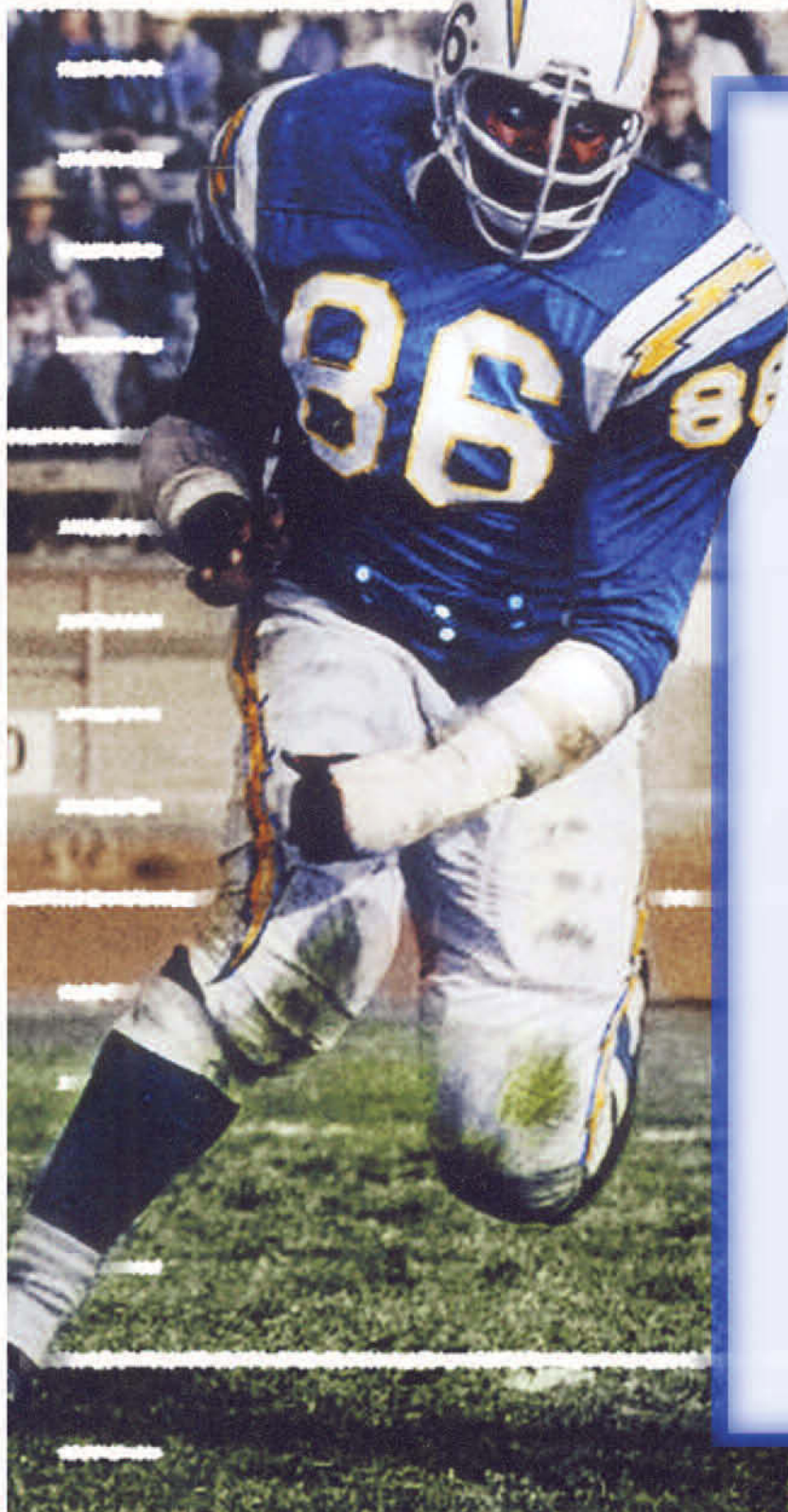


VOLUME 46 ★ NUMBER 1 ★ 2024

THE COFFIN CORNER



The Official Magazine of the Professional Football Researchers Association



CHARGING into the HALL of VERY GOOD

***Earl Faison and
the Class of 2023***

★ INSIDE THIS ISSUE ★

2023 PFRA Awards

***Twenty Questions for
Michael Dean Perry***

***The Once and
Future Buzz of
Electric Football***

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On the cover: San Diego Chargers defensive end Earl Faison (Historic Sports Images)

TEAM FUMBLES



Tim Triner wrote in to let us know that there was a factual error in the article titled “The Immaculate Reception That Nearly Wasn’t” in the last issue (Volume 45, Number 6) of *The Coffin Corner*. The article stated that Pittsburgh’s regular-season win over the Oakland Raiders in 1972 earned them the right to host the divisional playoff game between the two teams on December 23 because they finished a half game ahead of the Raiders, 10–3–1 to 11–3. Tim argued, correctly, that this was in error. The NFL did not begin using win-loss records to determine which team got home-field advantage in the playoffs until 1975. Before 1975, home-field advantage was determined on a rotating basis. To the best of our knowledge, this is the third time that Tim has discovered a mistake in a *Coffin Corner* article. Way to go Tim—three strikes and we’re outta here!

If you spot an error (before Tim does!), contact us at this address: publications@profootballresearchers.org

THE COFFIN CORNER

*The Official Magazine of the
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The Professional Football Researchers Association (PFRA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving professional football history. Formed in 1979, the PFRA is incorporated in the state of Connecticut and has 501(c)(3) status as an educational organization with the Internal Revenue Service.

State of the PFRA

Lee Elder, Executive Director

I'm going to steal a line from my predecessor, Mark Ford, who wrote once that the state of the PFRA is Connecticut. Well, that hasn't changed but other things have.

The PFRA has enjoyed growth since the worldwide pandemic began easing up, especially since 2021. We begin 2024 with 509 paid members across 46 states and 11 nations. We have added a new regional chapter, with at least one new one activating this year. Our Great Teams book series will add a new chapter next year (pun intended). Our 2023 convention in Pittsburgh drew a large attendance.

Most importantly to me is the level of our research. The PFRA is an organization devoted to research and education. We have done a very fine job of both. In Issue 5 of the *Coffin Corner* last year, John Maxymuk's bibliography delineated six books published by PFRA members among the 50 pro football titles listed. The *Coffin Corner* staff has a strong collection of articles which will be published this year, although more are needed. As of this writing, our Biography Project has 655 player biographies. More than 40 PFRA members have contributed work to the Project.

The Pittsburgh convention drew 56 attendees. The speakers set a PFRA record. Cumulatively, the speakers were the most learned group ever to address a PFRA convention. That was a great honor for them!

With all of that, we have some challenges for 2024. Our goal two years ago was to attract membership in all 50 U.S. states by the end of 2024 and we aren't there yet. Further, stronger international member numbers would be a terrific area for growth, especially in Canada and Mexico. Outside of the United States, Canada has the largest PFRA membership count (14 members) and the United Kingdom is next (9). We had three citizens of Mexico attend the 2023 convention in Pittsburgh. That is a

great indication of our international growth.

The membership numbers have grown solidly in the last three years. In 2021, our paid membership numbered 400. As our regional chapters become more established, they'll likely propel further membership growth. Our Western New York chapter has an annual meeting which typically draws 25–30 attendees. Our chapters in Michigan and the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. area are off to good starts. A virtual chapter, based in the Great Plains, has become active. Members in the Philadelphia area are expected to restart their chapter in 2024.

The Official Podcast of the PFRA continues to produce high quality content with George and Jon Bozeka conducting interviews. The goal for 2024 is to produce 12 episodes. In 2023, the Bozekas generated 11 episodes. Cards on the table, one episode featured PFRA members Mike Richmond and myself. We both discussed the books we wrote about the late George Allen.

Our X account (the social media platform formerly known as Twitter) now has better than 2,100 followers. Our Facebook pages have more than 2,000 followers. That means we have more than doubled the number of followers in recent years. Football fans are drawn to the PFRA because of the quality of the research we do and that's a tribute to all of our members.

Many of you PFRA members have social media sites dedicated to the history of professional football. These outlets are not connected to the PFRA but the word gets out through them. Whether it is a Facebook page dedicated to a specific decade or a podcast devoted to a single franchise, PFRA members are very active across the various social media platforms.

Our latest installment in the PFRA's Great Teams in Pro Football History book series will cover the 1964 AFL champion Buffalo Bills. The Bills book in-



Cleveland safety Ray Ellis (24) with former *Canton Repository* sports editor Bob Stewart before the Browns final regular season game against the San Diego Chargers on Sunday, December 21, 1986, at Cleveland Municipal Stadium. The Browns won the game to finish the season 12–4 and would reach the AFC Championship Game for the first time in franchise history that postseason.

cludes contributions from 42 members, including writers and editors. I have jokingly referred to George Bozeka as the PFRA's Editor-in-Residence because of the work he does to produce the books in the series. The Bills book is expected to be published by McFarland & Company, Publishers, in early 2025.

The PFRA is growing. The key to growth is an active membership. The numbers say that we have that. To steal a line from George Allen, 509 members, pulling together, can't be stopped!

Listen Up with Ray Ellis!

After a brief holiday hiatus, a new episode of The Official PFRA Podcast is now available. Episode 12 has Jon Bozeka and George Bozeka interview former Ohio State, Philadelphia Eagles and Cleveland Browns defensive back Ray Ellis. In a wide ranging interview, Ray discusses growing up in Canton, Ohio, his high school (at Canton McKinley), college and professional playing career, his life after football,

and the legendary coaches he played for in both college and the pros including Woody Hayes, Pete Carroll, Nick Saban, Marty Schottenheimer, and Dick Vermeil. He also discusses facing John Elway and the Denver Broncos in the 1986 AFC Championship Game that ended with "The Drive." Listen to this and all episodes here at The Official PFRA Podcast — theofficialpfrapodcast.sportshistorynetwork.com — part of the Sports History Network, or anywhere you listen to your favorite podcast.

