

# CRACKIN' PLASTIC

MAY  
2020

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

*Legends of the Buzz*

**RAFIYO  
MCDANUL**

Solitaire  
Electric  
Football  
Galore

Including  
Beenut Solitaire,  
Bill Moreno's 71 Vibe,  
and lots more!

*An interview with*  
**BILL KLINGBEIL  
OF ITZ BASES**

**CATCHING A BUZZ**  
with Greg Ingold

**HULK'S  
CORNER**

**The Electric Football Magazine**



# Custom Figure All-Stars



Frank Jacobs and Jeff Priest teamed up to make one of the most classic customized Electric Football figures in history. The key to that torn jersey is the "green stuff" and of course a whole bunch of skill and talent. Well done, gentlemen!



# Touching Base with ITZ

## How One Base Manufacturer Has Revolutionized the Hobby

An interview with Bill Klingbeil

By Greg Ingold



Crackin' Plastic sat down with Bill Klingbeil of ITZ bases to discuss design and production of electric football bases and what it takes produce some of the most successful bases in the hobby.

**CP:** When and why did you start making bases?

**BK:** After working with Mike Landsman to improve the product line for Miggle toys by developing the Proline bases I started thinking about ways to improve on that design. Many years later I saw the hobby being dominated by those who had the first-runs over those who did not and decided it was time to level the playing field. I sought to create a base that would allow any coach the opportunity to have a team just as good as anyone else in the hobby. The first bases ITZ released were very good with amazing speed, but they weren't as strong as the first-runs. The second batch (CL1 bases) were just as good as the Prolines, and the new CL2 bases are the most successful base in electric football history.

**CP:** Who designs your bases and what is the process to manufacture them?

**BK:** I was a draftsman before I became a teacher so I design my own bases. I do, however, have someone do the CAD [computer-aided design] drawings for me. As far as manufacturing, that's very difficult in China. Luckily I now speak some Chinese and can communicate with the manufacturer to ensure the highest quality.

**CP:** What are some of the challenges you face producing bases?

**BK:** The greatest challenge is to imagine externalities and determine which option is best in my head. For everything you change to make some aspect of the base better there are always negative externalities, so you have to think through every design change and determine the impact of the base before sending the final drawings to the factory. Of course the molds are extremely expensive and once they are cut, because it is steel, you can't really make changes. Finally, these Chinese factories typically have runs in the millions, so trying to convince them to do 30-50k runs is almost impossible without "Guanxi" (personal relationships). Shipping customs, bagging...the process is very difficult; but we love watching the hobby and knowing any coach can have a team good enough to win now!!! That's what makes us happy at ITZ!



# LEGENDS OF THE BUZZ

**RAFIYQ MCDANUL**

*Article by Roger Fisher*

Anyone who's followed our grand game over the last decade is familiar with the Coach we all know simply as, Rafiyq. Yes, he has a last name, McDanul. Certain folks are special enough to be one name famous. Elvis, Shaq, and Oprah are all stellar examples in their respective career fields. If you're looking for an ambassador for electric football, Rafiyq would be the ambassador of ambassadors. Countless of great coaches have came before him and hopefully many will come after. The evidence overwhelming supports few have gave more of themselves. Known for his un-worldly passing ability and his relentless strategy in competition, there's deeper, more valuable skills in his arsenal. I could write volumes about his legendary accomplishments I've personally witnessed. I've commentated in broadcasts during games on his 0-6 passing stats to start a game. Only to watch him reel off twenty straight completions to put the contest away. I've patiently waited out his boys down 35-0 at the half and was not the least surprised when he came roaring back to finish just 7 points short. Who kicked that dragon in the head, anyway? Early on, I accused him of being a part of the Matrix. I swear I've seen him curve passes, just like the bullets in the movie into places most coaches tremble to even think about. During the River City Blast in 2018, ironically it was his defense that came to life and dominated, proving he's no one trick pony. We've had numerous conversations about always being the "bride's maid" in championship games. I respond every time with the story of the 90's Buffalo Bills. Sure, everyone remembers the winners. However, the Bills are the only team in history to get to the title game four consecutive years. Win or lose, that's an accomplishment which will never be rivaled. No one can boast as many Final Four and Championship appearance as Rafiyq. By spending just minutes with the "Sniper Force" guru, you'll soon learn it's not his biggest passion. Instead it's one word or three, teaching, passing the knowledge bestowed upon him to all coaches willing to improve. Rafiyq confesses to not having any pre-game rituals. Not even a tune up scrimmage. He goes about his work of team building in the lab at The House of Hitz. A home transformed into a blitz of creativity and bone crushing game play. With the times we're in at the moment, Rafiyq has evented new ways to stay connected with veteran coaches and proteges.



Using Zoom technology and Messenger, instructional clinics are being conducted real time. Much like a lighthouse for sailors, The HOH becomes a beacon of light allowing for instant interaction of strategy and critiques. Perhaps the little known fact Rafiyq is most proud of is, his ability to design his own figures. Each meticulously engineered for a specific purpose. So much so that figure vendors have produced many models based on Rafiyq's designs. A dedicated study of religion and philosophy has prepared him to search for multiple ways of understanding. To the point of applying life's lessons to everything from relationships with people to miniature football. The Samurai of Japan have a saying, "If the master teaches the student well, the student will teach the master." Many years ago, my family and myself were finding our way back to the water after a long hiatus. We attended the precursor of the tourney in Chattanooga, The Bama Blast. As we entered through the door in some sort of Wonderland, Rafiyq became a part of what we've affectionately now call our Fab5. Along with Fiyq, David Nickles, Jim "The Hulk" Davis, Darren Jahmani, and the late "Salty" Chalmers we were immediately adopted as their own family. Ever wondered about the genesis of The Gridiron Buzz Network? Each one of these guys have been oak trees of inspiration. Sprinkle in a little Mr. National as the spark and you have a raging forest fire. There goes that Ambassador thing again.







