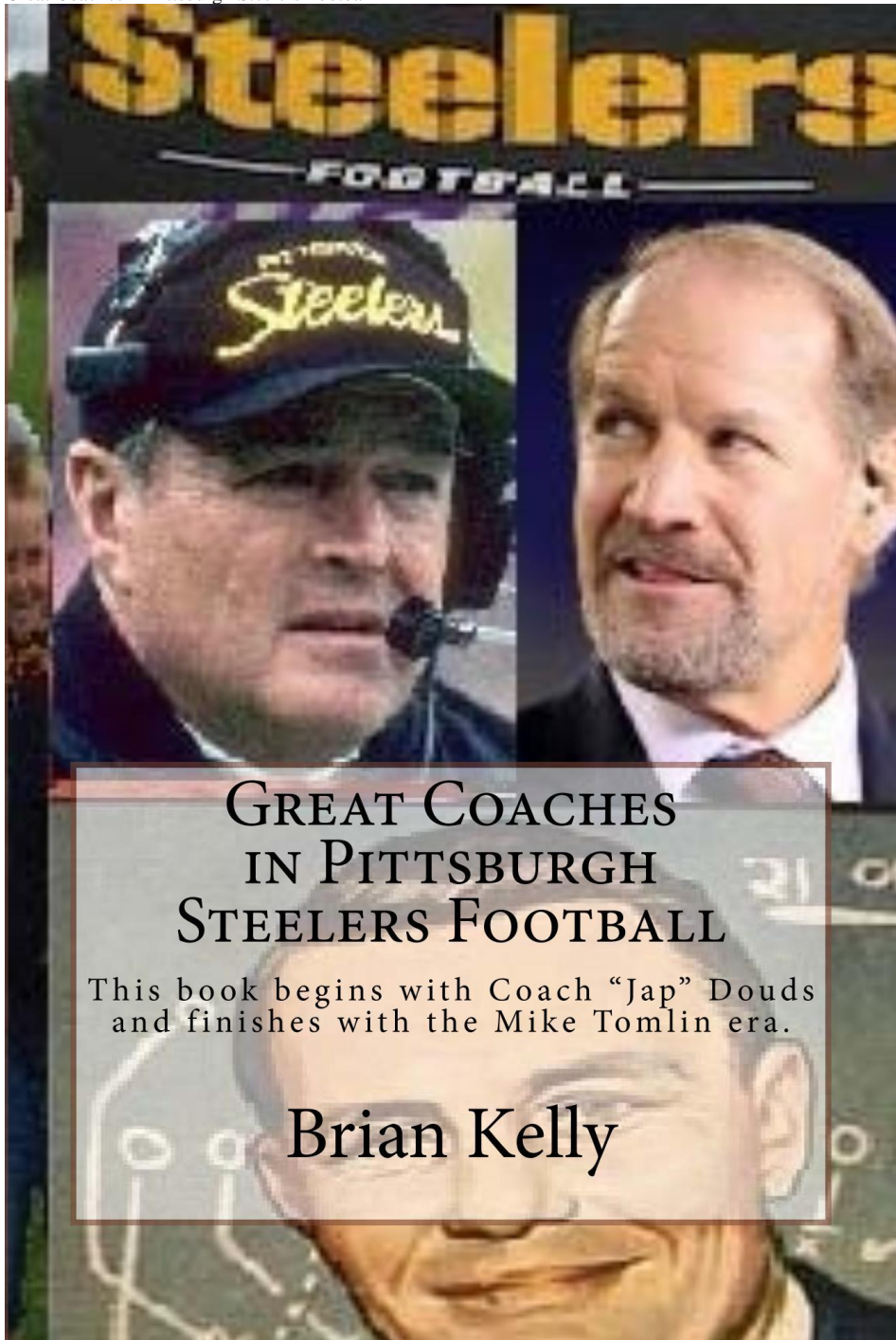


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Most of my books had previously been published on Amazon.

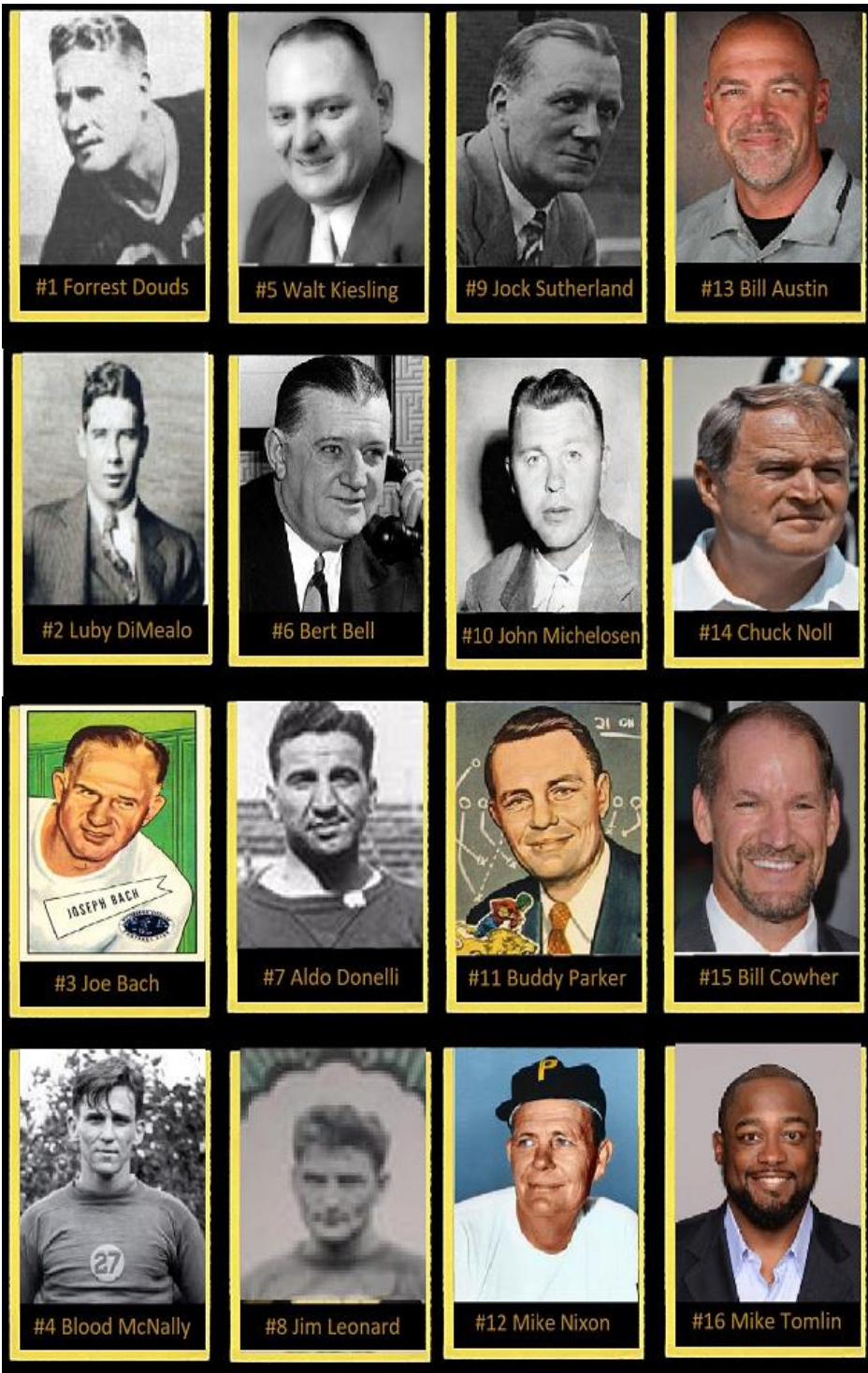
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GREAT COACHES IN PITTSBURGH STEELERS FOOTBALL

This book begins with Coach "Jap" Douds
and finishes with the Mike Tomlin era.

Brian Kelly



Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football



4 days ago



3 hours ago



PITTSBURGH STEELERS

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Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football

This book begins with Coach “Jap” Douds and finishes with the Mike Tomlin era.

This book is written for those of us who love Pittsburgh Steelers Football and who want to know the coaching secrets for all those wonderful Pittsburgh teams and their great Super Bowl victories. .

From the very beginning, the book moves you one coach at time but rapidly through the Pittsburgh Steelers ages. We meet the great immortal Pittsburgh coaches from the first, Forrest Douds to the current coach, Mike Tomlin. Douds, the first of many great coaches is the first coach of the Pittsburgh Pirates and though he coached but one year, he gave the team the boost it needed to sustain the program until the next coach could be found.

You’ve heard of these coaches over the years – Jock Sutherland, Buddy Parker, Bill Cowher, Mike Tomlin, the current coach, and the longest tenured Pittsburgh Coach, who put football on the map of Pittsburgh, the immortal Chuck Noll and the Pittsburgh teams that won four Super Bowls under his direction.

Those of us who enjoy the teams coming out every week in the fall know that it was because sixteen great Pittsburgh coaches worked with hundreds of great professional football players in 85 years to create the great Steelers tradition. . These coaches masterminded the victories while the Pittsburgh players provided the excitement.

We do know how these coaches did it. It was through hard work--discipline, conditioning and a commitment to the honor of winning. From day one, Pittsburgh has been a winning program even in the early days when wins were tough to get. Look at the recent record and you will find one of the best teams ever in the NFL. Pittsburgh Steelers fans need this book on their bookshelves to get the story from a coach’s perspective on how they pulled it off.

This book is your finest source for a great read on your favorite professional football team by studying the history of its great coaches. This book is for your reading pleasure but also is a great reference for when you want to see how a particular Pittsburgh coach performed in any particular season or game.

If you are a Pittsburgh Steelers fan. you will not want to put this book down until you know every coach’s name and a lot more about their records.

Brian Kelly



Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football

Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football

Author:

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Publisher/ Editor,

Brian W. Kelly

Brian W. Kelly

Brian P. Kelly

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Release Date:

July 2018

Pittsburgh Steelers Coach's Records from 1933 to September 2018

Total 619-552-21 PCT .521 All-time regular season record (1933–2017)

Playoff: 36-25 All-time postseason record (1933–2017)

Overall: 655-577-21 Regular & postseason record (1933–2017)

Total Games 1571

Total Wins 655

Total Losses 577

Total Ties 21 * Prior to Overtime Rules

Stats from 1933 * Through June 2018

Pittsburgh Pirates

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1933	#1 Forrest Douds	NFLEast	5th	3 6 2	.364
1934	#2 Luby DiMeolo	NFLEast	5th	2 10 0	.167
1935	#3 Joe Bach	NFLEast	3rd	4 8 0	.333
1936	#3 Joe Bach	NFLEast	2nd	6 6 0	.500
1937	#4 John Blood McNally	NFLEast	3rd	4 7 0	.364
1938	#4 John Blood McNally	NFLEast	5th	2 9 0	.182
1939	#4 John Blood McNally	NFLEast	4 th -T	1 9 1	.136
1939	#5 Walt Kiesling →	1–6–1 record in final 8 games of 1939 season			

Pittsburgh Steelers

1940	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	4th	2 7 2	.273
1941	#6 All coaches 1941	NFLEast	5th	1 9 1	.136
1941	#6 Bert Bell	NFLEast	5th	0-2-0	.136
1941	#7 Aldo Donelli	NFLEast	5th	0-5-0	.136
1941	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	5th	1 9 1	.136
1942	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	2nd	7 4 0	.636

Pittsburgh & Philadelphia = Steagles

1943	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	3rd	5 4 1	.550
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Chicago Cardinals & Pittsburgh = Card-Pitt

1944	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	5th	0 10 0	.000
------	------------------	---------	-----	--------	------

Pittsburgh Steelers 1945 until today

1945	#8 Jim Leonard	NFLEast	5th	2 8 0	.200
1946	#9 Jock Sutherland	NFLEast	3 rd -T	5 5 1	.500
1947	#9 Jock Sutherland	NFLEast	2nd	8 4 0	.667
1948	#10 John Michelosen	NFLEast	3 rd -T	4 8 0	.333
1949	#10 John Michelosen	NFLEast	2nd	6 5 1	.542
1950	#10 John Michelosen	NFLAmerican	3 rd -T	6 6 0	.500
1951	#10 John Michelosen	NFLAmerican	4th	4 7 1	.375
1952	#3 Joe Bach	NFLAmerican	4th	5 7 0	.417
1953	#3 Joe Bach	NFLEastern	4th	6 6 0	.500
1954	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEastern	4th	5 7 0	.417
1955	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEastern	6th	4 8 0	.346

Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football

1956 #5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEastern	4 th -T	5 7 0	.500
1957 #11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	3rd	6 6 0	.500
1958 #11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	3rd	7 4 1	.625
1959 #11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	4th	6 5 1	.542
1960 #11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	5th	5 6 1	.458
1961 #11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	5th	6 8 0	.429
1962 #11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	2nd	9 5 0	.643
1963 #11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	4 th	7 4 3	.607
1964 #11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	6th	5 9 0	.357
1965 #12 Mike Nixon	NFLEastern	7th	2 12 0	.143
1966 #13 Bill Austin	NFLEastern	6th	5 8 1	.393
1967 #13 Bill Austin	NFLEasternCent	4th	4 9 1	.321
1968 #13 Bill Austin	NFLEasternCent	4th	2 11 1	.179
1969 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLEasternCent	4th	1 13 0	.071
1970 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	5 9 0	.357
1971 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	2nd	6 8 0	.429
1972 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	11 3 0	.786
1973 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	2nd	10 4 0	.714
1974 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	10 3 1	.750
1975 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	12 2 0	.857
1976 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	10 4 0	.714
1977 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	9 5 0	.643
1978 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	14 2 0	.875
1979 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	12 4 0	.750
1980 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	9 7 0	.563
1981 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	2nd	8 8 0	.500
1982 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	4 th -T	6 3 0	.667
1983 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	10 6 0	.625
1984 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	9 7 0	.563
1985 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	7 9 0	.438
1986 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	6 10 0	.375
1987 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	8 7 0	.533
1988 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	4th	5 11 0	.313
1989 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	2nd	9 7 0	.563
1990 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	9 7 0	.563
1991 #14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	2nd	7 9 0	.438
1992 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	1st	11 5 0	.688
1993 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	2nd	9 7 0	.563
1994 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	1st	12 4 0	.750
1995 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	1st	11 5 0	.688
1996 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	1st	10 6 0	.625
1997 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	1st	11 5 0	.688
1998 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	7 9 0	.438
1999 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	4th	6 10 0	.375
2000 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	9 7 0	.563
2001 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	1st	13 3 0	.813
2002 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	1st	10 5 1	.656
2003 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	6 10 0	.375
2004 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	1st	15 1 0	.938
2005 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	2nd	11 5 0	.688
2006 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	8 8 0	.500

2007	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	1st	10 6 0	.625
2008	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	1st	12 4 0	.750
2009	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	3rd	9 7 0	.563
2010	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	1st	12 4 0	.750
2011	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	2nd	12 4 0	.750
2012	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	3rd	8 8 0	.500
2013	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	2nd	8 8 0	.500
2014	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	1st	11 5 0	.688
2015	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	2nd	10 6 0	.625
2016	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	1st	11 5 0	.688
2017	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	1st	13 3 0	.813



**LETS
GO**

PUBLISH

References

I learned how to write creatively in Grade School at St. Boniface. I even enjoyed reading some of my own stuff.

At Meyers High School (HS Diploma) and King's College (BS Data Processing), and Wilkes-University, (MBA Accounting & Finance) I learned how to research, write bibliographies and footnote every non-original thought included in my writings. I learned to hate *ibid*, and *op. cit.*, and I hated assuring that I had all citations were written down in the proper sequence. Having to pay attention to details took my desire to write creatively and diminished it with busy work.

I know it is necessary for the world to stop plagiarism, so authors and publishers can get paid properly, but for an honest writer, it sure is annoying. I wrote many proposals while with IBM and whenever I needed to cite something, I cited it in place, because my readers, IT Managers, and company management, could care less about tracing the vagaries of citations. I always hated to use stilted footnotes, or produce a lengthy, perfectly formatted bibliography. I bet most bibliographies are flawed because even the experts on such drivel do not like the tedium.

I wrote 155 other books before this book and several hundred articles published by many magazines and newspapers and I only cite when an idea is not mine or when I am quoting, and again, I choose to cite in place, and the reader does not have to trace strange numbers through strange footnotes and back to bibliography elements that may not be readily accessible or available.

Yet, I would be kidding you, if in a book about the great coaches in Pittsburgh Football, I tried to bluff my way, so you would think that I knew everything before I began to research and write anything in this book. I spent as much time researching as writing. I might even call myself an expert of sorts now for all the facts that I have uncovered.

Without any pain on your part, you can read this book from cover to cover to enjoy the stories about the many great coaches in both the Pittsburgh Pirates of the NFL and their successor, The Pittsburgh Steelers. Both generations of Pittsburgh Teams made their mark on the football world.

This book is not intended for historians per se, but it does teach a lot of football history. It is for regular people of all levels of intelligence. It is for people who want to have a fun read, who like smiling when Steelers Football is the topic. It is fun reading about each of Pittsburgh's 655 wins. This book is for people who love Pittsburgh Pennsylvania Football and perhaps it is also for some Steeler detractors who want to have command of the facts before they defend a point of view.

There are lots and lots of facts in this book. This book is not for sticklers about the mundane aspects of writing that often cause creative writers to lay bricks or paint houses instead of writing. It is for everyday people, like you and I, who enjoy the Steelers because they are the Steelers and who enjoy football because it is football. It is that simple.

When the Steelers play a team and they win or lose, that is a historical fact, but to discover such facts, it does not require fundamental or basic research. The NFL itself as well as the Steelers, copyright their original material but not publicly available facts. They copyright so they can say "no" if somebody else's creativity affects the league or the franchise negatively. Even the NFL does not own publicly well-known facts that are readily available about legacies such as Chuck Noll, Bill Cowher, Mike Tomlin, or even future immortals and all of the many Pittsburgh top seasons.

The championships and the coaches and the great players are well known and well defined, though some may think the facts belong to the NFL. Facts are facts, period. So, what? As the author of this book, I care but it is a sports book. I use a judicious approach to assure that I am not throwing the bull when I intend to be presenting the facts.

Nonetheless, this is not a book about heavy math algorithms, or potential advances to the internal combustion engine, or space travel, or the eight elements necessary to find a cure for cancer. So, I refuse to treat this book 100% seriously. It is a sports book. If you find a fault, I will fix it. This is a book about sports and sports legends and stories about sporting events that have been recorded seven million times already someplace else. Pennsylvanians should be pleased. Though I tried for sure to get it all right and I used the work of others to assure so, I bet I made a mistake or two. Tell me about them. Don't sue me!

What is my remedy for the *harmed* if I have made a mistake? I did not write this book to harm anybody. If I did not write this book, would the *harmed individuals* from the book be unharmed? So, at the very least, I can *unpublish* those parts of the book. If any reader is harmed, let me know, and I will do whatever must be done for all to be OK

Preface:

This book is all about the great coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers football over the past 85 years. Along the way to today, we talk about the origination of the team in 1933 as the Pittsburgh Pirates until the Steelers came into being in 1940. We discuss some of the preliminaries before Steelers football officially began, and then we delve right into the storied Pittsburgh coaches; their struggles with management and their ultimately pulling off a highly successful program that has lasted for eighty-five years. We can all thank the Art Rooney family, and their handling of a team, which has made a long-lasting impact on American life, especially Pennsylvanians—especially those from the Pittsburgh Area.

As a Pennsylvanian, the Pittsburgh Steelers is not my only sports favorite. I admit that I wrote a similar book about Philadelphia and a ton of books about college football favorites including Penn State and Notre Dame. .

I have been pleased to wake up every day in the last several months to find myself writing about the National Football League's #1 Champion Pittsburgh Steelers and their fine coaches. I have been honored to take up this challenge. As I am reviewing the preface now, right before publication, I have concluded that you are going to like this book as well as the other two books in this Pittsburgh series:

Great Moments in Pittsburgh Steelers Football
Great Players in Pittsburgh Steelers Football
Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football

So, far, after finishing the Great Moments in Philadelphia Football book in April, the Philadelphia management team has not invited me to the owner's luxury box in Franklin Field, nor have they sent any end-zone tickets my way. I expect neither, but it is a nice thought. So, I want the Rooney family to know that I'd be happy to come to Heinz Field to sign books for sale by your stadium vendors. Just invite me.

When you are ready to invite me to Heinz Field for any game this coming season. I can assure you, that I will do my best to be there quite early to catch all of the wonderful amenities that I have written about as I covered the stadium fare in the Great Moments book.

I will be pleased to arrive in Pittsburgh, PA with bells on. Perhaps somebody could get me four fifty-yard line seats – even thirty-yard seats in a game in which Pittsburgh is playing against any other NFL team in the regular or post-season. I am not picky. I'd be happy to do some signing before and after the game, and at a selected venue or bookstore the day before or after. I'll wait 'til the signing is finished to move on to the whistle-wetting period. I'll sign until you tell me “No more!”

Your author would like you to know that when football season closes in the first week of February each year, there is now a great football item—this book—that is available all 52 weeks of the year and in fact all 365 days each year. It does not rely on the stadium gates being open for you to get a great dose of Pittsburgh Steelers Football. Just begin reading right here about Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steeler Football.

This book is now available for you to add to your Pittsburgh Steelers experience, and your book collection. Once you take possession of this great tribute to Pittsburgh Steelers coaches, it is yours forever unless, of course you give it away to one of the many who will be in awe, and who will accept it gladly. For those who love to use gadgets to read, this book is also available on Kindle.

We open the book with the first story set to introduce the Pittsburgh Steelers and then we move to the first official Pittsburgh Pirates season with the first ever Pirates / Steelers coach, Forrest Douds. It takes you all the way to Coach Mike Tomlin's National Championship-Ready program in 2018. It tells a story about all the football seasons from 1933 directed by all the immortal and simply great coaches from the first coached game in 1933 to today.

You are going to love this book because it is the perfect read for anybody who loves the Pittsburgh Steelers and wants to know more about the most revered coaches who have ever brought a team to the field—especially in one of the finest football programs of all time.

Few sports books are a must-read but Brian Kelly's Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football will quickly appear at the top of Americas most enjoyable must-read books about sports. Enjoy!

Who is Brian W. Kelly?

Brian W. Kelly is one of the leading authors in America with this, his 156th published book. Brian is an outspoken and eloquent expert on a variety of topics and besides books, he has also written several hundred articles on topics of interest to Americans.

Most of his early works involved high technology. Later, Brian wrote a number of patriotic books and most recently he has been writing human interest books such as The Wine Diet and Thank you, IBM. His books are always well received.

Brian's books are highlighted at www.letsGOPublish.com. Quantities from 20 to 1000 can be made available from Lets Go Publish by contacting this publisher. You may see most of Brian's works by taking the following link www.amazon.com/author/brianwkelly.

The Best!

Sincerely,

Brian W. Kelly, Author
Brian P. Kelly, Editor in Chief
I am Brian Kelly's eldest son.

Dedication

I dedicate this book

To my wife & children and my wonderful brothers and sisters.

Wife—Patricia A. Kelly

Sons & Daughters—Brian P. Kelly, Michael P. Kelly, Katie P. Kelly

Angel Edward J. Kelly, Jr.

Carol & Amelia Kelly

Nancy "Ann" Flannery & Angel Jim Flannery

Mary A. Daniels & Bill Daniels

Joseph A. Kelly & Diane Kelly

I surely am a lucky person to have such a great family

Mom & Dad—Angels Edward J Kelly Sr. and Irene McKeown Kelly

Acknowledgments:

I appreciate all the help that I have received in putting this book together as well as all of the other 155 books from the past.

My acknowledgments were so large at one time that readers complained that they had to go through too many pages to get to page one.

And, so I put my acknowledgment list online, and it continues to grow. Believe it or not, it would cost about a dollar more to print my books with full acknowledgments.

