



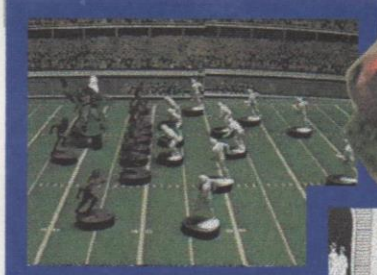
ITZ Read-Zone

Volume III Issue 3 August 1997

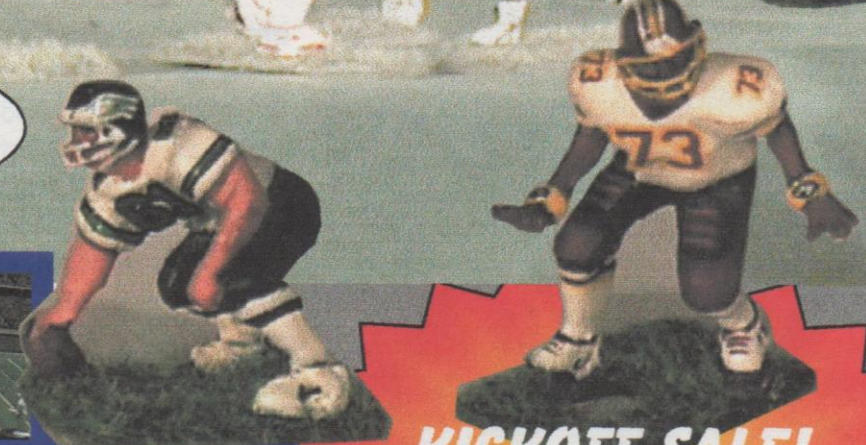
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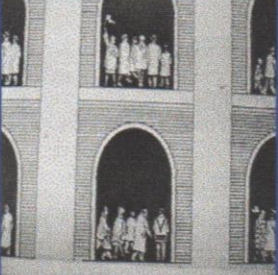
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History and Collecting
Gotham's
Yankee Stadium,
Model #1780S
.....Pages 2-3



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The Read-Zone

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Objective

To keep readers informed on the latest developments and innovations available in the growing world of electric football. Likewise, the Read-Zone gives its readers a glimpse of how others play this great game. The Read-Zone is written by Electric Football Enthusiasts for Electric Football enthusiasts. Membership in the Read-Zone also entitles you to exclusive products such as the In The Zone action figures.

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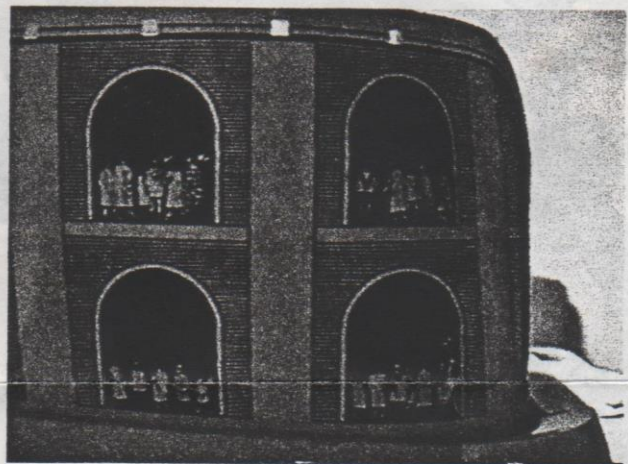
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COLLECTING & HISTORY

