

CRACKIN' PLASTIC

DEC
2020

THIS AIN'T
YO DADDY'S
ELECTRIC
FOOTBALL!!!

Coach Elgin Clemons
wins his first
Gold Ball Trophy
at the
first annual
Bull City Brawl



**CUSTOM FIGURE
ALL-STARS
EXTRAVAGANZA INSIDE!**


 **CATCHING A BULL**
with Greg Ingold

**2019 OHIO VALLEY
ELECTRIC FOOTBALL
LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
BETWEEN FRANK JACOBS
(HOUSTON OILERS)
AND JAMI TAYLOR
(NC STATE WOLFPACK)**




The Electric Football Magazine

Custom Figure All-Stars



Shaheed Aziz has a work surface that Custom Figure All-Stars all over the country surely recognize.



Check out these Lions by Brandon Sigers. He puts out top notch figures over and over. His customers keep coming back to him.

Daren Sueda created this beautiful blue Boise State Bronco figure. Welcome to Custom Figure All-Stars, Daren. Keep up the great work.

Custom Figure All-Stars

Craig Washington has a nice setup to get a lot of custom figures painted, decaled, and based up.

Mark Isom's classic Eagles are done with Gameday figures. They look ready to crack some plastic!

Manny Hall tackles Navy with these awesome looking figures. That receiver looks like he's getting ready to break one!



Custom Figure All-Stars

Raiderman custom Broncos

The world of Electric Football figures has really evolved over the last two decades. When most of us found each other back in the late 90's on the Miggle message board, we were swapping out ideas for the Fab-5 poses. I remember looking at the ITZ website and seeing figures in new poses that were eye popping and amazing! I still remember in particular the Brett Favre figure they had on their site. Any team painted by the late great Dirk Thomas was highly sought after. He painted everything with precise detail at such a small scale. By the beginning of the 2000's figures were coming out from all over. George Diamond created the very affordable Buzzball figures. Reggie Rutledge had a bag of affordable weighted figures as well. Bruce Watts and Dwayne Jennings dropped our jaws at the National Convention with poses we had never seen before! Larry Walker and Antonio were in the mix too, bringing us some great upgrades to our beloved hobby. Damon Lucas was a master artist, taking already manufactured figures and customizing them into any pose we wanted. It would not take long for these figures to get detailed and brought to life on the Electric Gridiron (pun intended). Custom figures have always been the heartbeat of this hobby.

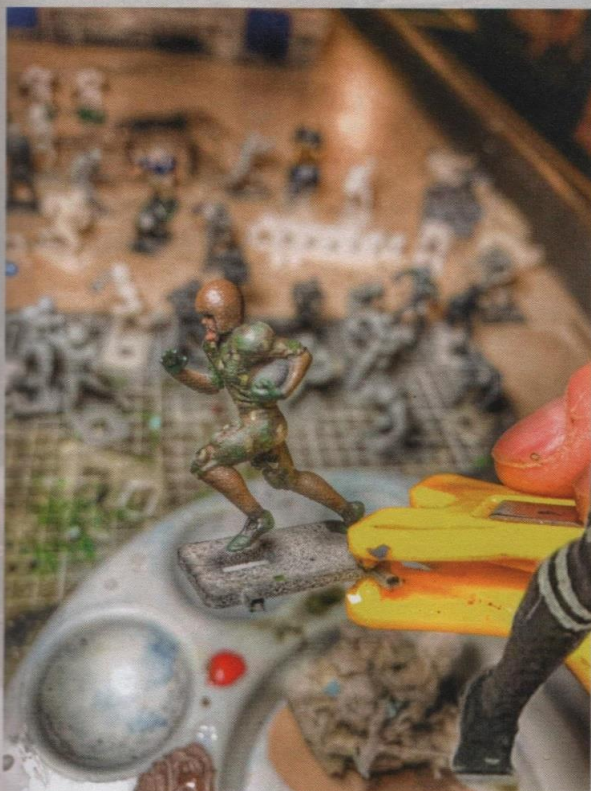
Sure, we have great custom game boards and all the extras that go with it. But the figures! Yes, the figures are who plays the game. The figures are the heartbeat! The figures are what the fans love to see! Now with the new technology of the 3D printers, figures can be made into just about any formation that you can think of. The creative minds of the creators have really taken our hobby to another level that 20 years ago seemed, well, unreachable! Now when outsiders look in on an electric football game it's more than just, "Oh I played that when I was a kid." Now it's, "NO WAY! Look at all that detail! His name is on there?? Face masks?? Are you kidding me??!!" Artists like JC Davis, Kenny King, Blaine, Antonio, the Klingbeil's, Reggie have given us plenty of options to choose from. No matter what team you are replicating, there is a figure out there just waiting to be made into just the right player, even if that player is you!