Thank you and God bless you all for your help. Please check out www.letsGOPublish.com to read the latest version of my heartfelt acknowledgments updated for this book.

In this book, I received some extra special help from many fine American patriots including Dennis Grimes, Gerry Rodski, Wily Ky Eyely, Angel Irene McKeown Kelly, Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Sr., Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Jr., Ann Flannery, Angel James Flannery Sr., Mary Daniels, Bill Daniels, Angel Robert Garry Daniels, Angel Sarah Janice Daniels, Angel Punkie Daniels, Joe Kelly, Diane Kelly, Angel Harry Ashford, Angel Josephine Ashford. Brian P. Kelly, Mike P. Kelly, Katie P. Kelly, Angel Ben Kelly, and Budmund (Buddy) Arthur Kelly.

Thank you all!

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About the Author



Brian Kelly retired as an Assistant Professor in the Business Information Technology (BIT) Program at Marywood University, where he also served as the IBM i and Midrange Systems Technical Advisor to the IT Faculty. Kelly designed, developed, and taught many college and professional courses. He continues as a contributing technical editor to a number of technical industry magazines, including "The Four Hundred" and "Four Hundred Guru," published by IT Jungle.

Kelly is a former IBM Senior Systems Engineer. His specialty was problem solving for customers as well as implementing advanced operating systems and software on his client's machines. Brian is the author of 155 other books, including 30 Sports Books, and hundreds of magazine articles. He has been a frequent speaker at technical conferences throughout the United States.

Brian was a candidate for the US Congress from Pennsylvania in 2010 and he ran for Mayor in his home town in 2015. Kelly loves the Steelers and he became a big fan in the 1950's watching NFL games with his dad on Sundays on the 21" Admiral B/W TV.

This is Brian's first "Great Coaches" book about a professional NFL team. Writing about the Pittsburgh Steelers has been a special treat.

Chapter 1 Introduction to Pittsburgh Steelers Football

The Steelers celebrated 80 years of football



Everybody loves the Steelers!

The Pittsburgh Steelers tradition began on July 8, 1933, when they were known as the Pittsburgh Pirates, just like the baseball team. And so, as traditions go the last big celebration for the Steelers was on July 7, 2012. This date celebrated the 80th year after Art Rooney, Sr. purchased his dream NFL franchise for the tidy sum of \$2,500. Can you imagine trading in your old Volkswagon today and picking up the Steelers for the original MSRP of \$1565, adding about a grand and walking away with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Such a deal.

Art Rooney bought the franchise and the Rooney family has owned and managed the Steelers ever since. When Art Rooney passed away on August 25, 1988 in Pittsburgh after a stroke, his son, Dan took over the franchise. Dan Rooney, who succeeded his father and Steelers founder, Art Sr., as team president rose to become one of

the most powerful and beloved owners in sports. He passed away on a Thursday in April 2017 at the age of 84.

Under his leadership, since the late 1960s, with the arrival of Coach Chuck Noll, the Steelers transformed from what the pundits called “lovable losers” into a Super Bowl dynasty in the 1970s. Today, Steeler fans and those not so inclined recognize that this great team remains among the most successful and most popular franchises in the game. Many have forgotten that before Dan Rooney hired Chuck Noll, he had offered the position to another Pennsylvania Pride coach, Joe Paterno, whose long-time love for the Nittany Lions forced JoePa to turn down the opportunity.

Long before Dan Rooney passed away, he had brought his son Art Rooney II into the business. Art Rooney II is the oldest of Dan Rooney’s nine children. He had been named team president in May 2003 Prior to that, he was already serving as vice president and general counsel of the Steelers, and he has served on the board of directors of the Steelers since 1989. Rooney II is also active on many NFL steering boards.

Rooney II controlled a 30% interest in the franchise at the time of his father's 2017 death, Rooney II held a 30% stake in the Steelers He was first in line to inherit most of the 30% share that his dad, Dan Rooney held. This made him the majority owner of the team. He is one of only two third-generation owners in the league, the other being the Giant’s John Mara. There is some blood between the Mara’s and the Rooney’s Mara's brother is married to Rooney's sister, and both owners count actresses Rooney Mara and Kate Mara as nieces. Since

Are we looking at a big change now that one Rooney has total control of the franchise? I would answer that by saying there should be no change other than the change that would be coming regardless of Dan Rooney’s passing.

Art Rooney II gave a lot of information earlier in 2018 to the press that gives away where he is on changes for the Pittsburgh Steelers. This year and in the years come to come. Having been the “manager” for years, and coming off a 13-3 regular season, one would expect that he would not be exceedingly harsh in looking at the team. Reading the lines and between the lines one would

conclude that Art Rooney II believes in his heart that there is nothing intrinsically wrong—nothing that needs to change and that many of the team’s issues and controversies that had been aired in the press are overblown.

Rooney II also suggested that the Steelers defense isn’t so bad, especially when you take a look at the state of defenses in the NFL these days. He is a wise man for sure.

The Pundits think he was not completely forthright with them in his prognosis. They think that he knows how badly his team underachieved this season, despite its glowing 13-3 record. They think that Rooney II is not the kind of guy to throw his coaching staff under the bus publicly.

However, the “experts” do expect that Rooney II will step in this offseason to try to fix the things that ail the Steelers and he will work hard to get it right. Of course, every NFL team has something wrong with it, and one must be careful with a 13-3 team, to not dismember it to the point of regret. The pundits have deep concern that the window to win another Super Bowl with Ben Roethlisberger at quarterback is closing, as Big Ben has already discussed retirement, and they believe that the Steelers missed a golden opportunity this year. In other words, the Steelers-loving-press would like the gnarls removed from the organization so that a 42-45 loss in the Division Playoffs goes into the “never can happen again,” category.

Art Rooney Senior had a lot of bad years before Chuck Noll came on the scene. Rooney, however, was not Nosterdamus and so he could not predict the future of his \$2500 team or that today it would be worth over \$2.5 Billion. In other words, Rooney Sr. surely could have never predicted the phenomenal heights that his team—and, for that matter, the NFL—would achieve as the clock on pro football continued to tick through the years.

Art Rooney, Sr.’s team and the city of Pittsburgh have grown together over the course of 80 seasons... (you can add in the five years from 2013 to 2018 in your spare time. But for 80 years, the timing is as follows)

29,220 days...

701,280 hours...

42,076,800 minutes...

2,524,608,000 seconds...

That's a lot of time, folks.

Some Pittsburgh fans love the thought of being with other Pittsburgh fans celebrating the Steelers. In the 8th decade the celebration was another fine Pittsburgh event.

In defining the format of the book, we chose to use a timetable that is based on a historical chronology. Within this framework, we discuss the great coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football History, and there are sixteen of them. The great coaches naturally include a lot of great people who over time would make or break the Pittsburgh Steelers.



A happy Mike Tomlin celebrating in Super Bowl Parade after Steeler's 27-23 win over Cardinals

To know the full story of the Pittsburgh Steelers, you have to go through the Pittsburgh Pirates of NFL Football fame. But, there were teams even before Art Rooney's Pittsburgh Pirates.

In the 1920's NFL style pro-football was just firing up and so the precursor team to the Steelers named the Pirates, took ten or more years to come out of the brew that was being concocted in the Pittsburgh region in the 1920's.

Thus, the Steelers history traces itself to a regional pro team that was established long before the Pirates and later was joined in the NFL as the Pittsburgh Pirates on July 8, 1933. Art Rooney as previously discussed became the happy owner for \$2500 and he gave the team its original name from the baseball team of the same name. This was a common practice for NFL teams looking for name recognition as startups.

The Rooney's were not as clever when they put together a team to play in the what might be called the fledgling NFL back in the 1920's. The team carried the moniker, the "J.P. Rooney's" More formally, they were known as the "James P. Rooney's)". This team was an independent semi-professional team, based in Pittsburgh. It was founded by the same Art Rooney, who is now best known as being the founder of the Pittsburgh Steelers of the National Football League.

This team is considered to be the unofficial beginnings of the modern-day Pittsburgh Steelers. Every team needs a ball park and the J.P. Rooney's played their games at Exposition Park and were doing quite well, with attendance numbers reported as up to 12,000 people in the stands at various games. We'll tell you more about this in its own chapter after we cover the origin of American Football itself.



Art Rooney's "JP Rooney" team were originally known as Hope-Harvey

The Hope Harvey Football Team, 1925 will be Cast in Bronze

New edition in plaster which to be used for the molds in casting a bronze sculpture.

Ray Sokolowski's sculpture depicts the first football team managed by Art Rooney on Pittsburgh's North Side and the only time Art and his 3 brothers played together on a team.

Finished size: 15 in. high x 8 ft. long in single line up configuration.



Ray Sokolowski, Painting & Sculpture, Hope Harvey Football Team Sculpture circa 1925

1933	#1 Forrest Douds	NFLEast	5th	3 6 2	.364
1934	#2 Luby DiMeolo	NFLEast	5th	2 10 0	.167

With Coach Forrest Douds (3-6-2), the first Pittsburgh Pirates coach, and Coach Luby DiMeolo (2-10-0), the second Pittsburgh coach, the Pirates had a tough time finding the “W” column. In fact, it was not until Coach Walt Kiesling in 1942 that the Steelers had their first winning season. Many of the player names from the Pittsburgh Pirates teams from 1933 to 1940 have slipped into oblivion and it was so long ago that few of those who were alive then are around today to care a heck of a lot.

The members of the Pirates’ offensive starting team, which for the most part was the defensive starting team also included the following players:

Great Pirates Team

<u>Pos</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Starts</u>	<u>Rushes /Receptions</u>
HB	James Clark	29	Rook	5	76 rushes; 192 yards, 0 TDs
TB	Angelo Brovelli	23	Rook	8	60 rushes; 236 yards, 2 td 6 catches; 137 yards 0 td
FB	Tony Holm	25	3	9	58 rushes; 160 yards, 0 td, 2 catches; 13 yards and 0 td
BB	George Shaffer	23	Rook	5	5 rushes ; 6 yards, 0 td, 1 catch; 11 yards and 0 td
LE	Paul Moss	25	Rook	7	13 catches; 283 yards, 2 td
LT	Don Rhodes	24	Rook	5	
LG	Larry Critchfield	25	Rook	10	
C	Cap Oehler	23	Rook	11	
RG	Clarence Jancek	22	Rook	11	
RT	Corrie Artman	26	2	5	
RE	Ray Tesser	21	Rook	10	14 catches; 282 yards, 0 td

The Pittsburgh Steelers have had some of the NFL's greatest players over the years beginning in 1969 when Chuck Noll took over head coaching duties. The Pirates / Steelers before 1969 (Chuck Noll) and the Steelers, 1969 and later played at two completely different levels of competency. completely after 1970. Pre Chuck Noll, the Pittsburgh record was 161-254-19, and Post Chuck Noll, the record was 458-298-2.

Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football

The Steelers had to win 93 games from 1969 on just to break even . Today, the team's record from having played 1571 total games, including the playoffs 655-577-21—not too shabby at all. Add to that the league leading 6 Super Bowl Victories shared with Coach Noll (4), Coach Cowher (1), and Coach Tomlin (1) and the Steelers are much more than just a first-class NFL team. They are the best.

As you browse through the chapters in this book, in the seasons in which they played, you will find biographical information of some of the top players to wear a Pittsburgh Steeler Uniform rom. You will find players such as the following in these chapters:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Joe Greene* | Ernie Stautner* | Lynn Swann |
| Jack Lambert* | Hines Ward | Carnell Lake |
| Mel Blount* | Jerome Bettis* | Greg Lloyd |
| Franco Harris* | Alan Faneca | Jack Butler |
| Rod Woodson* | John Stallworth* | Rocky Bleier |
| Jack Ham* | Andy Russell | John Henry |
| Mike Webster* | L. C. Greenwood | Johnson |
| DermDawson | Casey Hampton | Bobby Layne |
| Terry Bradshaw* | Donnie Shell | Mike Wagner* |



Pittsburgh Pirates Football Team from 1938 above



2017 Pittsburgh Steelers in Color

Chapter 2 Art Rooney Creates the Pittsburgh Pirates / Steelers

#1 Coach Forrest Douds

#2 Coach Luby DiMeolo

#3 Coach Joe Bach

#4 Coach John Blood McNally

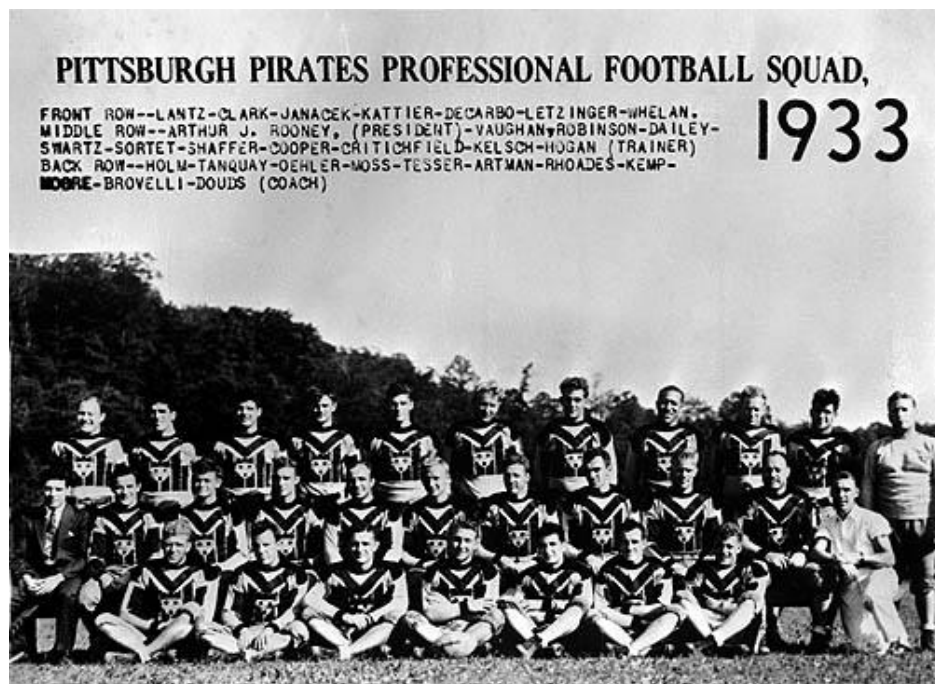
#5 Coach Walt Kiesling

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1933	#1 Forrest Douds	NFLEast	5th	3 6 2	.364
1934	#2 Luby DiMeolo	NFLEast	5th	2 10 0	.167
1935	#3 Joe Bach	NFLEast	3rd	4 8 0	.333
1936	#3 Joe Bach	NFLEast	2nd	6 6 0	.500
1937	#4 John McNally	NFLEast	3rd	4 7 0	.364
1938	#4 John McNally	NFLEast	5th	2 9 0	.182
1939	#4 John McNally	NFLEast	4 th -T	1 9 1	.136

- McNally's record was 0-3 before he resigned

1939 #5 Walt Kiesling → 1–6–1 record in final 8 games of 1939 season

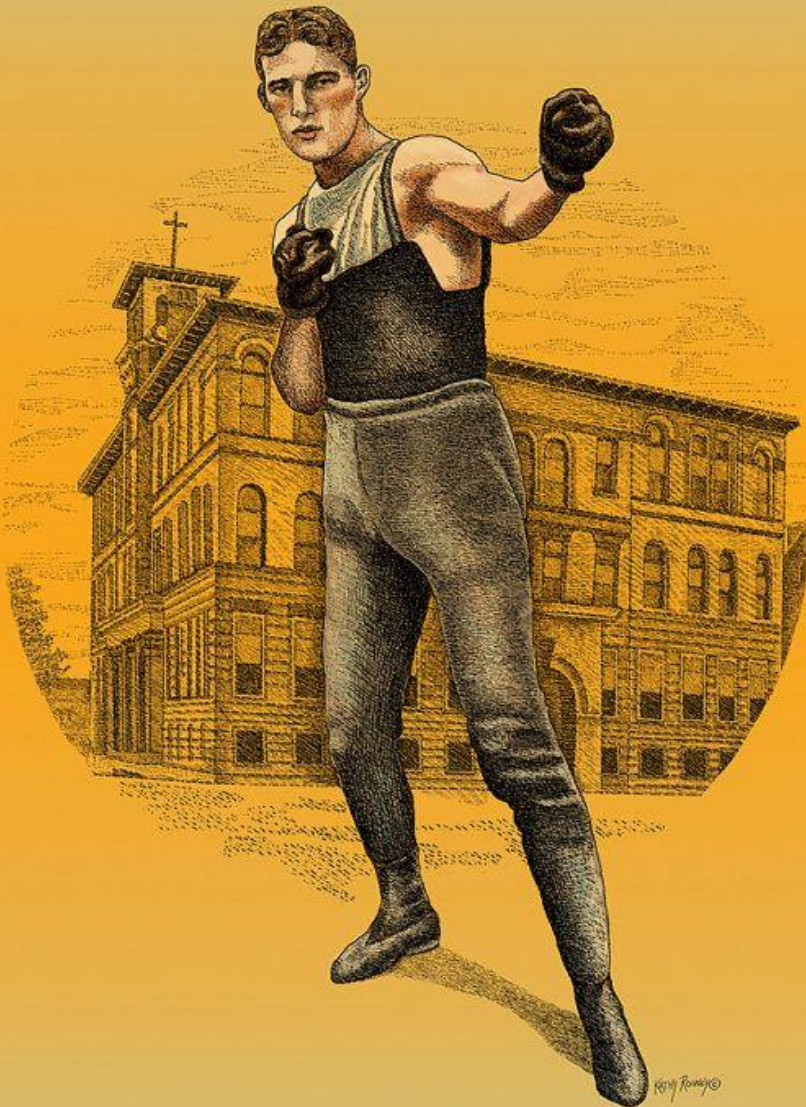
1933-1939 Pittsburgh Pirates Overall Record 22-55-3



Pittsburgh Pirates 1st Football Team – Predates the Steelers

ART ROONEY

North Shore Beginnings



Art Rooney boxed at St. Peter's Boxing Lyceum Club on the North Side which was located at St. Peter's School near what is now Allegheny Center. Boxing matches were set up in the school playground. He became a boxing Champion when he won the AAU welterweight crown. Art was selected to join the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team in 1920 but declined to participate.

Art Rooney bought an NFL franchise in 1933 and because the MLB Pirates were dominating sports in Pittsburgh and in major league baseball was the nation's past time, to strike a familiar chord with

fans, Rooney called his team the Pittsburgh Pirates – the same name as the baseball team.

Yes, they were the Pittsburgh Pirates named after the Baseball Team and they would keep that name until the 1940 season when they would rename the club to the Pittsburgh Steelers in honor of the steel makers in the town. They played their games at Forbes Field in the Oakland Neighborhood of Pittsburgh, PA from 1933 through to 1939. At that time, for the 1940 season, they became the Pittsburgh Steelers.

This Chapter tells the entire story of the coaches of the Pittsburgh Pirates—the seven years preceding the renaming to the Pittsburgh Steelers. There were five coaches this period who coached the Pirates and two, Walt Kiesling and Joe Bach who coached the Pirates and then came back to coach several years later to coach Steelers teams.

Most fans understand the Pirates / Steelers most recent history which includes eight great shots at the big prize --- the Super Bowl and six wins—highest in the NFL. The Pirates / Steelers have been very successful in all games since Chuck Noll took over the team in 1969 and was followed by Bill Cowher and now Mike Tomlin. Each of these coaches have at least one Super Bowl and Noll picked up four in his 23-year tenure. With the 1-2 combo of Chuck Noll and Terry Bradshaw and the 1-2 punch of Bill Cowher & Mike Tomlin with QB Ben Roethlisberger, the Steelers put together whatever was necessary together to win six those eight great Super Bowl Outings.

And, there is great news for the future beginning in the fall of 2018 and Super Bowl winning coach Mike Tomlin is coming back as is two-time Super Bowl winning QB, Roethlisberger. This duo plans to take Pittsburgh to another Super Bowl and get another set of those huge rings—making it seven in all.

New England's debut in the biggest championship game came against the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XX. The Patriots looked great all season, but Raymond Berry's Patriots were overwhelmed by Mike Ditka's Chicago Bears when game action began. From the

opening kickoff at the Louisiana Superdome, led by quarterback Jim McMahon the Bears had their way that day with a 49-10 big victory.

The Steelers returned to the Super Bowl at Sun Devil Stadium with Bill Cowers on January 28, 1996 and were beaten 27-17 by the Dallas Cowboys. This was a big disappointment as the Steelers lost their first Super Bowl ever after four wins with Chuck Noll and Terry Bradshaw.

Cowher had the team back on Feb 5, 2006 to pick up a nice 21-10 win in Super Bowl XL against Seattle in Detroit Michigan's Ford Field. This victory gave the Steelers claim to the franchise's first Super Bowl title since the Steelers' dynasty years of the 1970s. Heinz Ward took home MVP honors after catching five passes for 123 yards that included a great 43-yard touchdown pass from Antwaan Randle El.

Cowher retired the next year and on Feb 1, 2009, in Super Bowl XLIII, new coach Mike Tomlin brought another Lombardi Trophy to Pittsburgh, again with a young Benn Roethlisberger at the helm. In this game, James Harrison's interception return turned the tide. The Steelers pass-rushing linebacker dropped into coverage on a hunch and picked off Warner at the goal line and then scooted 100-yards up the sideline for a TD. This completed what was at least a 10-point swing in Super Bowl XLIII. That number is very significant as Pittsburgh won by just four points—but won they did and Tomlin got his first Super Bowl victory. Coach Tomlin is looking for more.

Coach Forrest Douds is responsible for molding the players who showed up for the first camp into the Pittsburgh Pirates. In 1933, Douds did his best to take the raw material and prove to everybody else but the team that the Pirates could win some games. He got three wins out of twelve games in his first and only season with a bunch of NFL old-timers and rookies .

In the Pittsburgh Pirates second season, coach Luby DiMeolo could not match the three wins achieved by Douds but he did pull off two victories during the season.

The most critical time for a new team is in its first several seasons. Even the pundits recognized that the Pirates were not very lucky as they did not have a coach with a mastery of game to lead them to

winning seasons. It was not until 1936 that Joe Bach, in his second season with the Pirates brought in a 500 season after winning that magical fourth game in the 1935 season to become the winningest coach for the new Pirates.

Coach Bach and owner Art Rooney had some words and Joe Bach chose to leave the Pirates Organization just when it looked like things would turn for the better. Art Rooney, who was beloved by the fans, reached into his bag of football owner trips and he pulled out a player coach, John Blood McNally, who was like the three coaches before him, supposed to bring a winning team to Pittsburgh.

It was not happening and in McNally's third year, he could not stand his own performance and he stepped down with an 0-3 record shortly after the season began. Rooney went into his bag of tricks again and came up with Assistant Coach Walt Kiesling who managed one win for the rest of the year giving the Pittsburgh Pirates a combined 1-9-1 record the year before they became the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Steelers spent their first thirty years almost winning and then in 1969, Chuck Noll took the job of head coach and life for Pittsburgh fans has gotten really good since then.

Let's take a look now at the team selected by Pittsburgh Pirates coaches and how the team did under coach Forrest Douds in their first year as a football team.

1933 Forrest "Jap" Douds, Coach #1

Most Pittsburgh fans know about the great record from Chuck Noll through Mike Tomlin, but few know about the thirteen coaches that preceded the current Pittsburgh success legacy. A quick look would show that the success of the Pittsburgh Pirates / Steelers was never a constant until recently. There was a very long period of time, from the inaugural 1933 season until the Chuck Noll era, where the team from Pittsburgh were at worst, a laughingstock and at best, lovable losers. In many ways, if it were not for Art Rooney's lovefest with football, the team may not have survived.

Having said that. Even during these dark ages, there were still important figures. The first of course is the first person to coach the team that would ultimately become the Steelers.



