Philly coaches playing the schedule out of order, but everyone put forth an earnest effort to complete all 16 games. A lot of coaches didn't like the idea of 16 games in 12 weeks, but had to play the hand dealt to them. To ease the travel of the Maryland crew, Corey arranged for a few coaches to head out to the boys club in Beltsville, Maryland to play NEFL games. They made two trips. Any un-played games were decided by a coin flip. Finally the playoffs were here. Lomax's Titans

only loss of the season came by way of the coin flip and they were heavy favorites to advance to the super bowl. The only other team with a 15-1 record belonged to Corey's 49ers in the NFC. In the wild card games the Chargers shutout the Bills and the Texans upset the Patriots. The Boys won a thriller in OT versus the Giants. The Falcons blew out the Bucs and the divisional rounds were set. The Cowboys upset the 49ers, once again they were one and done. The Bears lost at home against the Falcons in double Overtime. The Chargers posted another shut out, this time it was the Ravens. Titans over powered the Texans. Now the championship games were ready to go. The seemingly unstoppable Titans were beaten by the Chargers who posted their 3rd straight shutout. The Falcons out lasted the Cowboys who just ran out of time. ... So the Super Bowl of the biggest league in MF history was set. They had started with 32, and now it was down to two! June 1st was the date.

Once again the Super Bowl was a major event. Corey's mom cooked up a tremendous spread of food for the 2nd straight year. MFCA HOF'er George Diamond again made the trip. This time the NEFL out did themselves, the game was shown on a 60 inch HDTV. Ed Scott came dressed in a suit and looked every part the color analyst for the big game. There was a reporter from the local paper doing interviews and taking pictures. Jimbo made a custom field cover for the big game. There were trophies for all the playoff teams. The Super Bowl trophy was a site to behold. The league has a You-Tube account that you can watch all the scoring plays and trophy presentation. The committee was again standing tall throughout the day. Greg and Harold King were official referees. Ed Scott was the official MC.

Super Bowl X was won by Tom Johnson over Brian Healey. Tom also won the Fox coaches award. That trophy will be passed from coach to coach for as long as the NEFL is in existence. Going into the new season starting in February 2009 the big question is.... Can they do it again, have 32 coaches/teams? That remains to be seen, but the early indication is YES! The bulls eye still remains on Coach Johnson. He is not out of the woods yet. One bad move and he will be slandered to no end. But whether you love him, or hate him, he puts the NEFL ahead of anything. Before the MF world claimed him their F.O.T.H. he's been the face of the NEFL and he's only being loaned out, he belongs to Philly!

The NEFL story is more than a committee. It is more than one individual. It's about history, honor, integrity and a code of conduct that has withstood the hands of time. It is a dream comes true for the great Myron Evans. If only David Fox could see the NEFL now, and maybe he does, how proud he must be to see how far his league has come. The story is about years of ups and downs. It is a story of reaching out and someone on the other end reaching back. It is a story about the magical, unreachable number of 32, which has been reached. And as the NEFL story continues, we are all witnesses of something very special in the City of Brotherly Love.

## THE NEFL SUPERBOWLS

<b>SB I</b>	<b>John Bullock over Paul Daniels</b>
<b>SB II</b>	<b>Marc Thompson over Mark Spivey</b>
<b>SB III</b>	<b>Marc Thompson over Corey Johnson</b>
<b>SB IV</b>	<b>Paul Daniels over James Crews</b>
<b>SB V</b>	<b>James Crews over Marc Thompson</b>
<b>SB VI</b>	<b>No game played</b>
<b>SB VII</b>	<b>Jamie Harris over Glen Phoenix</b>
<b>SB VIII</b>	<b>Norris McCraw over Brian Healey</b>
<b>SB IX</b>	<b>Ernie Grice over Jamie Harris</b>
<b>SB X</b>	<b>Tom Johnson over Brian Healey</b>





# The Boyz of the Spring

## The Philly Electric Football Story

By Edward J. Scott

*Stoked from the ground swell of passion and energy that flowed from the now defunct Tudor Products in Brooklyn, New York in the 60's and early 70's, came a group of young men who would later form the NEFL in Philadelphia. Can this league take credit for the movement of organized electric football in the Delaware Valley (constitutes the Philadelphia area, Delaware, and Southern New Jersey)? Hardly!*

Was the PEFL or NEFL, the first or biggest league, or even the best in terms of talent or league management? Nada! If any kudos are bestowed in this piece much of this would need to go to Myron Evans, who is arguably the father of modern day EF in Philadelphia. A great guy and a MFCA Hall of Fame lock, like many 11 to 50 year olds in the 90's, who could simply never put the game or hobby away, Evans led the path to organized electric football in the area through the formation of the original Philadelphia Electric Football League (the PEFL). These were the closet or solitaire players and fringe players from all walks of life, who had formed neighborhood leagues as youngsters, collectors and dyed in the wool lovers of all-things-Tudor. Like Moses - Myron began his journey and quest by trekking to the first Miggle Superbowl in the mid 90's. Some years later, through his association with some long term friends in the hobby, Evans took a the leap of faith that there was indeed a fire and passion in the game that had heretofore not been realized. It started with a remake of the venerable rule set.

Evans didn't turn his back on the ideas or opinions of others, but rather forged ahead with an amalgam of rules and styles of play that he saw and had observed. Was it simply a tweak of the original tudor rule set? Negative. It was much more. Evans envisioned a NFL style rule set with all of the hype (including local media attention) along with a good dose of organization. He had a supportive family in these formative years. Change came slow. To wit, we were late to the hobby with many of the new facets of the game. Change in the rule set or style of play was incremental as opposed to sea changing. We huddled around (as a Committee) and sweated the details before



each season. It was tribal wisdom and consensus that was needed before any major change was brought forward. I can recall having to filibuster for two hours to get a limited set buzzball figures into the rule set. I would argue that this type of Asian decision making in the business world still has it's place. Or does it? How else can any clear-eyed league (and some would argue the hobby) go from the standard bearing 3.2 weight limit right to 4.0? I digress -- but I will touch on this more at another time.

It wasn't long before I met Myron and began to see the same things that he did. I know I was hooked when I left my college graduation eschewing the after parties and mixers to attend the first real NFL franchise draft (complete with a replica Veterans Stadium) at a hotel near the base of the Eagles actual former stadium. This date is forever etched in my mind - it was June of 1997. So began the PEFL and a renewed interest in organized football that this area had not known. Essentially, it created (arguably) a true hotbed of home grown talent and passion that continues today. Are there other hotbeds with more history and passion? To the credit of all those who came before us - yes... And you know who you are...so, don't call me. You don't know my number and if you have it - I generally don't answer anyway...

## The Philly Crew

Fast forwarding to the here and now...we are celebrating the NEFL's ten year mark from this inauspicious start. What followed was an explosion of new players with talent and energy that can't be measured. Am I saying that the best players to ever grace the tin followed? No, I will leave it to you and your own history to debate this. When I say innovation I can quickly extend this outside the realm of true players. Folks, I am talking about the genesis of a new day in EF. In the rest of this piece, I will tell you about others who came later who arguably reshaped the landscape of the hobby. From this arose a number true greats in the annals of Philadelphia EF. I am talking about rule shapers and game changers, some of most ruthless collectors or traders in the hobby, along with the titans who perfected laser guided passing in the hobby, to some of the early inventors of the first to scale boards and field covers. I am not boasting that Philly was or is the best at what it does, I am only telling my story as I stood on the shoulders of these leaders, or watched in awe as these greats emerged. Since we traveled quite a bit in the later years we came to know many of you. Let's throw a few names out there to bring this into focus... James Crews, Mark Thompson, Paul David Daniels and Harold King. The league started as a small passionate group and league that eventually led to the spin off the NEFL (you will hear the story of why this league started and what foundation it rested on) and the Urban Gridiron (UGI). So, the story in Philly is really about three leagues two of which are still going strong today.

Not unlike other leagues in the country the Philly crew was simply not content to just show their wares in their own backyard (although this is where most of the story lies), rather many members began a outreach program that stretched far and wide throughout the country. This cross pollination of ideas and enthusiasm brought traveling coaches in and led to a hundred or so friendships in the hobby that remain today. The story would not be complete without mentioning the emergence and contribution of the National One (Corey Johnson) and Brian Healey, who together quickly began to make their respective mark on the hobby.

Let's talk about the contributors and antics of some of these early adopters to that Philly sound and the EF beat. There was late great David Fox. Dave left a legacy of laughs and memories that still echo in all of the places where the Philly game is played. There was Mark Spivey who reveled in using strong bases. Thick

green shells with so much flash on them they could be mistaken for taco dipping chips. There wasn't much base tweaking in this era. It was about "haves" and "have nots". Whoever had the most and best red pegs, wide tops, brown bases, and the R/L's owned braggin rights. It was not unusual to see \$25 to \$100 thrown down on a single base. Bullock and Daniels were often seen driving up and down I-95 (in their Lexus or Benz) in their acquisition of base talent or to feed John's hunger for more haiti or Big Man teams. I once saw John carry two silver trunks into the Miggle Washington DC convention. It was nothing for him to sell a team for \$300 or to trade teams and cash for money. The "have nots" (like me) were relegated to getting a base here or there to build one's team. The competition for talent was fierce. This spawned one of the all-time terms that Bullock and Diamond coined. It was called "EF Bidnuss"...it was known as the secret ritual or act of deal making in darkened hotel rooms with wide eyed newbies in tow. Folks it wasn't pretty back in those days, as knowledge of figures, and base types were the tickets to success. Let's be real...cash was often king. Indeed, we were far better off (economy-wise) than we are today.