Born in Canton within walking distance of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, George is the current president of the PFRA.

Jon has been a radio broadcaster in the Canton, Ohio area since 2014. He has been involved in every facet of radio sports coverage including play-by-play and color commentary for local high school and college football broadcasts. He is also a stringer for CBS Radio's Eye on Sports show covering all Cleveland Browns Sunday home games.



Now Playing on the PFRA Playlist

NEWLY RELEASED!



EPISODE 12: Ray Ellis

Former Philadelphia Eagles
and Cleveland Browns Safety

All episodes are
streaming now at
theofficialpfrapodcast.
sportshistorynetwork.com



EPISODE 11:
Lee Elder and Mike Richman
George Allen Biographers



EPISODE 10:
Scott Ferguson Greene
Triangle Park Associate Producer



EPISODE 9: **Jeff Nixon**
Former Buffalo Bills Defensive Back



EPISODE 8: **Ed White**
Former Minnesota Vikings and
San Diego Chargers Offensive Lineman



EPISODE 7: **Wayne Fontes**
Former Detroit Lions Head Coach
and 1991 NFL Coach of the Year



EPISODE 6: **Jon Kendle**
Pro Football Hall of Fame Vice President of
Archives, Education and Football Information



EPISODE 5: **Blake Moore**
Former Cincinnati Bengals and
Green Bay Packers Offensive Lineman



EPISODE 4: **Scot Maynard**
Former CFL Assistant Coach and son
of Pro Football Hall of Famer Don Maynard



EPISODE 3: **Gregg Ficery**
Author of *Gridiron Legacy:*
Pro Football's Missing Origin Story



EPISODE 2: **Denis Crawford**
College Football Hall of Fame
Historian & Exhibit Designer



EPISODE 1: **Mark Miller**
Former Cleveland Browns and
Green Bay Packers Quarterback

A Note from the Editor-in-Chief

First, an apology for the lateness of this issue—quite the New Year’s Eve hangover! But seriously, we’ve been reorganizing behind the scenes here at *The Coffin Corner* and would like to reach out to our membership for their assistance in putting out the publication you hold in your hands.

Have you ever wondered what it’s like to work at a magazine, especially one that focuses on pro football history? Do you have experience in editing or graphic design, or even marketing? If not, no matter. We can get you up to speed and cranking out issues of your favorite publication in no time. See the ad below for details on how to join our team.



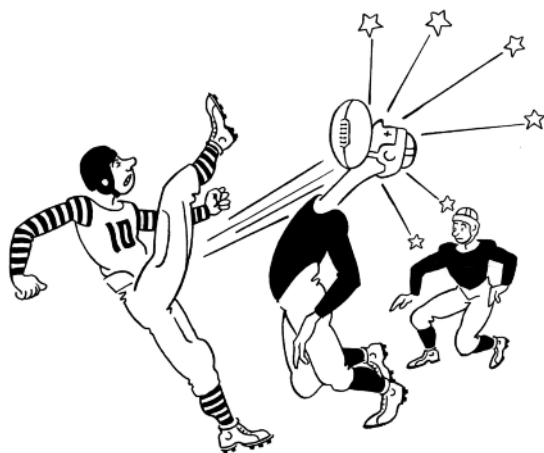
HELP WANTED

The PFRA is currently seeking help in the design, editorial, and marketing departments of *The Coffin Corner*, the magazine you hold in your hands now.

Past design, editorial, or marketing experience is a plus, but not necessary. If interested, please email us at publications@profootballresearchers.org

NOTE: We are a non-profit, positions are volunteer-only.

Don't take it on the chin. Send your renewal in—NOW!



It's never too late to renew your membership.
Don't delay—go to the website today!
<https://profootballresearchers.com/join.html>



The 2023 PFRA AWARD WINNERS

The PFRA's Ralph Hay Award is awarded for lifetime achievement in pro football research and historiography. The 2023 recipient of this award is **Dave Burch**, the current president of the American Football Association (AFA), which is dedicated to the advancement and promotion of semi-pro and minor league football teams and leagues in the United States. Dave is also the current Secretary of the PFRA. He has been the president of the AFA since 2007 and is also active with the AFA Hall of Fame. The AFA and its Hall of Fame's mission is to keep alive the memories of those who have played, coached, officiated and managed at that level of the game.

The PFRA's Nelson Ross Award is awarded annually for achievement in pro football research. The 2023 recipient of this award is **Erin Grayson Sapp** for her book titled *Moving the Chains: The Civil Rights Protest That Saved the Saints and Transformed New Orleans* (LSU Press). The book tells the story of the 1965 All-Star Game walkout and the part it played in the city of New Orleans landing the NFL's expansion Saints.

The PFRA's Bob Carroll Memorial Writing Award is awarded to the best *Coffin Corner* article of the year as determined by the editors. The 2023 recipient of this award is **John Wilke** for his article "Making Headlines: Identifying Pro Football's Earliest Stars (1890–1903)," (Volume 45, Number 3). This is the second time that he has won this award, which is sponsored by St. Johann Press. John will receive a \$100 check, as well as a one-year extension to his membership.

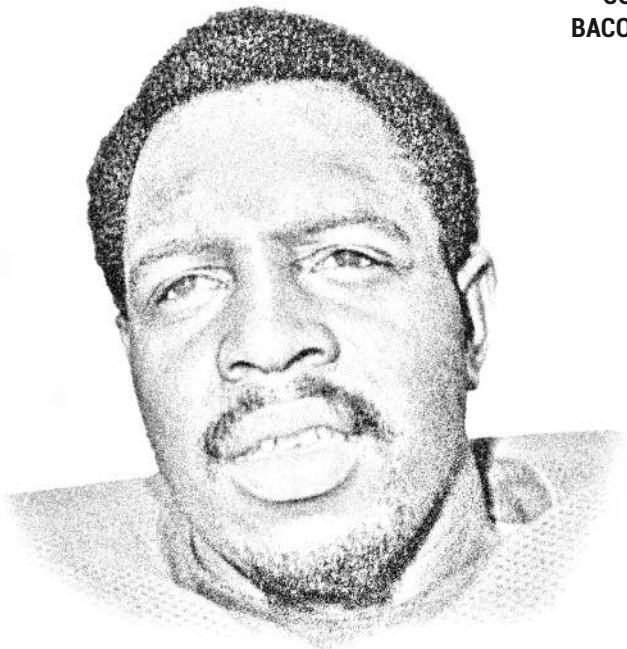
The Jack Clary Award recognizes members who have served behind the scenes and whose efforts are invaluable to the PFRA. The 2023 recipient of this award is **Mark Palczewski**. Mark is the official photographer of the PFRA, a position he has held since 2012, and he has provided his outstanding work to this publication for over a decade. As the PFRA's Social Media Coordinator, he also posts regularly for the PFRA on our social media—Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter).

Congratulations to all the PFRA award winners!

HALL OF VERY GOOD

Class of 2023

**COY
BACON**



COY BACON

POSITION: Defensive End/Tackle

TEAMS: Los Angeles Rams (1968–72), San Diego Chargers (1973–75), Cincinnati Bengals (1976–77), Washington Redskins (1978–1981)

Coy Bacon experienced a career defining moment in 1969 when Rams' teammate Roger Brown went down with a knee injury. He went from backup to starter, a post he never relinquished. Brown, who taught Bacon the tricks of the trade in his early years said, "He's going to be one of the best in the league. He's quick—what you might call like greased lightning."

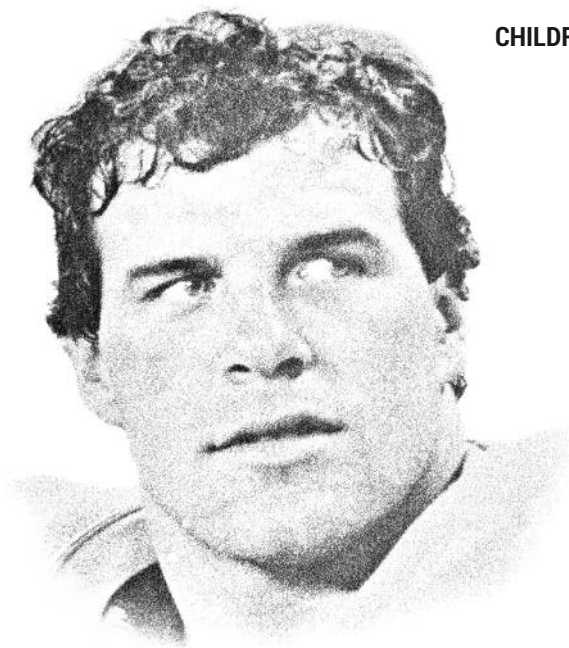
Teaming with the other members of the Rams' Fear-some Foursome—Deacon Jones, Merlin Olsen and Lamar Lundy—Bacon played right tackle and became an extremely feared pass rusher. Former Cincinnati Bengals radio host Dave Lapham said of him, "He was the best pass rusher I ever saw. He always gained ground never wasted any steps. He could make you miss."

Bacon switched to right defensive end in 1970 and spent most of the rest of his career there. He not only garnered the attention of opposing offensive lines, he also

earned accolades. Bacon was a three time (1971, 1972, 1976) second-team all-pro choice by outlets such as the Newspaper Enterprise Association and Pro Football Writers of America, and a consensus first-team all-conference selection in 1976. Bacon earned Pro Bowl honors in 1972, 1976 and 1977. In 1976, he recorded an unofficial 21.5 sacks that led the NFL. In eight of his 14 seasons, Bacon recorded unofficial totals of at least ten sacks per season, for an unofficial career total of 130.5 that ranks in the Top 25 all-time.

Bacon bounced around the league with the Rams, San Diego Chargers, Cincinnati Bengals and Washington Redskins, mostly playing on mediocre teams that made just one combined playoff appearance. He wound up his career in the USFL with the Washington Federals and was inducted into the Black College Football Hall of Fame in 2013.