<<< Jap Douuds

Some pundits suggest that the word “captaining” than coaching is a more appropriate word for Forrest “Jap” Douuds, who led the Pittsburgh Pirates in year one. Douuds was the man charged with getting the team ready for their first season of the then 13-year-old National Football League. At the time, there were only ten teams, and until Art Rooney showed the NFL the money, Pittsburgh was not one of those cities.

It took Art Rooney just two-and-a-half months after he got the franchise for \$2500, during the Great Depression, that he latched on to Douuds, just 28 years old, to lead the team at least through year one. Back then a coach was not necessarily a coach as we know it. Douuds came in as a player and a coach and a player. A look at the Pittsburgh Media Guide and you will see Douuds listed as a tackle from 1933 to 1935. He was surely a great player with little experience to back it up as a coach.

He was a great football player from the first day he touched the weird oval shaped ball. As an All-Star lineman and linebacker at nearby Rochester High School, he led his team to two county championships. Rochester with Douuds carrying the load also won a state title with a 33-0 whooping of Monessen in 1920. As one might expect, Douuds received many accolades for his play such as being inducted into the Beaver County Hall of Fame in 1976. His success carried over into college, attending Washington and Jefferson and becoming a three-time All-American.

He would not consider a 3-6-2 record with the Pirates as a stellar performance, but nonetheless it tied the franchise low of losses in a season until the Steelers went through a season with just four losses in 1942. Four games into the season, the team was a respectable 2-2, with a thrilling inaugural victory over the Chicago Cardinals, and a fine 17-3 defeat of the Cincinnati Reds two weeks later. Even after the Pirates first game, which was to Art Rooney's chagrin, a 23-2 loss to the New York Giants, commissioner Joseph Carr remarked to Douds that the team had the chance to build a "fine foundation."

Douds would only last one season as coach, the first of many to be replaced in the team's carousel-like revolving door of coaches until settling on Chuck Noll in 1969. As previously discussed Luby DiMeolo took over in 1934, being replaced by Joe Bach in 1935, for two years. Little is known about Douds other than what is written here.

He died in August of 1979 at 74, just five months before the Steelers would hoist their fourth Lombardi Super Bowl.

Jap Douds never got to directly be a part of the success Chuck Noll earned from 1969-on, but he got to see the firsts. The first team under "The Chief," the first points in franchise history – a safety by John Oehler – and the team's first victory. It may not have necessarily been a "fine" foundation, but it was the first one. Jap Douds is the only person in Pittsburgh Pirates / Steelers history who can say that.

The 1933 Pittsburgh Pirates football team competed in their first season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Forrest Dowds in his only year as head coach. In this first year in which a Pirates team took the field in a pro game, this Pirates team finished with a losing season record of 3-6-2, winning three games, losing six, and tying two. They failed to qualify for the playoffs for the first time

By the time July came Forrest Douds had the Pirates ready to play football at home in the season opener at Forbes Field.

In the Pirates first ever season and “home” opener on Wednesday, Sept 27, the Douds squad lost in a L (2-23) blowout against the New York Giants at home in Forbes Field, Pittsburgh, PA. On Sept 27 at home, the Pirates got their first win v the Chicago Cardinals W (14-13). On Oct 4, my wedding anniversary, at home, the Boston Redskins beat the Pirates L (6-21). Then, on Oct 11, the Pirates beat the Cincinnati Reds W (17-3) at home in Forbes Field.

On Oct 15, at Green Bay, the Packers smothered the Pirates L (0-47) in City Stadium. On Oct 22, at Cincinnati, the Pirates tied the football Reds T (0-0) in Redland Field. On Oct 29 at Boston’s Fenway Park, the Pirates defeated the Redskins W (16-14). Then, on Nov 5, at Brooklyn’s Ebbets Field, the Pirates tied the football Dodgers T (3-3).

On Nov 12 at home, the Brooklyn Dodgers walloped the Pirates L (0-32). On Nov 19 at Philadelphia, the Eagles drubbed the Pirates L (6-25) in the Baker Bowl. Then, on Sunday December 3 at New York, in the final game of the season in the Polo Grounds, the Giants pounded the Pirates L (3-27) to wrap up the season.

1934 Luby DiMeolo, Coach #2



The 1934 Pittsburgh Pirates football team competed in their second season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Luby DiMeolo as the second Pirates coach in his only year as head coach. In this second year in which a Pirates team took the field in a pro game, this Pirates team finished with a losing season

record of 2-10-0, winning two games, losing ten, and tying none. The team failed to qualify for the playoffs for the second time

This was a miserable 2–10 season, in which the Pirates were shut out in 6 games and only scored more than 10 points in 2 games.

One point of interest of the season was the arrival of John McNally, who we will see again later. He arrived for one season from the Green Bay Packers. Unfortunately, this All-Pro and future Hall of Famer did not have much of an impact for the Pirates before returning to the Packers for the next season.

The Pirates were getting ready to look spiffy. The team introduced their "jailbird" uniforms this year. While these uniforms are now worn by the Steelers as throwbacks (although with the current colors), this was the only year the Pirates wore them. Why? Opposing teams constantly needled the Pirates for looking like convicts.

Games of the 1934 season

In the Pirates second season and “home” opener on Wednesday, Sept 27, the DiMeolo-led Pirates squad shut out the Cincinnati Reds W (13-0) at Forbes Field. Then on Sept 16 at home, the Pirates were beaten by the Boston Redskins L (0-7). On Sept 26, at home, the Philadelphia Eagles shut out the Pirates L 0-17). Then, in a close match at home v the New York Giants, the Pirates went down L (12–14).

On Oct 7, At Philadelphia, the Pirates beat the Eagles W (9-7). On Oct 10, at home, the Chicago Bears crushed the Pirates in a Shutout L (0-28) . At Boston on Oct 14, the Redskins manhandled the Pirates L (0–39). At NY on Oct 21, the Giants beat the Pirates L (7-17) .

At Brooklyn on Oct 28, the Dodgers belted the Pirates L (3–21). At Detroit on Nov 4, the Lions slammed the Pirates L 7–40. Then, on Nov 11, at St. Louis, the Gunners beat the Pirates L (0–6). In the season finale, on Nov 18, the Brooklyn Dodgers whooped the Pirates L (0–10) to close out the season.

1935 Joe Bach, Coach #3



Joe Bach Circa 1935

The 1935 Pittsburgh Pirates football team competed in their third season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Joe Bach as the third Pirates coach in his first of two seasons as head coach. In this the Pirates third year, this Pirates team finished with a losing season record of 4-8-0, winning four games, losing eight, and tying none. It was the most games the team had won in a single season. The team failed again to qualify for the playoffs (3rd time).

This was a miserable 4–8 season but better than the prior two. The team responded well to coach Bach on the field and there was hope. They had fired former coach Luby DiMeolo after completing the '34 season with a 2–10 record. They brought in the Duquesne head coach, John Bach, who improved their record to 4-8, and stayed until after the next season before returning to coach in college. In the Pirates third season and “home” opener on Sept 13, 1935, the Bach-led Pirates squad beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (17-7) at Philadelphia. On Sept 22, the Pirates took it big time on the chin against the New York Giants L (7-42). On Sept 29, at home, the Pirates were beaten by the Chicago Bears L (7-23). At Green Bay on Oct 6, the Packers whipped the Pirates L (0-27).

On Oct 9, the Pirates were beaten in a close match against the Philadelphia Eagles L (6-17). On Oct 20, the Pirates nipped the Chicago Cardinals W (17–13). Then, on Oct 27, Pittsburgh shut-out

the Boston Redskins W (6–0). The Brooklyn Dodgers beat Pittsburgh on November 3 L (7-13)

In an away game at Brooklyn, the Pirates defeated the Dodgers on Nov 10, W (16–7). Surviving a real trouncing like the Packers often deliver, the Pirates were defeated on Nov 24, by Green Bay L (14-34). On Dec 1, at Boston, the Pirates lost a close match against the Boston Redskins L (3-13). At New York on Dec 8, the Pirates were shut out by the Giants L (0-13) in the season finale.

1936 Joe Bach, Coach #3

The 1936 Pittsburgh Pirates football team competed in their fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Joe Bach as the third Pirates coach in his second and last of two seasons as head coach for the Pirates In this the Pirates fourth year, this Pirates team finished with a break-even season record of 6-6-0, winning six games, losing six, and tying zero. It was the most games the team had won in a single season. Bach had the potential to be a Pittsburgh hero. The team failed again to qualify for the playoffs (4th time).

In this, Joe Bach's second go at it, the team finished the season with the franchise's best record yet, at 6-6. The Pirates played almost all of their home games at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, except for one that was played at Point Stadium in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

In the Pirates fourth season and "home" opener on Sept 13, 1936, the Bach-led Pirates squad shut-out the Boston Redskins W (10-0) at Boston. On Sept 23, the Pirates made it two wins in a row with a close match against the Brooklyn Dodgers W (10–6). For three in a row from Joe Bach's boys, on Sept 27, the Pirates beat the New York Giants W (10–7). On my wedding anniversary again on Oct 4 (long before I was married), the Pirates lost to the Chicago Bears L (9-27).

Then, on Oct 14, the Pirates brought their record to 4-1 with a nice shutout win over the Philadelphia Eagles W (17–0). At Chicago on

Oct 18, the Bears beat the Pirates convincingly, L (7-26). Then on Oct 25 at Green Bay, the Pirates got whooped again by a very tough Packers team L (10-38). On Nov 1, the Pirates became 6-2-0 with a nice win over the Brooklyn Dodgers W (10-7).

Playing twice in one week was unusual but on Nov 5, the Pirates played at Philadelphia and beat the Eagles W (6-0) and then Pittsburgh made it to Detroit in time to play Detroit on Nov 8 where they were smashed by the Lions L (3-28). On Nov 15, the Pirates lost to the Chicago Cardinals L (6-14). Then, in the last game on Nov 29, at Boston, the Pirates were manhandled by the Redskins L 0-30 and so the season ended at 6-6 in the best year yet for the NFL Pirates.

1937 John Blood McNally, Coach #4



The 1937 Pittsburgh Pirates football team competed in their fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by John Blood McNally as the fourth Pirates coach in his first of three seasons as head coach. In this, the Pirates fifth year, this Pirates team finished with a break-even season record of 4-7-0, winning four games, losing seven, and tying zero. The team failed again to qualify for the playoffs (4th time).

The team hired John McNally as the fourth head coach after John Bach stepped down during the offseason. McNally was a former

player, who played halfback for the Pirates during the 1934 season. His team finished with a not so excellent 4-7 record however, Nonetheless, McNally was welcomed back the next season.

In the Pirates season and “home” opener on Sept 5, 1937, the McNally led Pirates squad beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (27-14) in Forbes Field. On Sept 19, the Pirates made it two wins in a row with a nice shutout win (21-0) at Brooklyn against the Dodgers. For three in a row from Joe Bach’s boys, on Sept 27, the Pirates beat the New York Giants W (10-7).

On my wedding anniversary again on Oct 4 (long before I was married), the Pirates lost to the Chicago Bears L (9-27). In a close match on Sept 36, at home, the New York Giants beat the Pirates the L (7-10) On Oct 4, at home, on my wedding anniversary, the Chicago Bears shut out Pittsburgh L (0-7)

Then on Oct 10, at Detroit, the Lions edged out the Pirates L (3-7). On Oct 17, at Washington, the Redskins defeated the Pirates L (20-34). On Oct 24, in a tough contest, the Chicago Cardinals beat the Pirates L (7-13) Coming back from five losses in a row, the Pirates beat Philadelphia at home in Forbes Field W (16-7)

At NY on Nov 7, the Giants shut-out the Pirates L (0-17). Then, on Nov 14 at home, the Pirates beat the Washington Redskins W (21-13). In the season finale, on Nov 21, the Brooklyn Dodgers beat the Pirates in a shutout L (0-23).

1938 John Blood McNally, Coach #4

The 1938 Pittsburgh Pirates football team competed in their fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by John Blood McNally as the fourth Pirates coach in his second of three seasons as head coach. In this, the Pirates fifth year, this Pirates team finished with a losing season record of 4-7-0, winning four games, losing seven, and tying zero. The team failed again to qualify for the playoffs (5th time).

Though his record was not very good, the 1938 Pirates welcomed back John Blood McNally as head coach. This year was worse than his first as he coached the team's second 2-win season in 3 years, as they placed last (fifth) in the NFL Eastern Division.

This team also welcomed one of the Steelers' best players during their tenure as "the Pirates" (1933-1939). Art Rooney signed college phenom Byron "Whizzer White for one season. White was given a huge salary in his contract. White payed back the Pirates by leading the league in rushing that year. He became the first player to do so while playing for a losing team. He stayed just one year and in 1939 he was overseas pursuing his studies overseas. White liked the NFL money and it did not take him long to return to football as a Lion in 1940.

The Pirates lost their first game of the season on September 9, 1938 at Detroit at the hands of the Lions L (7-16). The next two losses were first against the New York Giants on Sept 11 at home L (14-27) and then a loss to the Philadelphia Eagles L (7-27) on September 16. The only two wins of the season came back to back, first on Sept 23 @ Brooklyn in a nice win v the Dodgers W (17-3). The second was at New York against the Giants W (13-10). From October 9 until December 4, the Pirates did not win a game. Their losses for the remainder of 1938 were as follows

<u>Game</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Home?</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Score</u>
6	October 9, 1938	Yes	Brooklyn Dodgers	L 7-17
7	October 23, 1938	Away	Green Bay Packers	L 0-20
8	November 6, 1938	Yes	Wash Redskins	L 0-7
9	November 20, 1938	Away	Philadelph Eagles	L 7-14
10	November 27, 1938	Away	Wash'ton Redskins	L 0-15
11	December 4, 1938	Yes	Cleveland Rams	L 7-13

1939 John Blood McNally, Coach #4 (0-3)

1939 Walt Kiesling, Coach #5 (1-6-1)

The 1939 Pittsburgh Pirates football team competed in their sixth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by John Blood McNally as the fourth Pirates coach in his third and last of three seasons as head coach. Additionally, as an assistant for the first three games and as head coach when McNally

resigned, this was Walt Kiesling's 1st year. His record after McNally's resignation was 1-6-1. In this, the Pirates seventh and last year of existence, the team finished with a losing record of 1-9-1 in an eleven-game season. The team failed again to qualify for the playoffs (7th time in a row).

The Pirates brought John McNally back for his third year to begin the season. However, finishing 1938 with a 2-9 record, Pirate's owner Art Rooney chose to help him out by signing Walt Kiesling during the offseason to assist with coaching. Despite this, the Pirates experienced their worst season yet, placing last in the league with an overall 1-9-1 record. The team just barely got a number in the win column. The win did not come until Week 11, when they beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (24-12). It was their first win at home in 9 games at Forbes Field (Week 10, 1937).

On October 29, in the seventh game of the season, Pittsburgh tied the Cleveland Rams T (14-14). Then on Nov 26, against the Eagles, the Pirates won their only game W (24-12) in the season finale.

The rest of the games (all losses) are shown in tabular form below

<u>Game</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Home?</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Score</u>
1	Sept 14, 1939	Away	Brooklyn Dodgers	L 7-12
2	Sept 24, 1939	Yes	Chicago Cardinals	L 0-10
3	October 2, 1939	Yes	Chicago Bears	L 0-32
4	October 8, 1939	Yes	New York Giants	L 7-14
5	October 15, 1939	Away	Wash'ton Redskins	L 14-44
6	October 22, 1939	Yes	Wash'ton Redskins	L 14-21
8	November 6, 1939	Away	Brooklyn Dodgers	L 13-17
9	November 19, 1939	Away	New York Giants	L 7-23
10	November 23, 1939	Yes	Phil'delphia Eagles	L 14-17

That's all she wrote for the Pirates

The facts from this chapter summary are from bleacherreport.com

As discussed, Pittsburgh's original team nickname was the "Pirates," named after the baseball team. At the time, Major League Baseball was the only national sports game that mattered in the United States. It was truly the "National Pastime" and was considered a part of everyday life.

Professional football was basically still in its infancy and was more regarded as a violent, bloody scrum with few highlights and basically a boring affair. College Football had already gotten beyond that. Even though the forward pass was legalized in 1906, few teams threw the ball except in times of desperation, so the running game and subsequent pile-ups dominated the pro football landscape.

Because of baseball's popularity, many pro football teams named themselves the same (or similar) nickname as their baseball counterparts (i.e. Cubs-Bears) taking on the assumption that fans of the diamond would inherently become fans of the gridiron. Since tickets sales were the lone source of revenue for clubs back then, team association was critical to survival.

At the conclusion of the 1939 season and after years of futility trying to win a game on the field as well as win a few shekles at the gate, along with five head coaches in just seven seasons, Art Rooney wanted a new start and he decided a new nickname was in order.

We will pick up with the 1940 season and Coach Walt Kiesling in due time. First, we will go through some general football history. The next chapters begin with the beginning of football, including its most primitive times in history and they then break into a quick snapshot of the history of the Pittsburgh football organization through 2018. After this we will go back to the detail of each season from 1940, the first year after the Pirates and the first year of the Steelers to the 2017 season, which is the last season played at the time this book was originally written.

Enjoy the ride folks! I know that I will.

Chapter 3 Coach Walt Kiesling 1940-1944

#5 Coach Walt Kiesling

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1940	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	4th	2 7 2	.273
1941	All coaches	NFLEast	5th	1 9 1	.136
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Rooney convinced Bell to resign- 0-2 record • Aldo Donelli took over 5 games record 0-5 • Walt Kiesling came back & finished year at 1-2-1 				
1941	#6 Bert Bell	NFLEast	5th	0-2-0	.136
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared with coaches #5,6 (0-5) 				
1941	#7 Aldo Donelli	NFLEast	5th	0-5-0	.136
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared with coaches #5,6 (0-5) 				
1941	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	5th	1-2-1	.136
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared with coaches #6,7 (2-0-2) 				
1942	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	2nd	7 4 0	.636

Pittsburgh & Philadelphia = Steagles

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1943	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	3rd	5 4 1	.550
1943	Greasy Neale co-coach from Philadelphia Eagles0				

Chicago Cardinals & Pittsburgh = Card-Pitt

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1944	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	5th	0 10 0	.000
1944	Phil Handlers co-coach from the Chicago Cardinals				

Walt Kiesling was the last Pittsburgh Pirates Football Coach and since he was also the coach in 1940 when the Pirates in fact, became the Steelers, Kiesling has the honors of being the first Pittsburgh Steelers coach. You have probably figured it out. It was the same team with a different name.

Because there was a lot of coach-hopping and even team swapping, in the beginning of this chapter, you can see under #5 Coach Walt Kiesling's header, the coaching action that occurred from 1940 to 1942. Note that the greyed coaches above, Bert Bell, and Also Donelli, will be examined in the 1941 year in the next chapter. All three coaches, Bell, Donelli, and Kiesling coached some of the games in the 1941 season. At the time, it was tough for Art Rooney to keep coaches employed for a long-time.

After an inglorious seven years as the Pittsburgh Pirates, Art Rooney decided that it was time for a name change. And, so after a radio naming contest, the Pittsburgh Pirates became the Pittsburgh Steelers. Everything else was the same except the name.

We know that the Steelers were founded in 1933 as the Pirates by Art Rooney. Rooney had established a semi-pro football team called the Hope-Harvey Majestics which competed in the Western Pennsylvania Senior Independent Football Conference, so he was not new to football. The team would win two titles in the early 1930s before he bought the Pirates/Steelers franchise.



1940 Pittsburgh Steelers Game when Dan Rooney was the 8-yr-old Water-Boy

Pennsylvania had become a hotbed for football, especially the college game. College football was very popular as pro football found its way. The PA state “blue laws” that were designed to help promote religious practices on Sundays got in the way of professional recreation as the Sabbath was set aside as a day of rest. There were many restrictions from shopping to restaurants to alcohol to athletic events. Because pro football played its games on Sundays, this made it especially tough to own such a team in the state of Pennsylvania.

In the spring of 1933, some blue laws were repealed and so it looked like pro football would be a good bet for Rooney, who also liked to bet on the ponies, and so he got the team franchise from the NFL for \$2500.00 . Because the blue laws would not be voted on until November, the first four Pirate home games were played on Wednesday nights.

For the next seven years, the Pirates were perennial loser and usually made the cellar its habitat. In fact, in 1940 for the next 33 years or so, the Steelers carried the same reputation as a losing team. The club had a winning record only eight times and never came close to a championship. From player signings to draft selections if there were a good way to do it, Pittsburgh had not figured it out. They were literally horrid—and so were their coaching choices. They were appalling in just every way possible.

Once, in 1938, two years before the Pirates became the Steelers, their head coach took his job so lightly that Johnny Blood missed the team train home after a road game. On his return back to Pittsburgh, he stopped off in Chicago to see his former team, the Packers, play against the Bears. While he was at the game, a sportswriter recognized Johnny and asked Blood why he wasn't with his team. Blood gave the moral equivalent of a huh? As he said Pittsburgh was not playing on that weekend. By the time the words left his mouth, league scores were announced over the stadium loudspeaker. One score that was announced was Philadelphia 14, Pittsburgh 7.

The Steelers were not the original name of the team as noted, they were the Pirates. Baseball ruled the times as the national past-time so pro teams piggy backed on the success of the town's baseball team and picked up the same name to get the fans in the park. The notion was that fans of the diamond would inherently become fans of the gridiron. Tickets sales were the lone source of revenue for clubs back then, so having a good team association was critical to survival.

Nonetheless Art Rooney did not like the name Pirates and it had brought him no luck for seven years. He'd had his seven years of bad luck and wanted some good luck for a change. So, at the end of the 1939 season, sick of needing a head coach every year (five head

coaches in 7 seasons) Rooney decided to start anew with a new team nickname.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette ran a promotion in 1940 to rename the team and after dozens of fans chose the “Steelers,” Rooney made his decision. The winning person in the drawing was Margaret O’Donnell. Of course, the new handle for the Steelers was chosen in respect to the area’s production of steel and the industry as a whole. After all the fun of creating a new name for the team, it was soon time for Pittsburgh’s new Steelers to play football in the fall of 1940.

1940 Walt Kiesling, Coach #5



The 1940 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their eighth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football and their first using the moniker “Steelers.”. They were led by Walt Kiesling as the fifth coach in his second of three seasons as head coach. Kiesling's assistant coaches were Wilbur "Bill" Sortet and Hank Bruder. Both assistants also played on the team.

In this, the Pirates/Steelers eighth year, this Steelers team finished with a break-even season record of 2-7-2, winning two games, losing two, and tying two. The new Steelers team failed again to qualify for the playoffs.

The Steelers began the season with two ties. In the season and “home” opener on Sept 2, 1940, the Kiesling-led Steelers squad tied the Chicago Cardinals T (7-7) On Sept 15, the Steelers made it two ties in a row at home in Forbes Field against the New York Giants T (10-10). At Detroit on Sept 22, the Steelers got their first win ever under the name Steelers against the Lions W (10-7). At

home again on Sept 29, the Steelers lost their first game of the season—this was against the Brooklyn Dodgers L (3-10).

In the second of six losses in a row, on Oct 6, at home, the Steelers were whooped by the Washington Redskins L (10-40) at Forbes Field. At Brooklyn on Oct 13, the Steelers were shut out by the Dodgers L (0-21) At New York, on Oct 20, the Steelers were shut out by the Giants L (0-12). At Green Bay on Oct 27, the Packers beat the Steelers L (3-24)

On Nov 3, in the last game of the six-game losing streak, at Washington, the Redskins pounded the Steelers L (10-37). On Nov 10, at home, the Steelers defeated the Philadelphia Eagles W (7-3). Then wrapping up the Season, Kiesling's Steelers lost its final game of 1940 at Philadelphia to the Eagles L (0-7).

