

# CRACKIN' PLASTIC

Nov  
2019

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

## IN THIS ISSUE...

### In Memoriam

Keith "Big Salty" Chalmers

Tudor Games and artist Gene Sanny created some real excitement in the Electric Football world with their Fox Sports and Thursday Night Football collaboration.



The National  
Electric Football  
Game Museum

CATCHING A BUZZ  
WITH GREG INGOLD

HULK'S  
CORNER

# The Electric Football Magazine



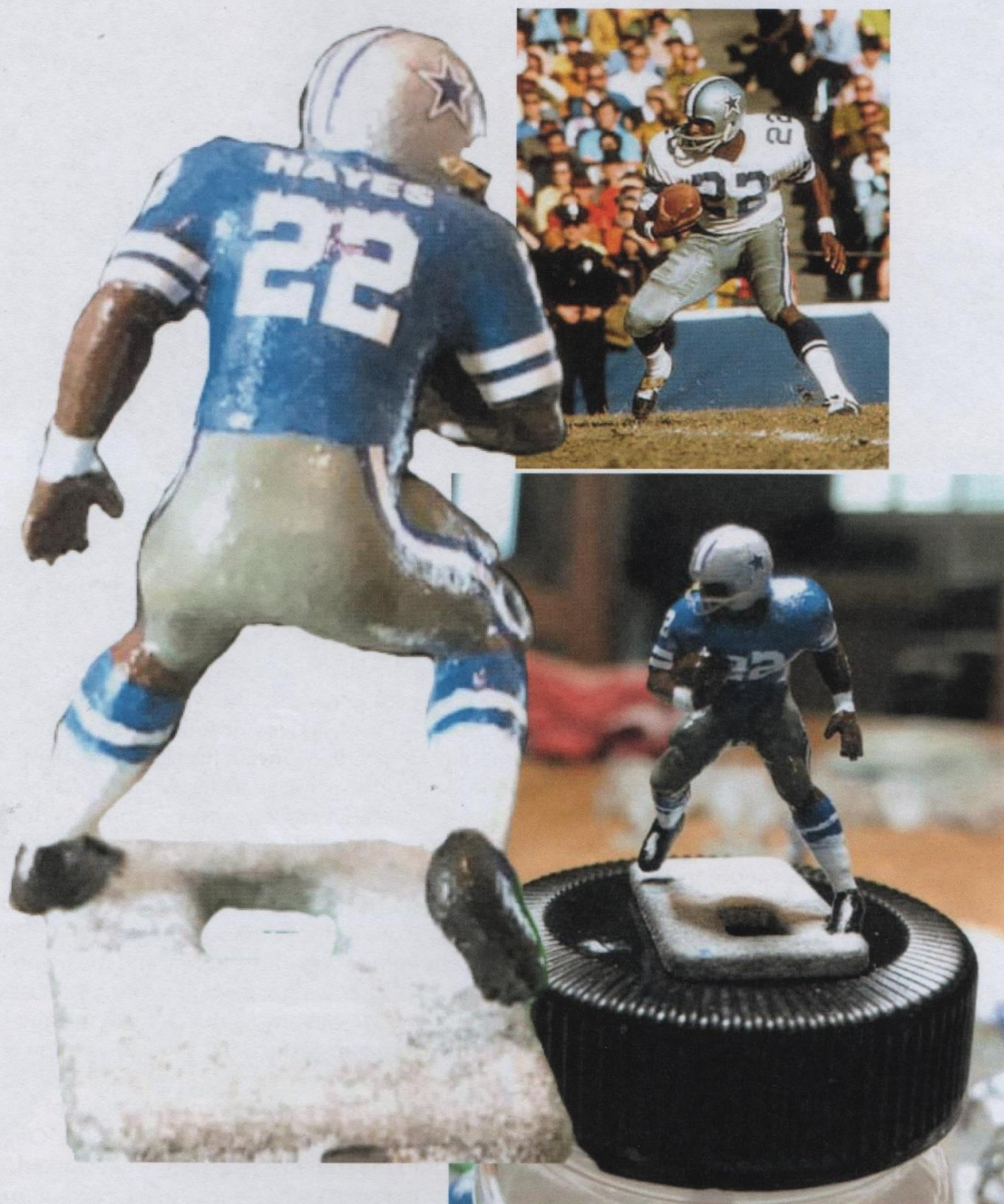
# Custom Figure All-Stars



Matt McGraw from Alabama is killin it  
with this UofM figure.