Article by Raiderman



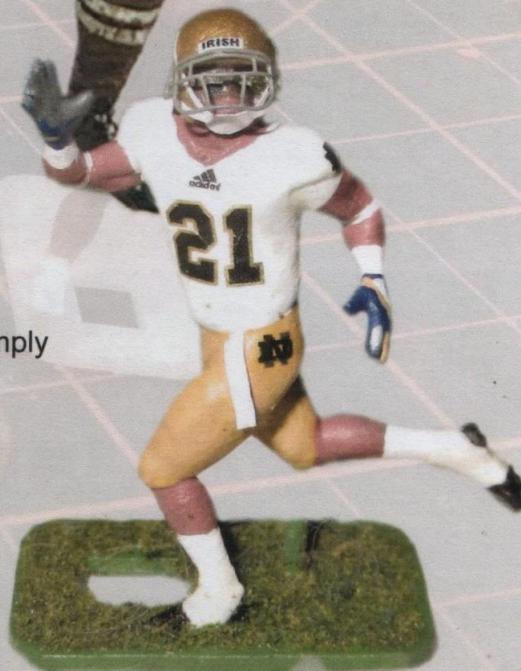
Custom Figure All-Stars

This is what it looks like when John Medeiros is getting ready to throw down on some custom figures.



Mike Bostic has been doing some really great figures. This "work in progress" photo gives you an idea of the work and talent that goes into one of these incredible figures. It ain't easy!!!

Terry Popham started painting Electric Football players in 1962 using Coleco figures. That is simply amazing!! It is no surprise he's good at it. This Notre Dame player is stunning. You can see the cleats on his shoes. I can picture the equipment manager using a black marker to write "Irish" on the front of his helmet before number 21 picked it up and squeezed it over his head to see how well it fit. A nice snug helmet is critical to playing football.



Custom Figure All-Stars



Mike Beal's work area.

Mike Beal: In the early 2000s, I made a custom left handed QB to be a Ken Stabler. There were only Haiti Repros and Buzzball figures around. I used a QB/TE figure and repositioned him vertically on the base. I rotated his head and front foot. I then used a stiff arm for the left arm and put a ball in it. Long story short, Snake saw the pic somehow and emailed me! He was familiar with Electric Football and felt flattered to have seen a custom figure of him. He said that was the only one he'd ever seen. It totally blew me away. I had sent some pics to Raiders Equipment Manager Bob Romanski and I'm guessing that's how I was contacted by Snake. Needless to say, as a Raider fan and him being my favorite player ever, it was my biggest EF thrill. It could never be surpassed. My only regret is I didn't send it to him.




Paul Gadola has taken standard figures and painted them great.



Stephen LeGrow's customized receiver is ready for the next MFBCS.

Of course, so many of the wonderful custom figures we see throughout this hobby are built on the Gameday foundation.

Custom Figure Stars



Reginald Rutledge is a legend in the Electric Football community. You wouldn't really want to put this exquisite Earl Campbell figure on an Electric Football field. It's too big! But, it is something that any EF enthusiast would love to have - the Tyler Rose of Texas in his college days. Check out the detail - the fingernails, the eyes, the shoes, etc. The high step pose looks just like him. We love it, Reg! Nice work.

Look for Bill Moreno and the '71 Vibe on Facebook. There you'll find beautifully recreated scenes like this.



Todd Stroud: When I was young, I was getting good at freehand detail (Bengals helmet stripes). I wrote Tudor a long letter asking them to hire me to paint figures! I just got back in the hobby a few years ago, and was amazed at all the new figures and the decals. I started painting again, this time using decals and adding facemasks. When I was comfortable with that I added shoes, gloves, and chinstraps. I have some awesome clients to work for. I'm doing what I love to do. Life is good! This Jason Whitten Pro-Bowl figure reminds me of how Bobby Bowden had his receivers line up pre-snap.



Championship Game Recap:

Green Bay Packers (Elgin Clemons) - 28
Houston Texans (Rafiyq McDanul) - 21

This article will be read by many Electric Football veterans. But, it is written for the uninitiated, the newcomer, the rookie! So, all you old heads, be patient or just enjoy the extra details.