**RAY
CHILDRESS**



RAY CHILDRESS

POSITION: Defensive Tackle

TEAMS: Houston Oilers (1985–95), Dallas Cowboys (1996)

In 1985, the Houston Oilers drafted Ray Childress, a two-time All-American defensive lineman out of Texas A&M, with the third overall pick in the NFL draft. He made the all-rookie team in 1985 and played 163 games in his NFL career, starting 160. Childress played defensive

end in a 3–4 in his first five years. The Oilers switched to a 4–3 defense in 1990 and the former Aggie moved inside to defensive tackle, where he had his best seasons.

The 6-foot-6, 272-pound Childress had a career-high of 13 sacks in 1992 and had four other seasons of eight or more. His career total of 76.5 sacks ranks second all-time in Oilers/Titans franchise history, behind only Hall of Famer Elvin Bethea.

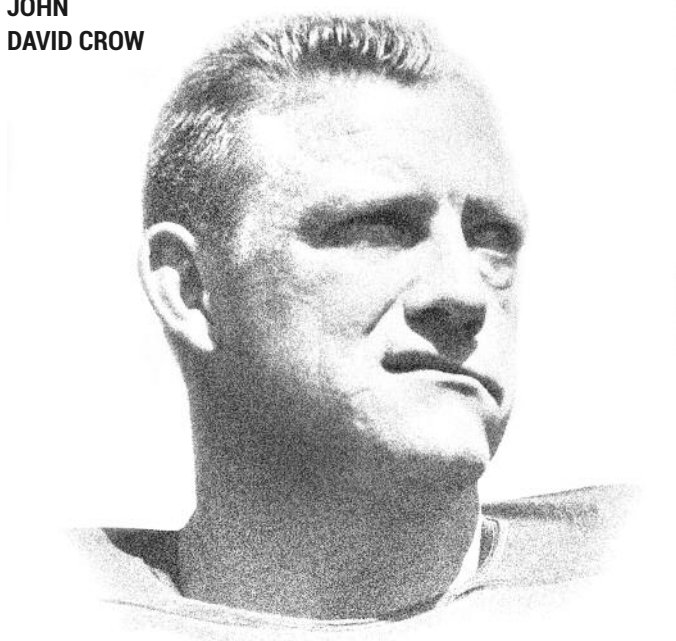
Childress also ranks second in franchise history to Bethea in multi-sack games with 13.

Childress recovered 19 career fumbles including seven in 1988, with three coming against the Washington Redskins on October 30, 1988. The seven opponents' recoveries are tied for third-most in a season in NFL history and the three recoveries versus Washington are tied for the most ever in a single game.

The Oilers made the playoffs seven consecutive times during Childress's peak years (1987–93) while posting a 70–41 (.631) record. The Oilers had one of the best defenses in the NFL for several of those seasons, as they allowed the fewest yards in the AFC in 1992, the fewest points in the AFC in 1993 and the fewest rushing yards in the AFC in 1988 and NFL in 1993.

Childress was first-team all-pro in 1990, 1991 and 1992, with 1992 being a consensus selection. Additionally, he was second-team all-pro in 1988, 1989 and 1993. Childress was selected to play in the Pro Bowl five times and was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 2010.

**JOHN
DAVID CROW**



JOHN DAVID CROW

POSITION: Running Back/Tight End

TEAMS: Chicago/St. Louis Cardinals (1958–64),
San Francisco 49ers (1965–68)

John David Crow of Texas A&M University, winner of the Heisman Trophy in 1957, was drafted second overall by the Chicago Cardinals in 1958. Known for his speed and versatility, Crow played halfback, tight end and defensive back while also returning kickoffs and punts in 11 NFL seasons. After an injury-plagued rookie year, he bounced back to rank in the top 10 in the NFL in both rushing yards and all-purpose yards in 1959.

Crow's best season was 1960 when he led the NFL with 1,533 yards from scrimmage that included a third-best 1,071 rushing yards. He rushed for 203 yards in a victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers that year, and his 5.9 yards per carry was also the best in the NFL. Crow was named second team all-pro for the first of three times in his career. He was second in the NFL in rushing touchdowns in 1962 with 14, four of which came in a victory over the Philadelphia Eagles.

Traded to the 49ers, Crow was an integral part of San Francisco's league leading offense in 1965 with 1,007 yards from scrimmage (514 rushing, 493 receiving). He was named to the Pro Bowl that year for the fourth time. Moved to tight end in his final season, Crow remained productive with 31 receptions good for 531 yards and a stellar 17.1 average. With the 49ers, he twice won the team's prestigious Len Eshmont Award for courageous and inspirational play.

Crow was named to the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 1960s. He was inducted into the Texas A&M Hall of Fame in 1968 and the College Football Hall of Fame in 1976. When the legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant, Crow's head coach at Texas A&M, retired in 1982, he said of Crow that "he was the finest player I ever coached."

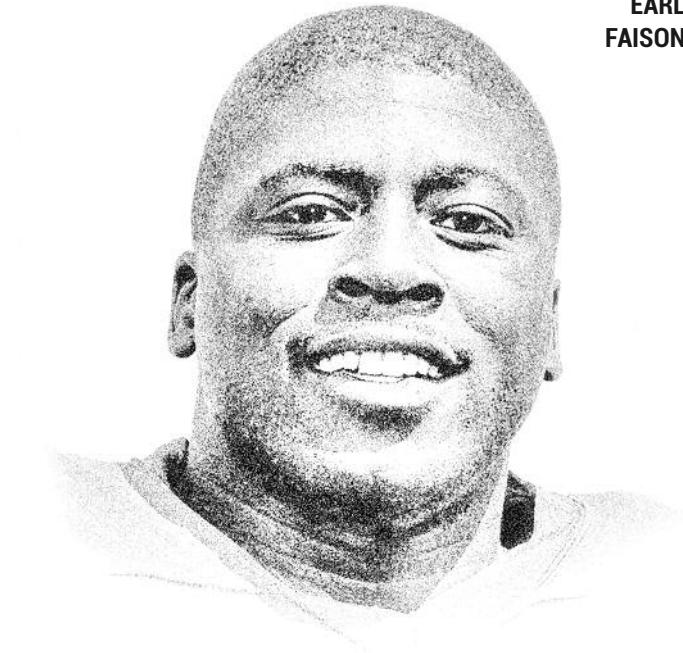
EARL FAISON

POSITION: Defensive End

TEAMS: San Diego Chargers (1961–66), Miami Dolphins (1966)

A three-year letterman at Indiana University, end Earl Faison led the Hoosiers in receiving in both 1958 and 1960 and was All-Big Ten in 1960. In the 1961 pro football drafts, he was selected by the Detroit

**EARL
FAISON**



Lions in the NFL and the San Diego Chargers in the AFL. Faison signed with the Chargers and became an immediate starter as a defensive end.

Faison was the consensus AFL Rookie of the Year and a consensus all-AFL pick in 1961. The Chargers led the league in fewest points allowed twice, fewest yards allowed twice, fewest rushing yards allowed once and fewest passing yards allowed three times during his career. With Faison, San Diego played in four AFL Championship Games including a decisive victory in 1963 over the Boston Patriots.

Faison was at the forefront of the fight for African-American players to receive equal treatment. He helped lead a boycott of the 1965 AFL All-Star game scheduled in New Orleans over racial discrimination Black players faced throughout the city before the game. The game was moved to Houston.

In a career shortened to six seasons because of a back injury, the 6-5, 270-pound Faison was first team all-AFL four times, second team all-AFL once and participated in five AFL All-Star games including 1962 when he was named the game's Defensive MVP. Chargers coach Sid Gillman said, "He was tremendous on the pass rush and strong on the run...at his best, he's the absolute best in the league....He's quick, strong, intelligent and he hits."

Faison was inducted into the Indiana University Hall of Fame, the Chargers Ring of Honor and is enshrined in the San Diego Hall of Champions. After his NFL career, he did some movie acting and was a coach and educator in the San Diego area.

LEON GRAY

POSITION: Offensive Guard/Tackle

TEAMS: New England Patriots (1973-78),
Houston Oilers (1979-81), New Orleans Saints (1982-83)

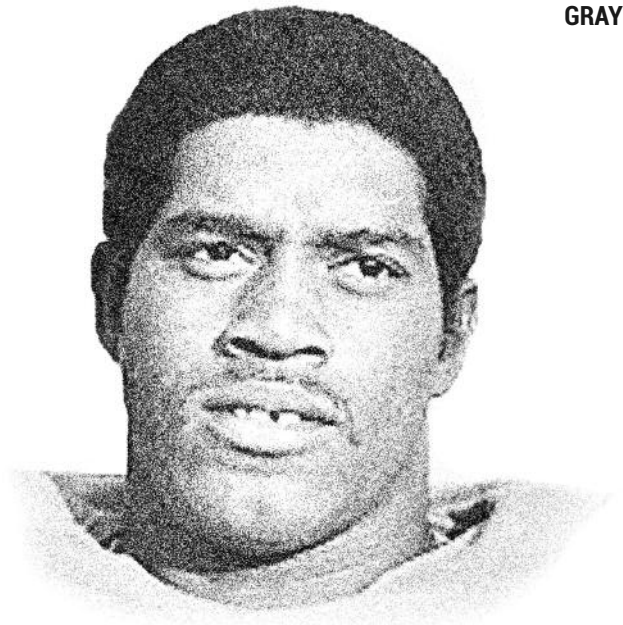
Drafted in 1973 by a Super Bowl champion Miami team loaded with offensive line talent, Leon Gray was cut by the Dolphins and signed by the New England Patriots. By 1976, he was one of the best tackles in the NFL and the Patriots were an 11-3 playoff team. For several seasons, Gray and Hall of Famer John Hannah were an outstanding left side tackle-guard tandem.

Gray's excellent run-blocking helped the Patriots rush for 3,165 yards in 1978, an NFL record until 2019. That was the first of three consecutive seasons he was a consensus first team all-pro. He had been second team all-conference in 1976 and 1977. His 1977 honors came despite the fact he played only 11 games after a two-man holdout with Hannah. The Patriots just missed the playoffs that year after going 1-2 in Gray and Hannah's absence, then rebounded to win the AFC East in 1978 with an 11-5 record.