# BEENUTT SOLITAIRE



Solitaire anyone? If you are like me, you love solitaire electric football. It brings me back to my childhood days when I used to sit on the floor in pajamas and play electric football for hours. Of course I don't sit on the floor anymore – not that limber and I'm usually not in pajamas. But I love solitaire for so many reasons – you get to make your own rules! No arguing if the pass was complete or not! You control everything surrounding the game but the game still has to play out. I love everything about solitaire electric football!

I started Beenutt Solitaire about 5 years ago and am currently on season 2. Beenutt Solitaire is college football tournaments. Season 1 was completed in 2018 with USC defeating LSU in the championship game. I'm in the middle of season 2 with all 130 FBS college teams in a single elimination tournament. When all is said and done, season 2 will have 129 games to determine the champion. Season 2 should be completed in 2021 so a season could take 2-3 years which you have to be committed to.

Forget only power 5 schools getting to the championship game. In Beenutt Solitaire, all 130 FBS schools have a chance. But just the painting and basing of 130 college teams was a major accomplishment for me taking about 8 years to complete. Each college team has 11 offense figures in dark jersey and 11 defense figure in white jersey. Each team is based with mostly ITZ bases and are based with speed and strength which corresponds to that actual team. All the figures are PAC-12 figures with some Haiti repro and buzzball mixed in.

The rules for Beenutt solitaire are based on a multi-stop ruleset which allows for read options and a variety of offenses. The ruleset allows Army to run the wishbone and Stanford to run a power formation. Washington State and Texas Tech can air it out and Navy can grind it out. The rules are also made for simplicity and can be used in conventional electric football. Only sticks are used for passing and a roll of the dice determines field goals with successful percentages corresponding to NCAA statistics.

Cowboys AT&T stadium is used for all games with all 130 teams surrounding the field in a lighted display area. A truss over the field supports a large screen scoreboard. Fights songs for the teams are playing in the background – Cowboys cheerleaders and of course the late great Tom Landry is always on the sideline!

A preview of each game is posted on Facebook and coaches all over the country are encouraged to predict the score for the game ahead of time with the winning coach scoring a special deal on figures. The games are recorded and posted on Facebook and YouTube allowing everyone to see the action as it happened. In April of 2020, the first live solitaire Beenutt game was broadcasted on Facebook. Coaches that tuned in got to see the best game of the year with Virginia coming back from a 14-3 halftime deficit to defeat North Carolina 20-17 in OT!

With all this, what is there not to like about solitaire electric football? Especially in Corona virus days, what better way to spend the afternoon or evening? So start painting those teams and enjoy some electric football exactly the way you like it!



# BUZZING SOLITAIRE



## GILBERTO TORRES



I'm Gil. I started playing Electric Football when I was probably about nine or 10 years old, back in the late 60's. I really enjoyed the game through my teenage years. When I went off to serve in the Air Force I got away from it. I got back into the Electric Football life around Christmas two years ago. I was at Toys "R" Us and saw it! Wow, they still have that? It was about 80 bucks. I didn't feel right about spending that much on something just for me. A few months later I was at the flea market in old Paris and saw the same game. I bought it! It was Easter Sunday and our Lord has a sense of humor. The game had a glitch. The glitch was that the AFC team included was the Bills. The NFC team that was included was the Broncos, another AFC team! Besides the Patriots, I can't stand the Bills and Broncos. The Lord gave me the game for half price, but got laugh by giving me those teams. I've been playing ever since. I've met great people like Carl Coley and I'm looking forward to meeting many more that I've only met online, like Jimbo Dunigan, Richard Caldwell, Brandon Sigers, and the list goes on. Just a great group of people. I really enjoy playing my solitaire games because I have my own passing rules. I have the Army Black Knights, Navy Midshipmen, Air Force Academy, New York Jets, and the 1920 Canton Bulldogs. I was hoping to play in a tournament with my Bulldogs, but they don't have numbers on their jerseys. The recent social distancing has really helped me enjoy my solitaire league. I think I'll do it again next year.

## RYAN GREGERSEN

### RYAN'S ELECTRIC FOOTBALL NETWORK



My name is Ryan Gregersen. I live in Centennial, Colorado (eastern portion of the Denver Area). I have been playing electric football since Christmas of 1998. I was one of the last employees at Toys R Us when the company declared chapter 7 bankruptcy two years ago, upon which I landed in my current job as a sandwich maker at Kneaders Bakery & Cafe. I am also pursuing a Statistical Science degree at Metropolitan State University of Denver (habitually called Metro by Coloradans). I was born in California in 1986, but don't claim it as a former home as my family almost immediately moved to Colorado. By the time this article is published, I'll have turned 34. I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and as such, volunteered two years of my life from 2005-2007 to serve a mission for the Church.

The bigger bulk of my love for electric football developed on the back end of my mission. I was first addicted to the old NFL Challenge game on the old DOS computers. I had no idea what I was doing until my dad sat me down to watch a Monday Night Football game. I used to play NFL Challenge religiously along side any football games that were on, whether NFL or college (New Year's was always fun to watch and play football ALL DAY LONG). Then I started to finally develop a love for the Denver Broncos.