The Bull City Brawl is an Electric Football tournament that was held in Morrisville, North Carolina the first weekend in November, 2020. It is one of 5 tournaments held around the country every year in a circuit known as the Tournament of Champions (thetoc.co). This nationwide series is in its 14th year and is widely accepted as the premier tournament for Electric Football. In July, 2021 it will conclude in Detroit, Michigan and crown a "World Champion" of Electric Football. The champion of each tournament leading to Detroit is the winner of a Gold Ball. It is a beautiful trophy that quite closely resembles the Lombardi Trophy from the NFL.

This year's Bull City Brawl Gold Ball winner was Elgin Clemons and his Green Bay Packers. He played against Rafiyq McDanul and the Houston Texans in a

reat championship game. If you decide to attend a tournament like this, or better yet bring your team and compete, you can expect to walk into a bustling conference room full of buzzing boards and boisterous coaches. That's right, Electric Football competitors refer to themselves as coaches. It is common to hear the greeting, "What's up, coach?" or "Hey coach, how's it going?" or "Good to see you, coach." There's a lot of loud trash talk as can be expected given football culture. But, don't be fooled. You will not meet a nicer, friendlier, creative, and generous group of people. And, it turns out, two of the classiest coaches in this group are Elgin and Rafiyq. Rafiyq is a veteran and has been to many championship games and winning two Gold Ball's previously. Elgin is fairly new on the scene. This was his first championship game.

Charles Lane, a Hall of Fame coach and Elgin Clemons' Deep South league mate, said, "It's good to see Elgin in this game." That's right, folks, there's a Hall of Fame. But that's a whole other article!

The tournament starts on Friday with a dinner and team check-ins where players are looked over and weighed. Then there's games played in a fun event called a coaches challenge. Early Saturday morning the tournament games begin and go until late in the evening. By Sunday morning there's only a few teams left and the championship game is played early Sunday afternoon. The coaches participating in this game have been at it for a while and are usually pretty beat. Crouching over a table all weekend can take it out of you, especially at the age most of these guys are.

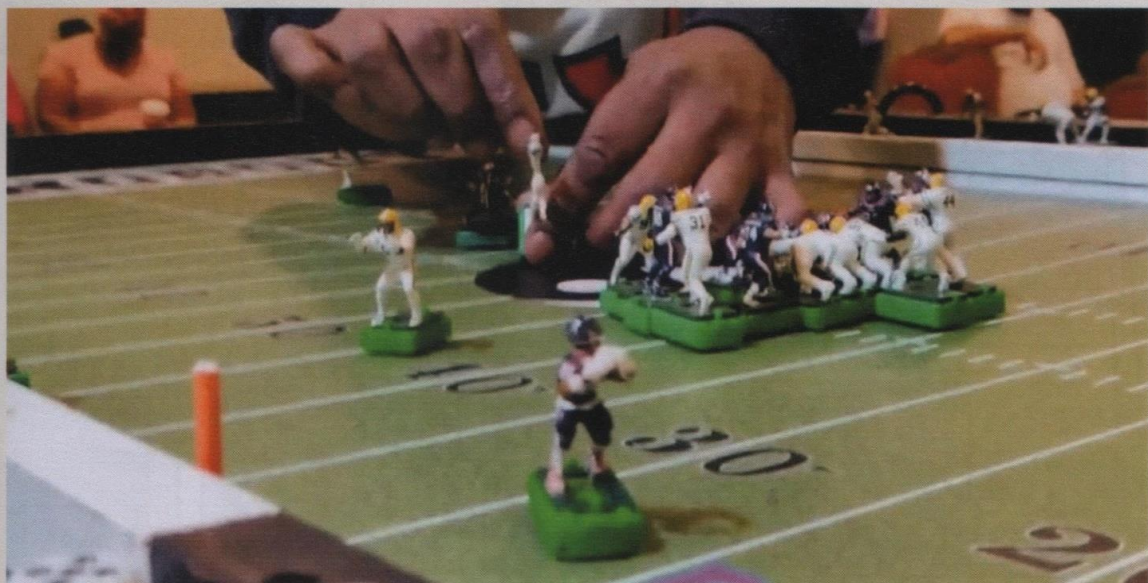
So let's get to the action! Green Bay got the ball first. Instead of a kickoff, they chose to accept the ball at their own 25 yard line. That's how the rules of this Electric Football game are. As you can imagine, there are many many different kinds of rules. That's one thing really enriching the Electric Football hobby - you get to see so many different ways of playing the game. Anyway, the Packers got the ball at the 25. The third play was a 42 yard touchdown pass and they were quickly ahead, 7 to 0. They chose to take an automatic extra point. An actual kick is not required.