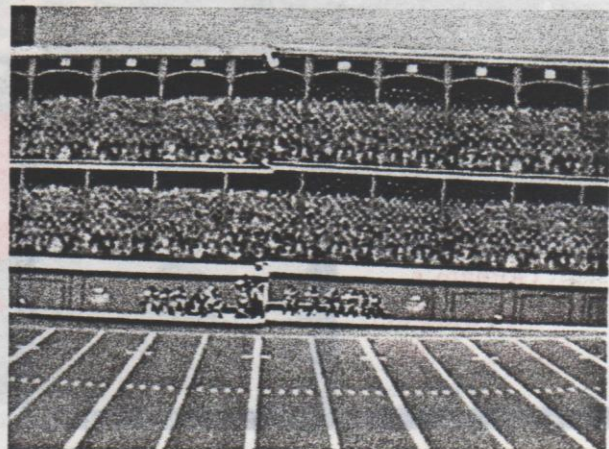
By: **MARK NEWELL**



Gotham's Yankee Stadium model number 1780S



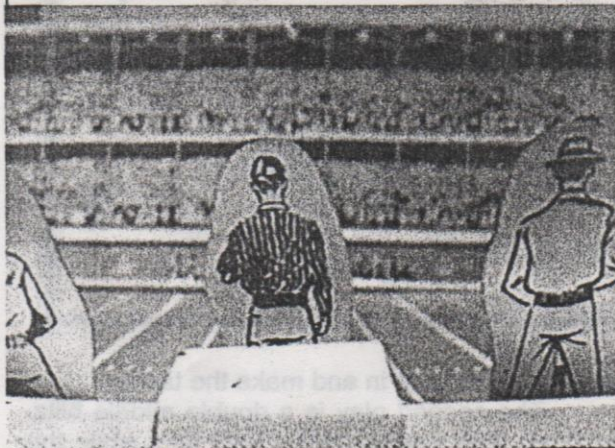
One pro football game more than any other comes up most often when the subject is "the greatest game ever played." The 1958 championship game between the Baltimore colts and New York Giants featured twelve Hall of Famers, a sudden death finish, and a national television audience. It was only fitting that it was played in the nation's



most venerable site...Yankee Stadium. Gotham seized upon the excitement following this game by introducing in the early '60s its model 1780s.

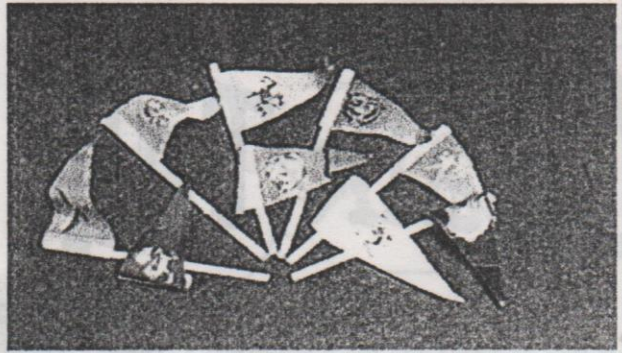
Gotham had been competing with Tudor since the mid 1950s for the electric football market, but never moved ahead until it gained official NFL recognition. Once that happened, Gotham created a series of games highlighted by oversized 36" X21" fiberboard fields. One of these, the 1780s was a Sears Exclusive with the "grandest" grandstands ever made.

The two teams were three dimensional, one white team, the other red (probably a spin of the white Colts V. Giants in the red). Players were positioned in four different poses, plus the famous lithographed Gotham spring loaded quarterback who threw a magnetic football toward the metal topped player bases.



Three other figures were allowed on the field as well. The metal 10 yard markers were held in position by a '50s clad chain gang crew, and in the middle stood a referee ready to signal the start of play.

Plastic H shaped goal posts, diamond patterned end zones, and a working scoreboard added more realism



to the game. But what made this game really stand out was the two sided lithographed metal grandstands. On the outside, the crowd enters the Yankee Stadium portals as if they just got off the subway (I had a chance to do this myself three years ago). Children wave banners, and fathers clutch their son's hands as they head for their seats, or more likely, the concession stands. On the inside, there is no mistaking the lattice work and poles lining the famous "house that Ruth built." On the top of the stadium, Gotham added one more touch...paper sticks with pennants sporting '60s NFL logos. Remember the 49er, wildly jumping in the air shooting the ground? how about the Pittsburgh Steel worker, punting a football while walking a steel plank?

Lithographed on the sidelines is a bench with players and coaches sitting and milling about. you can almost hear Weeb Ewbank marvel at how Jonny Unitas led the Colts on an eighty yard drive culminating in the game tying field goal with seven seconds left in regulation.