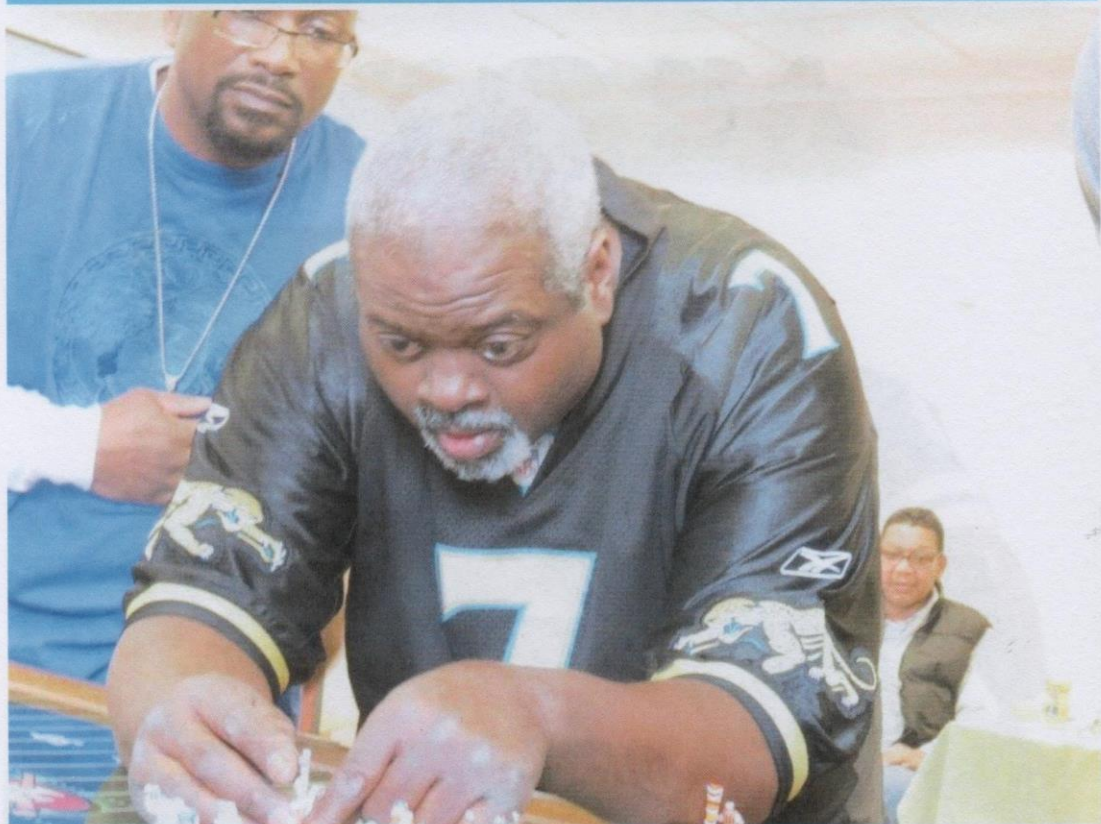
# Custom Figure All-Stars



Richard Caldwell in Texas  
nailed Bullet Bob Hayes!



# Keith "Big Salty" Chalmers



On August 31, 2019 Electric Football lost a longtime and loyal hobbyist, Keith "Big Salty" Chalmers. At hearing of his passing many who knew him (and many who didn't) expressed their friendship and love of "Big Salty".

"He was feared by many, some by just his larger than life physical presence," says electric football hobbyist Clay Lomax. "For years I would ask him to let somebody else win, don't you have enough trophies, but he would just giggle and say 'nope.'" Indeed, his electric football competitive fire seems to be what many remember most about him; and it also gave him his nickname. Keith "Big Salty" himself admitted at a Tudor event that he liked a little gamesmanship while he played. Whether he was trying to get into his opponent's heads or just having some fun he would do things like rub their leg with his foot while they set up their play or talk a little smack.