Gray was traded to the Houston Oilers in 1979 after more contentious contract negotiations. It was a controversial move opposed by, among others, Patriots' head coach Ron Erhardt and Hannah who said, "We just traded away our Super Bowl."

Gray remained an elite player for Houston as the Oilers advanced to the AFC Championship Game in 1979 off

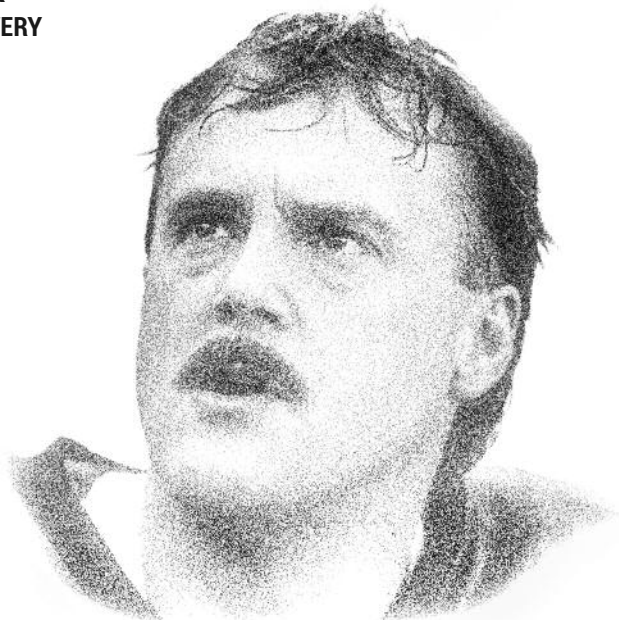
**LEON
GRAY**



an 11–5 record followed by another 11–5 season in 1980 that ended with a Wildcard Game loss to the Oakland Raiders. He helped Earl Campbell win rushing titles in 1979 and 1980, the latter year with 1,934 yards that at the time was the second highest total in NFL history.

Gray was named to the Pro Bowl for the fourth time in 1981. He played his final two seasons with the New Orleans Saints. Gray was inducted into the Patriots Hall of Fame in 2019.

NICK LOWERY



NICK LOWERY

POSITION: Kicker

TEAMS: New England Patriots (1978),
Kansas City Chiefs (1980–93), New York Jets (1994–1996)

Nick Lowery may be the most overlooked great placekicker in pro football history. That is partly because he was the immediate successor to Hall of Famer Jan Stenerud when he joined the Kansas City Chiefs. After being cut 11 times by eight teams and playing only briefly for the New England Patriots, Lowery beat out his idol Stenerud for the Chiefs' job in 1980.

Consistent and outstanding from long range, Lowery ranked first in both career field goals (329) and field goal percentage (.800) at the time of his retirement. His teams won only one division title and made the playoffs only five times in his 18 seasons, and generally weak offenses held down his field goal attempts. In one of those playoff seasons, Lowery made 34 of 37 field goal attempts good for 91.9% and 139 points in 1990, leading the NFL in all

four categories. He was a first team selection on every major all-pro team that year.

In addition to his 1990 honors, Lowery was an NEA first team selection in 1981 and a consensus first team all-pro in 1985. He was especially highly regarded by NFL scouts who selected him first team all-pro seven times (1981–83, 1985–86, 1990, 1992).

Lowery's long-term success is all the more impressive because he played his home games in outdoor stadiums in cold weather cities in every one of his 18 seasons. By contrast, Morten Andersen, Lowery's contemporary and the only other placekicking specialist in the Hall of Fame besides Stenerud, played his home games in domes in 22 of his 25 seasons.

In the Adjusted Points Above League analytical system published in 2021 by football statistics maven Rupert Patrick, Lowery ranked as football's best ever kicker for a career. He was inducted into the Chiefs Hall of Fame in 2009.

MICHAEL DEAN PERRY

POSITION: Defensive End/Tackle

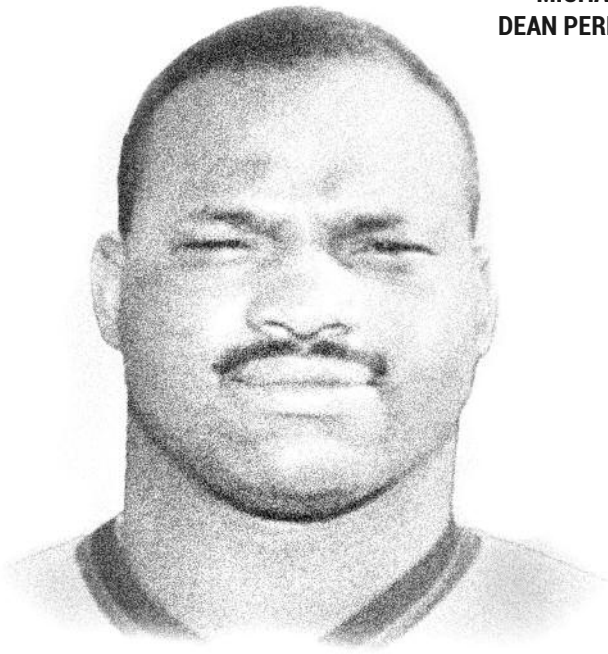
TEAMS: Cleveland Browns (1988–94),
Denver Broncos (1995–97), Kansas City Chiefs (1997)

Michael Dean Perry was selected in the second round of the 1988 NFL draft by the Cleveland Browns after being named Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year as a senior at Clemson University. He made an immediate impact and was named to all the major all-rookie teams as a defensive end.

After being moved to tackle in 1989, Perry thrived in both the 4-3 defense and at nose tackle in the 3-4. He was such a pillar of strength that he often confronted double- and even triple-team blocking. In his second season, Perry was first team on every all-pro team and was named AFC Defensive Player of the Year by the UPI. He finished second in a vote of NFL players for AFC Defensive Lineman of the Year in 1991.

Stuffs—any tackle for a loss besides a sack—underscore Perry's status as an elite player. According to football historians/researchers John Turney and Nick Webster, Perry ranked in the top six in the NFL in stuffs four times, and Turney estimates that Perry had the most stuffs of all players during the ten years of his career. His 14 stuffs in 1993 are more than the best seasons of contemporary Hall of Fame tackles Warren Sapp, John

**MICHAEL
DEAN PERRY**



Randle, Cortez Kennedy and Bryant Young, as well as Aaron Donald. Turney calls Perry's total of 23 tackles behind the line of scrimmage (11.5 sacks and 11.5 stuffs) in 1990 "Aaron Donald-type numbers."

Perry earned extensive all-pro honors during his career. Most impressive are his five consecutive years as a *Sporting News* First Team All-Pro (1989–93), as that team is based on a vote of NFL players. Perry was named to the Pro Bowl six times and was a member of the first class inducted into the Cleveland Browns Legends in 2001.

**BUCK
SHAW**



BUCK SHAW

POSITION: Head Coach

TEAMS: San Francisco 49ers (1946–54),
Philadelphia Eagles (1958–60)

After a collegiate playing career at Notre Dame where he was an All-American tackle/place-kicker under Knute Rockne, Buck Shaw entered the coaching ranks in 1924 at the age of 25. As the head coach of previously unheralded Santa Clara, he led the Broncos to five top 10 rankings in seven seasons and Sugar Bowl victories in 1936 and 1937. In 1946, he took the head job of the San Francisco 49ers in the inaugural season of the All-America Football Conference.

In the four seasons of the AAFC, Shaw guided the 49ers to a 38–14–2 record (.731) but they could do no better than four second place finishes behind the powerhouse Cleveland Browns, including a 21–7 loss to Cleveland in the 1949 AAFC Championship Game. Behind Frankie Albert, Joe Perry, Bruno Banducci and Alyn Beals, Shaw's 49ers were an offensive juggernaut in 1948 and 1949 when they averaged a combined 35 points and 406 yards per game.

After a poor first season in the NFL in 1950 following the AAFC-NFL merger, the 49ers were contenders the next four years. They were in contention for first place entering the final day in 1951 and 1953, only to finish second both times. Offense remained San Francisco's trademark and Shaw coached outstanding players of the era like Perry, Y. A. Tittle, Gordy Soltau, Billy Wilson, Bob St. Clair, Hugh McElhenny and Leo Nomellini.

Shaw was fired after nine seasons and returned to the NFL as head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles in 1958. He led Philadelphia to the 1960 NFL championship as the Eagles handed the Green Bay Packers their only playoff defeat of the Vince Lombardi era. Shaw retired with a pro record of 90–55–5 (.621) and a reputation as one of the most gentlemanly and well-liked coaches to ever grace a sideline.

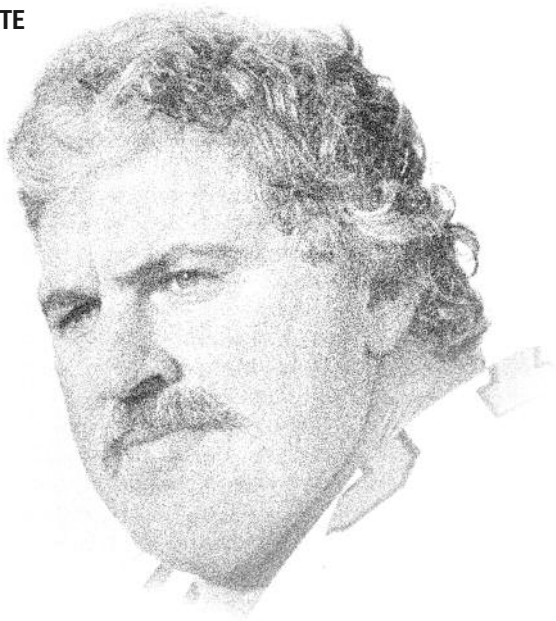
JEFF VAN NOTE

POSITION: Center

TEAM: Atlanta Falcons (1969–86)

Over the first two decades of their existence, the Atlanta Falcons lacked consistency. They endured 13 losing seasons, six head coaching changes

**JEFF
VAN NOTE**



and only three playoff berths. There was one constant for most of that time, however: Jeff Van Note.