1941 Walt Kiesling, Coach #5

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1941	All coaches	NFLEast	5th	1 9 1	.136
	• Art Rooney convinced Bell to resign- 0-2 record				
	• Aldo Donelli took over 5 games record 0-5				
	• Walt Kiesling came back & finished year at 1-2-1				
1941	#6 Bert Bell	NFLEast	5th	0-2-0	.136
	• Shared with coaches #5,6 (0-5)				
1941	#7 Aldo Donelli	NFLEast	5th	0-5-0	.136
	• Shared with coaches #5,6 (0-5)				
1941	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	5th	1-2-1	.136
	• Shared with coaches #6,7 (2-0-2)				

1941 was a strange year for Pittsburgh long before the Pearl Harbor attack in December. The new name for the Pittsburgh football team was only one of many things Art Rooney grappled with in 1941. Among others was that the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh franchises went through what can be seen as an off-season team swap. Additionally, for a time. Bert Bell became the coach of the Steelers. Bell had been owner of the Eagles until Pittsburgh was sold to Alexis Thompson, a 26-year old well-to-do entrepreneur, and to stay in football Art Rooney bought half of the Eagles.

Eventually, Bert Bell (former Eagles owner) and Art Rooney together owned the Steelers and Alexis Thompson owned the Eagles

There is a more detailed version of the big team swap in the Post Pirates chapters in this book. To reread this information, please go to Chapter 12.

When instead of owning the Eagles together, Art Rooney and his buddy Bert Bell owned Pittsburgh together, Rooney was not very anxious for Bert Bell to become the head coach Pittsburgh. Rooney wanted Aldo Donelli, a one-time football star and great coach at Duquesne to take the reins.

Bell, who owned half the team in 1941 after Rooney had sold out, insisted on being the coach. Bell made a concession that he would give up coaching only if Rooney were to talk Aldo Donelli into coaching the team. Rooney got the job done but it was convoluted. So, Bell is the first listed coach in 1941 and Donelli is second listed before Kiesling at third.

Bert Bell took Pittsburgh to its first two losses and then he stepped down in favor of Aldo Donelli, whose deal was that he could continue to coach at Duquesne while coaching at Pittsburgh. This complete story is also told in Chapter 12. The NFL did not like it one bit.

Donelli did no better than the worst coaches ever for the Pirates. He lost five of five games with the team. Walt Kiesling, who had been serving as assistant coach all along in 1941, took over as head coach and he more or less mopped up the season by winning two games, losing none, and tying two. Donelli was given a choice when Duquesne and the Steelers had a common play/travel date. Rather than quit Duquesne for Pittsburgh as the NFL suggested, Donelli quit his Pittsburgh job with an 0-5 record. It was a strange year all around.

In the offseason, Art Rooney needed cash and he sold the whole Pittsburgh team to Alexis Thompson team and then re-acquired (more or less) the team with his buddy Bert Bell in a bizarre series of transactions which has come to be referred to as the "Pennsylvania Polka". The Pittsburgh roster consisted of many players who had played for the Philadelphia Eagles the previous year, who had joined the Steelers as a result of the ownership moves.

Bert Bell became half-owner of the team in the off-season as Art Rooney sold out, bought half of the Eagles and then the Eagles and Pittsburgh swapped teams. Bell named himself the head coach. After starting the season with two straight losses, Aldo "Buff" Donelli was brought in. As noted, Donelli was acting concurrently as head coach at Duquesne University, and when the team's schedules prevented him from fulfilling both roles, he stepped down as the Steelers' coach in favor of Walt Kiesling. To get more of this story, see Chapter 12.

The 1941 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football and their second using the moniker "Steelers.". They were led by Walt Kiesling as the fifth coach in his third of three seasons as head coach. Kiesling's assistant coaches were Wilbur "Bill" Sortet and Hank Bruder. Both assistants also played on the team.

In this, the Pirates/Steelers ninth year, this Steelers team finished with a poor record of 1-9-1, winning one games, losing nine, and tying one The Steelers team failed again to qualify for the playoffs.

The Steelers began the season with seven losses spread over two coaches. In the season opener on Sept 7, 1941, the Bell-led Steelers squad were defeated in a close match by the Cleveland Rams L (14-17). At home on Sept 21. The Eagles defeated the Steelers in another close match. L (7-10). Then, on Oct 5 at home in Forbes Field, the Steelers were pummeled by the New York Giants L (37-10) in Aldo Donelli's first game with the Steelers. On Oct 12, at home, the Steelers lost to the Washington Redskins L (20-24).

At New York on Oct 19, the Giants prevailed L (28-7). At Chicago on Oct 26, the Bears dominated L (7-34). Then, on Nov 2, at Washington, the Redskins beat the Eagles L (3-23). Then, on Nov 9, at Philadelphia, the Eagles tied the Steelers T (7-7)

On Nov 16, at home in Forbes Field, the Walt Kiesling led Pittsburgh Steelers won their only game of the year against the Brooklyn Dodgers W (14-7). The Steelers under Kiesling would lose their second-last and last games of the year. On Nov 23, the Green Bay Packers walloped the Steelers L (7-54) at Forbes Field. On Nov

30, at Brooklyn, the Dodgers drubbed the Steelers L (7-35) closing out the season with a big loss.

1942 Walt Kiesling, Coach #5

The 1942 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their tenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Walt Kiesling who returned for another seasons as head coach. The team improved substantially on its previous season result of 1-9-1 with a record of 7-4-0. This was good enough for 2nd place in the NFL East. This was the franchise's first ever winning record. The Steelers did not make the playoffs, but their name was mentioned a few times this season.

The Steelers began the season with two losses. In the season and home opener at Forbes Field on Sept 13, 1941, the Kiesling-led Steelers squad were defeated by the Philadelphia Eagles L (14-24). At Washington on Sept 20., the Redskins defeated the Steelers by two TDs, L (14-28) Then, on Oct 4, my wedding anniversary, at home in Forbes Field, the Steelers defeated the New York Giants W (13-10) for the first win of the 1942 season. At Brooklyn on Oct 11, the Steelers shut out the Brooklyn Dodgers W (7-0)

At Philadelphia on Oct 18, the Steelers shut out the Eagles W (14-0). Walt Kiesling had the Steelers looking like a real team. On Oct 25, at home, the Steelers lost to the Washington Redskins L (0-14). Then, on Nov 1, at New York, the Steelers defeated the Giants W (17-9). On Nov 8, @ Detroit, Steelers thumped the Lions W (35-7).

Then, on Nov 22, the Steelers whooped the Chicago Cardinals W 19-3 at home in Forbes Field. Then, at home again on Nov 29, the Steelers defeated the Brooklyn Dodgers W (13-0). Not being able to win the season finale, the Steelers put up a fine battle at Green Bay on Dec 6, against the Packers L (21-24).



Philadelphia & Pittsburgh Combined Team aka, Pitt-Phil; Steagles

The Philadelphia and Pittsburgh teams were forced to merge because both had lost many players to military service during World War II. The league's official record book refers to the team as "Phil-Pitt Combine", but the fans unofficially referred to this combination Pitt-Phil team as the "Steagles." Despite its never being registered by the NFL, the Steagles has become the enduring moniker for the team that played the 1943 season

Our deepest thank you to Pennlive.com and author Aaron Kasiniz for this fine summary of the 1943 Steagles. Lots of other great prose is available on Penn Live.

Steagles legacy: Eagles, Steelers merged in 1943 to form a team of misfits that kept the NFL afloat

Updated on September 21, 2016 at 10:11 AM Posted on September 21, 2016 at 9:00 AM

A star wide receiver on one of the more significant teams in NFL history was blind in one eye. The center was partially deaf. And another key lineman helped construct parts for the atomic bomb weekdays during the season before heading to practice at Fairmount Park in West Philadelphia each night.

When the Eagles and Steelers merged to form the Steagles in 1943, the team's goal was to keep the NFL afloat and help capture normalcy on the homefront as war raged in Europe. But it wasn't easy, said Matthew Algeo, a radio journalist who authored "Last Team Standing: How the Pittsburgh Steelers and Philadelphia Eagles -- The 'Steagles' -- Saved Pro Football." The jumbled squad didn't include the type of highly-paid, uber-athletic stars fans see today, Algeo said.

And before the modern-day Eagles (2-0) and Steelers (2-0) square off Sunday at Lincoln Financial Field, Algeo wants people to keep that in mind. He wants football fans to understand the 1943 Steagles were unlike any other team to enter the record books.

"Most of these guys were there because they were not able to serve in the military," Algeo said. "A lot of them were classified 4F, which was unfit for military service. A lot of them had ulcers, perforated eardrums."

Somehow, though, the Steagles and the NFL thrived during World War II. The NFL's first merged squad posted a 5-4-1 record in its only season of existence, finishing one game back of first place in the Eastern Division.

And they helped steady the NFL in a time of flux. The league lacked players in 1943, because so many joined the military. The Steelers only had seven under contract for the season before joining forces with the Eagles, Algeo said. That's why the NFL owners decided the Steelers and Eagles should merge, despite the tension it caused in the Keystone State.

The Steagles didn't get along at first, as competitive tempers overwhelmed the desire for unity. Not to mention, the two co-head coaches, tasked with promoting camaraderie, couldn't stand each other when the season began.

Eagles coach Greasy Neale wanted to follow George Halas' lead by using the innovative T-formation. He hoped to play with a quarterback who could chuck the ball downfield. Steelers coach Walt Kiesling, meanwhile, thought it was unmanly to throw passes and run fakes.

Even the two fanbases had lingering reservations. The Steagles played four home games in Philadelphia and just two in Pittsburgh. Plus, the team wore green and white uniforms instead of black and gold.

"Pittsburghers who supported the Steelers in the old days have the right to complain over the way Philadelphia hogged the merger," Pittsburgh Press sports editor Chester L. Smith wrote in a 1943 column.

But one thing helped ease the strain: The Steagles won games. They jumped out to a 2-0 start and finished with a 4-1-1 record at home. The Steagles led the league in rushing, according to Pro Football Reference, while Tony Bova, the receiver blind in an eye, had a team-best five touchdown catches.

As the season wore on, the two coaches smoothed over their relationship by separating responsibilities. Neale took over as coach of the offense and Kiesling directed the defense. Both wound up in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

And, for one season, they helped an odd combination of players find a semblance of stability and success.

"If the Steagles had been a terrible team, I think I would have found much more dissent from Steelers fans about the merger," Algeo said. "Once fans realized that this was a winning team, they kind of changed their attitude and became very supportive."

The growing fandom was a trend around the league, Algeo said. During World War II, many Americans on the home front had to work long hours and spend six days a week in factories. Most everyone, however, had Sundays off. And with worry looming over American families, football provided an outlet.

The league might have folded if the Steelers and Eagles hadn't joined forces to form an eighth team, Algeo said. Yet NFL attendance rose during the war.

"It provided entertainment on those Sunday afternoons, especially in the fall after baseball ended, because there was nothing else to do," Algeo said. "All the trolleys ran to all the ballparks. At the time, the NFL teams used Major League ballparks. So, all this helped the league survive."

The Steagles players weren't just contributing to the war efforts with their play on the field, though. Steelers owners Art Rooney and Bert Bell and Eagles owner Alexis Thompson required their players to work in wartime industries during the week.

Philadelphia was a hub for shipyards, while Pittsburgh produced much of the steel used in World War II. Offensive guard Ted Doyle worked in Pittsburgh and constructed parts for the atomic bomb, though he didn't know it at the time, Algeo said. The work schedules and distance between teammates created logistical problems.

But the Steagles made things work. According to Algeo, the team was able to use a field in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park for night-time practices. It had lights because a Negro League baseball team played games there.

The late practices allowed Steagles players time to get to the field after working from about 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Algeo said. Some from Pittsburgh rode the train across the state regularly. It took some finagling, but the Steagles remained on firm ground. They had to. Owners knew the NFL could face a downward spiral if the league suspended play for a significant amount of time during the war.

"People don't remember this, but another league came into existence in '46: The All-America Football Conference. That's who gave us the Baltimore Colts and the San Francisco 49ers," Algeo said. "The [NFL] came very close to suspending operations for a year or two during World War II, and if they had, it would have been much more difficult to defeat the rival leagues that came up after."

"So, I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that by merging the Eagles and Steelers, they were keeping the league alive. The NFL really, really saved itself during WWII."

The challenges facing the Steagles stood out to Algeo when he covered a reunion event in 2003 for NPR. Not a huge football nut, Algeo said he always considered himself a moderate Eagles fan and wanted to explore the history of the merged franchises.

By the time he published the book in 2006, Algeo had interviewed the nine living members of the Steagles. Ten years later, none are left. Al Wistert, an all-pro tackle, died in March at the age of 95. He was the last remaining Steagle.

And as he looks back on his research, Algeo's biggest takeaway wasn't simply that the team revived the NFL or lifted American morale during a devastating war.

It's that many of the players who accomplished those things were the ones unallowed to make an impact through more conventional wartime methods.

"These guys were not able to contribute in the military, but in some small way, they were able to contribute by keeping this game alive," Algeo said. "It was a tough game. It was a tough game, especially for some of the guys with disabilities. They deserve a lot of respect."

-- @AaronKazreports



1943 Steagles starting line-up Back row (left to right): *unknown*, back (#11); Ben Kish, back (#44); Ernie Steele, halfback (#37) Middle row: Roy Zimmerman, quarter-back (#7) Front row (left to right): Larry Cabrelli, end (#84); Bucko Kilroy, tackle (#76); Ed Michaels, guard (#60); Ray Graves, center (#52); Elbie Schultz, guard (#71); Vic Sears, tackle (#79); Bob Masters, end (#31)

1943 Walt Kiesling, Pittsburgh Steelers Coach #5

1943 Greasy Neal Philadelphia Eagles co-coach

The 1943 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed as a combined team along with the Philadelphia Eagles in their eleventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. This was the first and last time Pittsburgh and Philadelphia would combine their resources to be able to field a team, though the Pirates combined with the Chicago Cardinals again in 1944.

The combined team was led by co-coaches Pittsburgh Coach Walt Kiesling and Philadelphia Coach Greasy Neale. Neither coach would be demoted and so both were used throughout the season. In order to keep conflicts to a minimum between the two coaches, Neale took over as coach of the offense and Kiesling directed the defense. The team had a nice record of 5-4-1 and they tied for second.

The Steagles began the season with two wins. In the season and home opener at Shibe Park in Philadelphia, on October 2, 1943, the Steagles shut-out the Brooklyn Dodgers W (17-0) At home again in Shibe Park, Philadelphia, on Oct 9, the Steagles defeated the New York Giants W (28-14). On Oct 17, the Steagles lost their first game of 1943 to the Chicago Bears in a rout L (21-48) at Wrigley Field. Then, in New York on Sunday, Oct 24, the Giants defeated the Steagles L(42-14) at the Polo Grounds before 42,681.

On Oct 31, the Steagles belted the Chicago Cardinals W (34–13) at home in Forbes Field before 16,351. On Nov 7, the Washington Redskins tied the Steagles at Shibe Park T (14–14) before 32,694. On Nov 14, in a close match at Ebbets Field, the Brooklyn Dodgers defeated the Steagles L (7-13) before 7,613.

Then, at Forbes Field, on Nov 21, in a one-point nail-biter, the Steagles defeated the Detroit Lions W 35–34 before 23,338. On Nov 28, the Steagles defeated the Washington Redskins W (27–14) at Griffith Stadium before 35,540. In the final game ever for the Steagles team, on Dec 5, in a tough match, the Steagles fell to the Green Bay Packers L (28-3) at Shibe Park in Philadelphia before 34,294. And, so the Steagles record was then superimposed in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh as if the he original teams played the games of 1943.

1944 Chicago Cardinals & Pittsburgh Steelers Merger

Card-Pitt was another temporary merger of two NFL teams to form one on a temporary basis. It was the second time the Pittsburgh Steelers were involved in such a Merger. We have just discussed the 1943 Steagles.

This new temporary team was created by the temporary merger of two National Football League (NFL) teams, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Chicago Cardinals, during the 1944 season. Pittsburgh still did not have enough players or enough money to get players and the war was still taking its toll on the Steelers organization. The Cardinals merger request the prior year had been turned down the prior year and like Pittsburgh, their existence was hanging on a thread.

So, as noted, it was the second such merger for the Steelers, who had combined with the Philadelphia Eagles in 1943 to form the "Steagles". The arrangement was made necessary by the loss of

numerous players to World War II military service and was dissolved upon completion of the season.

The war ended before the start of the 1945 season, and both teams resumed normal operations. Card-Pitt finished did not have the success of the Steagles and finished with a 0–10-0 record in the Western Division. This led sportswriters to derisively label the team the "Car-Pitts", or "carpets". The Associated press through the NFL, recently put out an article about what happened in 1944 and we have provided it with a thank you to the NFL below: Enjoy.

Merged 1944 Cardinals-Steelers team brought memories, not wins

From nfl.com: / Associated Press

Published: Jan. 25, 2009 at 05:33 p.m.

Updated: July 26, 2012 at 08:28 p.m.

TAMPA, Fla. -- They wore hand-me-down jerseys, the little rips and tears widening with every loss. The holes at quarterback and kicker were more obvious.

The brief World War II merger of the Steelers and Cardinals might have helped the NFL, but it sure didn't benefit anyone who spent that season shuttling to home games in Pittsburgh and Chicago.

"We were terrible," said former lineman Chet Bulger, now 91. "You'd get beat so bad, you'd cry."

Long, long before the franchises reached any Super Bowl, they teamed together in 1944 to create a much different legacy.

At 0-10, the ragtag outfit was outscored by an average of three touchdowns per game, threw a league-record, 41 interceptions and set an NFL mark that still stands for the worst punting.

Their nickname seemed inevitable: *the Car-Pitts*. As in, every team walked right over them.



Walt Kiesling Co-Coach Coach of Card-Pitt

"That was true," recalled Vince Banonis, who played two games while on weekend furlough as a Navy lieutenant. "We got massacred every week."

Beset by fights, fines and suspensions in a rough-and-tumble era, there was hardly a Ben Roethlisberger or Larry Fitzgerald among them. Their lone ace, Johnny Grigas, threw away his leather helmet and skipped town before it was over.

About one hour before the wrap-up, a 49-7 rout by the Chicago Bears at Forbes Field, the Car-Pitts discovered Grigas already was on a train.

The former Holy Cross star left a note for his hotel roommate. "This is the end," Grigas wrote, saying he didn't care to finish up on a frozen field.

"I thought he'd gone to become a priest," Bulger said. "He'd had enough."

So had many of the guys. Most of them came from the Chicago Cardinals -- they were in the midst of a 29-game losing streak, and only the merger kept them out of the record book for consecutive defeats by a single franchise.

A few guys straggled over from the Steelers. They had joined Philadelphia in 1943 as the "Steagles" after military service left both teams short-handed, but the sides broke apart when the season ended.

"They were at each other's throats, the way I heard it," Banonis said.

In April 1944, the NFL suddenly found itself with 11 teams when the Cleveland Rams rejoined the league and the Boston Yanks also entered. That caused scheduling problems, so commissioner Elmer Layden, one of the original "Four Horsemen of Notre Dame," asked Steelers owner Art Rooney and Cardinals boss Charles Bidwill if they'd be interested in a merger.

The patriarchs of the families that still own the franchises agreed. A few months later, the combined club went off to training camp in Waukesha, Wis.

"We were all sitting there on the porch the first day," Bulger said. "We're all just looking at each other. These were guys you'd tried to beat up before. Finally, one of the co-owners, Bert Bell, says, 'You're going to have to get together.'"

Finding a nickname for the team was a little more challenging.

At the outset, there were several: the Chi-Pitts, the Card-Pitts and Cardinals-Pitt, among them.

A 3-0 loss to Sammy Baugh and the Washington Redskins in an exhibition game gave the Car-Pitts hope. They lost the opener to the Rams 30-28 on a late touchdown, then actually won one week later -- too bad for them, the 17-16 victory over the New York Giants came in an exhibition game, a frequent occurrence during the war.

From there, it got real bad in a hurry.

Team management fined three players for "indifferent play" after a 34-7 loss to the defending champion Bears.

None of their quarterbacks could run the popular T-formation, and the famed "Notre Dame box" didn't work, either. Military commitments caused chaos with the roster, and replacements signed off the sandlots showed up in Pittsburgh for practice.

"It was an odd year," Bulger said. "We got all mixed up." Especially when it came to kicking. They averaged only 32.7 yards per punt.

"Everybody tried to punt. We all tried in practice," Bulger said. "We couldn't find anyone."

Co-coaches Phil Handler of the Cardinals and Walt Kiesling of the Steelers were at a loss. Kiesling had been a Hall of Fame lineman, but he wasn't nearly so successful as a coach. Many years later in Steelers camp, he cut a young quarterback named Johnny Unitas.

Art Rooney also thought Kiesling spent too much time around the horse tracks in Chicago. "He studies the Racing Form more than he does the playbook," Rooney once said.[Rooney would know!]

The next week, after the Giants whacked the Car-Pitts 23-0, it was clear this merged team was brutal.

"The Card-Pitts played the role of a red plush rug this afternoon as the undefeated Giants paraded over and past them," the Chicago Tribune reported.

Then came a wild brawl with the Redskins, with Gil "Cactus Face" Duggan among the players ejected once police restored order. There were two losses at their other home field, Comiskey Park in Chicago, and that final rout by the Bears. Overall, the Car-Pitts were outscored 328-108.

For Bulger and Banonis, the good times came later. The rugged two-way linemen played together in 1947 on the last Cardinals team to win the NFL championship, and Banonis won two titles with the Detroit Lions in the early 1950s. Bell also made out well, later becoming commissioner.

Banonis, now 87 and in a wheelchair, will root for the Cardinals in Super Bowl XLIII (When this article was written]. During a telephone interview from his home in Southfield, Mich., Banonis began singing the team fight song from long ago.

"Hail Chicago Cardinals, crimson and white," he belted.

Told of Banonis' performance, Bulger laughed.

"He was always singing these Lithuanian songs," Bulger said. "Oh, what a football player he was."

After nine years in the NFL, Bulger coached and taught for 30-plus years at De La Salle Institute in Chicago. The school named its main athletic field for him, and he continues to help with its fundraising efforts. And he keeps rooting for his old team.

"I'm still a Cardinal, always a Cardinal," he said. "I can't see too well anymore, but I'm going to get up real close to the TV to watch that game. Maybe we'll win that Super Bowl. Wouldn't that be something?"

1944 Walt Kiesling, Coach #5

1944 Phil Handler, Coach of the Cardinals

The 0-10-0 record gave few in Pittsburgh anything to cheer about, but it helped Art Rooney and Bert Bell get by one more year before post-war operations could begin again as the team moved to a normal program.



1944 Card-Pitt

The 1944 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed as a combined team along with the Chicago Cardinals in their twelfth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. This was the first and last time Pittsburgh and Chicago would combine their resources to be able to field a team.

The combined team was led by co-coaches Pittsburgh Coach Walt Kiesling and Cardinal Coach Phil Handler. The team had the worst record possible for a ten-game season – 0-10-0. They came in last place.

The Card-Pitt began the season with a loss at home and continued losing for the rest of the season.

In the season and home opener at one of the home fields, Comiskey Park in Chicago, on September 24, 1944, the Car-Pitts gave up the

game in the last minutes L (28-30) What came next was nine straight losses for the ten-game season as shown below in list form. The games were all losses so there is not much to say..