About that same time, Sears was mailing out their famous Wish Book Christmas catalogs which seemed to always feature electric football every year without fail as one of the marquee toy items. I thought little of it until 1997 when the Broncos were surging toward their first Super Bowl title. Even though Tudor offered the previous years' Super Bowl teams when the product was featured in the Sears catalogs and the Broncos weren't in the 1996 Super Bowl, I was very much intrigued by it. I guess that year, my letters to Santa Claus were rather late because I didn't get it that year. But when the Broncos made the Super Bowl and WON the following year, I HAD to have the next product Tudor offered with the Broncos and Packers. This time, I pounced on that opportunity much earlier in the year to ask Santa for the electric football game set offered in the '98 catalog, and that Christmas was when my addiction to electric football started.

Interestingly enough, the game also came with the old newsletters that Tudor used to put out which also featured the old mail-in order form for other teams and accessories to the game. My mom (she and dad, as graduates of Brigham Young University, were big fans of the San Francisco 49ers and Steve Young back then) ordered the 49ers, and I had a three-team league. I would always play a round-robin season where the Broncos as the lone AFC team would always make a Super Bowl, but the Packers and 49ers always had to play their way in. I figured I could get more variety by expanding, but I didn't start to expand until I came home from my mission (missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints pay their own way to serve their missions, which means the necessity to save a lot of money before hand). Now, I'm proud to say that among the frugality I've exercised over the years, I now own all 32 teams currently in the NFL right now. During quarantine, I've been doing a lot of what I've done recently for my current season (which is why it's so slow, but it's what work and school permit): I will typically play a quarter a day.



# BUZZING SOLITAIRE

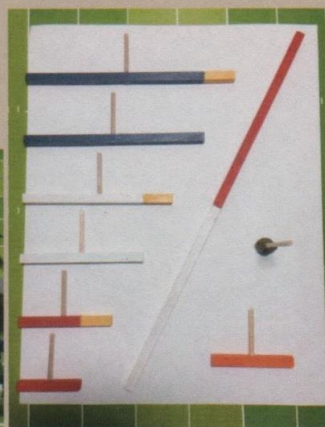


After winning the TVEFL championship Treasure Bowl V.

## SHAWN KIRKPATRICK



I use a divider to speed setup and ensure proper spacing.



This is my passing simulation set. Use the orange stick to check for pressure. The sticks with yellow added are the Pressure Sticks.

I'm Shawn Kirkpatrick. My solitaire league is called "Shawn's Solitaire Electric Football League."

I also play in the head to head league, the Treasure Valley Electric Football League.

My Grandmother gave me a Tudor model 500 football set for Christmas in 1975. I Immediately formed the SFL, Shawn's Football League, and began playing regular seasons. My brother also had a League. We each would play our league as a solitaire season and then our respective league champions would meet each other in the Championship game we labeled, the Magna Bowl.

We carried out 10 Seasons from 1976 to 1987 - skipping a few years in between as adult life took us away from the game. Finally in 2015 I had the urge to play again and so the Treasure Valley Electric Football League was born. I played solitaire for 3 years and then the TVEFL converted to a head to a head league. I decided to continue my solitaire play and named it Shawn's Solitaire Electric Football League. I currently have 10 teams in my solitaire league.

How my solitaire league works...

When I add a team to the league I give them 1 base per figure. I then tweak those bases and the team is stuck with the result. At the end of each season every team will get a number of new bases dependent upon their place in the standings. For example, the champion gets zero new bases while the last place team in a 10 team league would get five bases. Each of these bases has to be a notable improvement on the base it is replacing. This ensures that all my Solitaire teams will continue to get better and it also keeps one team from dominating the league year after year.

My minor contribution to the honby of Electric Football is an enhancement to the pass simulation/passing sticks rule and it involves the defense getting pressure on the quarterback. My thought is that the pressure on the quarterback makes it harder to complete the pass and so in pass simulation that translates into a longer distance for the receiver to travel to reach the ball marker. The way it works is if on a pass play an unengaged defender manages to get within two base lengths of the quarterback - and that is measured helmet to helmet - then he is considered to have put pressure on the quarterback. What that means is that once you determine which ball placement stick you must use then you will have to add the pressure stick on to that length. I know of a number of EF coaches that are now using these pressure rules.

SSEFL basics:

Tackles: any touch.

Spacing: 1 base width

Fumbles: Result from missed laterals or ball carrier knocked over by a defender.

Passing: I use pass simulation with the Pressure Stick.

Random play calling: a dice system based on down and distance to go.

Pivots: Offense gets two pivots. Defense cannot respond.

I also enjoy recording each play and keeping stats. During the off-season I enjoy going back through the stats and and reading the games especially games that happened years ago.



# THE '71 VIBE

**BILL MORENO**



Find The 71 Vibe page on Facebook. It is Bill Moreno's version of throwback Electric Football. Teams from 1971 battle it out for solitaire supremacy and Bill presents it beautifully. You owe it to yourself to follow along for the buzzing fun!