Drafted as a linebacker in 1969, Van Note was converted to center by head coach Norm Van Brocklin. He played in 246 games (second most in Falcons history) and his 18 seasons with one franchise is the second most in NFL history. Van Note was routinely responsible for blocking some of the game's greatest defenders like Dick

Butkus, Joe Greene and Willie Lanier, and consistently excelled against such competition. On his longevity, Van Note said, "I didn't know anything but that I loved to play."

Missing just four games during his career, Van Note was selected to six Pro Bowls (1974-75, 1979-82) including four when he was 33 and older. He was twice named Second Team All-Pro (1979, 1982) by the Associated Press and was a first-team all-conference selection in 1980 by Pro Football Weekly and the UPI. The 1980 season was special to Van Note, as the Falcons won their first division title. In the playoffs against the Cowboys, Atlanta led by 10 with less than seven minutes remaining, but lost, 30-27. Of that team, Van Note said, "I had always played against the best. For once I was part of the best. We had a great offense."

Van Note was also a part of playoff teams in 1978 and 1982. His number 57 was retired in his final home game in 1986 and 20 years later, he was inducted into the Falcons Ring of Honor. He worked for the team as its color commentator in the 1990s and was inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 1999.

**The Hall of Very Good biographies were written by
Matthew Keddie, Andy Piascik, Jay Thomas and John Turney.
The photo-illustrations are by Mark Durr.**

HALL OF VERY GOOD CLASS OF 2024 DEADLINE



**Deadline for nominations
is June 30, 2024**

Below are the vote totals for the 20 finalists for the 2023 Class of the Hall of Very Good (**BOLD CAPS** are the inductees). As you can see, all the inductees each received more than 100 votes!

JOHN DAVID CROW	115	Steve Tasker	97
MICHAEL DEAN PERRY	110	Houston Antwine	93
RAY CHILDRESS	109	Les Bingaman	90
COY BACON	107	Russ Washington	88
NICK LOWERY	104	Herschel Walker	87
LEON GRAY	103	George Christensen	78
BUCK SHAW	103	Buster Ramsey	77
EARL FAISON	102	Peggy Parratt	54
JEFF VAN NOTE	101	Buckets Goldenberg	53
Marvin Powell	97	Alyn Beals	42

**Please send your list of five nominations for the 2024 HoVG class to:
ANDY PIASCIK, 25 Cartright Street, PH-C Bridgeport, CT 06604
Or email him at: andypiascik@yahoo.com**

Michael Dean Perry

Twenty Questions with the Newly Inducted Hall of Very Good Member



G. NEWMAN LOWRANCE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cleveland Browns defensive tackle Michael Dean Perry looks on as the rain comes down in a game against the Kansas City Chiefs on November 20, 1994, at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri.

Barry Shuck

In the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, all of the defensive tackles inducted have a maximum of five Pro Bowl appearances. Former Cleveland Browns player Michael Dean Perry has six. Yet, he has never appeared on a Hall of Fame ballot. Perry was recently inducted into the PFRA's Hall of Very Good. This Hall represents players who had outstanding careers,

but for one reason or another have not attracted the attention of the Pro Football Hall Of Fame voters.

Yet.

Twenty-eight individuals inducted into the Hall of Very Good eventually made it to the Hall of Fame in Canton. Clay Matthews was inducted into the Hall of Very Good in last year's class. Both Matthews and Perry have the credentials to be considered for Hall of Fame status. The big question is: Why aren't they on the ballot?



CLEMSON UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

William "Refrigerator" Perry (left) and his younger brother, Michael, anchored the defensive line together at Clemson in 1984.

Perry was drafted by Cleveland in 1988 in the second round. He had been a beast while at Clemson University and the Browns were looking for run-stoppers under head coach Marty Schottenheimer.

In just his second year (1989), Perry was named AFC Defensive Player of the Year and a First-Team All Pro selection. He was also named First-Team or Second-Team All Pro in 1990, 1991, and 1994, plus named to the Pro Bowl six times (1989–91, 1993–1994, and 1996) during his 10-year NFL career.

He played for the Browns from 1988–1994, then finished out his career with the Denver Broncos and Kansas

City Chiefs. For his NFL career, Perry had 127 starts (in 148 games), 565 total tackles, 61 sacks, 13 forced fumbles, eight fumble recoveries, and one touchdown. In his first season with Denver in 1995, Perry played in 14 of 16 games and had 39 total tackles, six sacks, and one forced fumble. He was voted Second Team All-AFC Conference as the Broncos won their division the following year.

On his very first college play, he scooped up a fumble and scored a touchdown. While at Clemson, Perry recorded a school-record 61 career tackles for loss. His college stats include 32 starts, 239 total tackles, 61 tackles for loss, and 28 sacks. His tackles for loss are still tied for

second most in Clemson history.

During his senior year, he helped the Tigers to a second straight ACC championship with a 10–2–0 record. He was a finalist for the Outland Trophy, given to the top lineman in the nation.

Perry was also named 1987 ACC Player-of-the-Year, one of just three Clemson Tigers defensive players to ever win the award. He was named team MVP on defense as well. At the end of his career, Perry was named to the Tigers' centennial team in 2000 and was inducted into the Clemson Hall of Fame the same year. In 2002, Perry was named to the 50th Anniversary All-ACC Team, a tremendous honor.

In 2013, Clemson Head Coach Dabo Sweeney chose him as the recipient of the Brian Dawkins Lifetime Achievement Award. Perry was later inducted into the South Carolina Football Hall of Fame in 2016.

Perry was also named to the inaugural class of Cleve-

land Browns Legends in 2001. This program honors the men who have contributed to the success of the Browns organization. That initial class included Ray Renfro, Greg Pruitt, Gene Hickerson, Bernie Kosar, and Perry.

In a list compiled of the greatest Browns players to ever don the brown and orange, Perry was listed at 24.

While with Cleveland, he had a sandwich named after him at McDonald's called the "MDP" which was only available in the Metro-Cleveland area. At the time, it became the largest sandwich ever offered at any McDonald's restaurant. It consisted of the same ingredients as a double cheeseburger with the addition of bacon plus another all-beef patty. How many athletes can say that a national chain named a sandwich after them?

The native of Aiken, South Carolina, Perry was a basketball and football standout at South Aiken High School. Wofford, South Carolina, Clemson, and The Citadel all had an interest in Perry playing college basketball for

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Michael Dean Perry

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WEIGHT BEFORE COOKING

McDONALD'S CORPORATION

A 1991 display advertisement for the MDP Burger that sat on top of cash registers in Cleveland-area McDonald's restaurants.

them. But an unfortunate accident took away all but three games for him during his senior season, and most schools had dropped interest.

This paved the way for him to pursue football at the college level instead.

Perry and his wife currently live in Charlotte, North Carolina.

I recently caught up with Michael Dean Perry to ask him 20 questions, with an emphasis on his Browns career, and find out his thoughts about being inducted into the PFRA's Hall of Very Good, if he went to Clemson just to beat his brother William the Refrigerator Perry's records, and why he retired so early from the game.

SHUCK: It was just announced that you were elected to the Hall of Very Good presented annually by the Professional Football Researchers Association. Just wanted to get your response.

PERRY: To be selected for this individually is an honor, no doubt about it. To be recognized for my play is humbling.

SHUCK: Linebacker Clay Matthews was just added to the "Browns Ring of Honor." A few years ago, he was elected to the Hall of Very Good. Can you see yourself following Clay and one day seeing your name added to the Ring at some point?

PERRY: From what I understand, that distinction is only for players who have made the Pro Football Hall of Fame. But my former teammate Clay is included, so I am ecstatic and happy to see him be inducted and maybe that will open a few doors. Clay was an outstanding player and person as well.

SHUCK: You had some great years in Cleveland. 1990 really stands out with 107 tackles and 11.5 sacks. Was it the fact that this was your third year and you finally figured out the offensive line at this level?

PERRY: I don't know if that was the case. I think I would contribute that to was coach Bud Carson. I started getting familiarized with his system and realized that I could play at this level, especially with the scheme that I was in. He had me at cock nose where you line up a little on a slant on the center. That was probably the catalyst in me.

SHUCK: You made six Pro Bowls. Your first one in

your second year, how did you find out that you had been selected? Who was the first person you told?

PERRY: A reporter told me and wanted a quote. I called my then-now-ex-wife.

SHUCK: What was your first Browns training camp like?

PERRY: Long and hard. It was Marty Schottenheimer. Totally different than what these players experience now. My first pass-rushing drills I beat an experienced guard and thought this wasn't as bad as I thought. But I found out that all these guys are talented. Everybody is gifted. And the guys who work harder on their particular skill set become much better professionals. And everything the veterans did to us rookies was out of love I am sure. You just go with the flow.

SHUCK: What are the challenges of playing defensive tackle?