Buy this game if you can find it. People will be talking about it for decades!

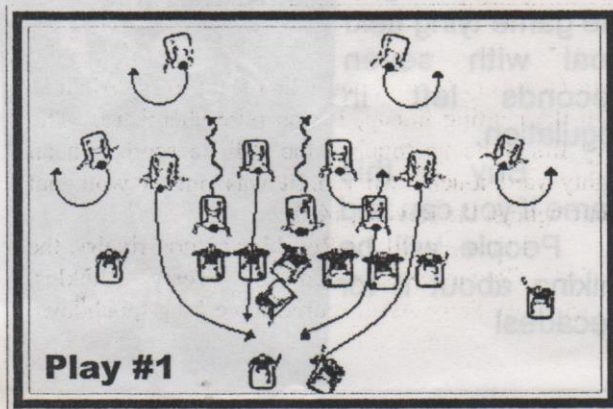


Chalk Talk

This is the second episode Chalk Talk has dedicated to the "Zone Blitz." Please do not confuse this column with "Playbook." In playbook, the Read-Zone highlights strategic plays that will aid any coach who wants to play competitively against other coaches. This column, on the other hand, is not meant to be the greatest strategies to ensure victory, but an attempt to make your game look realistic, without cards or dice, and at full speed. With the Steelers playing in a Super Bowl just a couple of seasons ago and the rapid success of the Panthers, we felt it only appropriate to start with the dominating "Zone Blitz."

The last episode stressed the importance of fast bases on the defense. TTC bases work the best because you are able to set them to do a variety of different assignments while lined up in the same formation. We also discussed the need for certain rules, such as the defense must have the ability to move a few players into blitz position right before the start of the play, as well as set all unblocked players after a completion. These rules enable a defense the freedom to play this style.

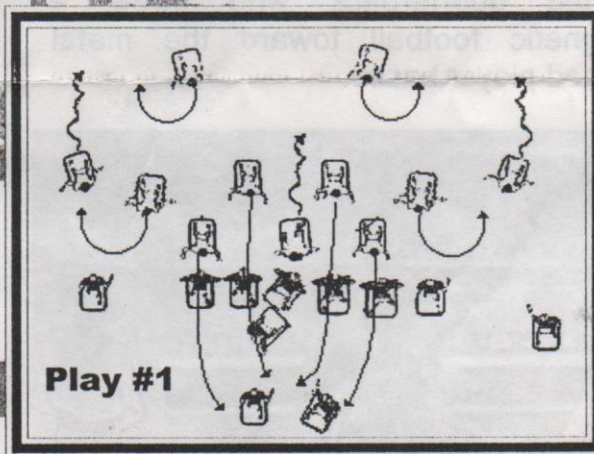
The whole concept of the Zone Blitz is to confuse the blocking schemes while still maintaining coverage. This is accomplished by blitzing players from all over the field and dropping others into coverage. This will leave offensive linemen blocking air while the quarterback is sacked.



The first play we have features a blitz by three of the linebackers (Sam, Mac, and Will). The offense's pre-snap read will indicate a three man pass rush. The offensive coach will set his offensive line to double team the nose tackle and one of the defensive ends, most likely the weak side. By spacing your MLB off the line of scrimmage, the guard should move over by the time he reaches him, leaving an open space for him to blitz through. Both OLBs blitz from the outside, bottling up the offense and forcing the QB to feel pressure from all sides.

However, this does not leave the defensive backs on an island. While the defense is blitzing unexpected rushers, and they are coming freely, defensive linemen who are expected to rush drop back into a zone. This leaves the center and the guard blocking no one, as the NT and the weak side DE, both of whom are being double teamed, drop back providing coverage support in the middle.

If all goes well, the QB will not have time to hold the ball (as is crucial in any zone defense). Plus, if the offense decides to run, their linemen will be blocking no one while the defense's



linebackers will slide in and make the tackle! The second play is a double middle blitz. This time, both middle linebackers blitz while the NT drops into coverage. Both OLB's are set to turn around in "spin mode." This creates a four three coverage scheme, but again, the center and RG will block the dropping NT while both MLB's crush the QB!