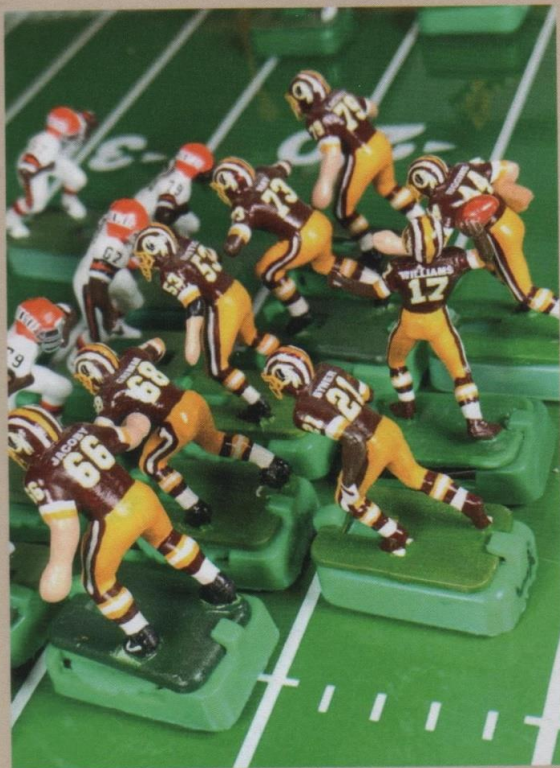
# BUZZING SOLITAIRE

## PAUL GADOLA

I live in Damascus, VA with my wife Shelley. Damascus is a very small town on the Appalachian Trail, near the Tennessee state line. I have three 1000-mile hikes on the AT. When Shelley fell in love with Damascus after visiting we decided to move. We have 4 golden retrievers and 3 cats. Together we own and operate Iron Mountain Fitness and Sun Meal Prep. IMF is a class based functional fitness gym. Sun Meal Prep is a weekly meal prep service focusing on healthy options and quality ingredients. My wife and I grew up in Hermitage, PA. Situated half way between Cleveland and Pittsburgh, my Dad was a Browns fan so it always feels like being a Browns fan is in my blood.

### League History

I call my league the Old School Electric Football League. I started playing in the early 80's when my parents bought me the small version of Electric Football with the red and yellow players. I was hooked along with my brother Patrick and my dad. Passing seemed difficult right away and of course this was way before YouTube. My dad made a passing chart based on craps. 7 and 11 were completions and snake eyes and double six were interceptions. I remember adding fumbles if you rolled a 1 and 2. Over time the dice part evolved, switching to the same dice that I use today and thinking of it more of a percentage. I started incorporating the distance of the pass and the coverage in as well.



The AFC Central was the first division we bought. My dad took one look at the players and decided that he could paint them at least that well. Quickly, the red and yellow figures turned into more Browns. My brother was a Seahawks fan so the AFC West was next. I remember scoring the NFC East sitting on the shelf randomly at a Sears. Eventually, I had all 28 teams. At some point, my aunt found some players in the cake-decorating aisle of a local store. (These literally had Hong Kong printed on the front of the base. There was a blue and white team and a red and white team). We started painting more of our own players. Not very well mind you. My brother created most of the Seahawks roster in the mid 80's in both uniforms and my Browns collection grew. Some older friends started collecting as well. When they graduated high school I inherited some of the players and my league grew to all 28 teams with at least 22 in both home and away uniforms.

In the fall of 1985 I had hip surgery. I was going to be out of commission for 9 months! That's when I started my first full season based on the 1985 NFL schedule. I now call this season 1. I finished that season in the spring of 1990 before I graduated. I'm a bit embarrassed to say that the Browns tied for the best record in the league. I'm sure there was (too much) help along the way. I had several friends watch the Super Bowl though and the Browns prevailed. I have all the records and stats from this season in a notebook that has somehow survived for 30 years.

The players went into exile until the summer of 2013. Our nephew came to visit and I pulled them out for him to check out. He liked them, but I found an old friend. After checking out what was new in the hobby, I started to repaint the teams and began using decals. I typically paint every morning while listening to books or talks on Audible. I even take players to paint on vacation and when we visit our families in PA.

### Season 2

I began playing again in the summer of 2013 as well. I decided to call my league the Old School Electric Football League because I prefer the Fab 5 figures to all the new options. Don't get me wrong; I'm fascinated by the amazing figures that are available now.

This season consisted of 34 teams. I added a second Browns team, based on the Kardiak Kids era players and also included the Houston Oilers. I wanted this league to be fun for me to play, lean toward high scoring with plenty of stats. There are hardly any punts, but too many interceptions compared to the actual NFL. This is fine with me though. In my opinion, interceptions are way more fun than punts. Super Bowl 2 was played in the summer of 2018. The Colts were crowned OSEFL Champions with a 35-28 win over the Buccaneers.





### Season 3

I wanted to add more teams to the league and play more Super Bowls. I came up with the idea of 8 five-team divisions. The teams I added were: Ohio State Buckeyes, East College All-Stars, West College All-Stars, (64) Browns, (94) Browns, (99) Browns, (2018) Browns, and the Damascus Moonshiners. The Moonshiners are a collection of my friends. I also combined the Titans with the Oilers and the Panthers and Jaguars together to accommodate the 40-team limit while still adding the teams I wanted to include. The Browns teams are more of an era then specific season rosters, but I named them with the most memorable year (64, 80, 86, 94, 99, 18).

Each division would play a round robin. Each team would get 4 games. I call these 4 game round robin tournaments Mini Seasons. The winner of the round robin would advance to the playoffs. I just wrapped up the first Mini-Season with a Super Bowl 3 battle of the (1964) Browns vs. Chiefs. The (64) Browns won 35-21.



After 2 Mini-Seasons have been played, I'll combine all the 2 Mini-Seasons into an 8 game record and have a playoff. Then again, after 4 Mini-Seasons I'll combine the records into a 16 game season record to establish another set of playoff teams. In the end, I'll get 6 Super Bowls out of 4 Mini-Seasons.