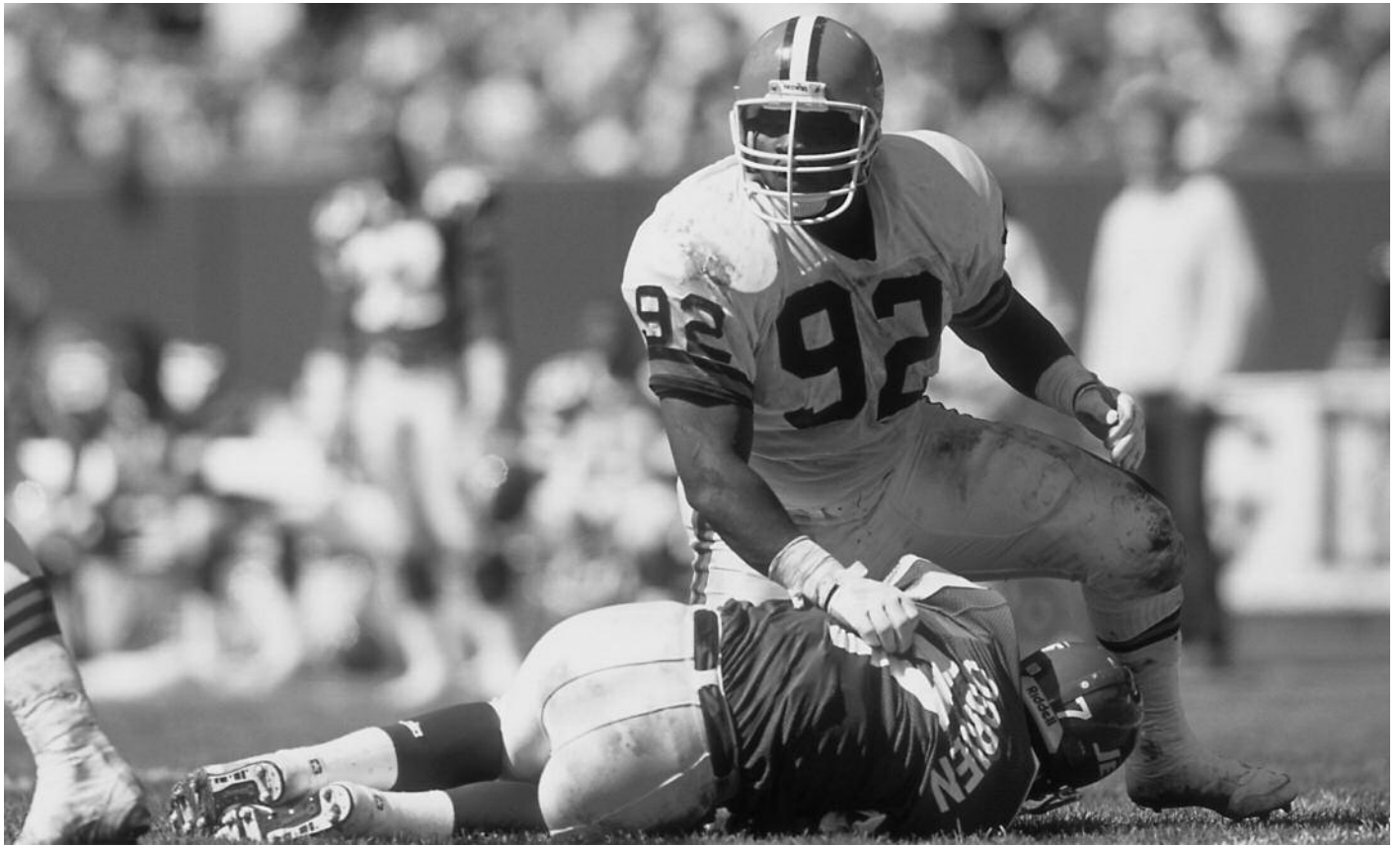
PERRY: I have been playing that all my life. There wasn't anything that new with the position. I played defensive end and they moved me inside in college. Basically, what solidified me was that I could be a pass rusher on the inside to a 3-technique outside. That's when I excelled. The toughest part about playing defensive tackle is the bodies that you attract. That's just wear and tear on the body. If you are having a good game, you are going to get double-teamed every time.

SHUCK: You were projected to go low first-round yet was taken in the second round. After you were drafted, did this give you a chip on your shoulder?

PERRY: Not only in the second round but the last pick in the second round. And yeah, it did. When scouts came to work me out at Clemson, a lot of them were saying that I would be a first-rounder. And being scouts, they know. When that didn't happen after the first round, I went okay. I was a little teed off. After the first round was over, I quit watching it. I got myself together and waited for that call from the Browns which was Marty Schottenheimer and general manager Ernie Accorsi. It was over, I was ecstatic and made the most of it.

SHUCK: Your first sack was against the New York Jets. What happened in that play?

PERRY: We had played Pittsburgh the week before and I had a few tackles for loss of course trying to get that



Cleveland Browns defensive tackle Michael Dean Perry (92) sacks New York Jets quarterback Ken O'Brien on September 17, 1989, during a game at Cleveland Municipal Stadium in Cleveland, Ohio.

first sack. The next week against the Jets at home I was able to penetrate and get to their quarterback (Ken) O'Brien. I jumped up and was happy, but I never had any expectations of what that would feel like. I just wanted to contribute and do my very best each week.

SHUCK: You were quick off the snap and had great speed up the field. What skills did you work on?

PERRY: Probably recognition, and I got a taste of that. Analyzing defensive plays and formations was the biggest thing. I could always work on a skill set. What I worked on was, yes I was quick, but the biggest pass rush moves I was able to do when I was playing. I had to work on those because it did not come naturally. Moves like the spin move I was able to add to my repertoire of moves and become reactionary.

SHUCK: Did you play much as a rookie?

PERRY: Not at first. But towards the middle of that first season towards the latter part, I played a lot. Schottenheimer went to a Bear defense which is a 4-3. On passing downs, I was lined up at defensive end. I was the

Eagle tackle (3-technique tackle) and got some good playing time. That is how I got my start as a pass rusher.

SHUCK: What can you tell us about the old Municipal Stadium?

PERRY: That is the word: old. Old and dirty. There wasn't much to it. As a rookie, I was first in the Penthouse in the Indians locker room where I was hanging my things on nails. Oh yeah, I experienced that. The stadium reminded me of old and industrial.

SHUCK: During your time you only had 16 games. Doesn't adding games to the schedule work against your body?

PERRY: Of course it does, but you have to look at the perspective that you cut out one preseason game. That just swapped for one regular season game. So, it's not a major difference and the only reason I say that is because training camp is not so demanding now as when I played. Times change.

SHUCK: You grew up a Southern kid eating cheese

grits, boiled peanuts, drinking sweet tea, eating collards, and every meat is fried. What were your thoughts when you found out that you were drafted by a cold weather environment like Cleveland?

PERRY: I knew absolutely nothing about Ohio. I didn't realize that until I got to Cleveland and how bad the weather was as far as temperature. I got a big taste of it that fall in my rookie year. It was like oh my god. This is unbelievable. I had played in cold weather games before, but this was completely different coming off Lake Erie. I was acclimated to the heat and not the cold. The transition wasn't as easy as I thought it was going to be.

SHUCK: You were one of 12 children. If you could beat your older brothers in anything competitive, did you believe you could beat anyone?

PERRY: Absolutely. That's the way it was being the youngest to 11 older siblings and more specifically seven brothers. I heard Michael Jordan say the same thing when he finally could beat his older brothers, he felt he had finally arrived. That's in board games, cards, ping pong, swimming, baseball, diving, you name it. You had to follow in your brother's footsteps if you didn't want to be called names. And being the youngest you always had to prove yourself.

SHUCK: You were an excellent basketball player in high school as well and excelled on the Browns basketball off-season team. How did you decide to play football instead of basketball?

PERRY: When I started going wide instead of up, I knew my options were limited. My first love was basketball. I had broken my ankle dunking a volleyball in a practice. So now I am injured and a lot of schools who were looking at me for basketball backed off. I didn't play but 2-3 games my senior basketball season. But I could handle the rock and I could shoot it.

SHUCK: What interested you in going to Clemson?

PERRY: I had gone to a summer camp at Clemson. The area has the greatest fans. It's always nice coming back to Tiger Town and the area. It would have been to play for a Clemson team with the offense that the Tigers have now although Danny Ford was a great coach. Howard's Rock has strange powers. When you rub it and run down the Hill, your adrenaline flows. It is the most emotional experience I have ever had.

SHUCK: You and your brother William "The Fridge" made it to the NFL. William played ahead of you at Clemson. Were you being compared to him?

PERRY: It did bother me at first when I got to Clemson. My brother was a great player there. But it kind of died down when I started playing well. I had to find my own opportunity. I couldn't eat one large mass of food at one time like he could, but I got my share. Some called me Little Fridge when he became famous with the Bears. I wasn't there to break his records, but I did learn from him. I was just playing and doing what I did best. I have great memories in Clemson.

SHUCK: Eventually Cleveland's salary cap situation became bad and you signed with Denver. What was this new team like?

PERRY: Bill (Belichick) was now the head coach and it did not look like they could keep me. My time in Cleveland looked like it was up. (Mike) Shanahan was with the Broncos and they were going in a different direction and was a good fit for me.

SHUCK: After you hung up your cleats, several NFL clubs such as the New York Football Giants wanted to sign you for their defenses. Why did you feel that your time had come to an end?

PERRY: I began to ask myself would I rather have wealth or health? Just playing where I did will make a body eventually break down. I didn't want to be a cripple eventually. I just wanted to preserve as much of my body as I possibly could. Did I retire too early? Maybe. I could have played for a few more years. I didn't want to put my body through a traumatic experience, so that's what I elected to do.

SHUCK: What is your fondest moment of being a Cleveland Brown?

PERRY: Cleveland was a great place to play. The fans were tremendous and very loyal to their team. I played there in a time before free agency so the fans would see you every season. So, we had some core guys that you could depend on each season and had a nice relationship with them. That was a great time in my life.

BARRY SHUCK is a pro football historical writer and a staff writer for *DawgsByNature.com*, a Cleveland Browns community on SB Nation. He resides in Pensacola, Florida.

Catching the Buzz!

An Electric Game of Our Own



If you are a football fan of a certain age, born during the "Baby Boomer" years of 1946 to 1964 or grew up in the post-Boomer years, you most likely played or were aware of the Electric Football game.

JOHN POLLARD/RICHMOND MAGAZINE

An Electric Football demonstration of Houston and Washington player figures at the ADA Gallery in Richmond, Virginia, in 2015.