Rafiq also elected to start with the ball on the 25. It took 7 plays for the Texans to drive down the field for a touchdown. There was actually something quite unique about this drive. The Packers defense was flagged 4 times for too many players on the field. The Texans accepted 2 of these penalties. Penalties are pretty rare in Electric Football. "Rafiq was speeding up the game to keep me from getting into my defensive substitutions," said Elgin when asked about the penalties. "I was not getting my stationaries off the field. I was not putting them back in the end zone. Because of his hurry up, I made those mistakes. I had to keep Rafiq in front of me, not give up the big plays, force him to make mistakes, and miss some passes. Once I got past his first drive I knew what I had to do." (Stationaries are players that don't move. They are mostly used as safeties. Mobile players replace them when a pass is completed.)

The Packers used a good mix of pass and run to score another touchdown on their next drive and went up 14 to 7. The Texans were looking to drive the length of the field and tie it up before halftime. A long incomplete pass and a sack put them deep in their own territory. What happened next can be a killer for a lot of teams. The Texans' tight end fumble the ball and turned it over to the Packers on the 26 yard line. With a short field and time running out in the half, the Packers were suddenly hoping to go two scores ahead at halftime. In Electric Football, that's a pretty comfortable lead. The half ended on a dramatic play as Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers hit a wide open receiver on the left. The receiver was headed for paydirt when he suddenly ran out of bounds at the 3 yard line. "That last play was just one of those EF plays you have to live with," said Clemons as his team cleared the field for halftime.

The Texans came out of the half having dodged a bullet and looking to even things. On third down and ten QB Deshaun Watson completed a 15 yard pass that put the ball at their own 40. Watson then began to press the issue and ended up throwing 4 incomplete passes in a row. That is unusual. A few of the passes had a very high degree of difficulty. They were over the offensive and defensive lines, leaving only the receiver's actual figure to hit. This is much more difficult to complete than a pass where the receiver's base is exposed. But, if anybody can complete a pass like that, coach Rafiq McDanul can. He's one of the hobby's most renowned passers. Rafiq said, "I was off all weekend, throwing with a new ball. I didn't try running because Elgin tweaked my offensive line, and not to my standards. But we rolled with it, never thinking I would face him at the end. I felt like a fat karate instructor. I knew what to do, but the team wasn't in shape."

Continued on Page 12



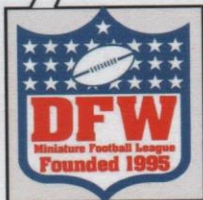
ELECTRIC FOOTBALL LEAGUES

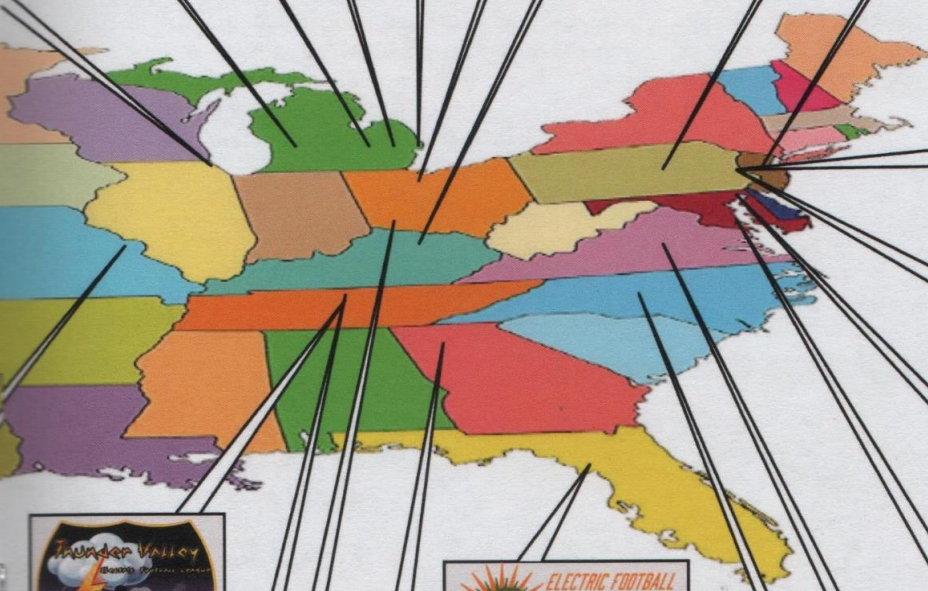
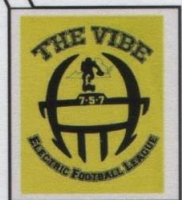
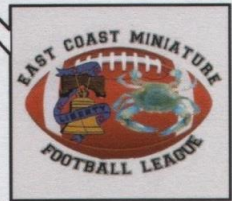
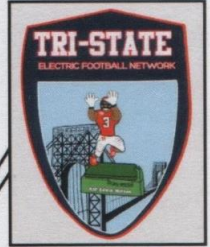
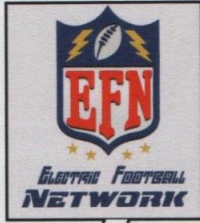
ACROSS THE