### Season 4

I also wanted to get to play more games with the Browns. Season 4 is really only the Browns 2018 schedule and then a playoff based on the actual 2018 NFL records adjusted with the games the Browns played. I just started the playoffs. The Browns earned a playoff spot over the Ravens.

### Season 5

I'm in the middle of this season that is based on the literal 1978 Browns roster. Same deal as Season 4, I'll play playoffs based on the actual 78 season with records adjusted by the games played. It's not looking too good for the 78 Browns who have stumbled out to a 1-5 start. The plan is to go in succession with each Browns seasons moving forward.

### Season 6

This will be new division round robin style. This should start soon since Season 3 just crowned the Super Bowl Champion.

# BUZZING SOLITAIRE

## JOHN PRISCILLA



Hi E.F. world! I'm John Priscilla. I test titanium for military, aerospace, and commercial use. Due to heart issues I've been off work since mid March (COVID-19).

This is allowed me to immerse myself in electric football. I enjoy both competitive play and solitaire play.

I started playing in 1971 at the age of 10 on my Vikings-Chiefs super bowl field. From then until I was 18 I played with my good friend Bill. We each had 9 teams. We would play 4 games of solitaire and have a game of the week on Saturday.

When I got older I enlisted in the Air Force. After returning home to my sadness I found my game was thrown away. Years later after my close friend passed away I was looking for a hobby. My wife suggested electric football. I found the same field on eBay. I began painting and playing again. I then attended an event held by Mike Jones who was very welcoming. That's where I met Jeff Priest and Frank Jacobs. They have helped me so much. I have met so many wonderful coaches and friends since then.

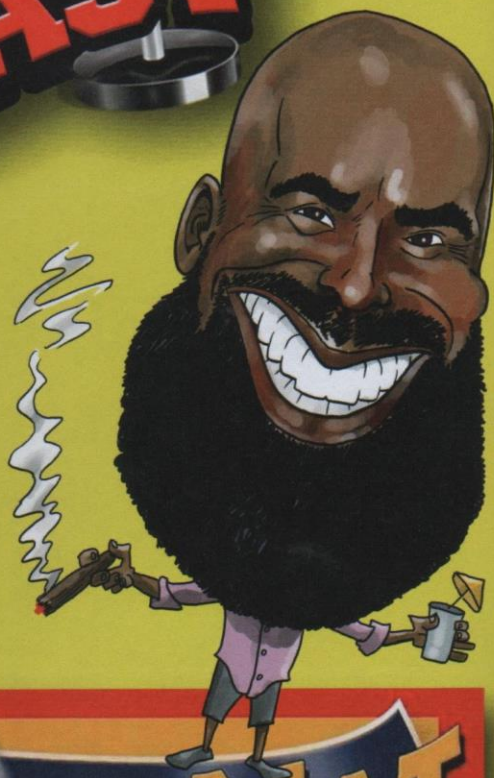
Thank you to everyone that has entered my life.





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Ruling on the Field

# TAKE TIME TO REFLECT



Written on April 6, 2020

My original op-ed piece was going to focus on how we have all been debating on which rule set is superior. However, in this time of uncertainty, we should not be focusing on petty arguments of such nature. Many of us already have the sense of care and concern before all this nonsense happened. But now we have learned to be even more appreciative of the time we have together. I'd like to paraphrase RK Games. He said that of course your blood family is going to love you and be there for you, but to have the Electric Football Community show their love and support for you is pure.

We have been able to make this children's game as elite as any sport with how we train and play. We get passionate about our style of rules, the gameplay, and how one should conduct themselves during a game. Our personalities and politics are different, but we are all here for each other nonetheless.

Electric Football is a competitive event and we all want the Gold Ball and our league title. After all, why do you put all that work into your team? Personally, in my gamedays the focus goes in the following order: The camaradery, the smack-talk and laughter, the drinks, and winning the game. That is what I have missed the most about this hobby during our nationwide lockdown. I feel that the fellowship and the laughter is what we all live for in this game. All the aspects of the game (customizing, the boards, the competition, etc) drew us to playing. The fellowship is what makes us show up.

With the formation of two new nationwide leagues with big time prizes and flirting with the idea of being shown on television, I pray that by the time this is published we are back to normal with the continuation of play. In the end, we need to remember what it is that makes us sacrifice a full day or weekend away from our family. So, when this is all over, take extra time to cherish what time we have with those we have all come to know so well.

Yours truly,  
The Ref



[www.mfbowlchampionshipseries.com](http://www.mfbowlchampionshipseries.com)