Chris LeMay —————

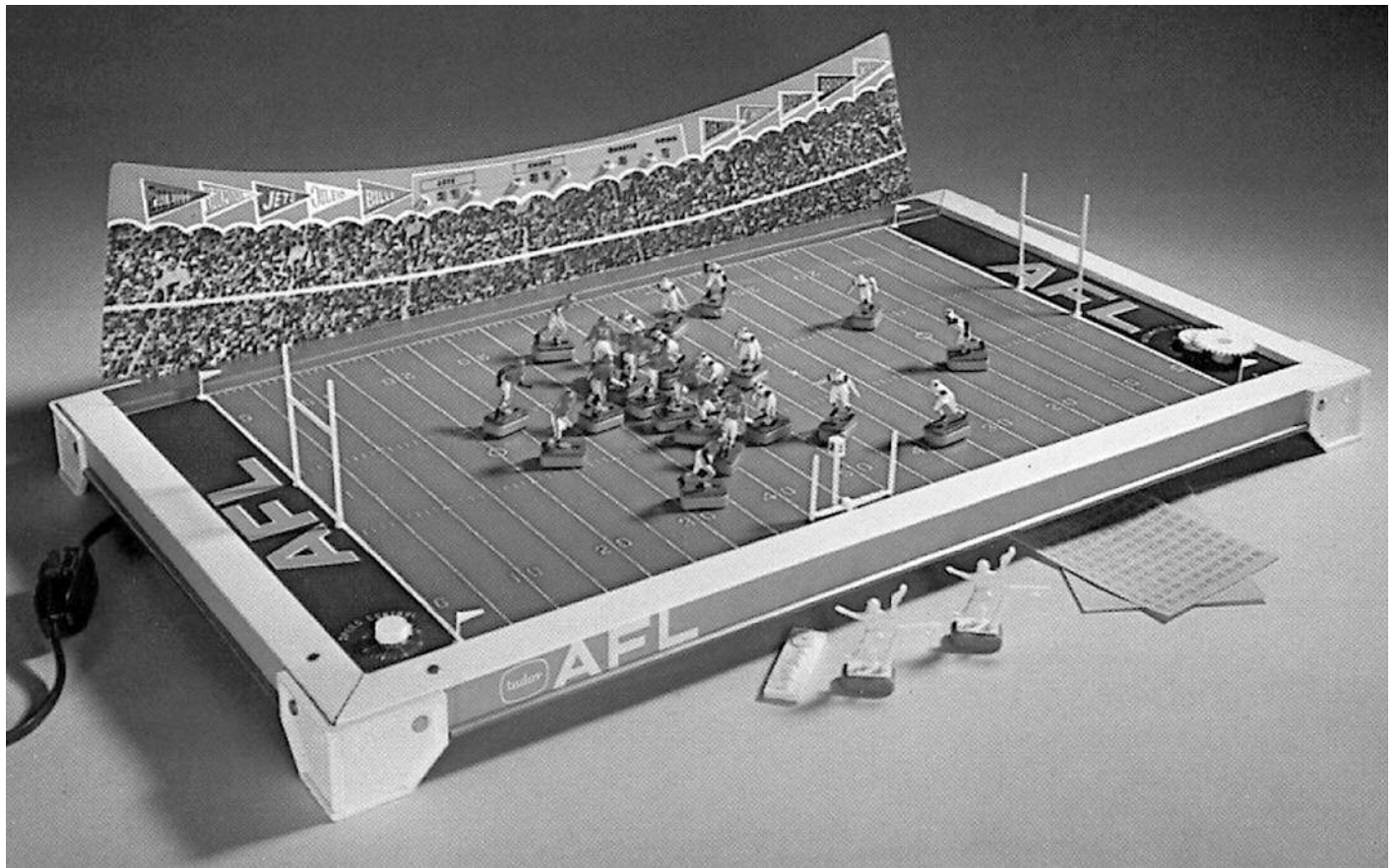
Electric Football is a tabletop game of miniature football, played out on a vibrating metal or fiberboard miniature football "field"—a game board with two teams of miniature football "players." The players could actually "BLOCK AND TACKLE," "RUN PLAYS FROM ANY FORMATION," with a ball that can be "KICKED OR PASSED," as the advertising copy exclaimed.

Electric Football was invented in 1948 by then Owner/President of Tudor Metal Products Corporation, Norman Sas. He was the son of the original owner, Elmer Sas, a Navy veteran, and a recent graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The Tudor corporation was founded in 1928 and,

prior to the invention of Electric Football, was a pre-World War II toy and game manufacturer whose primary products were the "Home Budget Bank," harmonicas, and xylophones, all made of stamped metal. One other product that they sold was an Electric Horse Race game that had evolved from Tudor's 1937 Electric Auto Race game based on the patent for a "Vibrating Propelling Device." This was the technology used to create the game of Electric Football.

The original "players" were two-dimensional metal stamped figures in one pose—a crouching lineman—that was typical of the stance taken by real football players of that time, before a play began. As the game became more popular with the emergence of pro football and the NFL as America's new favorite pastime (replacing baseball of



TUDOR GAMES

The 1968 Tudor AFL Electric Football Model 520 featuring the New York Jets and the Kansas City Chiefs player figures.

the first half of the 20th century, which had held that title), the players began to take on more realistic poses with the development of better plastics and molding technologies, leading to the creation of Tudor's three-dimensional sculpted action "Deluxe" figures in 1967.

The "Game Changer" came in 1967 when, for the first time, and with a license from NFL Properties, Tudor came out with their line of "NFL ELECTRIC FOOTBALL" games, teams, and player figures. This allowed Sas to utilize team colors and put numbers on the backs of the three-dimensional figures.

"Coaches" (the term typically used to refer to players of the game) could now recreate miniature NFL ELECTRIC FOOTBALL LEAGUES with "An NFL of Our Own." Although the original AFL teams were only available in their dark "home" jersey's, with the AFL/NFL merger in 1966, it wasn't long before all AFL and NFL teams were available in both dark and white jerseys.

When the New York Jets won Super Bowl III over the Baltimore Colts, on January 12, 1969, by a score of 16-7, it became a tradition of the manufacturer of the game to offer NFL Super Bowl Electric Football Games with the

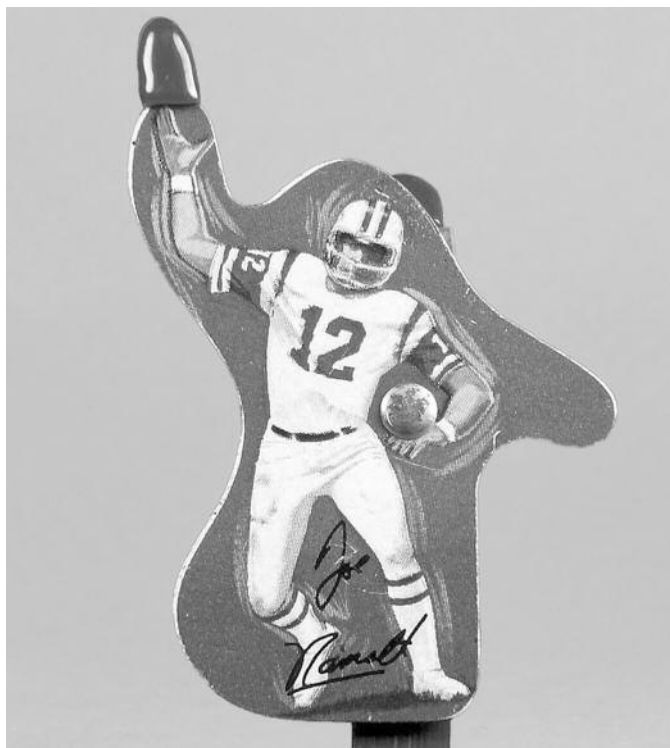
previous year's team participants dressed in the "Official Uniforms" that they wore during that game. This tradition continued up until 2006, when Miggle Toys/Tudor Games (manufacturer of the games from 1993-2011) lost their NFL license. Losing the NFL license severely impacted the sales of electric football games. But with the sale of Miggle Toys to another owner and the re-acquisition of an NFL Properties license under the Tudor Games® brand, in 2014, NFL Electric Football Games were again being sold and continue to be sold today under the leadership of a new owner, Bryan Nutt of Spartanburg, South Carolina. For the first time, the game and brand is in the hands of someone who grew up playing the game during the period of its greatest popularity and as an adult rediscovered the game, even participating in the annual Convention and Super Bowl Tournament of Electric Football put on by Miggle Toys in the late 1990s up to the 2010s.

I received my first game of Electric Football for Christmas in 1970. It was the AFL Electric Football Model 520 made by Tudor with the Jets and Chiefs players. I soon added the Vikings, Dolphins, Raiders, and Colts teams to

create “my own” six-team NFL Electric Football League, playing the game “solitaire” for ten seasons. Solitaire is the form of the game in which one person acts as the coach of both teams on the field simultaneously. One must act as a “referee,” also, trying not to be biased towards one team over the other. This is hard to do, especially when your favorite team is on the field playing against one of their most hated rivals, such as the Jets vs. the Chiefs, the Raiders vs. the Jets, or the Raiders vs. the Chiefs. I kept a complete play-by-play record of every game, compiled stats, and finished each season with a Super Bowl Championship Game and an All-Star Game between the league champions and a roster of the best performing players from the remaining teams to create the All-Star Game roster.

My 11-player rosters for each team were created from the actual real life rosters of these teams during the early 1970s. Players played both ways, so it was kind of weird having quarterbacks Joe Namath, Len Dawson, Johnny Unitas, Daryle Lamonic, Joe Kapp, and Bob Griese also play linebacker on defense and the Purple People Eaters defensive line of the Minnesota Vikings play on the offensive line, along with Mick Tingelhoff at center and middle linebacker, but that is just the way it was in Electric Football. At some point I repainted my white jersey Colts to represent a white jersey Pittsburgh Steelers team that included players Terry Bradshaw (quarterback/linebacker), Franco Harris and Rocky Bleier (running backs/defensive backs), and number “75” “Mean” Joe Greene (defensive tackle/offensive guard). Besides the teams, you could order white and colored stick-on numbers to give each player the actual numbers that they wore during their careers with each respective team. This allowed you to have players like number “16” Joe Montana play for the 1979–1992 San Francisco 49ers and also number “19” Joe Montana play for the 1993–1994 Kansas City Chiefs.