USA



**ST. LOUIS
ELECTRIC
FOOTBALL**





Bull City Brawl Championship Recap continued...

The Packers took over on downs at the Texans' 40. A few plays later Aaron Rodgers took it in for his second touchdown run. He had 89 yards on 7 carries for the day, capping a very balanced offensive attack that lasted the entire weekend. "Our game is a balanced attack. We have talent all over the offense and our depth chart is deep," said Elgin. "It gives us a lot of options to keep other coaches off balance. My plan was to put together 8-9 min drives. I wanted to control the clock and the pace of the game."

Facing a 21 to 7 deficit, the Texans put together an impressive drive and scored on running back Lamar Miller's touchdown reception of 14 yards. He had 5 catches for 92 yards and 2 touchdowns. Deshaun Watson was 13 of 22 passing for 231 yards and 3 touchdowns. The Watson to Miller connection was the brightest part of the Texans offense.

Down 21 to 14 with time running low in the second half, the Texans went for an onside kick. The Tournament of Champions onside kick is too difficult to explain here. But, suffice it to say, the Packers recovered. Packer running back Aaron Jones rambled up the middle for a 42 yard touchdown run on the very next play and the game was pretty much sealed at 28 to 14.

But, expect the unexpected when Rafiqy McDanul's Texans are on offense. Suddenly his passing game was on point with time running out. They quickly drove the length of the field with a couple of completions that can only be described as "deadly" or "amazing". At least those were the words overheard from the spectators surrounding the board. Now it was 28 to 21 with time enough for another onside try by the Texans. The Packers recovered in undramatic fashion and the game ended as Aaron Rodgers dove into the middle for a 3 yard run. "It was a great feeling to finally get to a championship game," said Elgin. "But winning it is a whole different sense of accomplishment and happiness."

Rafiqy had been there before and always carries himself with class and integrity. His post game congratulation to Elgin, "Great win."

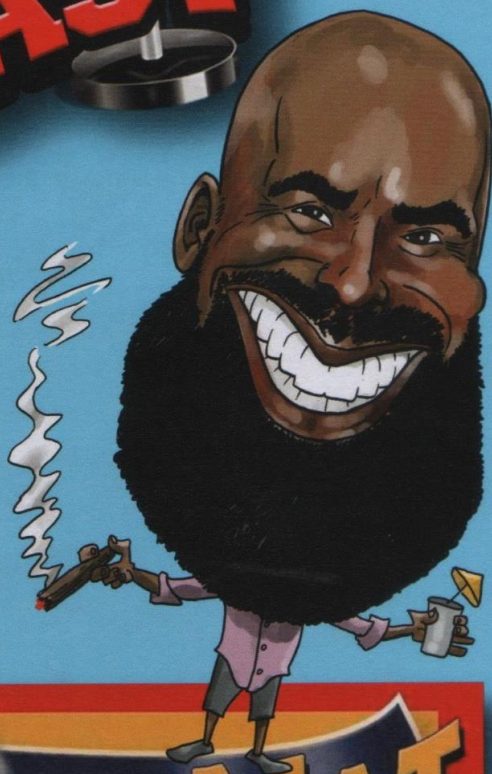
As for everybody who was there to witness the game and the entire weekend, you couldn't ask for better entertainment and fellowship. If you're thinking about attending or competing in a tournament like this, DO NOT HESITATE. Make it if you can. You'll be greeted by the most welcoming bunch of people. They'll help and encourage you on your game and equipment no matter what your situation is.