- 1 September 24, 1944 Cleveland Rams L 28–30
- 2 October 8, 1944 at Green Bay Packers L 7–34
- 3 October 15, 1944 at Chicago Bears L 7–34
- 4 October 22, 1944 at New York Giants L 0–23
- 5 October 29, 1944 at Washington Redskins L 20-42
- 6 November 5, 1944 Detroit Lions L 6–27
- 7 November 12, 1944 at Detroit Lions L 7–21
- 8 November 19, 1944 Cleveland Rams L 6–33
- 9 November 26, 1944 Green Bay Packers L 20–35
- 10 December 3, 1944 Chicago Bears L 7–49

Chapter 4 Coaches Bert Bell & Aldo Donelli--1941

#6 Coach Bert Bell
#7 Coach Aldo Donelli

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1940	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	4th	2 7 2	.273
1941	All coaches	NFLEast	5th	1 9 1	.136
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Rooney convinced Bell to resign- 0-2 record • Aldo Donelli took over 5 games record 0-5 • Walt Kiesling came back & finished year at 1-2-1 				
1941	#6 Bert Bell	NFLEast	5th	0-2-0	.136
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared with coaches #5,6 (0-5) 				
1941	#7 Aldo Donelli	NFLEast	5th	0-5-0	.136
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared with coaches #5,6 (0-5) 				
1941	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	5th	1-2-1	.136
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared with coaches #6,7 (2-0-2) 				
1942	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	2nd	7 4 0	.636

1941 Bert Bell, Coach #6
1941 Aldo Donelli, Coach #7
1941 Walt Kiesling, Coach #5



<< Bert Bell

1941 was a strange year for Pittsburgh long before the Pearl Harbor attack in December. The new name for the Pittsburgh football team was only one of many things Art Rooney grappled with in 1941. Among others was that the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh franchises went through what can be seen as an off-season team swap. Additionally, for a time, Bert Bell became the coach of the Steelers. Bell had been owner of the Eagles until Pittsburgh was sold to Alexis

Thompson, a 26-year old well-to-do entrepreneur, and to stay in football Art Rooney bought half of the Eagles.

Eventually, Bert Bell (former Eagles owner) and Art Rooney together owned the Steelers and Alexis Thompson owned the Eagles. There is a more detailed version of the big team swap in the Post Pirates chapters in this book. To reread this information, please go to Chapter 12.

When instead of owning the Eagles together, Art Rooney and his buddy Bert Bell owned Pittsburgh together, Rooney was not very anxious for Bert Bell to become the head coach Pittsburgh. Rooney wanted Aldo Donelli, a one-time football star and great coach at Duquesne to take the reins.

Bell, who owned half the team in 1941 after Rooney had sold out, insisted on being the coach. Bell made a concession that he would give up coaching only if Rooney were to talk Aldo Donelli into coaching the team. Rooney got the job done but it was convoluted. So, Bell is the first listed coach in 1941 and Donelli is second listed before Kiesling at third.



<<< Aldo Donelli

Bert Bell took Pittsburgh to its first two losses and then he stepped down in favor of Aldo Donelli, whose deal was that he could continue to coach at Duquesne while coaching at Pittsburgh. This complete story is also told in Chapter 12. The NFL did not like it one bit.

Donelli did no better than the worst coaches ever for the Pirates. He lost five of five games with the team. Walt Kiesling, who had been serving as assistant coach all along in 1941, took over as

head coach and he more or less mopped up the season by winning

two games, losing none, and typing two. Donelli was given a choice when Duquesne and the Steelers had a common play/travel date. Rather than quit Duquesne for Pittsburgh as the NFL suggested, Donelli quit his Pittsburgh job with an 0-5 record. It was a strange year all around.

In the offseason, Art Rooney needed cash and he sold the whole Pittsburgh team to Alexis Thompson team and then re-acquired (more or less) the team with his buddy Bert Bell in a bizarre series of transactions which has come to be referred to as the "Pennsylvania Polka". The Pittsburgh roster consisted of many players who had played for the Philadelphia Eagles the previous year, who had joined the Steelers as a result of the ownership moves.

Bert Bell became half-owner of the team in the off-season as Art Rooney sold out, bought half of the Eagles and then the Eagles and Pittsburgh swapped teams. Bell named himself the head coach. After starting the season with two straight losses, Aldo "Buff" Donelli was brought in. As noted, Donelli was acting concurrently as head coach at Duquesne University, and when the team's schedules prevented him from fulfilling both roles, he stepped down as the Steelers' coach in favor of Walt Kiesling. To get more of this story, see Chapter 12.

The 1941 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football and their second using the moniker "Steelers.". They were led by Walt Kiesling as the fifth coach in his third of three seasons as head coach. Kiesling's assistant coaches were Wilbur "Bill" Sortet and Hank Bruder. Both assistants also played on the team.

In this, the Pirates/Steelers ninth year, this Steelers team finished with a poor record of 1-9-1, winning one games, losing nine, and tying one The Steelers team failed again to qualify for the playoffs.

The Steelers began the season with seven losses spread over two coaches. In the season opener on Sept 7, 1941, the Bell-led Steelers squad were defeated in a close match by the Cleveland Rams L (14-17). At home on Sept 21. The Eagles defeated the Steelers in another close match. L (7-10). Then, on Oct 5 at home in Forbes Field, the Steelers were pummeled by the New York Giants L (37-10) in Aldo

Donelli's first game with the Steelers. On Oct 12, at home, the Steelers lost to the Washington Redskins L (20-24).

At New York on Oct 19, the Giants prevailed L (28-7). At Chicago on Oct 26, the Bears dominated L (7-34). Then, on Nov 2, at Washington, the Redskins beat the Eagles L (3-23). Then, on Nov 9, at Philadelphia, the Eagles tied the Steelers T (7-7)

On Nov 16, at home in Forbes Field, the Walt Kiesling led Pittsburgh Steelers won their only game of the year against the Brooklyn Dodgers W (14-7). The Steelers under Kiesling would lose their second-last and last games of the year. On Nov 23, the Green Bay Packers walloped the Steelers L (7-54) at Forbes Field. On Nov 30, at Brooklyn, the Dodgers drubbed the Steelers L (7-35) closing out the season with a big loss.

Chapter 5 Steelers Coach Jim Leonard—1945

Coach #8 Jim Leonard

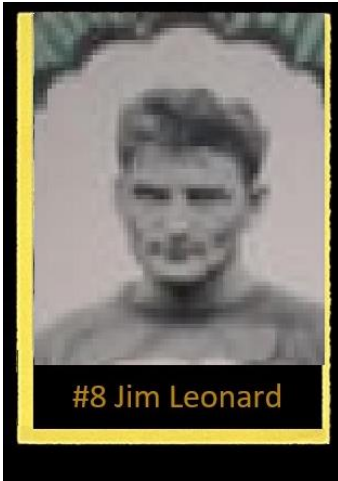
Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1945	#8 Jim Leonard	NFLEast	5th	2 8 0	.200

There is not very much written about Coach James Raymond Leonard, Sr. (February 14, 1910 – November 28, as he coached the Pittsburgh Steelers but one year, 1945. 1993). Leonard was an fine running back in the National Football League for the Philadelphia Eagles before his coaching career and of course, he was the head coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1945.

Leonard was a great athlete and as many of his era, he starred in multiple sports, He was a two-sport star at the University of Notre Dame during the 1930's, both as a pitcher in baseball and a fullback in football. After his time with Notre Dame, as noted, he played for the Philadelphia Eagles for three seasons and he was skilled well enough to be the team captain in 1935 & 1936. He left the Eagles to start the football program at Saint Francis College in Loretto, Pennsylvania in 1937.

In 1942 he joined the NFL again as a staff coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers, then went back to college coaching serving as an assistant at the College of the Holy Cross in 1943 before returning to the Steelers as head coach during the 1945 campaign. He finished his career as the head coach of Villanova University from 1949 to 1951.

1945 Jim Leonard, Coach #8



The 1945 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their thirteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Jim Leonard in his first and only year as head coach. It would be facetious to say that the team improved substantially on its previous season result of 0-10-0, but it did with an almost as poor record of 2-8-0. The Steelers did not make the playoffs.

Pittsburgh began the season with two losses. In the season and home opener at Forbes Field on September 26, 1945, Leonard-led Steelers squad were defeated by the Boston Yanks L (7-28). In the next outing at Forbes Field, on Oct 7, the New York Giants beat the Steelers L (6-34). On Oct 14, the Washington Redskins shut out the Steelers L (0-14). Then, on Oct 21, at New York, the Steelers defeated the Giants for the first win of the year,

On Oct 28, the Boston Yanks beat the Steelers at home L (6-10). Then, on Nov 4, the Steelers were pounded by the cross-state Philadelphia Eagles L (3-45). The second and last win of the year came on Nov 11 at home against the Chicago Cardinals in a shutout W (23-0).

At Philadelphia on Nov 18, the Eagles beat the Steelers for the second time this season, L (6-30). On Nov 25, at Chicago, the Bears beat the Steelers L (7-28). In the season finale at Washington on Dec 2, the Redskins shut out the Steelers L (0-24) to wrap up the season.

Chapter 6 Coach Jock Sutherland 1946-1947

Coach #9 Jock Sutherland

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1946	#9 Jock Sutherland	NFLEast	3 rd -T	5 5 1	.500
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Dudley – Joe F. Carr Trophy (MVP) 				
1947	#9 Jock Sutherland	NFLEast	2nd	8 4 0	.667
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Eastern Divisional Playoff (Eagles) 21–0 				

A great winner—from Pitt.edu

Legend has it that John Bain “Jock” Sutherland played in the first football game he ever saw. He suffered defeat only once as a player, then went on to coach Pitt to five national championships.

As an All-American guard, the Scottish-born Sutherland played on Panther teams that went undefeated during his final three seasons and won national championships in 1915 and 1916. Incredibly, he was even more successful as a coach.

In 1924, Sutherland replaced "Pop" Warner, his former coach and mentor, as head coach at Pitt. Sutherland, who was described as "a national hero" in a Saturday Evening Post article, became a highly admired and influential coach at the University while compiling a record of 111–20–12.

Under Sutherland’s leadership from 1924 to 1938, Pitt compiled a record of 111 wins (including 79 shutouts), 20 losses, and 12 ties, going undefeated four times; playing in four Rose Bowls; and winning national championships in 1929, 1931, 1934, 1936, and 1937. The Sutherland-coached Panthers fielded 21 All-American players, beat Penn State a dozen straight times, and in five victories over powerhouse Notre Dame held the Fighting Irish to 15 points.

Pitt’s Sutherland Hall student housing facility and nearby Sutherland Drive were named after him.

Jock was a great player and moved on to make some money as a pro-player for the Brooklyn Dodgers (1940–1941) and Pittsburgh Steelers (1946–1947). He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1951. While playing for Pittsburgh, he also coached.

Sutherland was quite a person. I have copied some text from the UK Pittsburgh 1947 Media Guide that I think you will enjoy.

Dr. John Bain (Jock) Sutherland's life story reads like one of those "success tales" that Horatio Alger manufactured in mass production many, many years ago. For here was a man who came to this country forty years ago at the age of 18, and stayed to find it the land of opportunity - even though the streets were not paved with gold.

The tall, ramrod-straight coach left his home and family in Coupar Angus, Scotland, and settled in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, now a fashionable suburban sector on the outskirts of Pittsburgh.

He worked at odd jobs in the then remote little village before completing his secondary education at Oberlin Academy. In 1913 he enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh and, at the same time, embarked on a career that was to gain him national fame. So much has been written about the Doctor's ability as a coach that his ability as a player has been almost completely overlooked.

Jock played in the first collegiate football game he ever witnessed.

His coach, Joe Duff, sent him into a battle against Navy as a substitute and he made such an impression that he became a first stringer the following Saturday. For the next four seasons, he was a standout lineman, both for Duff and Duff's successor, the fabled Glenn (Pop) Warner.

It was in these days that Jock acquired a gourmet's taste for victory. As a matter of fact, he played in only one losing game during his playing career - and that against Washington & Jefferson College in 1914. The 1916 team on which he excelled was recipient of the National Championship Award promulgated by the Helm's Athletic Foundation.

Since then, the Silent Scot practically has erased the word 'lose' from his vocabulary. A few years back, a publicist at Pitt, in the

understatement of the day, summed up Sutherland's horror for losing in a nutshell. "In 1930," the publicist wrote, "Jock had his first poor year since his initial season at Pitt. He lost two games..."

As a matter of passing, it might be noted here that Sutherland also was captain of the Panthers' track team and was intercollegiate champ in the discus and hammer throws.

After receiving his degree as a Doctor of Dental Science in 1918, the good doctor enlisted in the Army and served overseas. Upon discharge, in 1919, he moved to Lafayette College where he began a football coaching career that is almost unparalleled in modern times.

He gave the Leopards of Lafayette their best football days in his five-year stay, winning 33 victories against eight losses and two ties. It was here, too, that he won his first eight Eastern championships with 'his 1921 team.

When Pop Warner left Pitt for Stanford after the 1923 season, Dr. Sutherland was called to take his place and, at the same time, fill a responsible position in the Dental school faculty.

His first season was a tough one. One newspaperman, covering the Panthers at the time, wrote that Jock's team lost games to traditional rivals and the "downtown coaches and over-enthusiastic alumni were hot after his scalp." But the reserved Scot made a notable comeback the following year and thereafter, Pitt, until Jock resigned in 1939, was recognized as one of the national collegiate football leaders.

During his 15-year stay at Pitt, Sutherland compiled an impressive record. His teams were seven times Eastern champions - 1927, 29, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37 - while the 1936 aggregation was awarded the Knute K. Rockne Memorial Trophy, emblematic of National supremacy. The Sutherland-coached Panthers won 111 games, lost 20 and tied 12. Thus, he has a lifetime collegiate coaching record of 144 wins against 28 losses and 14 ties.

Following his resignation at Pitt, Sutherland remained out of football for a year and then became the first "name" coach to switch

Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football

from the collegiate to professional ranks by signing a contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers of the National Football League. He stayed along the banks of the Gowanus for two seasons and both times he missed winning the Eastern Pro title by a single contest.

Then, when World War II struck, the Doctor forgot about his beloved game and spent an entire year beating on the military "brass" doors before being accepted into the Navy. But here again he eventually ended up with sonic football players to coach.



< Jock Sutherland circa 1945
After the War, he was lured back to the town he loved best - Pittsburgh - and signed a contract to coach Art Rooney's hitherto helpless Steelers.

Last year, he'll tell you, he had a terrible season, winning five, losing five and tying one - but fans will tell you they saw the best football, "since the Old Man left Pittsburgh in 1939."

Reprinted from the 1947 Pittsburgh Steelers media guide.

The 1945 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fourteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team improved substantially on its previous season result of 2-8-0, breaking even at 5-5-1. The Steelers did not make the playoffs, but they responded to Jock Sutherland's style and after this season, there was a glimmer of hope for the future.

1946 Jock Sutherland, Coach #9

Pittsburgh began the season with a win followed by a tie. The team was off to a good start. In the season and home opener at Forbes Field on September 20, 1946, the Sutherland led Steelers squad defeated the Chicago Cardinals W (14-7). In the next outing at Forbes Field, on Sept 29, the Steelers tied the Washington Redskins T (14-14). Then, on Oct 6, the Steelers lost their first game—to the NY Giants L (14-17) .

On Oct 13, the Steelers picked up a milestone win (#3) against the Boston Yanks at Forbes Field W (16-7). The second loss for the squad came quickly when the two weeks later on Oct 20, at Green Bay, the Packers beat the Steelers L (7-17). On Oct 27 at Boston, the Steelers ripped the Yanks apart W (33-7), dominating the game. Another win came in Week #7 on Nov 3 at home against the Washington Redskins W (14-7).

On Nov 10, at Detroit, the Lions beat the Steelers, L (7-17) On Nov 17, Philadelphia came to town and the Steelers beat the Eagles W (10-7). After what would have been a winning season, Sutherland's squad lost its last two games by close margins to finish at 5-5-1. The first of the two losses was L (0-7) on Nov 24, at the New York Giants L 7-0. The final game was even closer on Dec 1, @ Philadelphia where the Steelers were beaten by the Eagles by just three points L(10-7).

1947 Jock Sutherland, Coach #9

The 1947 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fifteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team improved again on its previous season result of 2-8-0, breaking even at 8-4-0. The Steelers made the playoffs. This record tied for the lead in the Eastern Division and qualified the Steelers for the franchise's first playoff berth. It was the Steelers' only postseason appearance before 1972. Jock Sutherland had moved mountains, but it was his final year as head coach; he died the following April.

Because he was such a good coach and he died so suddenly, I made some Internet inquiries and I found that Sutherland planned to stay at Pittsburgh and that sure would have been a shot in the arm for the sad-sack Steelers at that time.

He was on a scouting trip for the Steelers in April 1948, when Sutherland was found in his car in Bandana, Kentucky. He was experiencing confusion and was then taken to a hospital in Cairo, Illinois. It was serious. He was initially diagnosed with "nervous exhaustion," as his illness was sudden. He was then flown back to Pittsburgh for further treatment.

He underwent an exploratory surgery to determine whether he was suffering from a hemorrhage or a tumor. Sutherland died in Pittsburgh on April 11, 1948, following the surgery to remove a malignant brain tumor. RIP.

In the season and home opener at Forbes Field on September 21, 1947, the Sutherland led Steelers squad defeated the Detroit Lions W (17-10). In the next outing at Forbes Field, on Sept 29, the team suffered a big letdown and they were pummeled by the LA Rams L (7-48). They played much better on Oct 5 at Washington against the Redskins but lost by one-point L (25-27). The team fought their way back into the win column in their fourth season game on Oct 12, at Boston, beating the Yanks W (30-14).

On Oct 19, the Steelers whooped the Eagles W (35-24). Then, at NY on Oct 26, the Steelers defeated the Giants W (38-21). On Nov

2, after the trip to Green Bay, the Steelers beat the Packers W (18–17). It was another win at home on Nov 9 against Washington's Redskins W (21–14)

At home on Nov 16, the Steelers prevailed v the New York Giants W (24–7) On Nov 23 at Chicago, the Steelers smashed the Bears L (49–7). On Nov 30, there was a letdown at Philadelphia and the Eagles beat the Steelers in a shutout L (0-21). For the first season in while, the Steelers finished with a win. This time it was on Dec 7 at home against the Boston Yanks W (17–7). 8-4 was one of the best seasons ever. The team made the playoffs.

In the Playoffs, the Steelers replayed the Philadelphia Eagles who were also having a great season. At 2:00 PM on Dec 21, in 39-degree weather before 35,729 fans the Steelers were not able to move the ball and lost the contest L (0-21). The Eagles scored once in each of the first three quarters. The first was a Van Buren 15 yd pass reception from Thompson with a Patton PAT. The second was a Ferrante 28 yd pass reception from Thompson and a Patton PAT. The third score in the third quarter was via Pritchard's 79-yard punt return followed by another accurate Patton PAT.

Chapter 7 Coach John Michelosen from 1948 to 1951

Coach #10 John Michelosen

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1948	#10 John Michelosen	NFLEast	3 rd -T	4 8 0	.333
1949	#10 John Michelosen	NFLEast	2 nd	6 5 1	.542
1950	#10 John Michelosen	NFLAmerican	3 rd -T	6 6 0	.500
1951	#10 John Michelosen	NFLAmerican	4 th	4 7 1	.375

John Michelosen devoted his life to football and was still busy as chief scout for the San Francisco 49ers in the NFL when he was inducted into the Beaver County Sports Hall of Fame.

During a career of over forty years, John distinguished himself as both a player and a coach. He was the head coach of both the Pittsburgh Steelers and his alma mater, the University of Pittsburgh. He played high school football in his hometown of Ambridge during the reign of Coach Moe Rubenstein.



<< John Michelosen
The Bridgers lost only four games during Michelosen's career. Then he moved to Pitt to play quarterback for Jock Sutherland for three seasons, during which the Panthers piled up a 23-3-4 record. John quarterbacked Pitt teams that won two national championships and blanked Washington in the 1937 Rose Bowl game, 21-0.

Following graduation in 1938, John became Pitt's backfield coach and guided the famous "Dream Backfield" of that year. In 1939, Jock

Sutherland became head coach of the old Brooklyn Dodgers of the National Football League and John was his assistant.

John served in the Navy from 1942 to 1945 and then joined Sutherland again as an assistant coach, this time with the Pittsburgh Steelers. After Sutherland's death in 1948, John became head coach of the Steelers and held the post for four seasons and later served as head coach at Pitt from 1955 through 1965.

1948 John Michelosen, Coach #9



The 1948 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their sixteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was adapting to the replacement coach for Jock Sutherland, John Michelosen who was in his first of four seasons. . Their record went south from last year's result of 8-4-0, to 4-8-0. The Steelers did not make made the playoffs.

In the season opener at Washington on September 26, 1948, the Michelosen- led Steelers squad suffered a defeat in a very close match

against the Redskins L (14-17) . In the next outing at Forbes Field, on Oct 3, the team put it together to whip the Boston Yanks W (24-14). They brought their record above 500 with win # 2 at Forbes Field on Oct 10, against the Washington Redskins W (10-7). Then on Oct 17, the Steelers were beaten at Boston by the Yanks L (13-7).

At New York, on Oct 24, the Giants beat the Steelers L (27-34). This was followed by another loss on Oct 31 at home in Forbes Field against the Philadelphia Eagles L (7-34). On Nov 7, at home the

Steelers hammered the Green Bay Packers W (38–7). Then, on Nov 14, Pittsburgh was beaten by the Chicago Cardinals L (7-24).

At Detroit on Nov 21, the Lions beat the Steelers L (14-17). At Philadelphia on Nov 28, the Eagles shut out the Steelers L (0-17). At home in Forbes Field on Dec 5, the Steelers beat the New York Giants W (38–28). Then, in the season finale, on Dec 12, at Los Angeles, the Rams whipped the Steelers L (14-31) to close out the season for the Steelers.

1949 John Michelosen, Coach #9

The 1949 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their seventeenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by John Michelosen in his second of four seasons. Their record improved from last year's result of 4-8-0, to better than 500 at 6-5-1. The Steelers finished second in the NFL Eastern Division and though a bit closer, the team did not make the playoffs in 1949.

In the season and home opener in Forbes Field on September 26, 1948, the Steelers squad played well and defeated the New York Giants W(28-7). In the next outing at Forbes Field, on Oct 3, the team played an OK game but lost to the Washington Redskins L (14-27). On Oct 8, at Forbes Field, the Steelers beat the Detroit Lions W 14–7. In another win, on Oct 16, at New York, the Steelers beat the Giants W (21–17)

On Oct 23, at home, the Steelers beat the New York Bulldogs W (24–13). Then, on Oct 30, the Steelers took it on the chin from the Eagles in a blowout L (7-38) . At Washington, on Nov 6, the Redskins overpowered the Steelers L (14-27). At home in Forbes on Nov 13, the visiting Los Angeles Rams tied the Steelers T (7–7). At Green Bay on Nov 20, the Steelers powered by the Packers W (30–7). At Philly on Nov. 27, the Eagles doubled the score v the Steelers and beat us L (17-34). On Dec 4 at Chicago, the Bears put it all together to beat the Steelers L (21-30). Then, on Dec 11, at New York in the final game of the season, the Steelers whipped the Bulldogs W 27–0. It was a great way to end the season.

1950 John Michelosen, Coach #9

The 1950 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their eighteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by John Michelosen in his third of four seasons. Their record diminished result of 6-5-1, to a dead even 6-6-0. better than 500 at 6-5-1. The Steelers finished tied for third in the NFL Eastern Division and though just a not a lot further from the playoffs, the team would have to wait at least one more year to get there as it would not be this year.

1951 John Michelosen, Coach #9

The 1951 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their nineteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by John Michelosen in his last of four seasons. Their record diminished from a prior result of 6-6-0, to 4-7-1. The Steelers finished fourth in the NFL Eastern Division with no chance for the playoffs.

In the season and home opener in Forbes Field on October 1, the Steelers tied the New York Giants on Oct 1, 1951, T (13-13). In the next outing on Oct 7, at Green Bay, in a nail-biter tough match, the Packers edged out the Steelers L (33-35). On Oct 14, at home in Forbes Field, the Steelers lost another close one to the San Francisco 49ers L (24-28) On October 21, at Cleveland, the Browns shut out the Steelers giving Pittsburgh its third loss in a row.