Speaking of Kings, we had our own kid that shared the name of King. It was Kenny "Da Kid" King, who was the son of Harold King. Kenny was (and is) one of the finest young men I have ever met in the hobby...a true competitor and gentlemen. This new Spring Thing soon brought newcomers from South Jersey in the form of the mighty triumvirate...Glenn Phoenix, Ernie Grice, and Al Harvey. We also had the great Kelvin Lomax for a few seasons along with Abby "Modge Podge" Vaughn and Big Al from Harrisburg. Travel (either to tournaments or through league association) was not uncommon. Others included Cliff Gibbs, SmokeStack Jr. (my son Ed), Norris McGraw, Greg King, Jermaine and Chris King, Lorenzo, Buford and I know I am missing some. Forgive me if I do.

I am surrounded by a stack of glossy photos which are helping to jog my memory of who was there and how much fun we had. I still love these guys and cherished every minute of time we spent in city recreation centers and the living rooms and dens of these coaches. When we weren't playing, I celebrated with them the birth of their kids, weddings and sadly the dissolution of a few relationships with these guys. "Downtime" during travel were always among the most cherished memories. We shared meals, bemoaned job losses, shared new beginnings and shot hoops from time to time. We broke stones over who had more armor (trophies) or simply who had more game. We argued calls and missed passes. And yes, my shirt came off a few times (dunno why I do that). But at the end of the day we still follow and live our dream.

Today we wear better coaches shirts, NFL gear and sport fully tricked out teams that travel in custom boxes. We have joined a new association of people in the hobby who now play on customized (near scale) boards with sculpted figures and fancy time keeping machines. Has the game changed? One could argue that it has. We met some of the young lions as we entered the 21st century. Rutledge, Dirk, Jennings, Popham, and Diamond. A new group is quickly emerging. The game and the names are changing we see the divider, simulation sticks, tricked out TTQB/Kickers, the Box, and Four Point OH (more on this later). If you look hard enough you will still see that 9 to 15 year old kid who could only dream of some day walking the sidelines with his own whistle. Like the glass ceiling he found out that he too could actually wear all of the game day coordinator hats on the same day. They call him Coach. I would argue that they were really the Boyz Of The Spring.



# A New Line on the Field of Play?

by Lynn Schmidt

Every line on a football field has a purpose. Most, if not all chalk lines are there to enforce a rule or regulation of the game. As hobbyists and gamers, we use those same lines to play the game of football in its miniature form. With exacting detail we attempt to recreate everything we see on the field or have seen happen on a field. From chinstraps to facemasks and scale blades of grass, all the way up to the perfect uniform color and massive stadiums. In game play, we work diligently to simulate every aspect of the game from blocking schemes, passing routes to defensive and offensive alignments. In league play we not only play with our favorite teams in mock renditions of the big boys, the NFL and the NCAA, but in some cases we pay league fees allowing us to play in that league with our favorite team. All in the vein of making the miniature football experience as real as it can be. It is this perfect endeavor to recreate in miniature that is not only the most beautiful part of this hobby, but also one of miniature football's deepest problems.

For most of us to recreate the glory, beauty and to satisfy our desire for exactness of detail, requires that we have available to us the trademarked/copyrighted emblems that symbolize our teams. Currently, Excalibur Electronics (NFL License) and Miggle Toys (some NCAA teams) are the only companies that can legally manufacture, sell or mass-distribute NFL or NCAA items such as decal sheets and field covers. For other manufacturers, companies or hobbyists to do so, raises definite

**“For most of us to recreate the glory, beauty and to satisfy our desire for exactness of detail, requires that we have available to us the trademarked/copyrighted emblems that symbolize our teams.”**

and distinct legal issues involving the copyrighted materials.\* This is the MFCA's, if not the entire miniature football hobby's dilemma. How do we continue to legally create our miniature football world, if one of the essential and esthetic elements of the hobby is unavailable to us? The MFCA has been asked to draw a new line on the field that will define whether or not a member's use of these trademarked images is a breach of an MFCA members yet to be determined code of conduct.. So where do we or do we at all draw this new line across our MFCA field? As president, I have thought long and hard on this subject and in the end I always find myself in a vicious circle with the answer ending in a no win situation. On one hand nobody with the proper license creates decal sheets or field covers, which means if we want these we must obtain them otherwise or do without. On the other hand without these NFL or NCAA team logos we lose the flavor and or detail of

what miniature football is for most of us. I love my Fantasy Super Sumos NHFL team, but they will never match up to the true joy that comes in recreating my favorite NFL Kansas City Chiefs teams. Also, we lose a big part of what draws others to the hobby. We all love miniature football with a passion, but that passion was brought on because of our first love, football. Furthermore, at what point do we decide someone has stepped over the line? In real world police stings, the stings are set up to not only arrest the seller of the illegal goods but the buyer as well. If we apply that to miniature football, then I would venture to guess that very few of us do not own at least some teams or field covers that have questionably been obtained. Thus, I cannot separate blame and put it solely on the manufactures who often do it just for the love of the game or very little, if any, profit.

So, does an MFCA member break a yet to be determined code of conduct by owning or creating non licensed logo items? That decision may someday lie in the hands of the MFCA as we grow and find our ultimate place. But for now, that enforcement lies in the hands of the powers that be - the NFL and the NCAA. They may eventually come to us and present an either/or scenario. Until that time or until a licensed manufacturer provides the logo, decal sheets or field covers that we want, it will be up to each coach to decide for themselves, knowing full well the risks and consequences as to what level they will choose to be a part of this hobby.

On a more proactive side of this debate, the MFCA can at least try, and will, petition the Miggle's and Excalibur's to provide us with these products in a quality that we can all be happy with. The financial gain or loss will eventually be the decision maker for them. If they could or would bring these items to the table then the debate is easy and very clear cut. Until such a time that this happens it is for each of us to draw our own lines on the field of play and act in the best interests of not only our selves and leagues, but the fate of the hobby.

\*It is in no way illegal for the hobbyist/end user to create, paint and replicate their favorite team(s) and player(s), licensed or otherwise. One has every right to make or create whatever one chooses as long as it is done so strictly for one's own personal use. Though reading the NFL and NCAA policy, on the surface, this seems to contradict. Based upon further research, "the company policy line" is aimed towards and intended for companies or those acting as companies. I.E., in production, sales or distribution capacities. Suffice it to say, one should not produce, reproduce, sell or distribute, to the masses (public) without a license agreement. Though one should be perfectly within their rights to trade or give those things obtained or created for their own personal use with/to other hobbyists and or the general public.



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# JERRY MCGHEE'S BIG BOARD

## THE MOST TRAVELED SCALE BOARD AND STILL GOING!

BY JERRY MCGHEE

In 1996, I was reintroduced to this great hobby of ours by my then 13 year old nephew when, on a rainy Virginia week at my parents house with my nephew Ryan, bored out of our skulls, I said "Hey Ryan, you ever played electric football?" With that comment, after a trip to the attic, we then had a blast playing my old childhood game! Ryan loved the game. He loved it so much that he set out on this new thing called the Internet and after 18 months of searching, he actually found people who still loved and played the game. I couldn't believe it when he told me and my enthusiasm for the game was rekindled and I've been playing ever since!

One thing that always bothered me about the game was the scale of the players to the board. The board was always too small compared to the size of the players. It bothered me and I had to do something about it. So I decided to build my own field to scale with the players. I had been building and flying scale radio controlled airplanes for 18 years at the time and it was pretty easy to scale it out.



George Diamond and Jerry enjoy a friendly game during the 2008 MFCA Convention



1998-Jerry poses with his daughter, Linda (age 9) and his son, Collin (age 5)

a lot of money in it if it wasn't going to work. I searched the Internet and found a supplier of collapsible table legs and now my creation was nearing completion...or at least it was framed up.

For the electrical piece I wanted game play to be controlled by a 3 way switch mounted on each coach's sideline. I first used 4 Tudor motors in my game and all though it worked...it was very loud! I was crushed when one day at Reggie Rutledge's house he asked me to turn it off as it was giving his wife Rose a headache. I was devastated, but he was right. It was loud and it was a problem. That set me out on a one year design odyssey to figure out how to make this thing quiet. One day I was flying my RC airplane and I had a propeller disintegrate in mid-air which caused a terrible noise and a terrible vibration through the plane. EUREKA! I then set out

My original design was a .678 inch = 1 yard. My creation was going to be almost 8 feet long! I was ready to build and then my wife reminded me that as an officer in the military I move every 3 years and I should reconsider the size of the board. So I rounded it down to 1/2 inch = 1 yard and I got the scale that I use today on my gameboards. The complete gameboard with sidelines measures 68 inches long by 35 inches wide.

For my first board, the subject of this article, I decided to do my alma matter, East Carolina Universities' Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Design work and construction began in 1998. I had no idea if it was going to work so I started with a nice 24 gauge sheet metal, painted it white and masked off the lines and numbers, painted it green and then had to figure out how to make it look like a nice piece of furniture so I could play on it in the living room. With that, I decided to mount it to a wood frame as I was very familiar with working with wood. Not knowing if it was going to work or not, I decided to use pine. I didn't want to put



Fast Forward 2008-Jerry poses with his daughter Linda (now 19), Collin (15) and Peyton (yes he is named after Manning the Colts quarterback) 10 months





Kuwait City 2005-Jerry poses in a bunker while on duty in the Middle East

Outlined below are the Pirate board's complete travels since it's beginning in Florida. The coolest thing by far I got to do with this gameboard was take it with me to Kuwait on a year-long deployment to the Middle East. I was attached to the US Embassy and due to the duration and the nature of this assignment, I got to take some of my personal belongings with me. I decided to take my Pirate board and maybe squeeze in a solitaire season over the year



Kuwait City 2005-Jerry plays his first solitaire League championship

during my down-time. Well...it worked! I was able to play a six game solitaire season in Kuwait City, Kuwait on my big board. After tallying up the travels of the board, I figure it has traveled 18,422 miles. That is using distances to cities provided in Google Maps. I'm sure it is accurate to within 500 miles, but it's a great estimate!