Article by Roman Blackwell



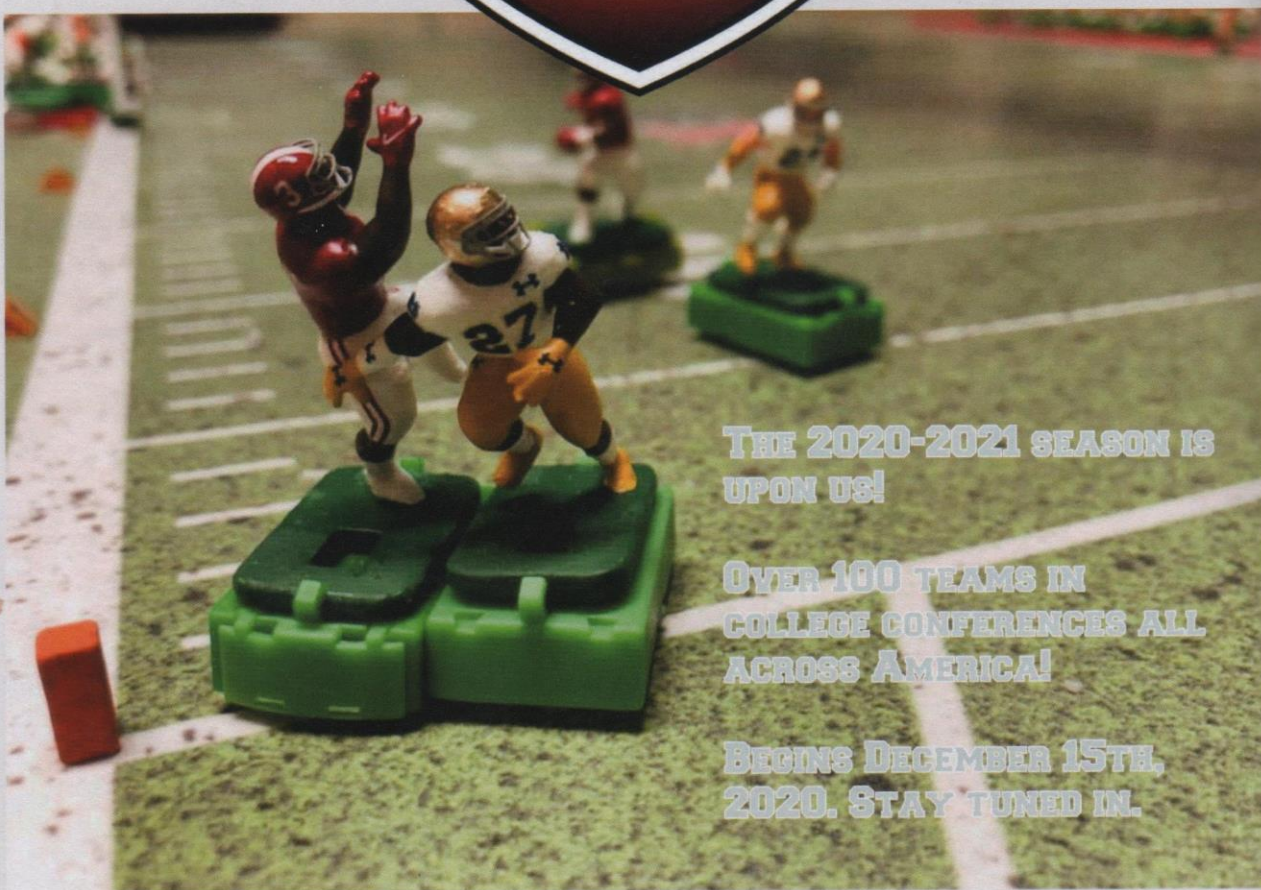


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In Memorium

2020 has been challenging. Sometimes it helps to be thankful for what you have and pay your respects to those who passed on.

Over 140 former NFL players passed away in 2020. Here are a few of the most famous. Their age is in parenthesis.

Herb Adderly (81) - DB for the Green Bay Packers.

Mike Curtis (77) - LB for the Baltimore Colts.

Willie Davis (85) - DE for the Green Bay Packers.

Fred Dean (68) - DE for the San Francisco 49ers.

Chris Doleman (58) - DE for the Minnesota Vikings.

Paul Hornung (84) - RB for the Green Bay Packers.

Tavaris Jackson (36) - QB for Vikings and Saints.

Jim Kiick (73) - RB for the Miami Dolphins.

Bobby Mitchell (84) - RB/WR for the Cleveland Browns.

Markus Paul (54) - DB and strength coach for the Dallas Cowboys.

Gale Sayers (77) - RB for the Chicago Bears.

Jake Scott (75) - DB for the Miami Dolphins.

Don Shula (90) - DB and Hall of Fame coach for the Miami Dolphins.