At Chicago on Oct 28, the Steelers beat the Cardinals W (28-14). Then, on Nov4, at home, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Steelers L (13-34). On Nov 11, the Steelers whooped the Green Bay Packers at Forbes Field W (28-7). Then, on Nov 8, the Washington Redskins beat the Steelers L (7-22)

At Philadelphia on Nov 25, the Steelers beat the Eagles W (17-13). Then, on Dec 2, at New York, the Giants shut out the Steelers L (0-14). At home on Dec 9, the Steelers were defeated by the Cleveland Browns L (0-28). Wrapping up the season on Dec 16 at Washington, the Steelers beat the Redskins W (20-10).

Chapter 8 Coach Joe Bach 1952 to 1953

Coach #3 Joe Bach

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1952	#3 Joe Bach	NFL American	4th	5 7 0	.417
1953	#3 Joe Bach	NFL Eastern	4th	6 6 0	.500



This was Coach Joe Bach's second shot at being the coach at Pittsburgh after several years with the Pirates as the Pirate's 3rd coach in the 1930's.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette found this unsigned piece about Joe Bach from a long time ago. It is fitting:

Circa 1935: Joe Bach had a mediocre record as head coach of Art Rooney Sr.'s

football team in the mid 1930s, but his impact resonates to this day. In its early days, the team was known as the Pirates, but after the 1939 season, Rooney figured a change was needed. Bach headed a panel that chose a new name from a list of suggestions sent in by fans. The panel wisely chose "Steelers."

Otherwise, we could be singing, “Here we go Triangles,” or dancing to “The Puddler Polka.” Bach coached twice — from 1935 to 1936, and again in 1952 and 1953. His best records were 6-6, in both ‘36 and ‘53.

From the Post Gazette: *We found no date on this print — only the name “Joe Bach” scribbled in pencil on the back. Someone in the newspaper’s art department painted a white frame around the coach and took the liberty of signing Bach’s name. The print is a fascinating example of how much photography and its use in newspapers has changed over the decades.*

1952 Joe Bach, Coach #3



Bach

The 1952 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their twentieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Joe Bach in the first year of his second stint as Coach of the Steelers. Bach was the coach of the Pirates in 1935 & 1936. He returned to the franchise to replace coach John Michelosen. Their record improved from a prior result of 4-7-1 to 5-7-0. 6-6-0, to 4-7-1. The Steelers finished fourth in the NFL Eastern Division with no chance for the playoffs.

This season was noteworthy in that it was the last year the Steelers used the single-wing formation on offense, switching to the T formation the following year. The Steelers were the last NFL team to use the single-wing as their primary offensive formation.

In the season and home opener in Forbes Field on September 28, 1952, the Steelers were defeated by the Philadelphia Eagles L (25-31). In the next outing at home in Forbes Field on my wedding anniversary, Oct 4, in a one-point matchup, the Cleveland Browns defeated the Steelers L (20-21). At Philadelphia on Oct 12, the Steelers lost another close game to the Eagles L (21-26). Then, on 4

Oct 19, at home in Forbes Field, the Washington Redskins beat the Steelers L (24-28).

At Chicago on Oct 26, the Steelers defeated the Cardinals W (34-28). At Washington on Nov 2, the Steelers prevailed over the Redskins by one point, W (24-23). On Nov 9, at home in Forbes Field, the Detroit Lions outplayed the Steelers L (6-31). At Cleveland on Nov 16, , in another one-point match, the Browns beat the Steelers L (28-29).

On Nov 23. At home in Forbes Field, the Steelers defeated the Chicago Cardinals W (17-14) At home on Nov 30, the Steelers shellacked the New York Giants W (63-7). At San Francisco on Dec 7, the Steelers beat the 49ers W (24-7). In the season finale at Los Angeles, the Rams beat the Steelers L (14-28).

1953 Joe Bach, Coach #3

The 1953 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their twenty-first season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Joe Bach in the second year of his second stint as Coach of the Steelers. Their record improved from a prior result of 5-7-0 to 6-6-0. The Steelers finished fourth in the NFL Eastern Division with no chance for the playoffs.

In the season opener at Detroit on September 27, 1953, the Steelers were defeated by the Lions L (21-38). In the next outing at home in Forbes Field on Oct 3, the Steelers beat the New York Giants W (24-14) At home on Oct 11, the Steelers won their second game in a row v the Chicago Cardinals W (31-28). Then on Oct 17, at Philadelphia, the Eagles beat the Steelers L 23-7

On Oct 24, the Steelers beat the Green Bay Packers W (31-14). At home in Forbes Field on Nov 1, the Philadelphia Eagles pounded the Steelers L (7-35). At Cleveland on Nov 8, the Browns beat the Steelers L (16-34). At New York on Nov 15, the Steelers beat the Giants W (14-10).

Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football

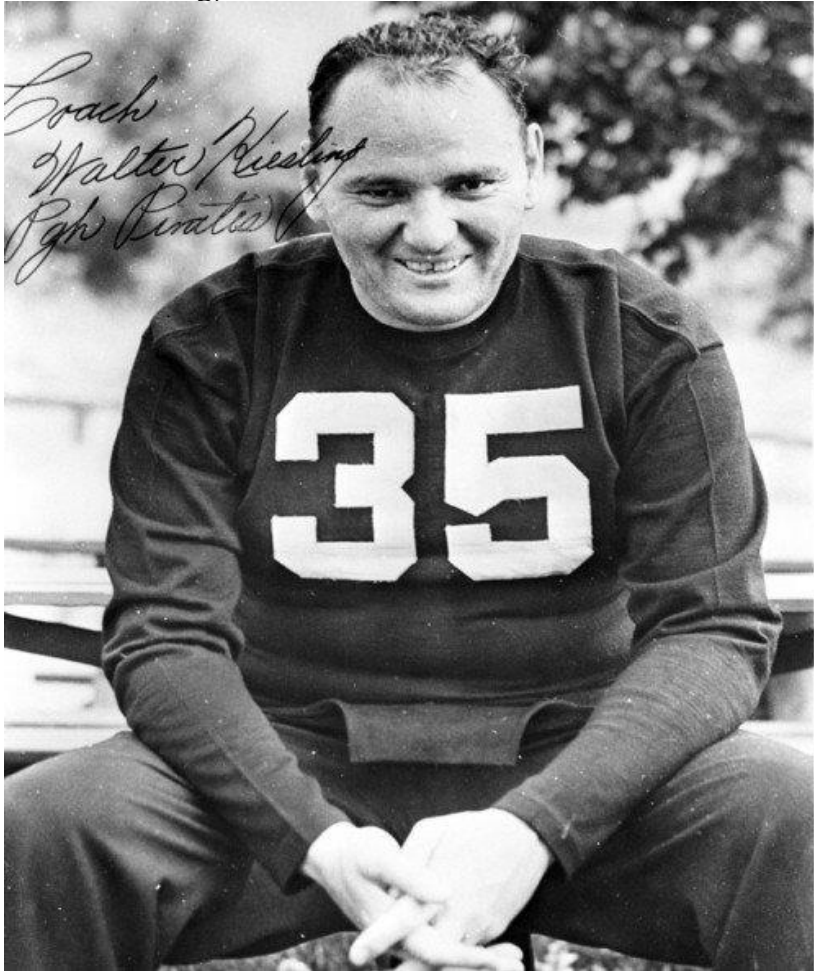
At home in Forbes Field on Nov 22, the Cleveland Browns defeated the Steelers L (16-20). At Forbes Field in another home game on Nov 29, the Washington Redskins beat the Steelers L (9-17). At Chicago on Dec 6, the Steelers defeated the Cardinals W (21-17). Then, to wrap up a 500 season, on Dec 13, at Washington the Steelers beat the Redskins W (14-13).

Chapter 9 Coach Walt Kiesling 1954 to 1956

Coach #5 Walt Kiesling 1954-1956

1954 #5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEastern	4th	5 7 0	.417
1955 #5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEastern	6th	4 8 0	.346
1956 #5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEastern	4 th -T	5 7 0	.500

1954 Walt Kiesling, Coach #5



This was Walt Kiesling's second separate shot at the Pittsburgh coaching prize. In the 1930's & 1940's, he had coached the Pittsburgh Pirates.

He had The 1954 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their twenty-second season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Walt Kiesling in the first year of his third stint as Coach of the Steelers. Their record declined from a prior result of 6-6-0 to 5-7-0. The Steelers finished fourth again in the NFL Eastern Division with no chance for the playoffs.

In the season opener at Green Bay on September 26, 1954, the Steelers defeated the Packers W (21-20). In the next outing at home in Forbes Field on Oct 2, the Steelers whooped the Washington Redskins W (37-7). At Philadelphia on Oct 9, the Steelers were beaten by just two points by the Eagles L (22-24). At home in Forbes Field on Oct 17, the Eagles beat the Cleveland Browns W 55-27 in a shootout.

At home in Forbes Field on Oct 23, the Steelers beat the Eagles W 17-7. At Chicago on Oct 31, the Cardinals beat the Steelers L (14-17). Then, on Nov 7, the New York Giants beat the Steelers L (6-30). Then at Washington on Nov 14, , the Redskins beat the Steelers in a close match L (14-17).

At home in Forbes Field on Nov 20, the San Francisco 49ers smothered Pittsburgh L (3-31). At home again on November 28, the Steelers beat the Chicago Cardinals W (20-17). At New York on Dec 5, the Giants outplayed the Steelers L (3-24). In the last game of the season on Dec 12, at Cleveland, the Browns squashed the Steelers L (7-42).

1955 Walt Kiesling, Coach #5

The 1955 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their twenty-third season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Walt Kiesling in the second year of his third stint as Coach of the Steelers. Their record declined from a prior result of 5-7-0 to 4-8-0. The Steelers finished in sixth place in the NFL Eastern Division with no chance for the playoffs.

In the season and home opener on September 26, 1955, the Steelers defeated the Chicago Cardinals W (14-0). In the next outing at Los Angeles on Oct 2, the Steelers beat the Rams in a one-point match L

(26-27). The Steelers then won their next three games. At home on Oct 9, the Steelers beat the New York Giants W (30-23) At home in Forbes Field on Oct 15, the Eagles beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (13-7). The third win in a row came at New York as the Steelers beat the Giants on Oct 23, W (19-17).

At 4-1 and knocking them dead one at a time, the Steelers hit bottom as they closed out what would have been a fine season with seven losses in a row.

At Philadelphia on Oct 30. The Eagles shut out the Steelers L (0-24). At Chicago, on Nov 5, the Cardinals won L (13-27). At home in Forbes Field on Nov 13, 1955, the Detroit Lions beat the Eagles L (28-31). At Cleveland on Nov 20, the Browns lambasted the Steelers L (14-4).

At home in Forbes Field, on Nov 27, the Washington Redskins beat the Steelers L (14-23). On Dec 4, the Cleveland Browns beat the Steelers L (7-30) in Forbes Field. Then, to wrap up the season, the Steelers lost their seventh game in a row—this one at on Dec 11 at Washington v the Redskins L (17-28).

1956 Walt Kiesling, Coach #5

The 1956 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their twenty-fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Walt Kiesling in the third and final year of his third stint as Coach of the Steelers. Their record improved slightly from a prior result of 4-9-0 to 5-7-0. The Steelers finished in fifth place in the NFL Eastern Division with no chance for the playoffs.

In the season and home opener on September 30, 1956, the Steelers defeated the Washington Redskins W (30-13). The Steelers then lost three in a row. In the next outing at home in Forbes Field, on Oct 14, the Steelers were beaten by the Philadelphia Eagles L (21-35) then at New York, on Oct 9, the Steelers were thumped by the New York Giants W (10-38).

At Cleveland on Oct 28, the Steelers beat the Browns W (24-16). Then, at home in Forbes Field on November 4, the New York Giants beat Pittsburgh L (14-17). At Philadelphia on Nov 11, the Eagles beat the Steelers L (7-14). Then at home on Nov 18, the Steelers beat the Chicago Cardinals W (14-7).

At Chicago on Nov 25, the Cardinals beat the Steelers L (27-38). At home in Forbes Field on Dec 2, the Steelers beat the Los Angeles Rams W (30-13). At Detroit on Dec 9 the Lions scorched the Steelers L (7-45). In the season finale at Washington on Dec 16, the Steelers shut out the Redskins W (23-0).

Chapter 10 Coach Buddy Parker, 1957 to 1964

Coach #11 Buddy Parker

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1957	#11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	3rd	6 6 0	.500
1958	#11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	3rd	7 4 1	.625
1959	#11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	4th	6 5 1	.542
1960	#11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	5th	5 6 1	.458
1961	#11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	5th	6 8 0	.429
1962	#11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	2nd	9 5 0	.643
	• Lost Playoff Bowl(Lions) 17–10 exhibition game				
1963	#11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	4 th	7 4 3	.607
1964	#11 Buddy Parker	NFLEastern	6th	5 9 0	.357



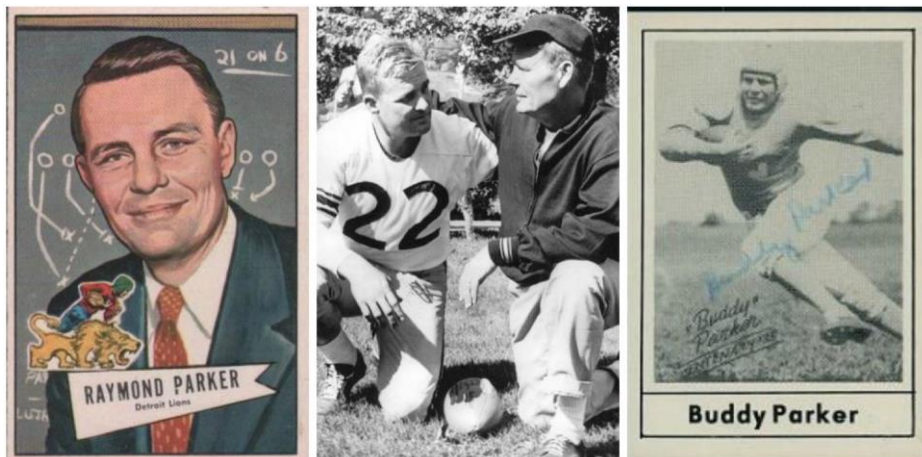
1957 Pittsburgh Steelers Football Team

1957 Buddy Parker, Coach #11

The 1957 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their twenty-fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Buddy Parker in the first of his eight years as coach of the Steelers. Their record improved slightly from a

prior result of 5-7-0 to 6-0-0. The Steelers finished in third place in the NFL Eastern Division with no chance for the playoffs.

For the first time, the Steelers' yellow helmets sported uniform numbers. Pittsburgh would use these uniforms through the 1961 season.



In the season and home opener on September 29, 1957, the Steelers defeated the Washington Redskins W (28-7). The Steelers then lost to the Cleveland Browns on Oct 5, L (12-23) In the next outing at home in Forbes Field, on Oct13, the Steelers beat the Chicago Cardinals W (29-20). Then, at New York, on Oct 20, the Steelers were hammered the New York Giants in a shutout L (0-35).

At home in Forbes Field, the Steelers shut out the Philadelphia Eagles W (6-0). At Baltimore on Nov 3, the Steelers beat the Colts W (19-13) At Cleveland, on Nov 10, the Browns shut out the Steelers L (0-24). On Nov 24 at home in Forbes Field, the Green Bay Packers defeated the Steelers L (10-27).

At Philadelphia on Dec 1, the Eagles beat the Steelers in a very close match L (6-7). At home in Forbes Field, the Steelers beat the New York Giants W (21-10). At Washington on Dec 15, the Redskins beat the Steelers L (3-10). Wrapping up the season, at Chicago, on Dec 22, Pittsburgh beat the Cardinals W (27-2).

1958 Buddy Parker, Coach #11

The 1958 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their twenty-sixth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Buddy Parker in the second of his eight years as coach of the Steelers. Their record improved slightly from a prior result of 6-6-0 to 7-4-1. The Steelers finished in third place in the NFL Eastern Division with no chance for the playoffs.

In the season and home opener on September 28, 1958, the Steelers were defeated by the San Francisco 49ers L (20-23) The Steelers then were pounded by the Cleveland Browns on Oct 5, L (12-45). In the next outing at home in Forbes Field, on Oct 23, the Steelers beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (24-3). Then, at Cleveland, on Oct 19, the Steelers were defeated by the Browns L (10-27).

At New York, on Oct 26, the New York Giants beat the Steelers L (6-17). At home in Forbes Field on Nov 2, the Steelers beat the Washington Redskins W (24-16). At Philadelphia on Nov 9, the Steelers beat the Eagles W (31-24). On Nov 16, at home in Forbes Field, the Eagles whipped the New York Giants W (31-10).

At Chicago, on Nov 23, the Eagles beat the Cardinals W (27-20). On Nov 30, at home, the Eagles beat the Chicago Bears W (24-10). Then, at Washington, on Dec 7, the Washington Redskins tied the Pittsburgh Steelers T (14-14) In the season finale on Dec 13, at home in Forbes Field, the Steelers beat the Chicago Cardinals W (38-21).

1959 Buddy Parker, Coach #11

The 1959 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their twenty-seventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Buddy Parker in the third of his eight years as coach of the Steelers. Their record declined slightly from a prior result of 7-4-1 to 6-5-1. The Steelers finished in fourth place in the NFL Eastern Division with no chance for the playoffs.

In the season and home opener on September 26, 1959, the Steelers defeated the Cleveland Browns W (17-7). The Steelers then were beaten by the Washington Redskins on Oct 4, L (17-23). In the next outing at Philadelphia, on Oct 11, the Steelers were beaten by the Philadelphia Eagles L(24-28). Then, at Washington, on Oct 18, the Steelers defeated by the Redskins W (27-6).

At home in Forbes Field on Oct 25, the New York Giants beat the Steelers L (16-21). At Chicago on Nov 1, the Cardinals beat the Steelers L (24-45). Then at home in Forbes Field on Nov 8, the Detroit Lions tied the Steelers T (10-10). At New York on Nov 15, the Steelers beat the Giants W (14-9).

At Cleveland, on Nov 22, Pittsburgh beat the Browns W (21-20). Then, at home in Forbes Field, on Nov 29, the Steelers pounded the Philadelphia Eagles in a shutout W (31-0). On Dec 6, at Chicago, the Bears defeated the Steelers, L (21-27). At the end of an OK season, the Steelers needed a win to get over 500. They got it at home in Forbes Field on Dec 13, by overpowering the Chicago Cardinals W (35-20).

1960 Buddy Parker, Coach #11

The 1960 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their twenty-eighth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Buddy Parker in the fourth of his eight years as coach of the Steelers. Their record declined slightly from a prior result of 6-5-1 to 5-6-1. The Steelers finished in fifth place in the NFL Eastern Division with no chance for the playoffs.

In the season and home opener on September 10, 1960, the Steelers defeated the Dallas Cowboys W (35-28). The Steelers then were beaten by the Cleveland Browns on Sept 25, L (20-28). In the next outing at home in Forbes Field, on Oct 2, the Steelers were beaten by the New York Giants in a two-point game L(17-19). Then, at St. Louis, on Oct 98, the Steelers defeated the Cardinals, W (27-14). The Cardinals had moved from Chicago.

At Washington on Oct 16, the Steelers tied the Redskins T (27-27). On Oct 23 at home in Forbes Field, the Steelers lost to the Green Bay Packers L (13-19). On Oct 30 at Philadelphia, the Eagles beat

the Steelers L (7-34). On Nov 6 at New York, the Giants beat the Steelers L (24-27).

On Nov 20 at home, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns W (14-10). Then, at home in Forbes Field, on Nov 27, the Steelers beat the Washington Redskins W (22-10). On Dec 4, the team had a bye week. Then on Dec 11, at home in Forbes Field, the Steelers beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (27-21). Then, in the season finale, on Dec 18 at St. Louis, the Cardinals smashed the Steelers L (7-38).

1961 Buddy Parker, Coach #11

The 1961 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their twenty-ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Buddy Parker in the fifth of his eight years as coach of the Steelers. Their record declined slightly from a prior result of 5-6-1 to 6-8-0. The league upped the # of games per season for each team from 12 to 14. The Steelers finished in fifth place in the NFL Eastern Division with no chance for the playoffs.

In the season and home opener on September 17, 1961, the Steelers lost to the Dallas Cowboys L (24-27). The Steelers then were beaten by the New York Giants on Sept 24, L (14-17). In the next outing at Los Angeles, on Oct 1, the Steelers were beaten by the Rams L (14-24). Then, at Philadelphia, St. Louis, on Oct 8, the Steelers defeated the Eagles L (16-21).

At home in Forbes Field on Oct 15, the Steelers shut out the Washington Redskins W (20-0). At home again in Forbes Field on Oct 22, the Cleveland Browns beat the Steelers L (28-30). At home on Oct 29, the Steelers beat the San Francisco 49ers W (20-10). On Nov 5 at Cleveland, the Steelers beat the Browns W (17-13).

At home on Nov 12, the Steelers smothered the Dallas Cowboys W (37-7). At New York, on Nov 19, the Giants hammered the Steelers L (21-42). Then at Forbes Field, the Steelers beat the St. Louis Cardinals W (30-27). On Dec 3, at home in Forbes Field, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Steelers L (24-35). At Washington, on

Dec 10, the Steelers beat the Redskins W (30–14). On Dec 17 at St. Louis, the Cardinals shut-out the Steelers L (0-20)

1962 Buddy Parker, Coach #11

The 1962 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their thirtieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Buddy Parker in the sixth of his eight years as coach of the Steelers. Their record improved substantially from a prior result of 6-8-0 to 9-5-0. The league upped the # of games per season for each team from 12 to 14 in 1961. The Steelers finished in 2nd place in the NFL Eastern Division and lost the playoff bowl, thus coming in third place.

This was the best season ever for the Pirates. With 14 games to play, they did very well and made the playoffs. In the season opener at Detroit on September 16, 1962, the Steelers lost to the Detroit Lions by a ton of points L (7-45). This loss must have motivated the Steelers to never be so embarrassed again. The Steelers picked up the pace and beat the Dallas Cowboys in a tight match on Sept 23, W (30-28). In the next outing at home in Forbes Field, the New York Giants edged out the Steelers L (27-31). The Steelers picked up the pace again and brought their record to 500 for the season by defeating the Philadelphia Eagles W (13-7).

At New York on Oct 14, the Steelers in the end, overpowered the Giants W (20-17). Then at home in Forbes Field, the Cowboys would not die, and Pittsburgh went down L (27-42). Still not having shaken out all the season losses by Oct 28, the Cleveland Browns thumped the Steelers L (14-41). In the first game against the new team, the Minnesota Vikings on Nov 4, the Steelers prevailed W (39-31)

At St Louis, the former other Chicago team, the Cardinals, took it on the chin from Pittsburgh W (26–17). Then, on November 18, the Steelers beat the Washington Redskins in a close call W (23-21). At Cleveland, on Nov 25, the Browns outmuscled the Steelers L (14-35).

Getting into the really cold months, on Dec 2, at home in Forbes Field, the Steelers got the best of the St. Louis Cardinals W (19-7).

At Philadelphia, on Dec 9, Pittsburgh beat the Eagles W (26-17). Then, in the season's swan song game, on Dec 16, at Washington, the Steelers outplayed the Redskins W (27-24)

1963 Buddy Parker, Coach #11

The 1963 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their thirty-first season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Buddy Parker in the seventh of his eight years as head coach of the Steelers. Their record improved substantially from a prior result of 9-5-0 to 7-4-3. The Steelers finished in 4th place in the NFL Eastern Division and did not qualify for the playoffs.

In this fine season, the Steelers won seven games, and lost four, with three games ending in a tie. As noted, the Steelers finished in fourth place in the NFL Eastern Conference. It was also their final season of splitting home games between Forbes Field and Pitt Stadium before moving all of their home games to Pitt Stadium for the next six seasons.

Because tie games were not included in NFL standings at the time, the Steelers had a chance to play in their first ever NFL Championship Game if they had defeated the New York Giants in the season finale, but they fell 33-17. The Steelers luck was always an issue and it was about ten years at the time away from changing permanently for the good.