In addition to traveling as much as it has, the board has been involved in three leagues. The Dallas-Fort Worth League, the Alamo City Electric Football League and my solitaire Virginia Electric Football League. It has also made two tournaments, the Bama Blast in Birmingham, Alabama and the MFCA 2008 convention in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

I love playing on this board and I'm really impressed at it's durability for having traveled as much as it has. There are no dents in the metal and it has held up amazingly well! I've changed my subsequent boards over the years, the most recent change being I now have the capability to make field covers in this size. If you want to see some of the boards I've built, please check out my website at [www.vaeft.com](http://www.vaeft.com).

A board well traveled!

to Radio Shack, got a 12 volt DC motor, a piece of brass with an off center hole, JB Weld the brass to the motor and VOILA! Instant vibration! With 12 volt DC motor, speed control was easily obtained with a train controller. I now had a good, reliable, and quiet motor for my board!

The Pirate board you see in the pictures for this article is now 10 years old. It has racked up quite a few frequent flier miles over the years. When I was at the MFCA 1st annual convention in Canton, I discussed it's travels with Matt Culp. He suggested an article on the board and here we are!



Kuwait City 2005-U.S. helicopters patrol over Iraq and Kuwait

Nov 98 Design Begins Niceville, FL  
Mar 99 Operational Niceville, FL  
Mar 99 Debut Birmingham, AL BAMA Blast  
Jul 99-Dec 01 San Antonio, TX  
Feb 02-Mar 05 Williamsburg, VA  
Mar 05-Mar 06 Kuwait City, Kuwait  
Mar 06-Aug 08 Williamsburg, VA  
Aug 08-MFCA Convention Canton, OH  
Aug 08-Washington D.C.

#### BELOW IS A HISTORY OF THE BOARDS TRAVELS, INCLUDING THE TREK TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Month	Year	City	State/Country	Trip Miles	Cumulative Miles
Nov	1998	Niceville	FL	0	0
Mar	1999	Birmingham	AL	245	245
Mar	1999	Niceville	FL	245	490
Aug	1999	San Antonio	TX	775	1265
Sep	1999	Dallas	TX	275	1540
Sep	1999	San Antonio	TX	275	1815
Oct	1999	Dallas	TX	275	2090
Oct	1999	San Antonio	TX	275	2365
Dec	2001	Williamsburg	VA	1564	3929
Mar	2005	Kuwait City	Kuwait	6635	10564
Mar	2006	Williamsburg	VA	6635	17199
Aug	2008	New Philadelphia	OH	536	17735
Aug	2008	Williamsburg	VA	536	18271
Aug	2008	Washington	DC	151	18422



# PAINTING DETAILED SKIN TONES

WITH CHRIS FIELDS



fig. 1

## PAINTING SKIN TONES TO HAVE DEPTH IS IMPORTANT WHEN DEALING WITH DETAILED FIGURES.

The scale of the figures does not allow for the proper shadows or highlights to be displayed, but these are things that are easily achieved with paint. In this article, we will go over how to achieve a basic, but detailed finish for white and black players.

### TOOLS

A basic, light flesh tone will be used for the white player, and a good raw umber will be used for the black player. Inks are also key in this process, so for the white player we will be using Games Workshop/Citadel's Flesh Wash and for the black player we will use Dr. Ph. Martin's Bombay Brown India Ink, available in most Michaels and Hobby Lobby stores. For the highlights, a simple white paint will be utilized for both figures. I prefer to use the same brushes specified in the 2008 summer issue of The Tweak for this process. See fig. 1.

### STEP 1: BASECOAT

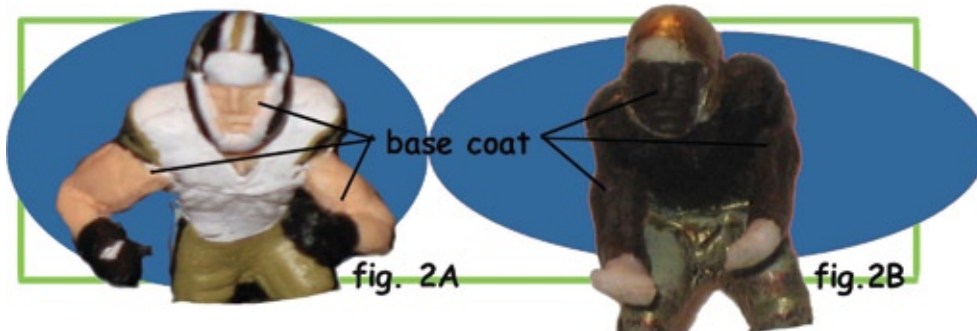
A good basecoat is key to any paintjob. When painting figures, I always paint the skin tones first. In the pictures, the skin tones were painted first, and the helmet and jersey were painted afterwards. The flesh tone is used for the white player and the raw umber is used for the black player. Be sure to get good coverage with the basecoat, not leaving any white spots or streaks showing. See figs. 2A and 2B.

### STEP 2: INKING

Ink!? Yes, ink. It tends to gravitate to the depressions and details of the figures, is inexpensive, cleans up with water and is easier than trying to thin your paint to the proper consistency. I prefer using my small detail brush for this, dipping it in the ink, wiping off the excess on the inside lip of the bottle, and applying it to the areas that hold the detail; the eyes; the nose; the mouth; all around where the helmet meets the face; under the chin; the neckline; the muscles in the arms and legs; anywhere that the skin meets up with the uniform or any other type of clothing. See figs. 3A and 3B.

### STEP 3: HIGHLIGHTS

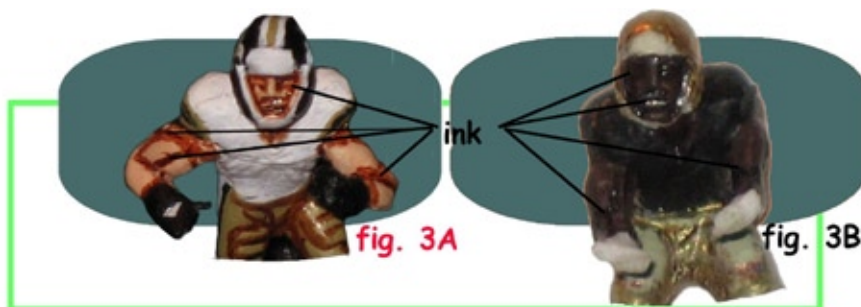
A dry brushing technique is used to achieve highlights (see the 2008 Summer issue of The Tweak). One should be careful to not have too much paint on your brush for this step, or it will create solid



blocks of color, ruining the effect that is desired. White paint is used as the highlight color for the white player, a 50/50 mix of white and the base color (raw umber) is used for the black player. When dry brushing, the highlights should mostly appear on the nose, cheeks, forehead and chin of the face, and on the highest spots on the arm and leg muscles. See figs. 4A and 4B.

## STEP 4: WASH AND DETAIL

At this point, the paint job will probably look weird and sloppy. That is ok, we are about to fix that. Mix your base colors with water at about a 75% water to 25% paint ratio. Use this mix to go over your entire flesh areas. This should even out the skin tones, making them have striking highlights and shadows. If the wash is looking a little bit “globby”, you can add a drop of dishwashing soap to the mix to give it some body and it will cover more evenly. Finally, detail the face with white eyeballs, using a black felt tipped pen to create the eyes, pads, gloves and chinstraps. See figs. 5A and 5B.



## STEP 5: FINISH AND SEAL

The next step, after painting the rest of the figure, is to clear coat. For skin, I prefer to first, seal the entire figure with Vallejo satin varnish, then hit the skin with a coat of Model Masters flat clear. Using combinations of browns and light flesh tones in unison with different inks, light brown, raw sienna, black, etc., can create a diverse group of players for anyone’s squad. Next time: staining techniques. ✕

**BELOW ARE SOME GREAT EXAMPLES OF CHRIS'S PAINTING TECHNIQUES ON FINISHED FIGURES.**

**YOU CAN FIND CHRIS ON THE MFCA FORUM WHERE HE IS KNOWN AS 5-13**



# DANCING IN THE DEVILS PLAYGROUND

BY AL DUNHAM



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*Decals Rule*

# [...or how to not make decals]

**M**y wife has allergies to animal fur. We also happen to own two cats. Every Sunday, I give each cat a bath that gets rid of the excess fur and dander that otherwise would wreck havoc with my wife. This has been going on for over 10 years, and yet, each Sunday, both cats are absolutely shocked and surprised that they are getting a bath. Their screams of protest can be heard two counties away. You would think that after 520+ such encounters that they would know that 1) they are going to get wet, and 2) that they are going to live through it. It's not like they don't recognize the signs. Indeed, all it takes is for one of them to see me carrying a couple of towels or to hear running water from a faucet and they both take off running faster than a MF coach when he hears "Free beer!"

Now here is the strange part. Every so often I'll find one of them sitting in the bath tub, just sitting there.... staring at the faucet. It's almost like they were mesmerized, taunting death itself. Of course, as soon as they see me looking at them, they realize that they are inside the 'Torture Chamber' and shoot out of the room as fast as they can.

I told you this story because this is how it is with me and decals. I loathe and despise them. I've said many times, in the past, that decals are the Devils handiwork, seducing you with their easiness and beauty while taking your soul away. Yet somehow I'm fascinated with them, a curiosity bordering on the brink of insanity.

When we had Fantasy Draft '08 a few months back, I decided that I was going to paint my team in time for the MFCA Convention in Canton. I wanted to make the Zombies my best looking team ever, so I was already primed for face masks and names and numbers for each player. My friend Chris Markham sent me an e-mail saying that he had found the perfect font for the numbers. When I opened it up, I agreed, they were just what I was looking for, looking hand scratched and dripping blood. The trouble was, I didn't think I would be able to duplicate them and give them justice. No, I was going to have to go the decal route for these.