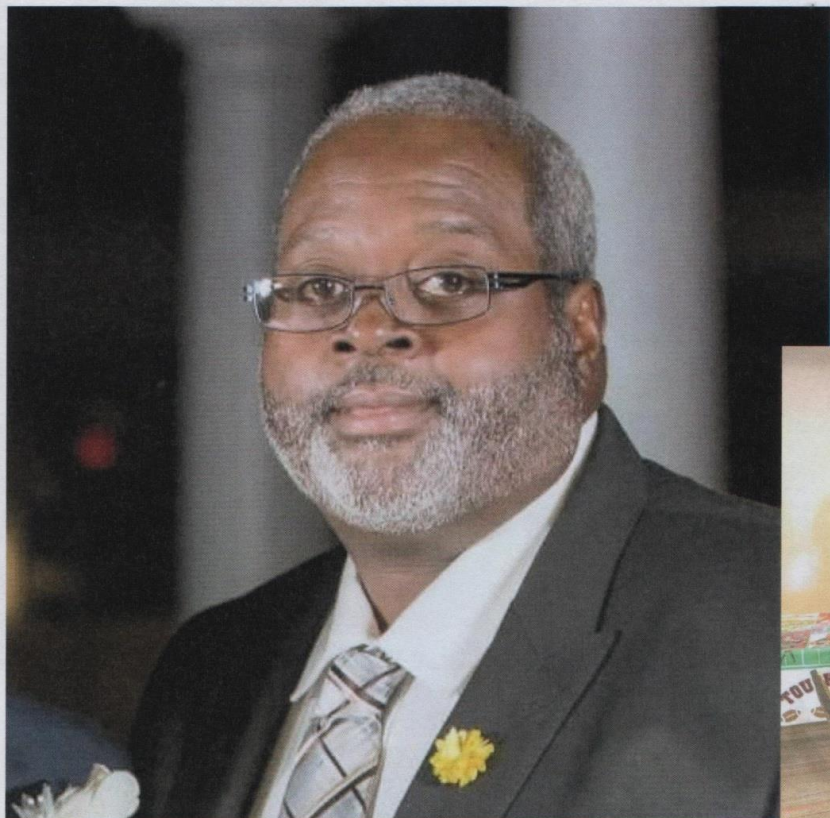
But Keith had another side to his electric football personality: "Keith had a very calm demeanor, I only seen him get upset two times in four years. He had a great sense of humor, tons of wisdom and just a caring person," claims Brian Phillips. "[He was] always smiling and joking!"

But perhaps he will be remembered for his competitive love of the hobby and the friendships created from it. "He was funny, could trash talk like no other, and forced you to bring your best 'cause that's what he was going to give you," mentions Clay. "He was always driven to be the guy that plays on Sunday. He was always working on his team right up to the point you had to turn them in."

But despite his desire to win, "Big Salty" still enjoyed sharing his love and strategies of electric football. "We would share secrets of winning with each other and would often laugh," Clay remembers. "We would talk after a game...he would go into the strategy he used or what worked." And Keith enjoyed his strategy: "[Keith] had a West Coast type of passing offense when playing 'Any Touch' and always like to get his QB and RB outside when running the ball," reveals Brian. "And his defense always had a combination of power and speed with good CB play!" Clay agrees about Chalmers' defensive strategies: "His style on defense is what most everyone uses these days, with what I call '2-2 stack.' [He] always had very fast players at the skill spots to wreck your plans."

Based on the outpouring of love, respect, and admiration from the electric football community Keith "Big Salty" Chalmers' presence will be felt in the hobby for many years to come.



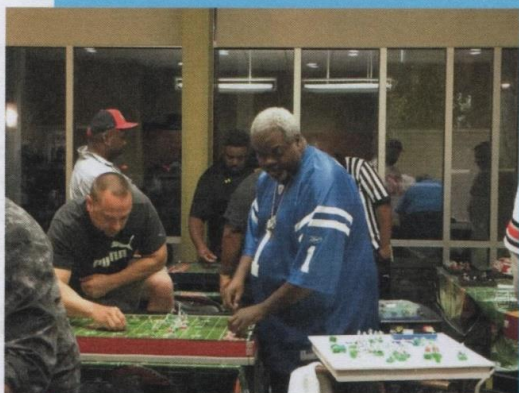


Kickoff  
February 2,  
1962

Final whistle  
August 31,  
2019



May he rest in heaven.