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# OFF THE GRID

*With Roger Fisher*

Talk to any electric football hobbyist rookie or veteran and you'll probably hear a similar story. "Coaches" are always willing to give their history of the game from a growing youth to mature adult. What's fascinating is, ninety-nine percent of the tales are near identical. Just replace the names and faces to have interchangeable versions. Ah, but that pesky, remaining one percent is where the real magic resides. In fact, it makes everyone's experience unique to them. Some achieve hobby greatness through leagues and tournaments, while many are content to challenge themselves through solitaire. Still others are at their best when designing and creating. My personal story starts as a youngster growing up in a small Midwest town where electric football was a big part of life. I recall my first game, a 1970 Christmas gift. The set included the Rams and Chiefs teams, which saw many battles on the bedroom floor over the years. Funny thing was, nearly every kid on the block had the same teams, because it was either the neighborhood Montgomery Ward for shopping or bust. Such the dilemma and nothing to do but break out the Testor's model paint. A few brush strokes later and Viola! We now had the Jets, Raiders and Vikings. My fondest memories from childhood center around my Mother's ability to find every yard sale in town. Nearly every Saturday she would come home with a shoebox of baseball cards, a stack of comic books or the Holy Grail, a bread sack full of football men. Having so many pieces to a game was the start of my obsession with collecting. To date I have accumulated over 200 boards and 50,000 players. We were somewhat naïve in those days. No one had heard of tweaking, custom boards or figures yet. I recall a Herschel Walker type trade I made with my friend Mikey for what at the time was a sure-fire Hall of Famer. You see Mikey had a Giants running back that ran straight and fast, near impossible to catch. I was enamored with the blue clad number 16. So much that we brokered a deal, ten of my original, beloved Chiefs for one turbo charged cheetah of a player. It's a decision I think we both instantly regretted. It looked strange to play number 16 on my Saints or Cardinals squad. Further, what could Mikey do with just ten Chiefs? In the end karma took its toll. A summer or so later much to my delight, I was re-united with my Chiefs. My lucky Mother had struck gold again at Mikey's garage sale. Another bread sack full with a dozen teams including ten glorious, red Chiefs. I won you might say, not really. Number 16, the blazer who did nothing but score and leave a wake of destruction in his path, met his demise. Remember the old line telling the teacher the dog ate my homework? Well, "Commander" my trusted German Shepherd helped himself to a snack one afternoon. Of all the choices he had, chew toy, shoes, the furniture, he found number 16. I can't lie, a few times I wished he would have choked or at least gagged. Long live Frank Gifford...

Love your family,

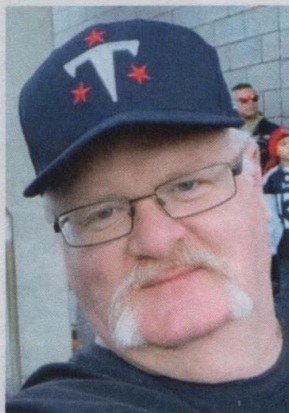
Love your friends,

Love your pets,

Love your football.

Buzz on!

Roger



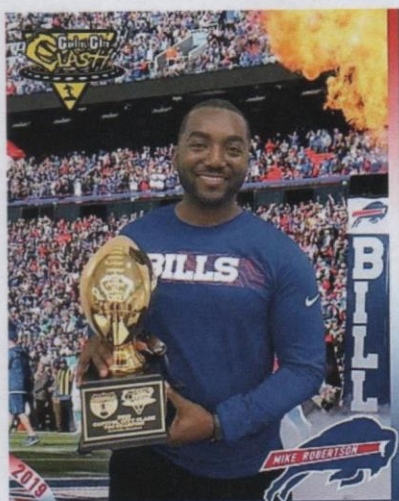




[www.thetoc.co](http://www.thetoc.co)



The plan was to have the 20th edition of one of the biggest and best Electric Football tournaments in the country on March 20th in Baltimore, Maryland. This year will go down in history due to the global pandemic, but The Capital City Clash will find a way to continue and carry out the mission. That is to provide the best, most competitive, and fun Electric Football fellowship you can hope to find. Stay tuned to find out when we can expect to get back to the action!





# CATCHING A BUZZ

## Nobody's Perfect

by Greg Ingold

Anyone who has been in the electric football hobby for very long and connects with other hobbyists has likely experienced this: amazement at how far some people have gone with the hobby, and disappointment with where they themselves are with it.

An example of this is the figures. There are some true artists out there creating works of miniature plastic art with paints and decals. Some are so realistic looking that I have to look twice to be sure it is a plastic recreation of the player and not the actual player himself. The detail sometimes goes as far as helmet brands and shoe logos. Some even add painted eyeballs and facial hair!

And then there are the fields. Most of us grew up with standard mass-produced electric football boards that looked cool but lacked realistic logos, striping, and field (turf) conditions like snow, wear and tear, and even dirt baseball infields. There are also beautiful stadiums that some have constructed to add even more realism and eye-popping appeal to their boards.

All this requires two things: artistic skill and/or money. Those who have the abilities required can enjoy the process of creating and the pride that comes with it. Those who don't have the time, inclination, or ability can purchase their setups from those that do.

Yet there are many in the hobby like me who don't have extra money to throw at it and lack the artistic ability, patience, and resources to create at such high levels. It is enough to create an inferiority complex. When I look at my hand-painted figures I often see the faults and mistakes in them. Slightly crooked sock stripes, imperfect painting, and lack of realistic detail are among the faults that can cloud my view of my work. Yet that clouded view is unfair to me and to anyone else who has felt the same about their handiwork.

To start, it is unfair to compare our creations with others because of the tricky nature of what we are doing and creating. Trying to make a one-inch-tall plastic figure look like a real football player is not easy. Add factors like age, eyesight, time, inexperience, and patience and it gets even trickier. Also, not everyone is flush with money to throw at the hobby. Things like rent, food, insurance, and a host of other things can put electric football low on the list of financial priorities.

I should be proud of my efforts (as we all should). After all, it is an imperfect game with many variables. We can't all be Picasso-like artists or millionaires with money to spare. This is still just a tabletop game most of us started playing as kids when we didn't care so much about perfection. We just loved electric football and the sport itself. Be proud of your setup and its imperfections—it's what makes it uniquely yours. Besides, nobody's perfect.