I thought about it for awhile and figured that I could configure the sheet myself, and save Chris some work in the process. So, I opened up my trusty Microsoft Works Word Processor and started writing down all the names and numbers that I would use. When I looked at them closer I realized that they didn't look anything like the ones that Chris had found. Ohhh... you have to download the fonts into your computer first! No sweat, I'll just put them into my Zombies folder and..... Hey, wait a minute, why aren't they working? What??? You mean I have to unzip the file and store it into my windows font directory?!?!? I had barely even started and the Devil is already messing with me. Undeterred, I fumbled my way around and managed to get everything set. Now to re-type everything and... rats.. the names don't look very good in that font. No problemo, I'll just look online and find another font to use. More fumbling and swearing later, I finally had everything set. Well, almost. How do I get the names and numbers the correct color? A click of the 'help' button brought up a long list of options. I scrolled down looking for a 'How to change the color of what you have just typed' heading, but no luck. I went back to the beginning and started clicking away. 'Work with Word Processor Basics'..... nope, not there. 'Start a Works Word Processor Document' .. not there either. Who designed this thing, Satan? On down the list I went until I finally found 'Format Text' inside the 'Format a Document' listing. Aha! 'Change the color of text'. Now, I'm cooking with gas. I print off a sample sheet to see how they look and... holy smoke, they are way too big. I need to re-size them. A simple click

to number 8 on the size tab and... Shoot, still too big. That's as small as it goes. Another call to Chris and I find out that you need to re-type in a number smaller than 8 into the box. Man, the Devil is good at hiding this sort of information. I try some samples of different heights and pick the ones that look the most proportional for the figures.

I finally get all my names, numbers and the 'NZ' for the helmets all set. A simple e-mail to my buddy Chris (so that he can print them) and I'll be decaling in no time... or so I thought. What do you mean you can't open a Word Processor file??? Arrgghhh. I have to re-save my document as a regular Word Pad file. More fumbling and grumbling. What's that sound? Is that Satan chuckling in the other room? No, it's just the washing machine. A couple of days later and I pick up my sheet. Back home, I try out the purple numbers. These look awesome! Now for the yellow numbers. I put one into the water, let it separate from the paper, pick it up with my brush and place it onto the back of my player and... where'd it go? It disappeared! I look around on the table, in the brush, back into the water. I can't find it anywhere. I re-trace my steps and... Ohhh Noooo. It's on the guys back, but it's almost invisible. The yellow ink isn't bright or solid enough to show up over the dark purple. Evidently, the Devil likes bald guys as I'm starting to pull my hair out.

Let me think for a moment. Maybe it's the laser jet printer that Chris used. I have an ink jet, maybe I could just print my own. Yeah, that's the ticket. I don't need to bother Chris with this stuff, I'll do it myself! Off I go to the hobby store to get my own decal paper. \$4.95 for just one sheet of decal paper? \$3.95 for a sealer, too?!?!?!?!? Satan doesn't want just bald men, he wants bald, broke men. I empty my life savings onto the counter and walk out.

Back at home, I break out my printer and run off the sheet. A more beautiful sight has never before been beheld by man. Now, all I have to do is brush on the sealer and I'll be ready to.... Ohhh nooooo, another disaster! The sealer caused the ink to run all over the page. My decal sheet is ruined! This is what I get for dancing in the Devils playground. Well, I'm not going to pay an arm and a leg for another decal sheet from the hobby store, I'll buy some online instead. A week later my sheets arrive in the mail. I do some background research and find that the decal sheet maker recommends using a high gloss clear acrylic spray to seal the sheet after you print. Ahhhh... well now, it looks like the tide is about to turn in my battle with the Prince of Darkness. I make a trip over to Home Depot and find some spray acrylic. \$5.95 for a lousy can of clear?? Does Lucifer own stock in Home Depot or what? Back home I spray a coat and cross my fingers. My wife just happens to walk in. Why are there a bunch of crosses hanging on the wall and where did this statue of Jesus come from? Uhh... I'm going to do a 'Crusades' team and needed them for reference? She just shakes her head and walks out. I turn my attention back to the decal sheet and... hey, no running! I give it a good hour to dry and try another yellow number and ... Dang, the yellow is still too faint. Another phone call to Chris and he tells me to try something different. He wants me to make a purple block with the yellow numbers inside. Then, paint yellow on the jerseys and helmets so that the yellow shows through while the purple blends into the background. Then simply brush in purple on the edges of the decal so that it blends into the jerseys and helmets. Well, that sure sounds simple enough....

Back into Word Processor I go, clicking every tab I can find like a mad man possessed. I finally find something called 'Borders and Shading' in the Format tab and finagle my way through until I have a solid block of purple with yellow names and numbers. Again I print off a sheet and seal it with clear acrylic. After letting it dry overnight I try my hand again. I put a yellow number

**please turn to page 31**



# Hi! AI's not home right now. You wanna make some decals with me?

by Al Dunham's Wife

As long as people are painting their teams, there will always be a demand for decals. For the most part, guys have been getting theirs through a couple of online vendors. There have been a few, however; that have ventured into the decal field on their own. If you've always wanted to try your hand at making your own, but didn't know where to begin, then here's a basic how-to. We are going to cover simple one color numbers and names, as well as, how to make your own helmet logos.

Before we start, you'll need a few things. First, you need some decal paper and bonder. There are many different brands to choose from. Some are better than others, and some don't work very well at all. In our experience, we found that Papilio was the best combination to use. Go to [www.papilio.com](http://www.papilio.com) and order either laser paper or ink paper depending on which type of printer that you have. Be sure to order clear paper, not white, unless you are doing white names or numbers. I'll explain that later in this article. Also use their bonder, as it is designed to work with their paper. If you are wondering what a bonder is, it is a spray that is used to seal the ink onto the paper. Otherwise the ink will run off when you put the decal into water. Do not use a brush on bonder, as the brushing action may make the ink smear. Best to use a spray. Also, be sure not to move the paper after spraying. Let it sit in one place until it is thoroughly dry.

Next, you need some sort of writing program. I use Microsoft Works Word Processor. Many computers come standard with Microsoft Works. Simply click on start, all programs, Microsoft Works and look for it in there. If you don't have Works, you can usually find a free download online or just purchase a version.

## Setting Up

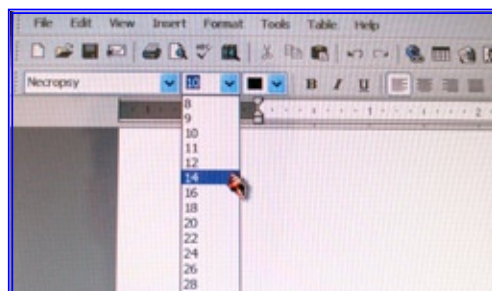
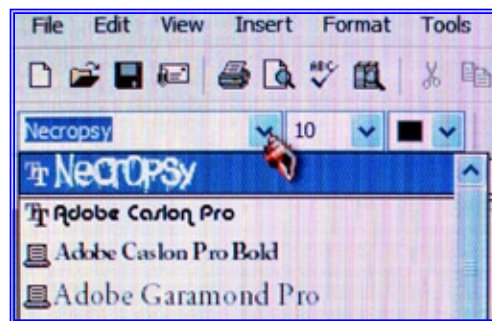
Next, you need to know what kind of font to use. If you don't already know, a font is simply a style of writing. There are many different styles of numbers and letters. If you are trying to copy an already existing team, you will need to do some rather extensive research to find out what font they used for the numbers and letters on the jerseys. If you are making up your own team, then you can use whatever font you wish. For this article, I'm going to use my Zombies as examples.

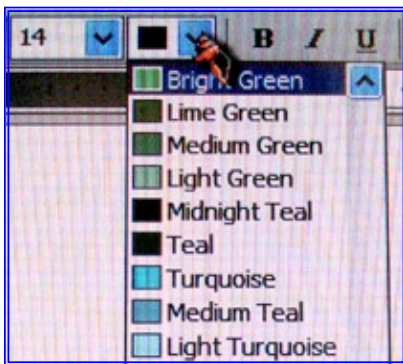
All computers are loaded with a variety of fonts as standard equipment. If you're trying to make an existing team, odds are that they use a font that is not on your computer. Don't fret. If you know the name of the font, type it into the search engine that you use. Google or Yahoo are two good choices. If you are making up your own team, search for free fonts. [Dafont.com](http://Dafont.com), [1001freefonts.com](http://1001freefonts.com) and [Action-fonts.com](http://Action-fonts.com) are a few that offer good varieties.

Once you find the font that you want to use, save it to a file on your computer. Don't forget where you stored it, write it down if you need to. Once it's downloaded, go to where it is stored. Right click on the stored font. A menu will pop up. Find 'extract all' and click on that. When the 'Extraction Wizard' menu comes up, click 'next'. This should bring up 'Select a Destination'. Click the 'Browse' button, then 'My Computer', 'Local Disc C', 'Windows', 'Fonts', then OK. The directory address should be "C:\WINDOWS\Fonts". Click 'Next', then 'Finished'. Your font should now be stored on your computer in the fonts directory. Once you have all the fonts settled, we'll move on to designing a page.

## Designing a Page

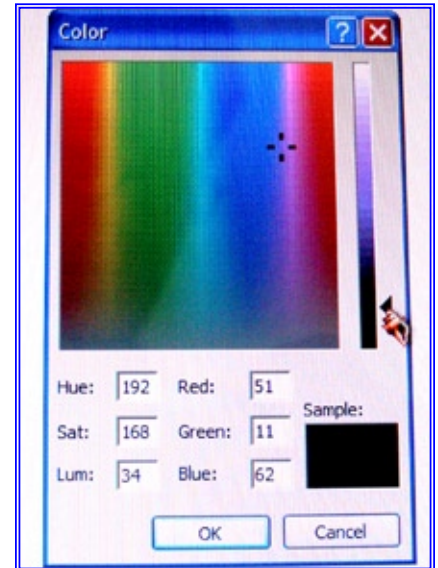
First we will set up the numbers. Open up the Works Word Processor. In the third row of the upper left hand corner will be a box. It will most likely have 'Times New Roman' written there. It may also have 'Arial' or some other name instead. This is where the fonts are located. Simply click onto the blue box next to it and a list containing all the fonts that are stored onto your computer will appear. Scroll down the list until you find the font that you wish to use. Click on it and it will now be listed. In the next box is a number for the size of print. You will need to experiment a little to figure out what size is best suited for your players. For my Zombies, I used 14 for the back numbers, 12 for the front, 6 for the shoulder and helmets and a 4 for the names. You should type out a few numbers and names in different sizes, making notes as to what size number you used for each. Then print out a sample on regular paper. Test the names and numbers with your players and pick out the sizes that look the best.