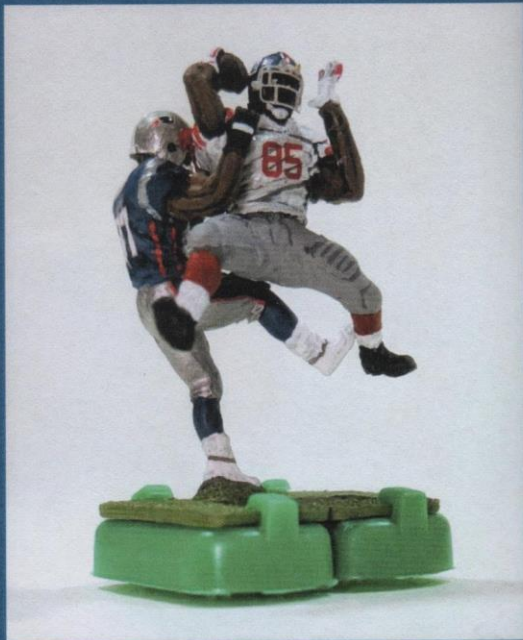
Played the entire game  
both ways, with passion  
and love.







**GIANTS vs PATRIOTS**  
**THURSDAY 8PM ET**  
**ELECTRIC FOOTBALL INTRO**



It was Thursday night, October 10th. The Electric Football community was buzzing. Tudor Games and artist Gene Sanny were about to be featured on the opening sequence of Thursday Night Football. The atmosphere was electric! Word had spread throughout the hobby and every coach (we took an informal poll) was tuned in. Electric Football was not only featured, but it was a positive piece too. In the past, some media exposure was a bit on the silly side. Not this one. It was awesome! See if you can find it on YouTube.

**Crackin Plastic:** You recently worked with Tudor Games and Fox Sports to do the opening for the nationally televised NFL Thursday Night Football. What was it like to see your artwork on TV?

**Gene Sanny:** It was super cool seeing the figures on TV. My wife was watching with me and she was so excited it was making me nervous actually. The build up to the beginning of the show was intense and then all of a sudden it was on! I didn't even want to blink for fear of missing something even though I was recording it. It was SO MUCH WORK in a such a short amount of time for a one minute clip. But I was so happy PT at Fox treated our hobby with so much respect compared to things we've all seen in the past in ads and stuff.

When it was done my phone figuratively blew up... it was unreal. The fellas in the hobby, my friends, family... everybody. I was still feeling a high from seeing it on TV. Then I'm responding to all these well-wishers in the next moment. It was just an incredible feeling to hear from the guys in hobby, because my family and friends were going to tell me they loved it, of course. But the guys who paint, touch, and play with these figures on a daily basis are the ones I felt I needed to honor with these figures. I wanted the world to say "Whoa! I remember those little guys. They never looked like that though. Where can I find some like this?!"

So that's when one of the fellas says, "I play electric football."

Maybe somebody who casually saw this intro might say back to them, "Hey, you play that? I saw something recently about that. It seemed super cool."

Right after I boxed them all up to ship them to New York, I felt a hole in my core. I was like, "What do I do now?" I had spent a little over a week, all my free time, working on them and all my non-free time thinking about what I needed to accomplish when I got to work on them again. When it was done, I honestly felt kinda dizzy. I kept thinking, "What do I have to finish next?" It was crazy.



**Crackin Plastic:** You are quite an accomplished artist. Where does this rank in terms of your artistic achievements?

**Gene Sanny:** It's going to sound braggy and that's not what I want. But, you want to know about my other artistic accomplishments and where this ranks. In my life I've been lucky enough to do some pretty cool things because of the things I do for fun. I've written and recorded several albums. Had a few songs in rotation for over a year on the radio - which is incredible to hear your song pop up with other national songs. Therefore I got to play in front of 1,500 fans at once, hearing them singing my songs back at me. I act on stage playing favorite childhood roles like Willy Wonka. Over the past year my drawings and paintings took off like never before to where I was busy all summer doing commissions for people all over the country. But this Thursday Night Football moment ranked right at the top. It was fleeting. Over as quick as it began. But it was incredible.