Willie Wood (83) - DB for the Green Bay Packers.

Sam Wyche (74) - QB and coach for the Cincinnati Bengals.

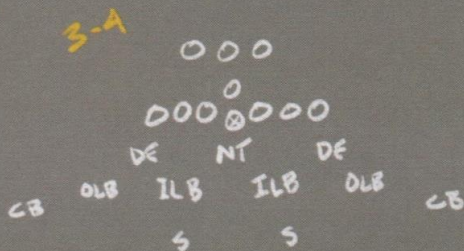
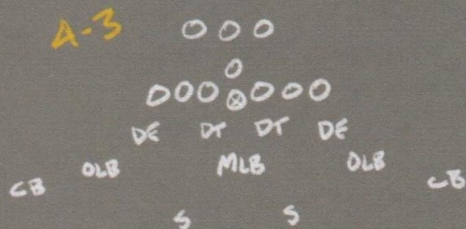
The Football Chalkboard

Back to Basics

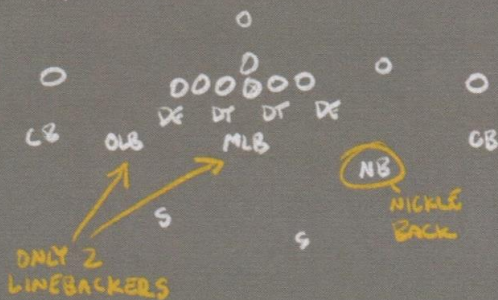
Xs and Os

LET'S TALK DEFENSE!

FOR DECADES WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT TWO BASE DEFENSES: 4-3 AND 3-4.

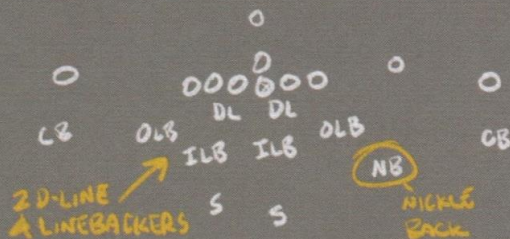


SO DEFENSES IN THE NFL TODAY WILL START WITH FIVE DEFENSIVE BACKS. THE FIFTH BACK CAN BE CALLED THE NICKLE-BACK, THE NICKLE-CORNER, OR THE SLOT-CORNER.



BUT GONE ARE THE DAYS OF THE WISHBONE OFFENSE. IN THE NFL WE OFTEN SEE TEAMS LINE UP IN A SINGLE BACK OFFENSE ON THEIR FIRST PLAY FROM SCRIMMAGE.

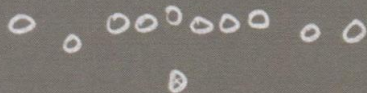
SINGLE BACK



THIS DEFENSE LOOKS FAMILIAR!

WE WILL EVEN SEE TEAMS START OFF IN THE SHOTGUN SPREAD!

SPREAD



CATCHING A BUZZ

The Longest Year

by Greg Ingold

By the time this issue of Crackin' Plastic gets to you the year 2020 will almost be over. For many of us that will be cause for celebration as this year has brought a pandemic, civil unrest, millions of jobless, economic uncertainty, contentious political campaigns, and my San Francisco 49ers blowing a fourth quarter lead to lose Super Bowl LIV. OK, so maybe that last one doesn't compare to the rest of the list. The Super Bowl seems like such a long time ago that it feels like it is not even part of this year.

Even the electric football hobby was affected this year: leagues and tournaments were postponed or canceled altogether. Many were forced to play solitaire or put the hobby on hold as more pressing concerns took over.

However, for many, electric football was the one constant. For months there were no live sports on TV or in person. One either had to watch reruns of previously played games or create their own sporting events—like electric football. Some in the hobby finished—or started—projects with their extra free time. Boards were built or modified, new teams were painted and decaled, bases were purchased and tweaked, and new figures created. And in a year when the term “social distancing” became part of our vocabulary (and lives), electric football was the perfect activity for those isolated from their peers.

In fact, electric football social media (like MFCA's Facebook page and Tudor's Forum) offered a connection to others in the hobby when many of us felt isolated or lonely. “Virtual” friendships and online interaction provided a sense of community when there was little else of it around. Not that everyone got along with each other 100% of the time (who does?). But, if anything, most of us grew a new appreciation for our hobby and those who are passionate about it during an otherwise difficult time.