These defenses create confusion for the opposing team's blocking schemes, while maintaining coverage. It is predicated on speed, ingenuity, and, like all electric football plays, a certain degree of luck!

Mark Klingbell



WHAT A BLAST!!!
AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE
1997 BAMA BLAST TOURNAMENT
BY: VANCE WARREN

Move over Miggle Super Bowl. Step aside Texas Showdown. The tournament of tournaments has arrived...the 1997 Bama Blast Electric Football Tournament was all of that. As an observer and as a participant, I have to tell those of you that missed the Blast, you need to make plans for next year's tournament. The whole tournament was well run from start to finish. To Don Lewis, the tournament coordinator, and the Oxford Football Club...David Nickles, Steve Graham, and Gary Pate, you guys deserve two thumbs way up for a job well done.

"When the guys (from the Oxford Club) came to me with the idea for an electric football tournament," says Don Lewis, "they wanted a tournament that was different. They wanted three things; first a weighted tournament, second a system where you can coach your own team, and third, to have a great time with unique and different events form that of the other tournaments." Well, I have to tell you that they succeeded.

The Blast was the first tournament to feature a weighted division for pro-weight coaches, this was a showcase for their teams. The Blast also featured an open style of play and players. You could come with the squad that you are used to coaching at home in the tournament. Another benefit of the open style of play was that it wasn't a bunch of petty rules slowing or hindering the game play. The game play was nearly perfect.

When everyone arrived the first day, there was a meeting of all the coaches participating in both the weighted and non-weighted divisions. We got a chance to greet one another, and have a nice dinner. We went over the itinerary for the Blast. We then went over the rules for the tournament. Since a lot of us did not get the rules until approximately seven to ten days before the Blast, this meeting was essential. Let me tell you, it was interesting. The rules were simple, but just not as clear as they could have been, so we spent nearly two hours going over the rules, and clarifying them so that when we started the Blast the next day, there would not be a problem.

When I arrived at the playing area, I was in awe. There were no less than eight electric football fields set up...and they were ready for play. Each board had a different feel, and a different championship dream to tell. Everyone began to practice and select the board that would give the the

*"I am exhausted" stated the weary Nickles, 'but that's part of playing in a tournament.'
David Nickles, Oxford EF Club*

edge. The teams were then selected out of a hat and the battle lines were drawn. There was at least three coaches that had a team in both the weighted and non-weighted divisions.

In probably what was the early match-up of the tournament, David Nickles played Herb Smith of the Hobby Football League, which was featured in the last Read-Zone. For the Blast they were scaled down some. the Bengals of the Oxford Club were the "body-tackling" figures also highlighted in a previous Read-Zone. The game was a good defensive battle, and to everyone's surprise, the small, lighter Bengals took control of the game and were victorious, 21-7.

"I just out-coached him," stated the jubilant Nickles, "He though he had me because of his tea's size. But my men had both power and speed...that was the difference!"

David was one of the coaches to have a team in both divisions. I talked with him at the end of the second day, after an astounding five games in one day. "I am exhausted" stated the weary Nickles, "but that's part of playing in a tournament." David's non-weighted Bengals had made it to the Championship Game versus the surprising Dallas Cowboys, coached by Steve Miles. Steve had just started playing electric football less than two years ago, and this was his first tournament. "I am happy and relieved," said Steve.

As far as the weighted division, or as some people have affectionately dubbed it, the "Terry Allen Show," the Redskins, coached by your truly, were the talk of the first day. I have to admit that when I first got the rules, I thought to myself that I was going to be bounced from the Blast by the first game. In that game, I went against the Baltimore Ravens, coached by Marcus Jackson of Columbia, Maryland. The game was intense and at half-time we were scoreless. As any food coach would do, I found what was working...a simple halfback dive. I had tried to run this play before with another halfback, but the chemistry wasn't there. Any team that wins any championship has to have the right chemistry to win, and when I put Terry Allen in with the starting lineup, it was pure chemistry. The very first time he touched the ball he scored on an eighty yard touchdown run...it was on! I won that game against the Ravens, 14-0.