At this point you have the font and number size, in this case a 14 for the back numbers. In the next box is a black box. This is the color of print, in this case it is black. Click on the blue box next to it and a list of colors will appear. You can choose any color you wish. If you can't find the right shade of a color, purple for instance, you can make your own. Scroll to the bottom and click on 'More Colors'. A 'Color' box will appear that looks like a rainbow spread out. Move the crosshair around until you find the shade that you like. I want a dark purple, so I moved it into the purple area. Since there is no dark purple in the 'rainbow' I stopped in a general purple area. Then, using the slide on the right, I moved it until I got a dark purple. You will note that there are 6 boxes with numbers, 'Hue', 'Sat', 'Lum',

'Red', 'Green', and 'Blue'. Write these down so that if anything happens, you can go back and type these into the boxes and get the exact color that you had picked.



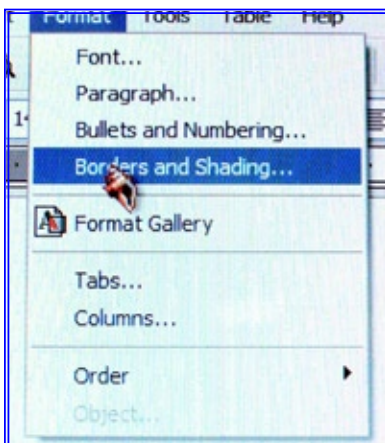
Now that you have the font, size and color picked, you're ready to do some business. Start typing away. You can go from 0 - 99, or just do the exact numbers that you are using for your team. I would suggest that you do 3 of each number just in case of accidents. Also, when you type a number, give 2 or 3 spaces in between them to give you room for cutting them out. When you reach the end of a line, hit 'enter' a couple of times to give space above and below the numbers and names for the same reasons. Once you have finished the back numbers, copy them so that you don't have to re-write them all. Just click in front of the first number with the left mouse button and hold it down. While still holding down the left button, move the mouse to the end so that all the numbers are highlighted. Then, while they are highlighted, right click on it and then click on 'copy'. Now, click at the end of the numbers and hit 'enter' a few times to give you some distance between the sizes. Right click and click 'paste'. All the numbers should be there. Now, highlight those numbers. While they are highlighted, click onto the size button and change the size, a 12 in this case. Now click at the end of the numbers and they should all be a little smaller than the first set. Do the same thing for the shoulder numbers. When you change the size number for them, you will have to type in the size, as the default size will only go down to an 8. Just click on the blue box next to the size, then while the number is highlighted, type in the size that you want to use, 6, 5, 4 etc.

Last, we will type the names. You will find that you will need a very small print for them, either a 4 or 5. They will be very hard to see on your screen at that size. What we are going to do, is type them at a larger size 12 so that we can be sure there are no spelling errors, then we will shrink them. Type all the names, again you may want to do 2 or 3 of each in case of accidents. Once you have all the names typed, highlight them and change the size like you did with the numbers, only using the size that you had picked for them. Once you have your page all set, print out a sheet on regular paper and check to be sure that everything will print out ok before you waste a decal sheet, those things can be expensive.

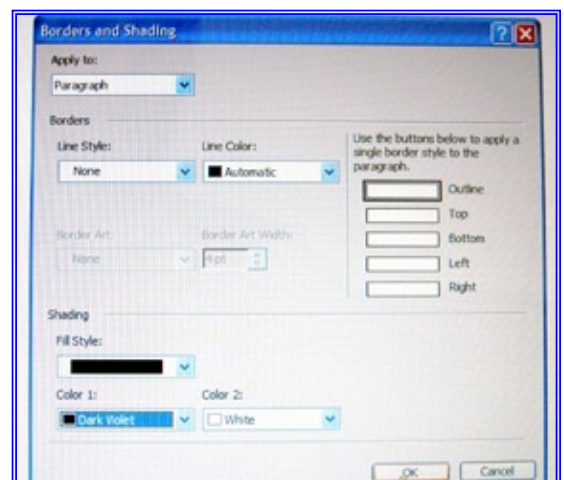
This is a basic way to make your own names and numbers, though there is one major issue to consider. Ink jets and Laser jets don't print white, gold, silver, copper and a few other off the wall colors. To print them, you need an Alps printer. Those are no longer made, and good examples go for \$350 or more on EBay. Don't worry, there is a way to get the colors you want, it just takes a little creativity and patience.

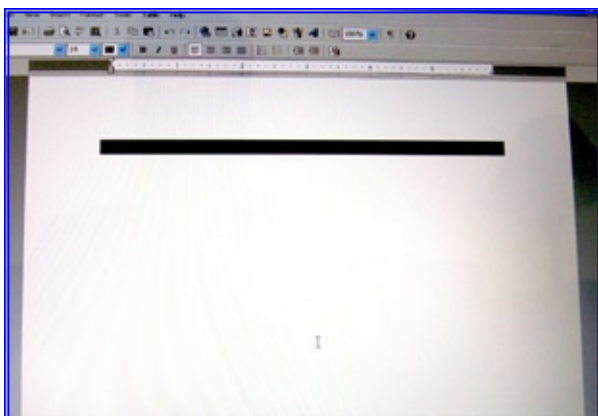
## Making White and Yellow Numbers

I needed yellow names and numbers for my team. Unfortunately, the yellow ink on the decals wasn't bright or solid enough to show up on the dark purple of the jersey. That's one flaw of ink and laser jet printers. Here is what I did to make the numbers show up. First, you click on 'Format' in the top bar, then 'Borders and Shading'.



Where it says 'Apply to', leave it as 'paragraph'. Under 'Borders', where it says 'Line Style:', click the blue box and pick 'None'. Now, where it says 'Shading', click where it says 'Fill Style:'. Pick the first example, which should be a thick bar. Next, click on 'Color 1:' and find a color that matches the jersey that the numbers are going on. In my case, I went to custom colors and filled in the boxes with the numbers that I had saved earlier. Once you have your color choice picked, click 'ok' and you're ready to start. Hit 'enter' once or twice. There should be a colored band going across the page. Print a sample sheet on plain paper and compare it to the jersey to make sure they are the same. If





Now, we wanted yellow names and numbers, not white. Here's the tricky part. Ink and Laser jet printers don't print white. What they do, is leave that part bare, so that there is no ink where the white should be. What we are going to do, is paint yellow on the figures where we want the names and numbers to show through.



When you are finished, it should look the same as if you had only used a yellow number to start with.

If you are doing only white names and numbers, you might want to use white decal paper. You will need to set up the sheets like before with the jersey color borders, but you won't need to paint white on them as the decal paper has the white already there. When you have your sheet all set, print it onto a decal paper. Let it dry over-

night. After it has dried, spray a light coat evenly over it. Let that dry for about an hour and then give it a second light coat. Be sure not to move the sheet, spray it someplace where you can leave it alone for a few hours. After the second coat has dried, you're ready to decal away.

This is a basic way to make your own solid names and numbers. Next time around, we'll show you how to make two-toned numbers and helmet logos. Until then, be creative and have fun making your own decals.

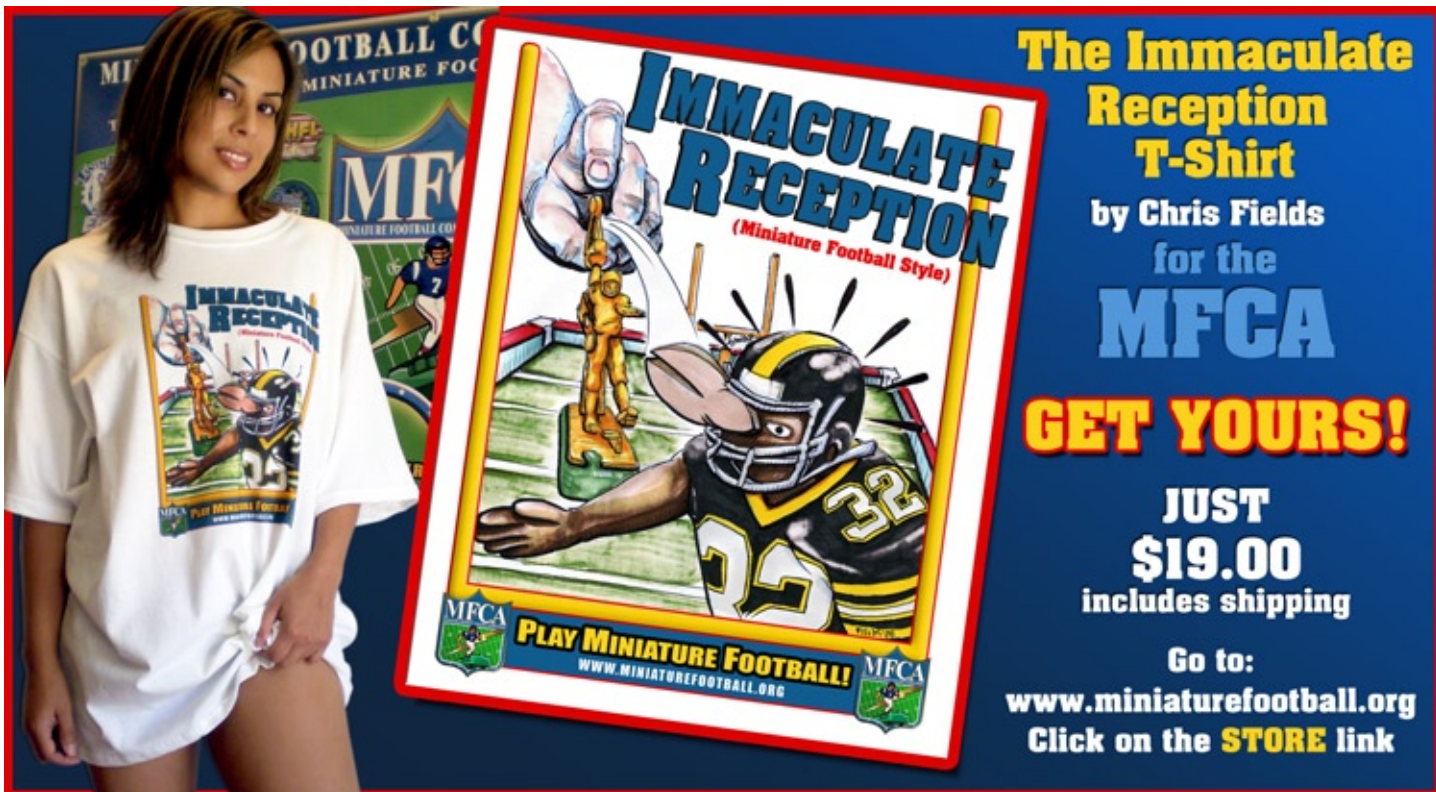
the color doesn't match, go back to the custom color section and play around until you get it correct. This is where the patience part comes in. Once you have the color matching the jersey, change the color of the type to 'white'. Start typing the names and numbers like you did before.