For the first time in 1963, the Steelers wore their trademark black helmets with their logo on one side of the helmet. They had used the logo previously on yellow helmets, but 1963 was the first season in which their now-signature look was used full-time in the regular season. The Steelers were preparing for great seasons to come. Buddy Parker had given them a good taste for how sweet winning could be.

This season came after the best season ever for the Steelers. It was one of the team's best seasons by itself, but a season in which they would not make the playoffs, was not a Super Bowl season, indeed.

1964 Buddy Parker, Coach #11

The 1964 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their thirty-second season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Buddy Parker in the last of eight seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record improved substantially from a prior result of 7-4-3 to 5-9. The Steelers finished in 5th place in the NFL Eastern Division and did not qualify for the playoffs.

I always find it incredulous when a great coach, and quite frankly, Buddy Parker was no slouch, is dismissed after a bad season, especially a season, which before that coach arrived was the norm. Nonetheless, nobody asked my advice so after one bad season, Buddy Parker got his walking papers, and Mike Nixon got the call to move the Steelers on to the heavenly Noll. (You'll soon get this pun...I think.)

The team played all of their home games at Pitt Stadium, and won five games, while losing nine, resulting in a fifth-place finish in the NFL Eastern Conference. Following the season, the Steelers dismissed head coach Buddy Parker and replaced him with Mike Nixon

In the season and home opener in Forbes Field on September 13, 1963, the LA Rams beat the Steelers L (14-26). The Steelers came back in week 2 and beat the New York Giants in a tough match on Sept 20, W (27-24). In the next outing at home in Forbes Field, the Steelers defeated the Dallas Cowboys W (23-17). The Steelers let down a bit in game 4 and the Philadelphia Eagles prevailed L (7-21) On Oct 10, at Cleveland, the Steelers beat the Browns W (23-7).

Then at Minnesota on Oct 18, the Vikings outplayed the Steelers L (10-30). The Philadelphia Eagles beat the Steelers in the rematch game on Oct 25 at Forbes Field L (10-34). At home on Nov 1, the Cleveland Browns beat the Steelers L (17-30) On Nov 8, at St. Louis, the Cardinals beat the Steelers in a close match L 30-34.

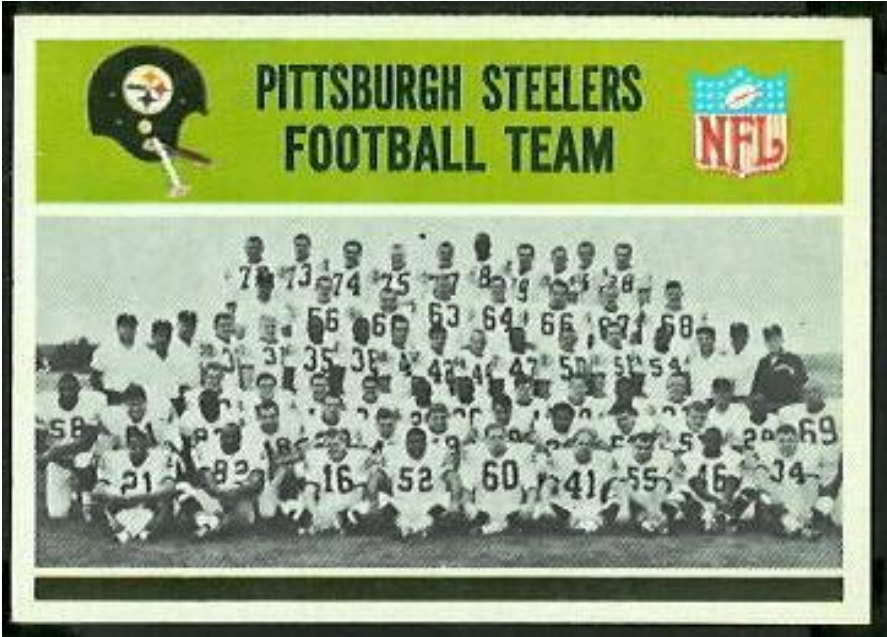
On Nov 15, the Washington Redskins shut out the Steelers L (0-30). At New York, on November 22, the Steelers beat the Giants W 44-17. At home in Forbes Field, on Nov 29, the St. Louis Cardinals

beat the Steelers in a one-point match L (20–21). At Washington on Dec 6, the Steelers edged out the Redskins W (14–7). In the last act of the 1964 season, at Dallas, on Dec 13, the Cowboys barely beat the Steelers L (14-17).

Chapter 11 Coach Mike Nixon—1965

Coach #12 Mike Nixon

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1965	#12 Mike Nixon	NFL Eastern	7th	2 12 0	.143



Without peeking into the 1965 record books first, I offered my short commentary in the last chapter about the wisdom of “firing” or accepting Buddy Parker’s resignation. In other words, should a habitually poor performing team that is one coach away from poor performance, fire that coach or make it so he must resign?

The Steelers could not win a game until they hired Buddy Parker and then 8 years later after 5 winning seasons, they forgot about how tough things had been and wanted more from Parker and they wanted Parker to toe the line on decisions made for the good of the team without the bosses.

It was during the 1965 preseason when the team and Parker were at loggerheads. Parker wanted to trade Ben McGee, who later went to

two Pro Bowls. Who knows what Parker would have gotten but he did not want to be micromanaged. He knew there was no winning at Pittsburgh until he had arrived.

Dan Rooney, who had taken over many of the operations from his father Art Rooney, Sr., refused to permit the hypothetical trade. Parker offered his resignation, Dan accepted, but asked him to reconsider and said they would discuss the matter in the morning.

Dan discussed it with The Chief (Art Rooney, Sr.), and convinced his father this was the way to go. The next morning when Parker threatened to resign, Dan gladly accepted. It was a bad idea accepting Parker's resignation. The Steelers had no fallback coach. The team would go 2-12 during the 1965 season with Mike Nixon as their head coach.

Bill Austin who followed Nixon did not put many smiles on the faces of Pittsburgh's fans. The only good thing I can think of is that without Buddy Parker's departure, there might not have been a reason to bring Chuck Noll in for the 1969 season. But, those four years without a seasoned coach were painful for Pittsburgh for sure.

Rooney to Mike Nixon: "Do the best you can!"

Optimism is the name of the game when a new coach is hired but not necessarily if the coach he replaces is a good guy and a successful coach.

When Mike Nixon was named head coach of the Steelers in the summer of '65 he was told by Art Rooney to do the best he could.

Dan Rooney realized that though Buddy Parker had some strong moments as head coach; the philosophy of how to build a team had become not only an issue, but a bone of contention between the two. Rooney accepted Parker's resignation (he never coached again), thus a man with previous failed head coaching experience "inherited" the Black & Gold.

Before going any further, let's take a quick look at Parker's record. When the Steelers opened the 1961 season with 4 straight losses his head coaching record with Pittsburgh stood at 24-25-3; not exactly earth shattering.

Parker then guided the Steelers to a record of 24-14-3 after 3 games of '64. The Steelers won only 3 of the remaining 11 games in '64.

What kind of team did Nixon have you ask? Sixteen men on the roster had either earned a Pro Bowl berth or would later on in their playing career. Today is Gary Ballman's 76th birthday, and he was the only Steeler to go to Los Angeles for the post season classic.

1965 Mike Nixon, Coach #12

The 1965 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their thirty-third season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Mike Nixon in his first and last season as head coach of the Steelers. Their record declined substantially from a prior result under Buddy Parker of 5-9-0 to 2-12-0 under Mike Nixon. The Steelers finished in 7th place in the NFL Eastern Division and did not qualify for the playoffs.

The team played all of their home games at Pitt Stadium, and won just two games, while losing twelve, resulting in a seventh-place finish. Following the season, the Steelers dismissed head coach Mike Nixon and replaced him with Bill Austin. Chuck Noll was three years away at the time.

In the season and home opener in Forbes Field on September 19, 1965, the Green Bay Packers hammered the Steelers L (9-41). The Steelers lost again and would lost wo more times before they got a win. In week 2, on Sept 26, at San Francisco, the 49ers beat the Steelers L (17-27) In the next outing at home in Forbes Field, the Steelers lost to the New York Giants L (13-23) The Steelers lost their 4th game in a row on Oct 9, at Cleveland as the Browns prevailed L (19-24).

At home in Forbes Field on Oct 17, the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Steelers L (7-20). In as season with two wins, it is not probable that both wins come together but that's what happened in 1965. On Oct 24, at Philadelphia, the Steelers beat the Eagles W (20-14). This win was followed by another nice win on Oct 31, v the Dallas Cowboys

W (22-13). That was the end of wins for the year. The next loss was at St. Louis, on Nov 7, 1965 as the Cardinals edged out the Steelers L (17-21).

The Steelers proceeded to finish out the season with six losses. The first was at Dallas on Nov 14, as the Cowboys beat the Steelers L (17-24). At home on Nov 21, 1965 Washington Redskins squashed the Steelers L (3-31). Then on Nov 28, the Cleveland Browns thumped the Steelers L (21-42).

On Dec 5, 1965 at New York, the Steelers were whipped by the Giants L (10-35). At home on Dec 12, the Philadelphia Eagles shellacked the Steelers L (13-47). On Dec 19, 1965 at Washington, the Redskins pounded the Steelers L (14-35) in the season denouement. Steeler fans were thankful, after Buddy Parker's optimism, to finish this season at all.

Chapter 12 Coach Bill Austin 1966 to 1968

Coach #13 Bill Austin

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1966	#13 Bill Austin	NFLEastern	6th	5 8 1	.393
1967	#13 Bill Austin	NFLEasternCent	4th	4 9 1	.321
1968	#13 Bill Austin	NFLEasternCent	4th	2 11 1	.179



<< Bill Austin, Pittsburgh Steelers head coach from 1966 to 1968, as a player was a National Football League lineman who helped Vince Lombardi develop what became known as the Green Bay Packers' power sweep offense. He later became head coach of the Steelers, preceding Chuck Noll.

He was an offensive lineman on the Giants' 1956 championship team. Austin played seven seasons for the team, from 1949 to 1950 and 1953 to 1957. He was a Pro Bowl guard in 1954.

He became the Packers' offensive line coach under Lombardi in 1959, keeping the job for six seasons. The power sweep, in which the guards would pull around the offensive line and block for the running backs, was the signature play of Lombardi's offense, helping the team to five NFL titles in the 1960s, including wins in the first two Super Bowls after the 1966 and 1967 seasons.

Coach Austin left Green Bay prior to the Super Bowl wins, becoming coach of the Steelers from 1966 to 1968. He led the Steelers to an 11-28 record before being replaced by Chuck Noll, a Hall of Fame coach who held the job for 23 years and won four Super Bowls.

Ed Kiely, who was the Steelers' public relations director during Austin's tenure, said Austin had been recommended to the team by Lombardi.

"He was tough. He thought he was going to win everything. He didn't turn out the way we probably hoped or Lombardi thought he would," Kiely said. "Green Bay was successful. They thought anyone who coached at Green Bay would bring that success with him, but he didn't."

Former Steelers running back Dick Hoak said he had his best year when Mr. Austin was coach in 1968.

"I liked Bill," Hoak said. "He put in the I-formation and I ran out of that. I made the Pro Bowl and gained almost 900 yards and didn't play the first three games or so."

But, Hoak Austin tried to be a disciplinarian and ran the players ragged with drills and calisthenics. "It came time to practice, you couldn't. You were too tired," Hoak said.

"Like all the guys who came from Lombardi's staff, they weren't themselves. They tried to be like Lombardi. None really did that well," said Hoak, who went on to coach with Chuck Noll.

In a statement, Steelers chairman Dan Rooney described Austin as "a great contributor to the growth of the National Football League as both a Pro Bowl lineman and coach.

"Austin was an excellent person when he coached for Pittsburgh."

Austin also joined Mr. Lombardi's staff with the Washington Redskins in 1969 and was promoted to head coach when Vince Lombardi was diagnosed with cancer in 1970. Austin led them to a 6-8 record in his lone season.

He also had assistant coaching stints with the Giants, from 1979 to 1982; the Los Angeles Rams, the Chicago Bears, the St. Louis Cardinals and the New York Jets.

William Lee Austin was born Oct. 18, 1928, in San Pedro, Calif. He grew up in Oregon and played football at Oregon State University before being drafted in the 13th round by the Giants in 1949. Austin was married to Goodrun Austin for 56 years and had four daughters, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

1966 Bill Austin, Coach #13

The 1966 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their thirty-fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Austin in his first of three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record improved substantially from a prior result under Mike Nixon of 2-12-0 to 5-8-1 under Bill Austin. The Steelers finished in 6th place in the NFL Eastern Division and did not qualify for the playoffs.

The team played all of their home games at Pitt Stadium, and won just five games but it was three more than in 1965. The team lost eight games, while tying 1, resulting in a sixth-place finish. Following the season, the Steelers were not pleased but kept head coach Bill Austin, more than likely because the team had improved. Chuck Noll was two years away at the time, but nobody knew it at the time.

In the season and home opener in Pitt Stadium on September 11, 1966, the New York Giants tied the Steelers T (34-34). This was one of those games that should have had a winner and a loser and that is why the NFL eventually found a better solution for ties.

At Pitt Stadium again on Sept 18, the Steelers beat the Detroit Lions W (17-3). In the next outing at home at Pitt Stadium on Sept 25, in Pitt Stadium, the Steelers lost to the Washington Redskins L (27-33) At Washington the next week, on Oct 2, at DC Stadium, since obviously the Redskins and Steelers could not get enough of each other, the “Skins” beat the Steelers again—this time L (10-24)

On Oct 8 at Cleveland, the Browns beat the Steelers L (10–41) at Municipal Stadium. Then, on Oct 16, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Steelers L(14–31) at home in Pitt Stadium. On Oct 30, at Dallas, the Cowboys overpowered the Steelers L (21–52) in the Cotton Bowl Stadium. Then, on Nov 6 the Steelers edged out the Cleveland Browns W (16–6) at Pitt Stadium.

On November 13, the Steelers whooped the St. Louis Cardinals W (30–9) at home in Pitt Stadium. Then, on Nov 20 the Dallas Cowboys beat the Steelers L (7–20) at home in Pitt Stadium. On Nov 27 at St. Louis, the Cardinals prevailed in a close match L (3–6) in Busch Stadium. This game had a baseball-like score.

On Dec 4 at Philadelphia, the Eagles got by the Steelers L (23–27) in Franklin Field. On December 11 at New York, the Steelers pounded the Giants W (47–28) at Yankee Stadium. In a first-time encounter on Dec 18, Pittsburgh defeated the Atlanta Falcons W (57–33) in a big win in Atlanta Stadium to close the season.

1967 Bill Austin, Coach #13

The 1967 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their thirty-fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Austin in his second of three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record declined slightly from a prior result of 5-8-1 to 4-9-1 under Bill Austin. The Steelers finished in 4th place in the NFL Century Division and did not qualify for the playoffs.

The team played all of their home games at Pitt Stadium, and won just four games, one less than in 1966. The team lost eight games, while tying 1, resulting in a fourth-place finish in the new division. Following the season, the Steelers were not pleased with the record but retained head coach Bill Austin. Chuck Noll and a big improvement was just one year away but nobody knew it at the time.

In the season and home opener in Pitt Stadium on September 17, 1967, the Steelers shellacked the Chicago Bears W (41-13). At Pitt Stadium again on Sept 24, the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Steelers L

(14-28). In the next outing at Philadelphia on Oct 1, the Steelers lost to the Eagles L (24-34). At Cleveland the next week, on Oct 7, the Browns beat the Steelers L (10-21)

On October 15, at Pitt Stadium, the New York Giants beat the Steelers L (24-27). On Oct 22, the Dallas Cowboys beat the Steelers by the same three-point margin L (21-24) Finally after a losing streak of five games, the Steelers won a game against the New Orleans Saints on Oct 29, W (14-10) At home on Nov 5, the Cleveland Browns beat the Steelers L (14-34) At St. Louis on Nov 12, the Cardinals and the Steelers played to a tie game. T (14-14).

On Nov 19, at New York, the Giants beat the Steelers L (20-28) At home on Nov 26, the Minnesota Vikings beat the Steelers L (27-41). At Detroit on Dec 3, the Steelers outplayed the Lions W 24-14, Then, on Dec 10, at home, the Washington Redskins beat the Steelers L (10-15) In the season closer, on Dec 17, at Green Bay, the Steelers finished off the Packers W (24-17).

1968 Bill Austin, Coach #13

The 1968 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their thirty-sixth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Austin in his last of three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record declined again from a prior result of 4-9-1 to a dismal 2-11-1 under Bill Austin. The Steelers finished in 4th place in the NFL Century Division and did not qualify for the playoffs.

The team played all of their home games at Pitt Stadium, and won just two games, two less than in 1967. The team lost eleven games, while tying 1, resulting in a fourth-place finish. Austin was the first coach picked by Dan Rooney, long-time head of the organization who passed away last year. Following the season, Rooney was not pleased with the record and dismissed head coach Bill Austin. Chuck Noll, a big improvement for the Steelers was about to be hired after this season, but nobody knew it at the time.

The Steelers had suffered through thirty-six seasons of off again, on again play with just eight winning seasons. In 1968, they continued their descent in the NFL's basement league, finishing with a league-worst 2–11–1 record and of course the firing of head coach Bill Austin at the end of the season. I like to say that this directly led to the eventual hiring of Chuck Noll. To this date, Austin is the last head coach to be fired by the Steelers.

One of the more interesting aspects of Austin's career is that as we have been forecasting, he was the coach before Noll in Pittsburgh. But, Austin was also the coach before the great George Allen in Washington. One could say he paved the way to greatness in both organizations. Or, one could say that both teams struck gold with the coach who followed him. Either way, it is the truth.

The season is notable in that the Steelers had their last tied game before the NFL adopted the overtime rule in regular-season games in 1974. It came in Week 9 against the St. Louis Cardinals in a 28–28 stalemate; that game actually was the deciding game in the NFL Century Division that season,

In the new division, the Cardinals had swept the Cleveland Browns but finished their season 9–4–1, 1/2 game behind the 10–4 Browns. Since that game, the Steelers have only had two tied games, both happening after the overtime rule took effect.

Additionally, the Steelers lost to the Baltimore Colts at home, 41–7, in Week 3. They Colts went on to play in Super Bowl III, in which they were upset by the AFL's New York Jets. After that loss, the Steelers would go another 40 years before losing to the Colts at home again, winning 12 straight (including three postseason meetings, among them the now-famous 1995 AFC Championship game as well as the 1975 Divisional Playoff Game that saw the introduction of the Terrible Towel, before losing to the now-Indianapolis Colts, 24–20, on November 10, 2008.[1]

In the season and home opener in Pitt Stadium on September 15, 1967, the Steelers lost to the New York Giants L (20-34). At Los Angeles, on Sept 22, the Rams walloped the Steelers L (10-45). In their next outing at Baltimore on Oct 1, the Steelers were routed by the Colts, L (7-41). At Cleveland the next week, on Oct 5, the Browns beat the Steelers L (24-31).

At Washington on Oct 13, the Redskins defeated the Steelers L (13-16). At home in Pitt Stadium on Oct 20, the New Orleans Saints beat the Steelers L (12-16). At home on Oct 27, the Steelers won their first of two games this season, W (6-3). The second win came the next week on Nov 3, at Atlanta as the Steelers whipped the Falcons W (41-21). To some it looked like a big comeback. But, this would be the last win for the year. On Nov 10, at St. Louis, the Cardinals tied the Steelers for the last tie ever in Steelers history before the Overtime rule.

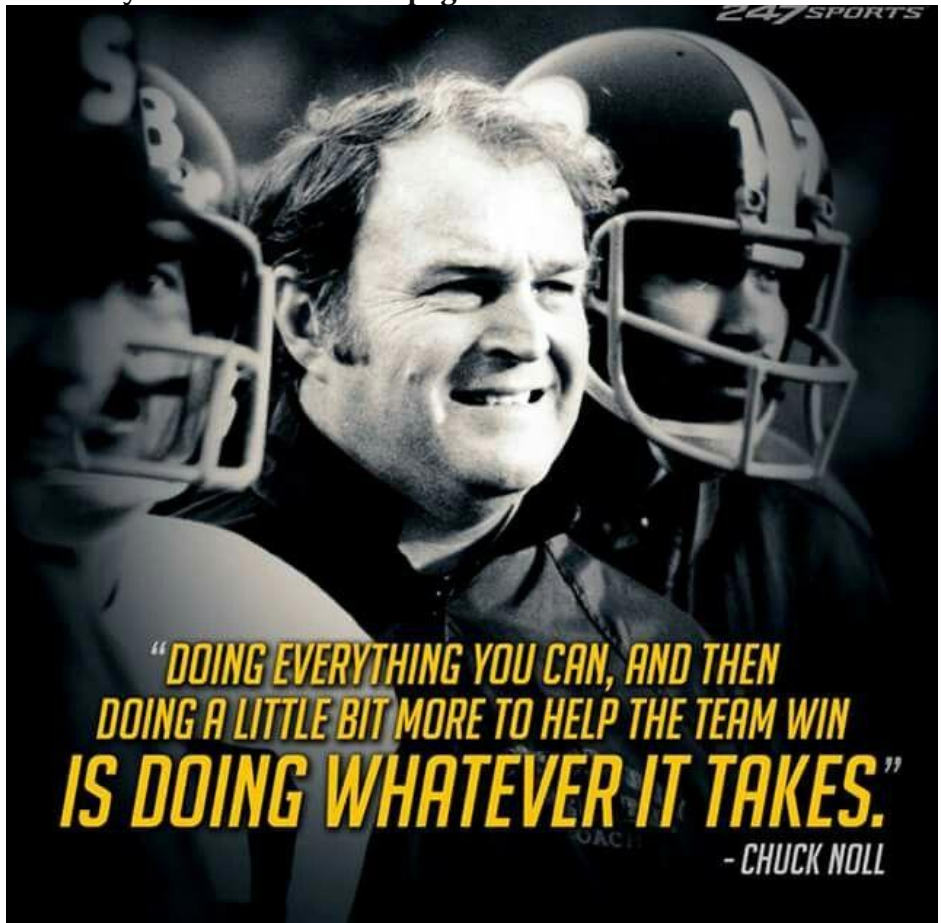
On Nov 17 at home, the Cleveland Browns stomped the Steelers L (24-45). At home on Nov 24, the San Francisco 49ers pounded the Steelers L (28-45). Then, on Dec 1, at home, the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Steelers L (10-20). In the second-last game of this terrible season and, the team lost on Dec 8 at Dallas to the Cowboys L (7-28). At New Orleans on Dec 15, in the last game before Chuck Noll came in to restart the Steelers in 1969, the Saints defeated the Steelers L 14-24

Chapter 13 Coach Chuck Noll I, 1969 to 1982

Coach #14 Chuck Noll

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1969	#14 Chuck Noll	NFL Eastern Cent	4th	1 13 0	.071
	• Joe Greene – Defensive Rookie of the Year				
1970	#14 Chuck Noll	NFL AFC Central	3rd	5 9 0	.357
1971	#14 Chuck Noll	NFL AFC Central	2nd	6 8 0	.429

Summary continued on next page



1969 Chuck Noll

Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1972	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	11 3 0	.786
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Divisional Playoffs(Raiders) 13–7 • Lost Conference Championship(Dolphins) 21–17 • Chuck Noll – AFC Coach of the Year • Franco HarrisOffensive Rookie of the Year • Joe Greene – Defensive Player of the Year • Franco Harris– AFC Offensive Rookie of the Year 				
1973	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	2nd	10 4 0	.714
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Divisional Playoffs(Raiders) 33–14 				
1974	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	10 3 1	.750
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Divisional Playoffs(Bills) 32–14 • Won Conference Championship(Raiders) 24–13 • Won Super Bowl IX (1)(Vikings) 16–6 • Jack Lambert– Defensive Rookie of the Year • Joe Greene – Defensive Player of the Year • Franco Harris– Super Bowl MVP 				
1975	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	12 2 0	.857
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Divisional Playoffs(Colts) 28–10 • Won Conference Championship(Raiders) 16–10 • Won Super Bowl X (2) (Cowboys) 21–17 • Mel Blount – Defensive Player of the Year • Lynn Swann – Super Bowl MVP 				
1976	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	10 4 0	.714
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Divisional Playoffs(Colts) 40–14 • Lost Conference Championship(Raiders) 24–7 • Jack Lambert– Defensive Player of the Year • Jack Lambert– AFC Defensive Player of the Year 				
1977	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	9 5 0	.643
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Divisional Playoffs(Broncos) 34–21 				
1978	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	14 2 0	.875
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Divisional Playoffs(Broncos) 33–10 • Won Conference Championship (Oilers) 34–5 • Won Super Bowl XIII(3) (Cowboys) 35–31 • Terry Bradshaw – Super Bowl MVP • Terry Bradshaw – Bert Bell MVP 				
1979	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	12 4 0	.750
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Divisional Playoffs(Dolphins) 34–14 • Won Conference Championship (Oilers) 27–13 • Won Super Bowl XIV(4) (Rams) 31–19 • Jack Lambert– AFC Defensive Player of the Year • Terry Bradshaw – Super Bowl MVP 				
1980	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	9 7 0	.563
1981	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	2nd	8 8 0	.500
1982	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	4 th -T	6 3 0	.667
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost First Round(Chargers) 31–28 				

Chuck Noll takes over as Steelers head coach

From steelersuk.com

After leading the Steelers to a 2-11-1 season, Bill Austin was fired on December 16, 1968. "We already have several applicants and expect many more when the story gets on the wire," Dan Rooney said at a press conference to announce the vacancy.