I then played the Redskins natural rivalry, the Dallas Cowboys coached by Terry Nickles. Touchdown Terry Allen scored three long touchdown runs, but it was my left outside linebacker that made a

key interception for a touchdown to seal the victory, Redskins 28, Cowboys 14.

I then played what was probably my toughest game of the Blast, the Atlanta Falcons coached by Steve Graham. We went back and forth, and at the gun the game was tied, forcing us into overtime. The Falcons got the ball first, and promptly marched down the field into my territory. What happened next shocked even me. The Redskins defense dug in and held the Falcons from getting a first down. We then got the ball and "touchdown" Terry ended the game with a 67 yard burst, his tenth touchdown of the tournament.

So the battle lines were drawn. The Redskins were to play the "Cinderella" Kansas City Chiefs, coached by Michael Taylor. As destiny would have it, the Chiefs were beaten by the Falcons, but were picked out of a hat as the Wild-Card team to play in the next round. The Chiefs took advantage of this "Chance to go to the ball," and made it to the championship game by beating David Nickles Bengals 17-14 in overtime.

The third and final day of the Blast started with the Olympics. These various contests included a painting, passing, kicking, fifty and one hundred yard dash, an strongest man competition. These contests were a lot of fun because they featured all the participants whether they were weighted or not. My personal favorites were the strongest man (weighted) and the fastest man. I really enjoyed watching "Pitbull," the larger than life 49er coached by Herb Smith. "Pitbull" looked like he was eating a piece of meat they way he pushed back his competitors heat after heat. Herb ended the competition by beating his own son, Joshua, for the Strongest Man Title. Herb also took the passing contest. David Nickles won the strongest non-weighted man competition. The standard painted figure contest was won by Marcus Jackson. I won the configured man painting contest with an ITZ figure, as well as the kicking contest.

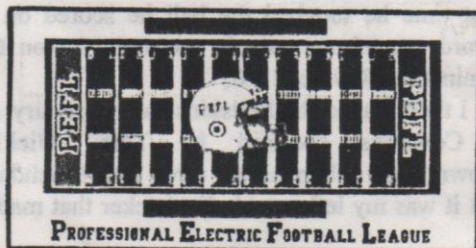
The non-weighted championship was quite a game. The Bengals came out and dominated the Cowboys in the early going. The Bengals forced Dallas to punt deep in their territory, and then wasted no time, scoring on a long touchdown run by Ki-Jana Carter. The Cowboys then scored on a long touchdown pass late in the first half to tie the score 7-7. the second half was a defensive struggle with both teams driving then

"As I reflected on what had taken place over the last three days, it truly was one of the best moments of my life. I love electric football as much as any of you...probably more."
Vance Warren, PEFL

stalling in their opponent's territory late in the second half. The Cowboys connected on a long pass play for a touchdown to go on top 14-7. The Bengals got the ball back and drove down the field, but their drive ended with a Cowboy interception. When the gun sounded, the final score was Cowboys 14, Bengals 7.

The weighted Championship started with a BANG, as the Chiefs first play from scrimmage was a 74 yard run. That put them at the Redskin's six yard line, but the Redskin's defense held and the Chiefs made a forty yard field goal to go up 3-0. You know what comes next..."Touchdown" Terry responded on the second play from scrimmage with an eighty-five yard touchdown run. Both teams traded touchdowns before the half ended 14-10. The first play of the second half ended with an eighty yard touchdown run by ...guess who...Terry Allen! Washington stopped Kansas City and responded with another spectacular eighty yard touchdown run of by Terry Allen. The Redskins had a commanding 28-10 lead. the Chiefs then scored on a long touchdown run to cut the lead to 28-17. Kansas City then seemed to contain Terry Allen, as they stopped him for a couple of big loses. But the drive continued. The clock struck midnight for the "Cinderella" Kansas City Chiefs when "Touchdown" Terry scored his fourteenth touchdown of the tournament. The final score was the Redskins 35, the Chiefs 17.