Since the printer is leaving that part bare, the yellow will show through the bare spots. The colored part will blend back into the jersey. Once we have the decal set and have Solvasetted it into place, we go back and carefully paint over the edges of the decals with the jersey color to blend it all in.



## Hello Honey, I'm home. HEY, why are all my paints and decal paper out?!



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Devil's Playground **continued from page 27**

into the water, let it separate, and then center it on the players back. The yellow is showing through like a charm. YES!!! I jump up and down, high-fiving the cats, the plants and anything else within reach. Take that Mr. Mephistopheles and put it where the sun never shines, which .. basically is anyplace where you live because there is no sun there... well, you know what I mean.

I go back to my figure and...what the?!?!? The number is curling up as if an invisible hand was rolling it. I just need some Solvaset on it, that's all. I put a drop on and ...nothing. I take my brush and try to uncurl it and it just rolls back up. Maybe another drop will do... or two.. or three... or four. At this point the Solvaset has dissolved the entire number, leaving behind a blob of yellowish goop behind. Maybe it's just that one number. I try another and the same thing happens. #!@\*#!@?&\$%#^@!! I'm reeling off a string of obscenities that would have made Vince Lombardi blush. Hey, maybe it's the acrylic? What if I apply a coat of the first stuff I used over top of the acrylic? I brush some on and ... no running. So far so good. I let it dry and put it into the water and... the decal is curling into a little ball while it's still in the water!

There are three things in life that should never be seen by man. Accidentally walking in on your Grandparents while they are making love, a grossly overweight, hairy backed old guy wearing a Speedo at the beach, and me after 3 weeks of decal making failure. I have a Sasquatch statue in my living room and even his head is turned away. Another phone call to Chris and I find out that he has gone through similar problems. He recommends using Testors decal sealer, so I make another trip to the hobby store. I fill out a credit app and put up my motorcycle for collateral, at this point price doesn't matter anymore.

Once again I print out a sheet. Before going to work, I take the sheet outside on our balcony and give it a spray. I wait about 10 minutes and give it a second coat for good measure. I didn't want to leave it outside in case it rained before I got home, so I gently picked it up and set it on top of the fireplace mantle to dry. When I returned home from work, I checked up on it and... you guessed it... the ink ran from me

picking it up and carrying it inside! As I sat on the sofa, shaking my head in disbelief, I hear laughter coming from the floor. Incensed, I start yelling and beating on the floor with my fists. You can't beat me that easily Lucifer! As God and the Mennonites are my witnesses, I will overcome! My wife tells me it's just the TV from the apartment below us. No it's not! What, are you on his side? It's Satan I tell you. My wife starts dialing 911, but I come to my senses and plead with her to hang up, promising that I'll stop trying to make my own decals and give Beenutt a call. As she puts the phone away, I walk back over to that last sheet and stare at it. As I look closer, I realize that, yes, the ink ran, but instead of being solid yellow, the names and numbers have a red, blood tinged look to them. Hmmm.... Maybe I should try one and see how it looks. I take the number from the water and put it on the figure and wait.... and wait.... and.. Hey, it's not curling up. It also looks pretty cool, almost like it was designed to have a blood stained edge around the yellow. I do a name and a helmet and those also look pretty good as well.

I start yelling and jump up and down. YES! Lucifer's plans have backfired on him. These names and numbers look better than I had dreamed they would. Suddenly the floors rumble and the walls are shaking. Ha! Satan's having a tantrum, throwing things around. No, it's just the people moving in next door, my wife informs me. No, it's the Devil, I tell you. What's the matter Mr. Mephistopheles, you don't like losing? How about I paint a team just for you? I'll call them Lucifer's Losers. Or how about Satan's Sad Sacks? The Devils Dorks? My wife starts dialing 911 again.

It's been a couple of months now, since the doctors discharged me from the 'hospital'. I've had plenty of time to contemplate about my 'little incident' as we call it. It seems as though I was right all along. Decals are the Devils handiwork. They are evil personified, sucking your soul and lifeblood right out of you, and should be avoided at all costs. They should be permanently banished from existence, and you should never, ever try and make your own. ...hmmm...I wonder if I could make some rainbow numbers for my Hippies team???? **66**

# LETTING FREEDOM RING

## SINCE 2003

by Robert Slate



On Saturday, August 30 the Connecticut New York Electric Football League held the first ever league Awards Banquet at the Clarion Inn and Suites in New Haven. This event was being held to celebrate the completion of the leagues' fifth season in existence and to honor the top performers of season five. Of course there was an abundance of excellent food, the room was decorated in the expected football theme, the trophies were smartly aligned on the presentation table and the speeches and presentations of the highest quality. But, the highlight of the evening – as is always the case in the CNYEFL - was the passion for the game and the caring for each other exhibited by the coaches and guests in attendance. The true fellowship and sense of family present with this group of miniature electric football coaches is ever present. And their passion for the game, always learning and improving their skills and knowledge is just as evident.

In 2003 a handful of electric football enthusiasts came together to form the basis of what was known as the New York Electric Football League. After some initial discussions via the Miggle chat forum Jim Javore, Joe Rivera, David Jimenez, Paul Gardner and Johnny Thomas from metropolitan New York connected with John Wharton and Thomas Gardner of New Haven and formed the NYEFL. All of these men had been involved with electric football for many years, some playing solitaire and most involved with small local neighborhood or family leagues as far back as the mid to late 1950's. John Wharton accomplished his personal goal of winning the first league championship leading his Rams over the Jets of Joe Rivera 17-14 for the inaugural NYEFL title.

The league expanded to ten teams in 2004 as Andre Brooks, James Harris and Solomon Maye joined the founding members. The second season saw the rise of Jim "Papa Bear" Javore as force to be reckoned with for coming years. He developed deadly accuracy with what has become one of the trademarks of the CNYEFL – the old metal Tudor quarterback or prototype as it is sometimes referred to. That year his Bears defeated the Wharton coached Rams 25-15.





In Season Three (2005-06) a few coaches were lost, but some new faces joined the crowd. Dwayne Chuey brought the Packers into the league, Lee Foreman III entered with his beloved Cowboys and Flynn Brody jumped in with the Colts. During this season the league saw the first instance of multiple team ownership by a single coach. This situation developed to avoid the forfeiture of games due to other coaches dropping out. The Rams of John Wharton finished the regular season a perfect 11-0, however "Papa Bear" Javore earned his 2nd championship in as many years winning a close one in the Bronx – 35-34 over the Dolphins of coach Johnny Thomas.

Coach Erin Gardner brought the Falcons to the league for Season Four as the number of teams remained at twelve. One change that took place for the season was the breaking of the teams into two conferences of two divisions each. Coach John Wharton and his Rams returned to the championship game and cruised to a 31-6 win over the Packers to earn their 2nd CNYEFL title.

The start of season five (2007-08) saw even more new coaches joining the league as Jaquin McElveen purchased the Patriots, Matt Hulbert entered with the Chargers and Bob Slate took over the Packers franchise – bringing the league to 14 teams. The season five championship saw the Rams of John Wharton win their third championship and 2nd in a row in stunning fashion, shutting out the Colts 16-0!

As with many leagues numerous changes have taken place over the years. Coaches and teams have come and gone, some rules have been modified and the league alignment adjusted to make scheduling more effective. The one constant during the five years of the league's existence has been the commitment, consistency and enthusiasm of John Wharton. His passion for the game is unrivaled by any coach. His knowledge of the game and the intricacies of coaching and training up his athletes unmatched.

However, equally as impressive is his commitment to the stability of the league, the development of new coaches and promotion of the hobby. He plays and coaches the game with passion and love and shares with those around him with the same passion and enjoyment and that feeling has spread throughout the league.

Along with the passion for the game exhibited by the coaches is the freedom offered by CNYEFL. The freedom to use any figure, any base, and any game board - is what makes the league special. The metal quarterback is allowed and thrives in this league. Stacking is allowed on both sides of the ball. As Cowboys Coach Lee Landry points out, "rules are discussed by coaches, suggestions for changes welcome and voted on each season".

Preparation for season six is already underway. More new, young coaches are coming on board for the next season – having recently honed their coaching skills in the Connecticut Electric Football league. The addition of these new coaches is in keeping with what has become an annual tradition of growth and development of new style and enthusiasm in the CNYEFL.