# GIANTS VS. PATRIOTS ON FOX





**Crackin Plastic:** It was great for everybody in the hobby to see Electric Football on Fox sports in such a positive light. How did this happen?

**Doug Strohm, President of Tudor Games:** The creative director for all of Fox Sports contacted us about three weeks before the game on October 10th. He does a unique opening segment every week on Thursday night football. He wanted to do something unique with Electric Football for the Patriots and Giants gam. He wanted to tell the story of the rivalry using Electric Football. What a great opportunity! I called him right away and it just so happened he was just stepping off a plane in Seattle. We got to meet he came here to the office. We toured the warehouse and we pretty much figured out the whole thing at that time. He's a great person. He worked with us to get it right, unlike the Bud Light commercial where we really didn't have a chance to participate in the filming. This one we were involved the whole way. So, it was a really great process. He started talking about custom figures and I got a little bit concerned because we didn't have a lot of time. So I told him I would check with the Electric Football Nation faithful and see if we could get this done. The first person to get back to me with Gene Sanny. I'm a little bit sensitive to this topic because I didn't want anybody to feel left out. But Gene was the first one to get back with me. We wanted all the figures to look the same so we went with one artist. Gene did a great job. He had eight days to create 30 figures. It was pretty crazy. We also used stock figures for the background. This was filmed using a 9092 NFL Pro Bowl Electric Football game.

**Crackin Plastic:** Did it turn out as well as you would have liked?

**Doug Strohm:** We were really happy. They did a nice job and demonstrated the game working properly. That's all we asked for. It was a really positive experience and I hope everybody enjoyed it as much as we did. I think the David Tyree catch with Rodney Harrison was the highlight of the whole thing. I wish we could get those figures back but they're probably in a production room somewhere. Hey, maybe they're sitting on somebody's desk. In any case, we appreciate the efforts of Electric Football Nation to help us get this done.





# The National Electric Football Game Museum

*"preserving the buzzzzz"*

Have you ever wondered why electric football doesn't have its own museum?

That's a question I have often asked myself. I mean there are museums for everything. It seems if you have a collection of anything, you can make a museum out of it. Just do a Google search some day on anything that you might be interested in and you can find a museum for it. And most just started out of someone's personal collection of whatever was of interest to them and wanted to share with others.

Like many others of the Electric Football Community involved in the game and hobby of electric football, I also collect the gameboards, teams and figures and have a collection that I love to show to others, share memories of playing, educating others about the history of the game and how to play the game.

So why not an "ELECTRIC FOOTBALL" Museum? Well, why not?!!! So, I decided to build it!!!

IF YOU BUILD IT...

That line from the movie "Field of Dreams" came to me as I began to think about it and make plans for building a museum that would be "dedicated to preserving the history of the game, the memories of the generation who grew up playing the game and the innovations in technology that have allowed this game to endure into the 21st century."

This museum will be about the game itself, its history and with the primary purpose of educating the general public about "ELECTRIC FOOTBALL".

The National ELECTRIC FOOTBALL Game Museum will consist of

- collections of original mass-produced game sets to include the game boards with all accessories, teams and rule books from all commercial manufacturers of the game.
- examples of improvements in technology to the game boards and accessories to play the game developed by all commercial manufacturers.
- examples of improvements made by individuals to enhance the play of the game.
- examples of customizations to original game boards and accessories made by individuals.
- a library of all media materials that relate to the game.
- a retail outlet store to sell the games, accessories and media materials that relate to the game.

There will be a Hall of Fame, but inductees will be game models that have a certain historical significance or introduced an innovation in technology. Also, only individuals who contributed to the invention of new technologies or advancements that significantly changed the game and how it is played will be considered for induction into the Hall of Fame. This will not be a "Hall of Fame" for coaches that may have won a significant number of league and tournament championships.