# HULK'S CORNER

by Jim Davis



## THE GREATEST GAME I EVER PLAYED IN!

The year was 2009 and it was time for everyone's favorite tournament - the 2009 Miggle Convention. Let me set up the mood. It was January and we were in Chicago. All the top coaches were there. I've been to every Miggle Tournament and Convention. This was my 15th! The Friday night dinner was great as always. Early Saturday I was awarded the good vibration award by Miggle's Michael and Delayne Landsman. It was a great honor, but I had never won a Miggle Championship and I was hoping that year would be different. Boy oh boy, was it! Me and Norbert drove up together. All we could talk about was how much we love going to the tournaments and we couldn't wait to see some friends that we would only see at the Miggle convention. We really looked forward to it every year.

For the past two or three Miggle tournaments me and Norbert were always in the same round robin and I never made it out. But this year was different. My round robin bracket consisted of me, Joel Pritchard, Butch Carter and another coach I can't remember. If my memory serves me right, I had to play Butch Carter to win our division. There were eight divisions and I moved on to the Elite Eight.

The Elite Eight coaches were...

1. Norbert Revels (the 2005 Miggle Champ)
2. Ron Bell (4 time Miggle Champ)
3. Greg Hardmon (the 2004 Champ)
4. Frank Johnson (Chicago's own)
5. Butch Carter (Thanks to Andrew Stewart's great sportsmanship)
6. Steve Martin (Great Lakes)
7. Jamel Goodloe (Great Lakes)
8. Jim Davis (the Hulk)

Miggle had the tournament set up like college football.

**Tostitos Fiesta Bowl** - Norbert Revels versus newcomer Butch Carter. Norbert won 7-0.

**AT&T Cotton Bowl** - Jamel Goodloe beat Steve Martin 14-0.

**FedEx Orange Bowl** - Frank Johnson defeated Ron Bell 6-0 in overtime.

**Capital One Bowl** - I beat my very good friend Greg Hardmon 21-14.

The first semifinal was the Allstate Sugar Bowl. Norbert Revels beat Frank Johnson 14-7 and advanced to the Miggle Championship game.

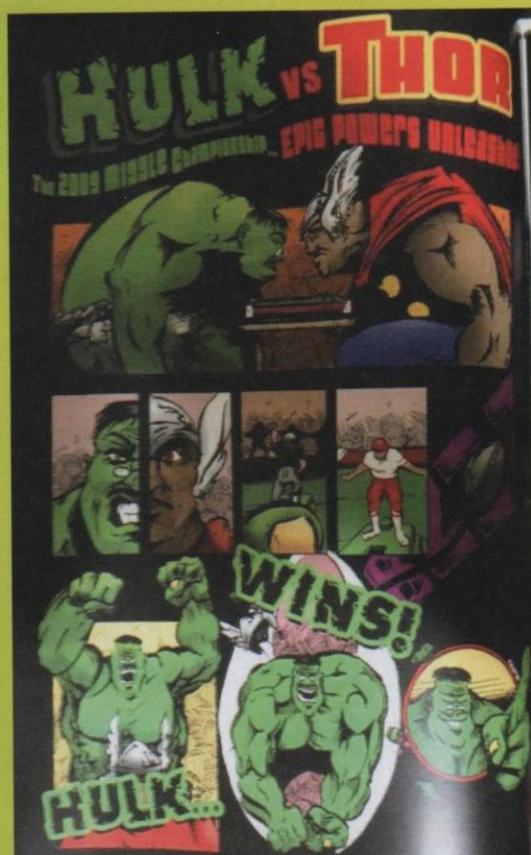
In the second semifinal I was able to advance past Jamel Goodloe 28-7 and make my way to the Miggle Championship Game.

As I remember it, the Chicago news was there and they interviewed Norbert first as I listened. They asked Norbert what he thought was going to happen in the championship game. Norbert

When I heard what he was saying, it kind of got my blood boiling and the Hulk was ready to come out. The newsman asked me what I thought was going to happen in the game. I told him, "Norbert is a great friend and great champion. But you never know how this vibrating board is going to vibrate. I'm just going to go out there and play my best game and whatever happens, happens." He wished me well and it was game time.

## The Miggle 2009 Championship game, the Greatest Game I Ever Played In.

I was a little nervous, but I was playing a good friend, so the nervousness faded away. We rode up together and one of us was going home with the victory, back to Michigan. It was a win, win to me. As we were getting ready to play I was thinking back on my tournament run. I thought to myself, you had a great run. You played a lot of great coaches on the way to the championship game. Again, the incredible list: Greg Hardmon, Jamel Goodloe, Butch Carter, Joel Pritchard, and Norbert Revels. People started to pack the game room as I was lost in thought. The play by play was done by Frank Johnson and Ken Allen. Next thing I know, IT'S GAME TIME! Jim vs Norbert. Hulk vs Thor. Friend vs friend! In my mind I was thinking this could be the best championship game ever. The game was ready to start.