In 1954, Gotham Pressed Steel began to market electric football games and was Tudor’s only competitor for the next 15 years. Gotham was actually the first manufacturer to offer an NFL “Official” National League Electric Football Game with the 1961 version of its game. They were also the first to include scoreboards and stadium crowd backdrops. Their crowning achievement came with the production of the 1965 Gotham “Big Bowl” that had an oddly strange resemblance to New York’s Shea Stadium. In 1969 Gotham came out with “Super Dome” Electric Football. For the remainder of the 1960s,



GOTHAM PRESSED STEEL

The Namath player figure from the 1969 Gotham Joe Namath G-812 Electric Football Game.

though, Tudor and Gotham were the only manufacturers of electric football.

It wasn’t until 1971 when Coleco and, then in 1972, Munro joined the electric football game market. Coleco had National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) licensed games featuring various NFL player graphics adorning their box covers and framing of the games. Munro had a “Joe Namath” Day/Nite Electric Football Game and Gotham had several games endorsed by such NFL stars as “Dick Butkus,” Roman Gabriel” and “Jim Plunkett,” and their iconic “Joe Namath”-endorsed game. Munro even produced a “Canadian Football” edition of the game. This era was the peak of electric football game manufacturing and marketing until finally in 1978 Tudor Games was the only remaining maker and seller of the games.

They remained the only manufacturer of this type of game until 1988 when Norman Sas sold the company to Superior Toys, which in turn was bought out by another company that would wind up going into bankruptcy in early 1991. Tudor was then bought out of bankruptcy at the end of that year by Michael Landsman of Miggle Toys. He re-instated the Tudor Games brand and in 1993 began to manufacture and produce the game until he

sold it to Doug Strohm in 2012, who in turn, sold them recently to Bryan Nutt in 2023.

Later on, as an adult, when I got back into the game and hobby of Electric Football, the first game I got as a 1997 Christmas gift was the Super Bowl XXXI edition of the game with the Packers and Patriots. Of course, the first thing I did was research the starting lineups of the teams and came up with the following 11-player iron man rosters of: Brett Favre and Drew Bledsoe (quarterbacks/linebackers); Edger Bennett, William Henderson, Curtis Martin and Keith Byars (running backs/safeties); Antonio Freeman, Andre Rison, Shawn Jefferson and Terry Glenn (wide receivers/cornerbacks); Mark Chmura and Ben Coates (tight ends/linebackers); Ron Cox and Ted Johnson (centers/middle linebackers); Santana Dotson, Gilbert Brown, Mark Wheeler and Pio Sagapolutele (nose tackles/defensive tackles/offensive guards); and Reggie White, Sean Jones, Ferric Collins and Willie McGinest (offensive tackles/defensive ends). I replayed several games of Super Bowl XXXI with each team winning it at least once but eventually converted my game board to a Tennessee Oilers/Titans "home field" by adding Oilers and Titans bumper stickers to the end zones and the Titans logotype and helmet window clings to the center of the field to create my own unique NFL stadium experience.

Since that time, I have painted and recreated teams of just about all the major professional football league teams such as the WFL, USFL, XFL, WLAF, and NFL Europe/Europa as well as many other defunct professional teams, current and historical college teams, high school teams and, yes, even Arena Football League teams. There is no limit to what you can do with this game of electric football that was invented over 75 years ago. And YES!!—it is still alive and well and being played by hundreds and thousands of Electric Football game and hobby enthusiasts all across the United States and internationally with their own NFL and other Electric Football Leagues.

CHRIS LeMAY is the founder and curator of the National ELECTRIC FOOTBALL Game Museum (nefgm.org), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the purpose and mission of "preserving the buzz." To find out more about Chris and his efforts to preserve the game of electric football, it's history and mission, visit his website or follow one of his Facebook groups related to the game and hobby: The National Electric Football Game, the Electric Football Community, and the National and International Brotherhood of Electric Football. Chris is also a PFRA member, and has been off and on since 1999.

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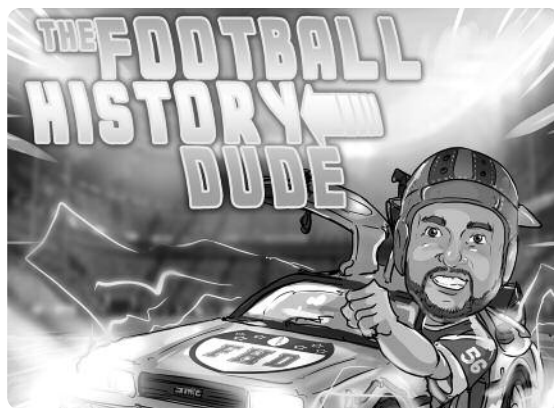
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ABOUT THE PODCAST

The Football History Dude podcast is a show dedicated to teaching fans about the rich history of the NFL. Each week the host, Arnie Chapman, fires up his DeLorean and takes his listeners to the yesteryear of the gridiron by sharing knowledge nuggets of how football has become America's favorite sport. This show is a mix of solo and interview episodes sharing stories of how the game was built, the heroes of the past, and a glimpse into what the next 100 years of the league will look like.

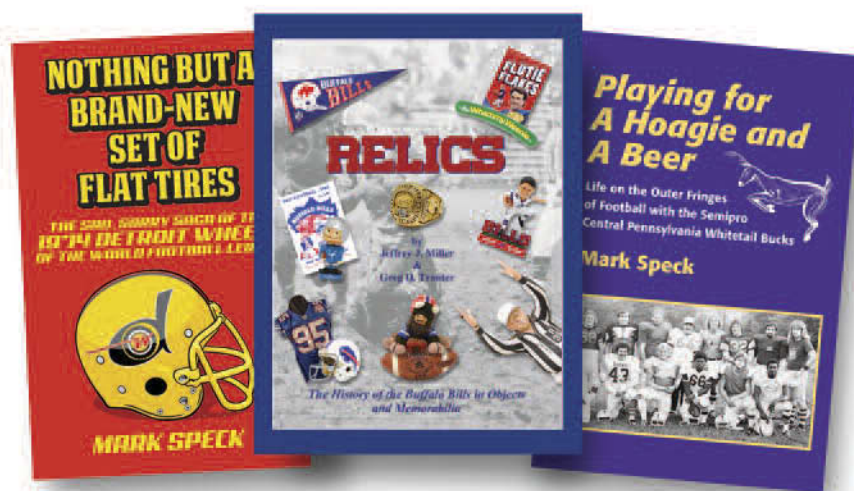
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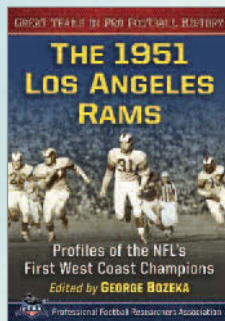
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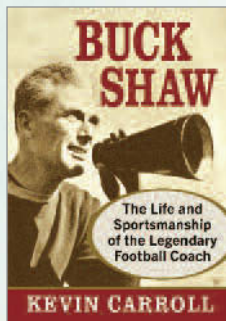
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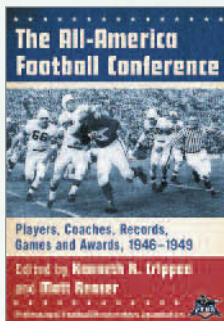
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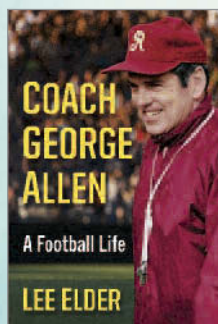
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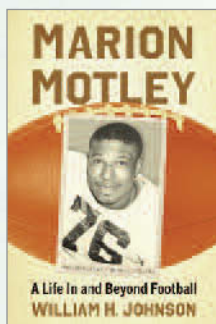
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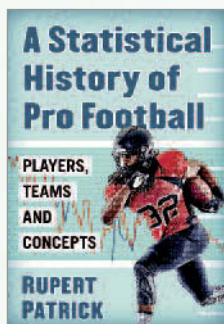
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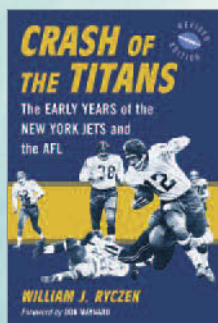
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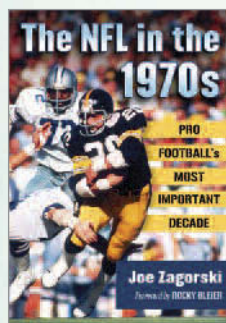
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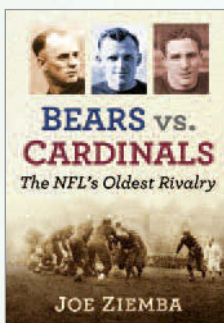
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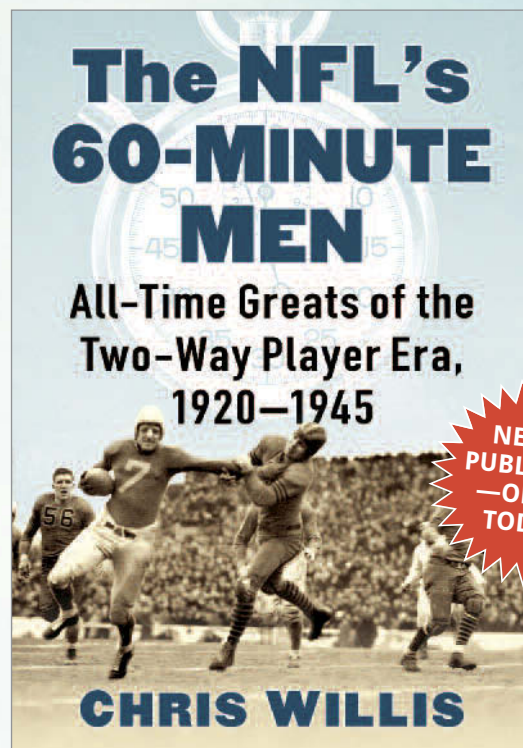
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