I have already made significant strides towards achieving this goal with the formation and incorporation of the museum as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. I am continually adding to my collection and designing displays. And have built the first display leading into the museum (my Man Cave in the bonus room over my garage).

For now, the museum mostly exists as a virtual museum on the internet with its facebook page and website. The website can be found @ [nefgm.org](http://nefgm.org) and the facebook page is @ [www.facebook.com/NEFGM](http://www.facebook.com/NEFGM). Here is where you may follow the progress of the museum, information updates and how you may contribute to the future of the museum.

The Museum is always open!!! Anytime you are in the area of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, just let me know and I will give you a personal tour and we may even play a game or two!!!

The National ELECTRIC FOOTBALL Game Museum  
1413 Bern Drive  
Spring Hill, TN  
(615) 587 - 0193  
[nefgm2019@gmail.com](mailto:nefgm2019@gmail.com)





# TUDOR

ELECTRIC SPORTS GAMES  
1949 - 1959



## Purpose and Mission Statement

**PURPOSE** ...  
"To preserve the history, memories, technological advances and artistry of the game of electric football."

**MISSION** ...  
"To preserve the history of the game by creating a facility to house and showcase the collections of the groups and individuals that play the game, the memories of the coaches who play the game, the technology of the game and the artistry of the game."

Characterized by its familiar buzzing sound made when the power switch was turned on and watching the miniature football players come to life running actual football plays over a miniature football field, Electric Football was a "must have" game for a generation of young boys growing up in the 1950's, '60's and '70's.

**EFG** THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC FOOTBALL GAME MUSEUM™

30' 20' 10'

*preserving the buzzzzz!*

## Purpose and Mission Statement

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### MISSION

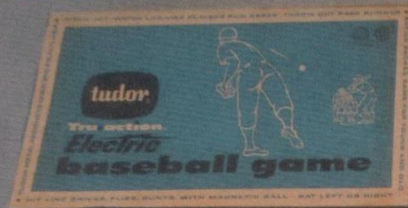
"To preserve the history of the game by creating a facility to house and showcase the collections of the groups and individuals that play the game, the memories of the coaches who play the game, the technology of the game and the artistry of the game."

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*preserving the buzzzzz!*

... dedicated to preserving the history of the game, the memories of the generation who grew up playing the game and the innovations in technology that have allowed this game to endure into the 21st century.



**TUDOR** ELECTRIC SPORTS GAMES  
1949 - 1959



# CATCHING A BUZZ

## Who's In Charge Here?

by Greg Ingold



TOUCHDOWN, FIELD GOAL  
OR SUCCESSFUL TRY



CROWD NOISE, DEAD BALL  
OR NEUTRAL ZONE



SAFETY



BALL ILLEGALLY TOUCHED,  
KICKED OR BATTED



FIRST DOWN



TIME OUT

It is often a hot-button topic and a debate that is likely as old as electric football itself: should the game adopt standardized rules or leave it to individuals and leagues to formulate their own? One need only be around the hobby of electric football a short time before the subject of rules comes up--again and again. Everyone, it seems, has their own particular rules they've developed or adopted over time. Even EF leagues have their own rules set. A recent (and very unofficial) Facebook poll showed that most electric football hobbyists prefer it that way (by a somewhat slim margin). Some, however, would like to see a universal set of rules adopted that would govern all organized play.

Electric Football hobbyist Calvin R. Strong believes in the latter. "Why would people not want standard rules? Wouldn't it be better to go anywhere and play with anyone," Calvin states, "or do you all enjoy disagreeing?"

For others accepting differences in rules of play are part of the hobby. "If everyone played by the exact same rules where would new ideas come from?" claims electric football hobbyist Stephen LeGrow. "I just don't think you could ever get a standard rule set that everyone agrees with that would be adopted by all leagues."

Even if there were universal agreement on the need for standardized rules who, or where, would those rules come from? "There is no way to enforce it. Standardized rules (across leagues) would require some kind authoritative body", hobbyist Richard Caldwell points out. Some claim comprehensive rules are already in place but support Richard's assessment. Kit Kinchen (longtime "TOEPRO" proponent) agrees "the lack of a governing body in EF is the reason for proliferated rulesets." Tudor (the original manufacturer of electric football) also has a set of rules in place, but outside of a Tudor-sponsored event those rules are often ignored or altered.