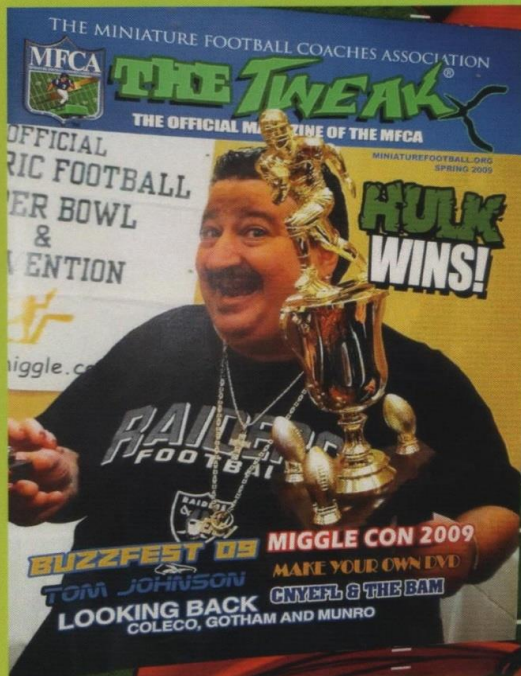
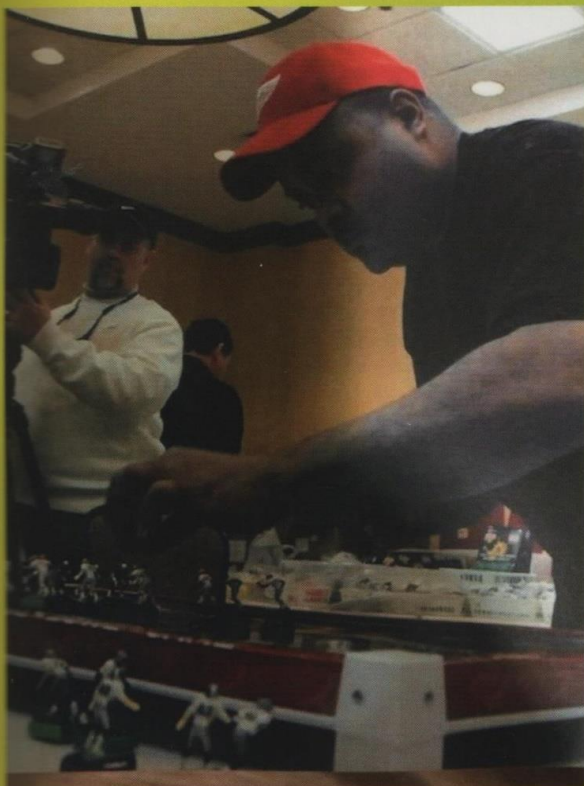
In the first half it was all defense for both teams. I think he knew what I was trying to do and I think I knew what he was trying to do. It was 0-0 at halftime.

In the second half Norbert tried to run the ball on three straight plays. It was good defense by my Raiders and Norbert went to punt on fourth down. My Defense came through and blocked the punt. With my offense in great field position, I went on to score a touchdown on a run play and took a 7-0 lead. It felt good to be up, but I knew I was playing against a great coach who could run and pass. I was happy with my defense and the way they were playing. I felt confident. But my confidence wouldn't last too long. With time running out my defense was in a pass prevent formation. Norbert ran the ball for very long yardage. He eventually scored the tying touchdown on a pass play. Regulation play end with a 7-7 score. On to overtime.

I was really nervous now. I gave up a very big play and then the tying score. My confidence was shot! But I didn't give up. Everyone in the room was happy that the game was going to overtime. They wanted to see some more electric football. We were playing the college football rules where we started at the opponent's 25 yard line.

Norbert got the ball first and my defense came to play. On first down my defense sacked him for a 12 yard loss! On second down I sacked him again for another 12 yard loss. It was third down and very long. I played a pass defense and the coverage was pretty good. The only receiver Norbert had open was about 35 to 40 yards downfield. AND GUESS WHAT! The great passer Norbert is, he completed the pass and eventually went on to score, taking a 14-7 lead.

I told myself I had let him off the hook. I was playing such great defense and look where I ended up. I was setting up my offense and someone yelled from the crowd, "Just do what you do!" It was Butch Carter and it made me feel pretty good because he knew I was running the football very well all weekend.



It was my turn on offense in a must score situation. I did what I do best. I ran the football and scored in two plays. Norbert assumed I was taking one extra point and he started to take his players off the field. My mind raced through the situation. Do I want to play another overtime or do I want to try and end it now? I had scored in two plays and I felt confident that if I lined up my favorite play, I might have a good chance to win the championship. I said I was going for two! Everyone in the place got excited. You could feel the electricity in the room.

The line of scrimmage is the three yard line. As I set up my play, I intentionally made it look like I was going to run up the middle. Norbert played his defense that way, stacking up the middle. I angled my left wide receiver toward the middle and angled my running back toward the left corner. I thought, if Norbert angles his DB toward the running back, I'll just call time out and take the one point. But he angled his DB with the wide receiver and he used his middle linebacker to try to pick up the running back. Right then and there is when I knew I should be able to make it. I stood up and said, "Give it to Darren McFadden!"

As I walked away from the table, my running back, Darren McFadden, went around the left corner and scored the two point conversion for the win! The score was 15-14 in what everybody was calling the best game ever played at a Miggle convention. Norbert, a great coach, champion, and friend, congratulated me along with my daughters Jaya and Shyenne and many other coaches and onlookers. It was one of the best feelings I've ever had in Electric football. For me it was the best Miggle convention ever.

I would like to give a shout out to all my league mates from the Great Lakes Electric Football League, 2009. Damon Lucas, Tookie Lassiter, BP Brian Perry, Don Lang, Chuck Lawrence, Steve Martin, Chuck Pitchford, Shawn Nobel, Jamel Goodloe, Greg Hardmon, Norbert Revels, Chip Burgess, Frank Johnson, Jimbo Dunagan and any other league mates. If I forgot to post your name, forgive me. That was 11 years ago! The GLEFL has 4 Miggle Champions - Norbert, Greg, Jamel and myself.

Also, I'd like to give a shout out to Matt Culp, Corey Johnson, Ed Scott, Mike Guttman, Dave Haydel, Michael Landsman, Delayne Landsman, Butch Carter, Joel Pritchard, Lynn Schmidt aka weirdwolf and many more! Long live Electric football.

This has been another Hulk's Corner. I hope you enjoyed it.



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