Yet we are not even completely through 2020 yet. As of this writing there is still a presidential election to be decided and COVID-19 continues with no end in sight. It feels like 2020 is like that one electric football figure when we were kids (before we knew anything about tweaking bases): it just sits there and doesn't go anywhere. Or, it just spins in circles. Or, it just falls down at the start of the play and rattles around while the other figures move about. To put it another way: the year 2020 was like starting a possession with fourth and long (really, really long). Perhaps 2021 will bring better things. Maybe one day we will all look back at the year 2020 and think, “What a crazy year that was—thank goodness it's over”. So here's to the future: May all our figures run true and our board motors hum sweetly. And if 2021 doesn't prove to be any better than 2020 there is always that one place we can go for comfort and community: the world of electric football.



2019 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME



We are going to go all the way back to Saturday, January 5th, 2019 in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. Coaches throughout midwest states like Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, and even Tennessee gathered for the annual Ohio Valley Electric Football League playoffs and championship. It was a great day of fun, food, and football!

Coaches arrived around 8:30 AM and the action started about 9 AM. It went on all day long. At about 3 PM there four teams left. The Oilers, coached by EF veteran Frank Jacobs, won their semi-final matchup and advanced to the championship. The other game was Ohio Valley staple Monty Kendall and his New York Giants against relative newcomer Jami Taylor's North Carolina State Wolfpack. At about 4 PM this game was tied and would go into the first of 5 overtimes.

These Electric Football overtimes are intense! Each team gets one play from the 50 yard line. What ever team gains the most yards wins. The five overtimes took one hour. As Monty and Jami were crouched over their board for an hour, Frank Jacobs paced.

With a short break between games, it was after 5 PM when the championship finally started. We were all excited for the game, but some of us had a long road home. We were tired and hungry. Jami and Frank must have been exhausted when they finally setup to start the game. It didn't matter. They both coached great and the game was an entertaining defensive struggle.

The Wolfpack started off with the ball. A couple of quick passes put them into Oiler territory at the 35 yard line. That's where the Houston defense tighten the screws with a couple of quarterback sacks that took NC State out of scoring position. They settled for a punt that put Houston on their own 6 yard line.

Houston quarterback Dan Pastorini threw a very difficult first down pass over the offensive and defensive linemen piled in the trenches. It hit the receiver Kenny Burroughs dashing across the middle. He jetted down the field all the way to the 5 yard line where his own player hit him and turned him sideways after 89 yard gain. Pastorini would complete 7 of 11 passes on the day for 221 yards and 1 touchdown.

This time it was the NC State defense that put their screws down and stuffed the Oilers for one of the best ever Electric Football goal line stands ever witnessed. It ended when Earl Campbell's run around the left end was strung out for a 10 yard loss. The Oilers would settle for what is typically an automatic 32 yard field goal. It was a miss!

NC State took over at their own 22. A quick 3 and out punt gave the ball to Houston near midfield with time running out in the first half. They quickly lined up and threw a pass to the right side for 11 yards. That set up a 59 yard field goal attempt. This is not so automatic. It sailed through the uprights and the Oilers were on top 3 to 0 at the half.

The Houston offense had one effective drive and it was right at the start of the second half. They took 4 plays to drive the distance and capped it with a 29 yard touchdown pass to Billie "Whiteshoes" Johnson.

NC State was down 10 to 0 and needed a spark. Sometimes the best momentum changer comes in the form of special teams. That's exactly what happened when the Wolfpack kickreturner rambled 100 yard right down the middle of the field!

The Oilers needed to run some time off the clock. They started their drive with a 23 yard pass that put them near midfield. Two incomplete passes put them at a crucial 3rd and 10. A shuffle pass up the middle to Earl Campbell gave them an 8 yard gain. Now it was decision time for coach Frank Jacobs. 4th and 2 at the opponent's 44 yard line. Most EF coaches would make the same

choice Frank made. Go for it! Well, hindsight is 20/20. Normally a 2 yard QB sneak is no problem in Electric Football. Not that day. Not against Jami Taylor's North Carolina State Wolfpack defense. Their line drove into the backfield and dropped Pastorini for a 6 yard loss.

NC State had taken over on downs at the 50 yard line with about 5 minutes left on the clock. They needed some quick yards to get into field goal range and possibly tie it and send it into another overtime. On 4th and 9 the Oiler defense registered their 4th sack of the day. They allowed 17 yards of total offense in the game.

The final score was Houston 10, NC State 7. It was a long but super fun day. Fun fact, the very next year these same two teams faced off again in the championship game. The Oilers also won that one 14 to 7.

Article by Paul Pate



To find out more about the magazine, visit
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