All this got me thinking: the actual sport of football itself contains many rules variations but is still identifiable as "football". Pop Warner leagues through high school, college and into the pros (not to mention the CFL!) all have their own unique set of rules, but it is all still football. Why not electric football as well? After all, electric football is based on the real game, right?

Perhaps in this way electric football can be compared to the game of poker. There are many different rules, variations, and versions of poker, but it still remains "poker." An experienced poker player knows most of the variations of the game and can adapt accordingly.

Now, as for solitaire play....ah, maybe next time.









# HULK'S CORNER

by Jim Davis

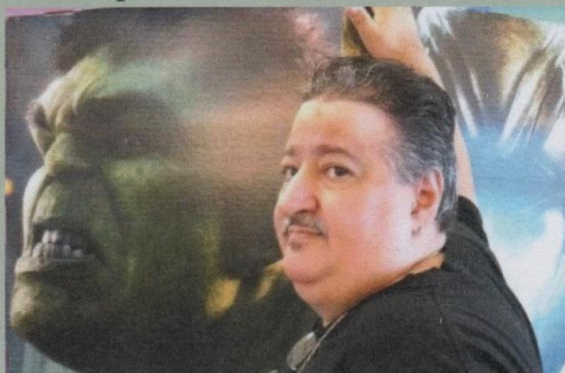
## FRIENDSHIPS BUILT AROUND ELECTRIC FOOTBALL

This may not be you and a lot of coaches. But this is my story...

A long long time ago when I got back into electric football it was one of the best things I could have done. I love the competition and the gameplay and camaraderie. So many coaches are just like me, they love Electric Football. It was so much fun to hang out and play in my childhood. Today the game not only takes me back to a time of so many fond memories, it brings me joy and builds new memories every day I play. I recall my first victory and my first championship. Most importantly, I cherish all the friendships that I have made throughout the years. Watching my daughters play this game of Electric Football and win championships just like their dad made me so proud of them.

This game has so many benefits that some people just don't know. The invaluable friendships of so many coaches have grown through Electric Football. Some have become family! You know we don't get to pick our family members, but we do get to pick our friends. Some of those friendships turn into family members for me and my family.

So, my advice to everybody in this hobby is to enjoy this wonderful game. Meet and get to know as many coaches as possible. You never know, they may become family to you. I love you all and I love Electric Football. Most importantly, I love our friendships!





# TOEPRO

# FOOTBALL

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL ON AN ELECTRIC FIELD

**Paul Pate:** Welcome, Kit Kinchen. You're the founder and creator of the TOEPRO Football ruleset. You're my guy. I've been a proponent of this ruleset for a long time. I love all the Electric Football guys. But from time to time I try to analyze the state of the game and point out why how I like TOEPRO Football. Why does the Electric Football community get so defensive?

**Kit Kinchen:** I truly believe that the guys are not so much defensive about their ruleset versus TOEPRO rules. I believe that the best in the game would be able to conform and excel. It's one of the things in which I talked with Lynn Weirwolf about. I think that the best in the game, when showing the game to the masses, should do everything that the game consists of. I believe that these guys who are great passers, they're always going to be great passers. We introduced the kicking game. They'll always figure out a way to master that. They are the best in the game.

What I wanted to do was to offer them something that would bring everybody around a particular method of gameplay that considers the rules, the laws, the rights, and the privileges of football, without a lot of fanfare. They will determine the strategy needed to take it to the next level. They're defensive about it because they didn't grow up with it. This is something that does, in fact, change dogma. It is different.

And when you're talking with people who have played the game, for some 30 or 40 years, they have always played it in a particular fashion where they knew what their opponent was going to do if they were on defense. They knew where the offensive players were going to go. With TOEPRO Football, you don't know! And, as a matter of fact, they're looking to attack you because that's the proper foundation of football.



# **STACK** *wit* **NAT** *Show*

HUGH-STACK  
SMOKESTACK  
MR. NATIONAL



[WWW.STACKWITNATSHOW.COM](http://WWW.STACKWITNATSHOW.COM)



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