I did not fly back to Washington D.C. until the following day. As I reflected on what had taken place over the last three days, it truly was one of the best moments of my life. I love electric football as much as any of you...probably more. This tournament was like a jump start to our beloved sport. It brought together many wonderful styles and great coaches. This was a true tournament, and not a selective exhibition. How many other Steve Miles or "Touchdown" Terrys are there out there? Only time will tell. I look forward to defending my title next year. The only way to be the man is to beat the Man. So if you want to be the man, you have to beat me. The only way to beat me is to meet me at next year's Bama Blast!



The Read-Zone

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Jacksonville	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pittsburgh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Buffalo					NA	NA	NA	NA
Indianapolis	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Miami					NA	NA	NA	NA
New England					NA		NA	
New York Jets					NA	NA	NA	NA
Denver (new)								
Kansas City					NA	NA	NA	NA
Oakland	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
San Diego								
Seattle	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
N.F.C.	White	Dark	White	Dark	White	Dark	White	Dark
Chicago								
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Green Bay	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Minnesota					NA	NA	NA	NA
Tampa Bay								
Arizona								
Dallas	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Philadelphia					NA	NA	NA	NA
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Washington					NA	NA	NA	NA
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Carolina					NA	NA	NA	NA
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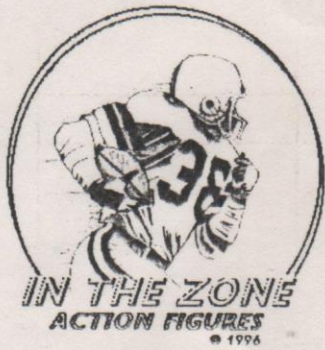


Fig. #018

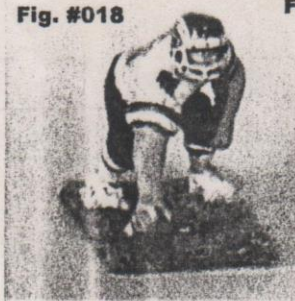


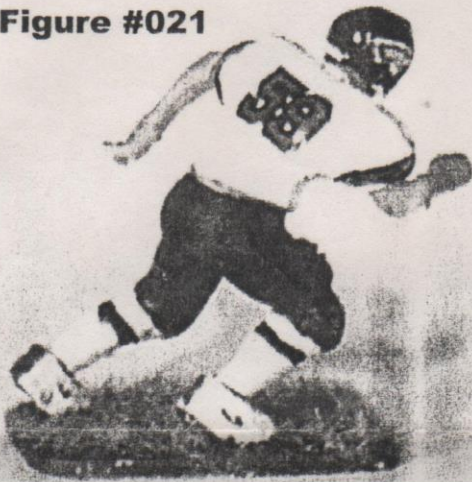
Fig. #019



Fig. #017



Figure #021



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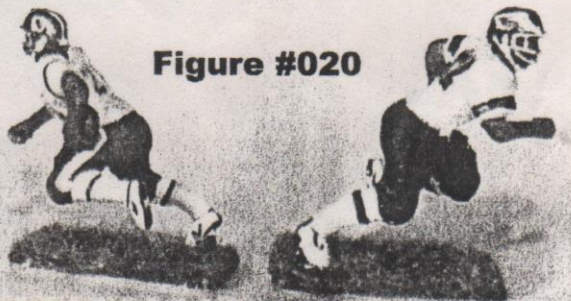


Figure #018



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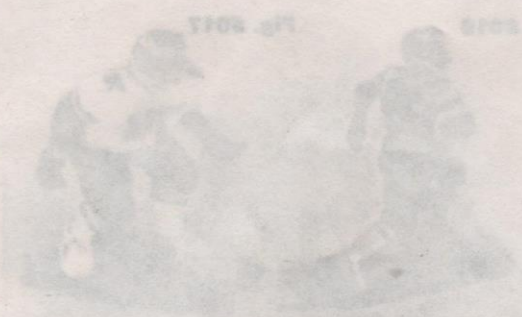
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