The league maintains an excellent website full of stats, pictures and stories which is regularly updated. For more information on the CNYEFL go to:

[www.leaguelineup.com/nyefl](http://www.leaguelineup.com/nyefl)



# ON FIRE IN THE SOUTH



BY LEONARD CRAWFORD

**T**HREE FRIENDS WERE SITTING AROUND TWEAKING BASES AND GETTING IN SOME SCRIMMAGES AFTER THE END OF THE REGULAR SEASON OF THE SCEFL WHEN THE QUESTION CAME UP, WHY ISNT THERE ANY LEAGUES IN GEORGIA, AND WHY ARE WE TRAVELING SO MUCH? THUS THE DSEFL WAS BORN.

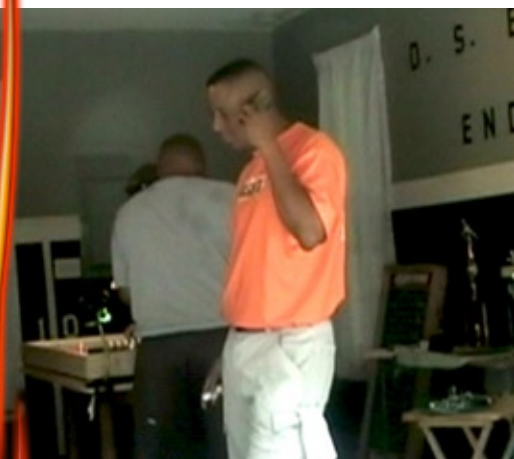
"We always had an idea that we could find coaches in Georgia" stated Jasper, "it was just a question of whether they would come out and join us." "The three of us loved playing so much and wanted to be able to keep something going on all 'year round,' says James, "so we knew that we had to move fast."

Playing each weekend in Japser's garage, that he converted into a game lounge, we had the place, all we had to do was ensure that the players were in. It was rough in the beginning, as forfeits, coaches dropping out, numerous schedule changes...you name it we had it. But when the season ended with Alan Ridgell and his Saints facing David Redmond and the Broncos, to bring home the title, we knew that we had grown into something real. "Coaches just started to come out of the wood works eager to join us," stated Leonard, "we brought them in to show them what we were all about."

We started that first season with only 9 coaches and man was it crazy, you would have a schedule done up, then on game day only 4 would show. It took a lot of patience and understanding and Jasper was really getting tired of the schedule changes each weekend. But somehow we stuck it out and survived that first season. I think that we really came together though as a solid league when Charles Lane pulled out the victory over Adrian Baxter in the Dixie League Championship.

Although only 6 months old, we are entering into our 2nd season and it promises to bring some excitement along with it. New members to the league will bring even more high power play to the set. With coaches like David Nickles, who each year host's the now famed "Bama Blast" and Gary Pate who comes along with years of experience, these coaches always keep you on your guard with their veteran play. The "new school" players Rafiyq McDanul, Bryan Moses and the Redmond Brothers, David, Brian, and Onthony, that gives you something else to think about. Charles (C-3) Lane III tries to follow in his fathers footsteps as he joins

the fold and already we have seen the type of play that will someday make him a champion. Allen and his Saints hope to repeat with the same type of season that he had during the last one. Can he be knocked off from the top? We will have a great league this year. The DSEFL is also planning its 1st tournament...The Georgia Rumble coming in April 2009. It is my hope that the league continues in a forward direction and with the help of a lot of good people in it, I know that we will be around for years to come. We would like to thank the MFCA for welcoming us into the family and *The Tweak* for allowing us to get our word out. And now the coaches of the DSEFL...



“Daghstrydr” Leonard Crawford League President. Married with 3 kids and a 5 year old grandson, he is an active duty Marine Master Sergeant with 26 years in the Corps. He began playing in the SECFL about a year ago, and since that time he has come from the basement to the top floor, his '72 Dolphins are one to be reckoned with as he has plans to compete for the final ring this year.

“KingAtl” Jasper Scott Commissioner. Jasper is married with 3 kids, 1 son who is currently attending college playing football in South Carolina. Jasper has been around for quite some time with membership in the BSEFL. He is known for his slick style of play, especially in his defensive play calling, as he is the master of the zone defense. He is currently employed by Coca-Cola.



James Shealey Commissioner. We like to call James the coach of the 300. You never know which team he will come out with from week to week. James has Steelers in every color of the rainbow and his play is that of a consistent brutal attack. James is married and has 2 kids, and is currently employed by Delta Airlines.



Brian Redmond Sergeant at Arms. The Unstoppable Falcon. Brian has proven to be one of the best in the league. He was the 1st champion of the Dixie league trophy, amongst others. He never lets down during a game. His style is that of continuing the attack, he is a complete coach.



Charles Lane Treasurer. Charles is the coach of the Oakland Raiders. He was this year's champion of the Dixie League. He has also won trophies in the SECFL, the Bama Blast, and competed in the league champions round at Miggle. Charles is a very accurate and deadly passer, a guy who can hit a 80 yarder on the fly with no problems. Charles has been playing electric football for about 30 years. He is married with 1 son (Charles Lane III) who he has brought into the league with him. He is employed by McKee Foods. He also spends his off duty time as a Middle School Football Coach.



The league is broken down into two divisions, the Northwest and Southeast, and has members in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and now South Carolina. Please check us out at [www.leaguelineup.com/dsefl](http://www.leaguelineup.com/dsefl).

### THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DSEFL ARE:

Bryan Moore – Baltimore Ravens  
David Redmond – Denver Broncos  
Charles Lane III – Detroit Lions  
“Big Tony” – Greenbay Packers  
Gary Pate – Kansas City Chiefs  
Rafiqy McDanul – Tampa Bay Bucs  
Joel Pritchard – Carolina Panthers  
David Nickles – Cincinnati Bengals  
Onthony Redmond – Jacksonville Jaguars  
Jedi – Minnesota Vikings  
Allen Ridgell – New Orleans Saints  
Jay Howell – Philadelphia Eagles  
Bryan Moses – Tennessee Titans



# Meet the Electric Coach Maurice Robertson



Maurice “Moe” Robertson was born in Washington, D.C. on May 21, 1970. His aunt bought him his first electric football game in 1979. The game was comprised of the red and yellow players, which back then he and friends referred to as college players. From that moment on Moe was hooked for life. The first NFL team he purchased was the Atlanta Falcons in the red jersey. His grandmother bought him his first Super Bowl set in 1983. That set came with the Philadelphia Eagles and the Oakland Raiders. As a child, Moe played the game so often that it became part of his identity.

In the early years as an electric football hobbyist, Moe just played with the game. He did what the hobbyist was supposed to do with the game. Like every other hobbyist, he painted teams, tweaked bases, matched teams against each other. It was electric football as usual. Throughout his time as an electric football hobbyist, Moe always wanted to take the hobby to new levels. Playing the game wasn’t enough. There are figure and base manufacturers. Moe didn’t want to produce another type of base or figure. There are other companies that are already conquering those mountains. Moe wanted to do something for the hobby that was unprecedented. He wanted to be a trailblazer in the hobby.

What got him started capturing the game on camera was an assignment for a computer class that he was taking at the University of Maryland in 2002. Moe was tasked with creating a web site for a grade. It was that assignment that gave birth to [www.electric-coach.com](http://www.electric-coach.com).

Initially, Moe had no idea what he was going to use as content for the site assignment; furthermore, he was clueless to what web design was all about. He didn’t know where to begin. The professor left the student to explore and discover on his or her own. At that time, it seemed to be a daunting task. The first step was to find a web hosting company who could support his site. Once that was done, Moe now had a place to upload his site content. There are free hosting companies, but they don’t offer as much space as companies that charge.

After some thought, Moe realized he already had the site content that he was in much need of. It was on the table in his recreation room. Electric football was just the type of material that was perfect for the assignment. The site had to contain video, audio, graphics, and text. Electric football contains all of those elements. The tough part was bringing those elements to life on a web site. Every football game always begins with a kick off. That’s where Moe started to collect the content for his site.

The first attempt at capturing electric football on video was a disaster. Moe had to learn how to follow his players from behind a 3-inch LCD screen that was built in to the camera. Sometimes the players would run out of the frame or get stopped by a player that suddenly came into the frame. Seeing the players on video was new for Moe. It was a new way to interact with the players on the table. Interacting with the players in this way meant that each player must be able to fully perform on its own once the board was turned on. If the players performed poorly, the over all video would have been useless. Due to this reality, base tweaking had to be up to par. More demands were put on each player to respond perfectly. When a ball carrier made it past the defensive

backs, it was a must that he runs for the end zone at a decent rate of speed regardless of the distance from point “A” to “B”. He must go the distance. Running out of bounds or the opposite way was not an option. Moreover, running too slow is just as bad if not worse than running in the wrong direction or out of bounds. Speed, direction, and staying in bounds are all necessary in order to create a sharp electric football video.

Sound figure movement between both teams is what makes the game attractive. The running back moving to an opening hole while a defender is closing in to make the tackle is splendid. Meanwhile, figures such as the receivers and cornerbacks are battling as the board hums along. All over the table the figures are staying in their lanes. Each player’s individual location alone causes events to take place all over the board. This is what Moe refers to as electric football action. This is what he is always trying to capture with his cameras.

In an effort to achieve all around performance from each player, Moe practices with every member of each team until each of them respond correctly. During these practices the camera is running. The footage is referred to when changes have been made to a player. This way a player’s progress can be monitored throughout training camp. This approach focuses primarily on every member of the defense and the skilled position players, such as the running backs, and receivers. All defensive players must be able to run to a spot on the board.

Regardless of the nationwide negative opinion about this hobby, Moe believes that if a coach displays his teams moving smoothly and accurately across the board, the non-hobbyists will have no choice but to respect this hobby. They may not join the hobby, but they will have to admit that something special is happening here in the hobby of electric football. Although the technology of the game has not changed, the figures, bases, and boards are the things that have changed the look and feel of this hobby tremendously.

After getting the hang of following the players in a frame, Moe learned to commentate on what the players were doing; similar to an announcer at a real sporting event. Just like player movement must be proficient, the commentating must parallel that. Moe put in many days and nights learning how to talk about what was taking place on an electric football table as events took place. The more and more he tried it, the more proficient he became in his announcing approach.

While teaching himself how to create web pages, Moe was thinking of a name for the web site. While visiting message boards by Miggle and Buzzball, Moe noticed that hobbyists around the hobby were referring to themselves as “coaches”. Shortly after visiting the message boards and trying other ideas for a name, Moe came up with the title that would launch him into electric football history. The name he came up with was Electric Coach. Before the Electric Coach name, names such as Nickleback and Dimeback were ideas. Moe earned an “A” for the assignment.

After the class, there was nowhere to go with the new Electric Coach site. Moe presented his new site to George Diamond of Buzzball. Diamond added the Electric Coach name to the links page of his Buzzball site where it still stands today. From the Buzzball site, coach Jamal “Biglock” Lockhart found the Electric Coach. From that moment on the Electric Coach has been a beacon and a voice within the electric football community. That was the introduction of electric football play-by-play action to the Internet.



During that time at Electriccoach.com, the video was really bad. Moe's first camera, the Sony Mavica left a lot to be desired in regards to shooting videos. The players could hardly be seen. It was like watching static on TV. All videos and still photos were stored on a 64 mega byte memory stick. They were later transferred to a computer hard drive. As a result of the limited storage space of the memory stick, 1 giga byte having the most storage space, each shot had to be done in less than 1 minute. That had to be done while holding the record button. No hands free were going there. With little time to get each play started and done, Moe focused solely on the players on the table. Initially, he thought that shooting the video in this way wouldn't be enough for the viewer to go on, but it turned out quite ok. From his perspective, Moe thought it was a cool way to display the hobby. There was a trade off to having the poor quality videos. The file size of each of them was small. As a result, they loaded almost instantly when the user clicked the "Next" button. The wait time was minimal. Moreover, the user didn't need high speed Internet to watch the play-by-play action.

Since the video was so poor, Moe took still photos to augment the poor video quality. This is the one area where Moe's first camera performed well all around. The pictures were clear and nice to look at. The camera could also shoot black and white, sepia and other photo formats. The Mavica has features that don't exist with the other cameras that Moe has. Although the Mavica camera takes a back seat to the other cameras that Moe has in his studio, it is still useful in other areas. It was used throughout the YouTube video "The Electric Football Federation". The Federation video was a compilation of material from coaches and leagues from around the hobby. Some of the material came from leagues and coaches such as the LAEFL, Franny-J-Boy, Lynn "Wierdolf" Schmidt, Michael Downs, Geno-H, Norbert Revels, and many others.

For the most part, the audio with the first camera was good. The onboard microphone picked up surrounding sounds well enough that it produced clear audio, which made it possible that everyone standing around a computer could hear. Sometimes Moe's coworkers thought that a real game was being watched whenever someone visited the site. The downside to using an onboard microphone is that the user must stay with the camera to ensure that his or her voice is

captured. Also all surrounding sounds such as crowd noise must be loud enough that the onboard microphone will pick up the sound. The upside to using an onboard microphone is that there is less equipment to deal with.

Since then, Moe has been hard at work improving his delivery of electric football to the electric football community and the world. His work has helped to keep a relic game in the spotlight of this modern age through the use of modern equipment such as high definition cameras, mixing equipment, web sites, computer software, and of course YouTube on the Internet.

Moe's JVC high def camera captures the action of the game. The Sony mini DVD camera, which use to be used as the game time camera is now used to capture sharp still photos. The use of computer software is the tool that makes Moe's videos so cool. It brings everything together. All of his videos are loaded with sophisticated transitions and effects. The software allows Moe to lay music tracks with the video. He is very meticulous about how the video and the music gibe together. If the music doesn't match the video, Moe will not put them together. He has to be that way because he doesn't compose his own music. Throughout Moe's life he has learned to match music with events. When he hears a melody, an image shows in his mind. With that talent he is able to produce exciting, breathtaking videos.

The Electric Coach website is more interactive than the videos on YouTube. The viewer can navigate through the site at their own pace. The plays can be watched as the viewer sees fit. The gallery also gives the viewer the opportunity to see the figures, board, and bases up close. The "Back of the End Zone" column is where Moe discusses some of his opinions concerning the hobby. Although he posts his opinions on the MFCA message board, he uses the B.O.E.Z column to expand on his ideas and opinions. The Coach is not unreachable. He can be reached via email by clicking the "Email" button that is provided on the site. Moreover, the site is the Coach's beginning. The site is where it all started for Moe.

His best and latest work can be found on the Internet at YouTube. There, Moe has the freedom to really express his knowledge and love for this outstanding hobby. Unlike YouTube, the EC site does not have the bandwidth to support such expression. Currently the EC site is used for game time match ups. Sometime during this football season, you will be able to watch Moe's Colts battle against the Chiefs. These Colts and Chiefs were used on Moe's latest YouTube videos. In the video entitled, "Customize EC Customize" you will be able to watch customized Colts and Chiefs run and hit to the theme of "Transformers" in this exciting video. The website will show them driving up the field from the kick off to a touch down. To see all of the Electric Coach's work at YouTube, search under Electriccoach or visit [www.electriccoach.com](http://www.electriccoach.com) and click the "Next" button, and then click the "YouTube" button that is provided.

Moe believes that through cinema entertainment the non-hobbyist will gain understanding and appreciation for the hobby. Furthermore, members of this hobby will have something more to be proud of now that the Electric Coach is on the electric football scene.

Written by Maurice Robertson  
-The Electric Coach

# MINIATURE FOOTBALL GOLDRUSH HITS THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

BY JOHN MERIDA AKA COACH J

**Greetings to all of my friends in the  
Miniature Football community!  
I hope all of you are doing well.**

**T**he last time a Miniature football league existed in the San Francisco Bay Area was in 2000. The league was called the Bay Area Electric Football League or BAEFL, had 10 to 12 coaches, and a website. I heard about the league after reading an article in the Miggle newsletter Plugged In. The article mentioned that the league played their games on Wednesday evenings at Rickey's Sports Bar in San Lorenzo. I went to Rickey's the following Wednesday and met the members of the league. I was excited about joining the league for the 2001 season. Unfortunately that never took place. Instead, a few scrimmages were held and that was it. Then a new job in 2002 took one of the league co-founders to Chicago and the other co-founder went through personal problems and lost interest in the hobby. Unfortunately none of the other league members wanted



to pick up the ball and run with it. I never was part of the league, but I was the only one who still kept an interest in the hobby and started to become active on the chatboards.



In July 2006, I came across a new coach on the Miggle chatboard by the name of Jeff who lives in Elk Grove. Then on Christmas Day 2006, I came across another new coach by the name of Jeremy on the Miggle chatboard who lives in San Francisco. We never got together because of scheduling and other conflicts and finding a venture that would let us scrimmage. Elk Grove is close to two hours from me so I was trying to find a location midway. Then I met another new coach, Harold, on the Miggle chatboard in February 2008. I told him about the MFCU chatboard and he quickly joined. He was very excited about the hobby and even though he lived an hour and a half away from me, he was very persistent and we eventually met. We did not play when



we first met, but I shared with him some of the changes in the hobby along with the customization of figures. In the mean time I contacted Jeff in Elk Grove and Jeremy in San Francisco. My involvement with the MFCA helped me learn that Jeff Eby, who was a member of the LAEFL, was now living in Santa Cruz which is an hour and a half away from me. Jeff and Harold eventually got together because they live closer. They were still new and the biggest challenge for everyone was finding a suitable location midways. Rickey's, the sports bar where the league met in 2000, seemed to be giving us the run around because they always had what seemed like an excuse for us not to use the facility. On Saturday July 19th just when we thought all was lost, we unexpectedly found a sports bar called *The Englander* which is midway. They allowed Harold and myself to get together for a scrimmage. I was able to show Harold some of the changes in the hobby and he really was impressed with my custom figures. We had a blast. Then on Saturday August 9th, I was able to get together and scrimmage with Harold, the two Jeff's and Jeremy who also joined the MFCA the following week. Although Jeremy did not scrimmage he was able to see the changes and get an idea of the league rules. Also two of the coaches from the old league were not in attendance, but said they were interested in joining the newly formed league. After the scrimmage we went over some rules and came up with a name for the league. I was given an idea for

the league name by "Mantaray Dre" which I really liked. I gave my opinion on the league name, but the guys came up with another idea. I am a fair guy and the name the guys came up with was, Drum Roll please, the Northern California Miniature Football League or the N.C.M.F.L. We are also looking at getting a banner for the league. Yes we are excited and looking forward to starting league play. Initially we had seven coaches, but as of now we have six who are committed to playing. Only one of the coaches from the old league will be joining us. The issue with the other coach was getting together for a scrimmage, so he would understand the rules of the league and terminology. I had spoken to



Weirdwolf about a league banner, but the guys felt it was better that we get established before getting a league banner. Oh, before I forget, the teams are the Chargers, Raiders, Steelers, 49ers, Invaders and Colts.

Thanks to all of the coaches in other parts of the country for your support and well wishes for our league. Hopefully some of the coaches will make there way to some of the tournaments in other parts of the country.

Take care everyone and if you hear of someone in the San Francisco Bay Area, who is looking for a league, then by all means tell them about the Northern California Miniature Football League or N.C.M.F.L. and send them our way.

# MINIATURE FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

THE ELECTRIC AND MINIATURE FOOTBALL LEAGUES OF THE U.S.A.



WWW.MINIATUREFOOTBALL.ORG