Only two names were mentioned during the conference, Joe Paterno, the successful coach at Penn State and Bill Peterson of Florida State.

The Steelers first interviewed Joe Paterno a few days after Penn State won the Orange Bowl. Fortunately, he was thinking more about his pension with the University than professional football. He turned down a projected yearly salary of \$70,000 which was over three times what he was receiving at Penn State. After deciding not to join the professional ranks, Paterno was named College Coach of the Year.

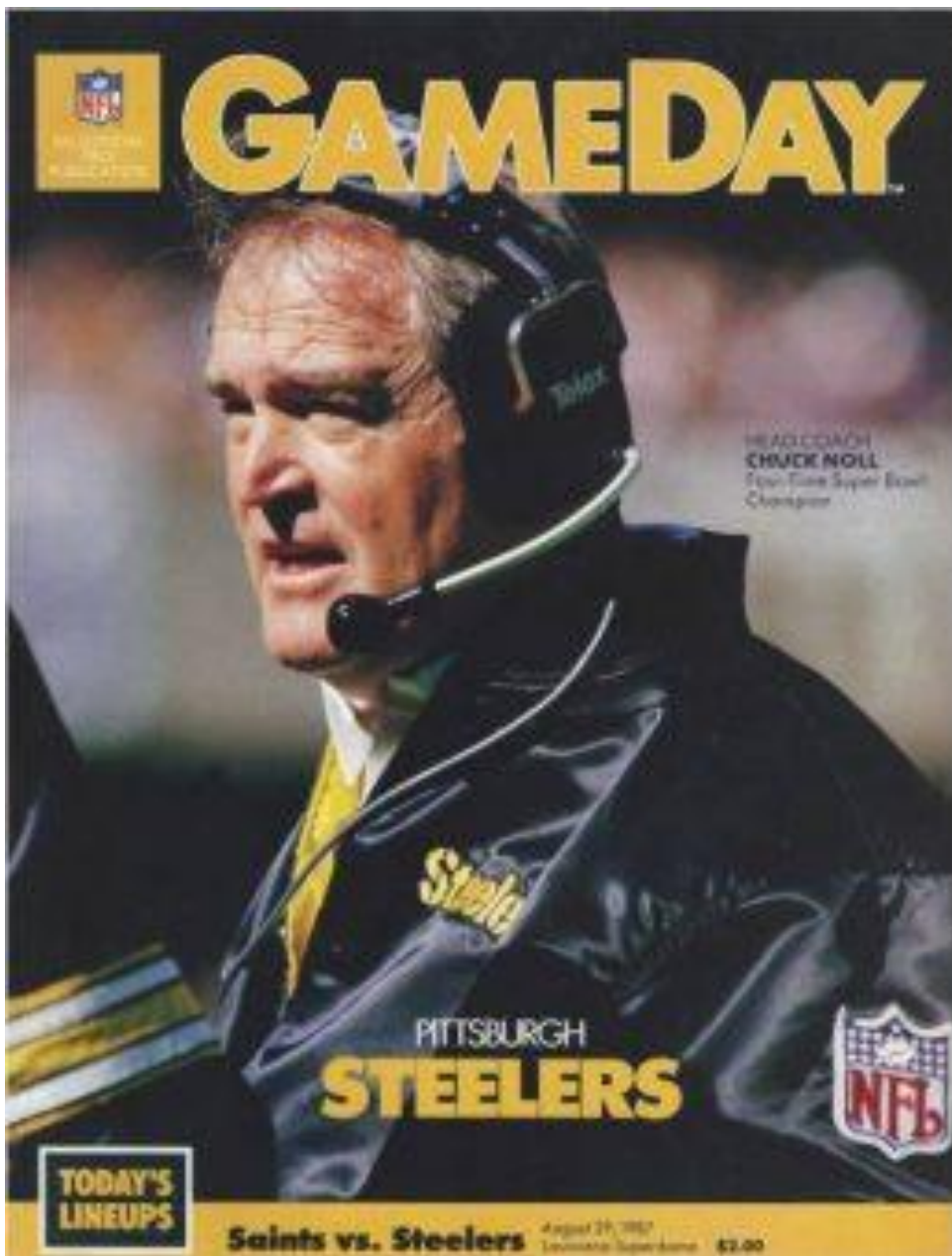
The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette suggested there were still nine candidates on the Steelers' list after Paterno declined. The newspaper also stated that after 36 years of failures, whoever the new coach, he will need plenty of help and a free hand to operate. His is not an easy job they remarked.

A few days prior to the new coach being declared, the PPG suggested Bill Petersen was one of the top candidates. Also linked by rumor were Ernie Stautner of the Dallas Cowboys, Nick Skorich of the Cleveland Browns, Walter Michaels of the New York Jets and one, Chuck Noll of the Baltimore Colts.

With just two names on the list remaining, Nick Skorich and Chuck Noll, Dan Rooney woke at 7 am January 27 after a restless night's sleep and made his choice. A decision that would turn a forever bad team into winners. The Emperor would reign over his dynasty in Pittsburgh for over two decades ensuring that he will always be an important part of Steelers' history.

When Noll was finally revealed as the new head coach, reference was made in the PPG to the recommendation of his former head

coach at the Baltimore Colts, Don Shula. “Chuck is very thorough. He knows every phase of the game. What is important too, is he has a real good manner with players. Firm, but gets along with them. He commands respect without being dominating. He is a fine young man. I hated to lose him.”



Twenty-three years later

On December 26, 1991, Chuck Noll announced that he was retiring. After a 7-9 season and approaching 60, he decided that 39 years in professional football was a goodly time.

After 23 years as the Steelers head coach, coach Noll decided the time was right. “Reminisce?” he suggested in reply to a question. “When we get in rocking chairs, we’ll probably do that.”

There are things to be done, and I am sure I’ll be busy from that standpoint. And I’ll miss all the guys. I’ll miss the training camps. I’ll miss the season. That’s going to be tough, but I’m sure you’ll help me.”

1969 Chuck Noll #14

The 1969 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their thirty-seventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his first of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record declined again as Noll brought new discipline to the team. It went from 2-11-1 under Bill Austin to 1-13 in Chuck Noll’s first try. The Steelers finished in 4th place in the NFL Century Division and did not qualify for the playoffs.

The team played all of their home games at Pitt Stadium, and won just two games, two less than in 1968. The team lost eleven games, while tying 1, resulting in a fourth-place finish.

In the season and home opener in Pitt Stadium on September 21, 1969, the Steelers won their only game of the season W (16-13). The thirteen losses and the one win played by the Steelers are listed below

- 1 Sept 21, 1969 Detroit Lions Pitt Stadium W 16-13
- 2 Sept 28, 1969 at Philadelphia Eagles Franklin Field L 27-41
- 3 Oct 5, 1969 St. Louis Cardinals Pitt Stadium L 14-27
- 4 Oct 12, 1969 at New York Giants Yankee Stadium L 7-10

5 Oct 18, 1969 at Cleveland Browns Cleveland Municipal L 31-42

6 Oct 26, 1969 Washington Redskins Pitt Stadium L 7-14

7 Nov 2, 1969 Green Bay Packers Pitt Stadium L 34-38

8 Nov 9, 1969 at Chicago Bears Wrigley Field L 7-38

9 Nov 16, 1969 Cleveland Browns Pitt Stadium L 3-24

10 Nov 23, 1969 at Minnesota Vikings Metropolitan Stad. L 14-52

11 Nov 30, 1969 at St. Louis Cardinals Busch Stadium L 10-47

12 Dec 7, 1969 Dallas Cowboys Pitt Stadium L 7-10

13 Dec 14, 1969 New York Giants Pitt Stadium L 17-21

14 Dec 21, 1969 at New Orleans Saints Tulane Stadium L 24-27

Though Chuck Noll did not set Pittsburgh on fire in his first year, he got 22 more years to turn the Steelers into something special...and he did. Nonetheless, 1969 is credited as the year in which the Pittsburgh Steelers turned the corner from its once-deathbed franchise. It was the first season for Hall of Fame head coach Chuck Noll, the first season for defensive lineman "Mean Joe" Greene and L. C. Greenwood, the first season for longtime Steelers public relations director Joe Gordon, and it was the team's last season in Pitt Stadium before moving into what was then state-of-the-art Three Rivers Stadium.

Although considered the year in which the Steelers turned the corner to a new world of greatness, the results were not immediate. In 1969, after Chuck Noll won his first game, that was it for the season. With the Steelers finishing 1-6 at Pitt Stadium, it marked the last time the Steelers finished the season with a losing record at home until 1999. Thirty years is a long time. Good things were happening for sure/

I bet there was some wise guy who wanted to fire Chuck Noll after the 1969 season. Because the Steelers had such a poor record, they got a great draft pick opportunity. In fact, their luck began to change with a coin toss. Both Chicago and Pittsburgh had 1-13 records. So, there was a coin toss between Art Rooney of the Steelers and George Halas of the Bears to determine who would get to select Louisiana Tech quarterback Terry Bradshaw.

The affable Bradshaw was the consensus #1 selection among NFL teams as the number one pick in the 1970 draft. By modern NFL tiebreaking rules, the Steelers would have automatically been given the first pick anyway, as the Bears' one win came against the Steelers in Week 8. So, the Steelers were lucky twice.

The Steelers were busy making up for Bill Austin's poor tenure with the team in the pre-1969 offseason. The big deal for the Steelers was that they hired former defensive coordinator Chuck Noll from the Baltimore Colts days after his team lost to the New York Jets in Super Bowl III. Noll was a lot better than persona non grata, but the Colts had lost to an AFL team, and they were thought to be inferior.

Noll became Pittsburgh's 14th head coach in the franchise's history. It had taken 36 seasons to go through the first 13 coaches, If Noll did not have a few less than great years at the end of his career, if he put in another 13 years his one coaching tenure would have equaled the total of all 13 coaches who preceded him. Pittsburgh was finicky with coaches plus they had hired some doozies over the years.

Finally, Pittsburgh hired a coach who could win and would stay and would not pick fights with management that would get him fired. Noll stayed through 1991, establishing coaching stability for the Steelers not seen in any other NFL franchises for the next 46 years. Since Noll's retirement, only Bill Cowher and current head coach Mike Tomlin have served as head coach of the Steelers—just two coaches in the next 26 years. Wow! No wonder Pittsburgh plays consistently good football.

Linebacker Andy Russell is quoted as speaking for all other Steelers present when Chuck Noll assembled the team for their first meeting. He plainly stated his thoughts on why the Steelers had lost so often for so long:

"So, Coach Noll's first meeting, I'll never forget the speech he gave," said Russell, who became a highly successful businessman after retiring from football in 1976. "He gets up and says, 'I've been watching the game film since I took the job, and I can tell you guys why you've been losing.' You could have heard a pin drop in that room. He says, 'The reason you have been losing is you're not any good.'" he said, 'I'm going to get rid of most of you.' Five of us made it from that room to the Super Bowl in '74."

Only a handful of players were carried over from the 1968 squad of which Noll spoke to the 1974 Super Bowl Squad. The ones with the mettle to measure up to Noll's demands were veterans Andy Russell, Rocky Bleier, Ray Mansfield, and Bobby Walden. Additionally, Dick Hoak, who retired before the 1974 season, became the team's running backs coach and he remained with the team in that capacity through the 2006 season. Bleier, who played his rookie season the year before and later became a major contributor to the Super Bowl championship teams, was fighting in Vietnam during this time and was wounded in combat just before the start of the season. Rocky Bleier is a story in strength and desire. We'll tell some of that as we cover the years in which he played so well for the Steelers.

1970 Chuck Noll #14

The 1970 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their thirty-eighth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his second of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record improved again as Noll's system was beginning to click. The record went from 1-13 in 1969 to 5-9 in Chuck Noll's second try. The Steelers finished in 3rd place in the AFC Central Division and did not qualify for the playoffs. The team played all of their home games at Three Rivers Stadium, winning five games, four more than in 1969.

The Steelers began the 70's decade in a new conference and a new stadium with a new quarterback, Terry Bradshaw. After almost 40 years in the NFL, they were moved to the AFC, to complete the merger between the NFL and AFL. It was the NFL's weakest division that season, as the Steelers finished three games behind the division-winning Cincinnati Bengals—a team that was only in its third year of existence that season.

Coach Chuck Noll's rebuilding and reshaping of the squad from the year before continued for 1970. It was not quite ready for prime time. The pundits reported that the greatest change that took place was Chuck Noll's trade of the team's lone superstar, Roy Jefferson. Dan Rooney did not block the trade.

Although Jefferson was among the league leaders in receiving in 1968 and 1969, despite playing for the worst team in football with so-so quarterbacks, he was sent packing after being publicly vocal in criticizing team management. Noll would have no insubordination.

The trade put Jefferson in Baltimore, where he earned a Super Bowl ring. Years later, Jefferson pinpointed what he had done to get traded.

"I was [in Baltimore] to make a statement. I wanted to show Pittsburgh they'd made a mistake in getting rid of me. I mean, I wasn't a 'yes' man for coach Chuck Noll. If you cursed me, I cursed you back. I messed over the curfew rules a lot and, in training camp, I'd park my car in the coaches' spaces."

And so, in essence Jefferson was fired for insubordination. Noll would not permit the inmates to run the asylum.

Without Jefferson, there was a big change with Ron Shanklin emerging as a steady receiver for the next few years until John Stallworth and Lynn Swann joined the team in 1974.

As a result of the NFL-AFL merger being finalized for the 1970 season, three teams from the "old" NFL were moved to the newly formed AFC alongside the former AFL teams. The Steelers agreed to be one of them after their archrivals, the Cleveland Browns, volunteered to join the AFL franchises in the AFC.

The Browns mainly joined because of the possibility of an intrastate rivalry with the AFL's Cincinnati Bengals (now known as the Battle of Ohio), largely due to the animosity at the time between Browns owner Art Modell and Bengals owner & coach Paul Brown, who was fired from the Browns by Modell after the 1962 season. The Steelers joined the AFC in order to keep the Browns-Steelers rivalry alive on a regular basis, due to the proximity of the cities of Pittsburgh and Cleveland. All were good reasons.

Another change came after the draft. The Steelers owned the number one selection in the draft after winning a coin toss with the

Chicago Bears for the top pick. That's from whence Terry Bradshaw had come.

There were a lot of things happening in Chuck Noll's second year, and it was not all about Noll. For example, the opening of Three Rivers ended the Steelers relatively brief stay at Pitt Stadium, where they had only been playing at a full-time basis for six years. Before that, home games were played at Forbes Field, with a few games being played at Pitt Stadium to take advantage of the larger capacity.

The Steelers later returned the favor of playing in their stadium to the University of Pittsburgh in 2000 when the Pitt Panthers football team moved into Three Rivers for one season as an interim home before Heinz Field was ready in 2001. Pitt would also play their Backyard Brawl games against West Virginia in years Pitt hosted the game during the existence of Three Rivers.

Games of the 1970 season

In the season and home opener in Three Rivers Stadium on September 21, 1969, the Steelers lost game #1 of the 1970 season to the Houston Oilers L (7-19). At Denver on Sept 27, the Broncos edged out the Steelers L (13-16). On October 3, 1970 at Cleveland, the Steelers lost to the Browns L (7-15). Finally, on Oct 11 at home in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers got their first win against the Buffalo Bills W (23-10) At Houston on Oct 18, the Steelers nosed out the Oilers W (7-3)

At Oakland on Oct 25, the Raiders beat the Steelers L (14-31). Then at Three Rivers on Nov 2, the Cincinnati Bengals could not keep up with the Steelers and lost the game W (21-10). On November 8, at home, the Steelers whipped the New York Jets W (21-17). Then, on Nov 15, the Kansas City Chiefs overpowered the Steelers L (14-31). At Cincinnati on Nov 22, the Bengals stomped the Steelers L 7-34).

At home in Three Rivers on Nov 29, the Steelers belted the Cleveland Browns W (28-9). Then, on Dec 6, at Three Rivers in a home game, the Green Bay Packers beat the Steelers L (12-20). At Atlanta on Dec 13, the Falcons prevailed against the Steelers L (16-27). Finishing up a promising but disappointing 1970 season, at

Philadelphia on Dec 20, the Eagles beat the Steelers L (20-30) to wrap up the season.

1971 Chuck Noll #14

The 1971 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their thirty-ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his third of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record improved again, and the games were better played as Noll's system was clicking in. The record went from 5-9 in 1969 to 6-8 in Chuck Noll's third try.

The Steelers finished in 2nd place in the AFC Central Division and did not qualify for the playoffs. The team played all of their home games at Three Rivers Stadium, winning six games, one more than in 1969. It looked like the Steelers were ready and Chuck Noll thought so too.

Terry Bradshaw , the #1 draftee struggled with turnovers in his second season. He threw 22 interceptions to 13 touchdown passes. Bradshaw is a smart guy and he knew this would not do so I suspect he knew he had to cut off some of the fun and practice his game. Just saying!

The Steelers had just drafted wide receiver Frank Lewis, Hall of Fame linebacker Jack Ham, guard Gerry Mullins, defensive end Dwight White, tight end/tackle Larry Brown, defensive tackle Ernie Holmes, and safety Mike Wagner. They were all key contributors during the Steelers Super Bowl teams of the 1970s.

The problem in 1971 was that nobody knew how great all these guys were, but they sure had an inkling. That inkling would begin to flourish as the seasons passed and soon (1974) the Super Bowls would become expected.

Games of the 1971 season

In the season opener in Chicago on September 19, 1971, the Steelers lost game #1 of the 1971 season to the Chicago Bears L (15-17). At home in Three Rivers on Sept 26, the Bengals were beaten by the Steelers W (21-10). On October 3, 1971 at San Diego, the Steelers beat the Chargers W (21-17). 7-15). Then, on Oct 10 at Cleveland, the Browns beat the Steelers L (17-27) . At Kansas City on Oct 18, the Chiefs whooped the Steelers L (16-38).

On Oct 24, the Steelers beat the Houston Oilers W (23-16).At Baltimore on Oct 31, the Colts beat the Steelers L (21-34). On Nov 7, the Steelers defeated the Cleveland Browns in Three Rivers Stadium W (26-9). At Miami on Nov 14, the Dolphins edged out the Steelers L (21-24). Then, on Nov 21, 1971 the Steelers defeated the New York Giants W (17-13).

On Nov 28, the Denver Broncos overpowered the Steelers L (10-22) At Houston, on Dec 5, the Oilers pounded Pittsburgh L (3-29). At Cincinnati, on Dec 12, the Steelers took down the Bengals W (21-13). In the last game of the 1971 season for Pittsburgh, on Dec 19, at home in Three Rivers, the Los Angeles Rams ripped the Steelers L (14-23). And that was the 1971 season. More to come in 1972.

1972 Chuck Noll #14

The 1972 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fortieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his fourth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record improved phenomenally. The games were well-played as Noll's system was in gear. The record went from 6-8 in 1971 to 11-3 in Chuck Noll's fourth try. They made the playoffs and lost in the AFC Championship game to the Dolphins L (17-21) in a tough match

The Steelers finished in 1st place in the AFC Central Division and were entitled to the Playoffs with their 13-3 record. The team played all of their home games at Three Rivers Stadium. The Steelers were ready, and Chuck Noll thought so too. In another two years, the team would be sized for the big rings and the big cigars and the champagne would be flowing.

Winning their first-ever AFC Central Division title in 1972 made the Steelers understand that they were no longer a laughingstock and in fact were a major force with which to be reckoned. This was the team's third-ever postseason appearance, its first postseason appearance in ten seasons (the Playoff Bowl for third place in the league), and only its second playoff game since 1947.

This season is famous for the Immaculate Reception, where the Steelers beat the Oakland Raiders in the playoffs 13-7 on a last second touchdown by Franco Harris.

One would say that the rebuilding of the franchise began in 1957 with Buddy Parker but the team took 1965 through 1968 off from rebuilding when it let Parker resign without trying to keep him. Then again, if Parker were still there, perhaps Chuck Noll would not have been hired and the real dynasty would not have begun.

Most would therefore agree that the real rebuilding of the franchise began in 1969 with the hiring of Chuck Noll. In 1972, the rebuilding paid off Noll's fourth year at the helm. Few coaches can take over a team and show wins immediately. Noll's Steelers won only one game in his first year in 1969 but the team that showed steady improvement and finally broke through to greatness in 1972 and made the playoffs for the first time since 1947.

The division title was amazing as it was the first in team history, as was the appearance in the AFC Championship game which they lost to the undefeated Miami Dolphins 21-17. It was the first of 8 straight playoff appearances for the Steelers that led to 4 Super Bowl Championships. This is the year in which the Pittsburgh Steelers truly arrived. The four-point difference in the Miami game could have been the difference between Division Champs and Super Bowl Champs in 1972. If only?

But for the best team in football, with six Super Bowl Wins when nobody else has more than five, this was a phenomenal break-out party.

Games of the season

In the season and home opener in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers defeated the Oakland Raiders on September 17, 1972 W (34-28). At Cincinnati on Sept 24, the Bengals defeated the Steelers L (10-15). At St. Louis, on Oct 1, the Steelers beat the Cardinals W 25-19. At Dallas on Oct 8, the Cowboys beat the Steelers L (13-17).

On Oct 15, the Steelers beat the Houston Oilers at home W (24-7). Then, on Oct 22, the Steelers pounded the New England Patriots W (33-3) At Buffalo on Oct 29, the Steelers beat the Bills W (38-21). Then on Nov 5, at Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers slammed the Cincinnati Bengals W (40-17). At home on Nov 12, Pittsburgh beat Kansas City W (16-7).

On Nov 19, at Cleveland, the Browns edged out the Steelers L (24-26). On Nov 26, at Three Rivers Stadium. The Steelers beat the Minnesota Vikings W (23-10). At home in Three Rivers Stadium on Dec 3. The Steelers scorched the Cleveland Browns in a shut-out W (30-0). At Houston, on Dec 10, in a low scoring game, Pittsburgh defeated Houston W (9-3). In the season finale, on Dec 17, at San Diego, the Steelers pounded the Chargers W (24-2).

Divisional Playoffs December 23, 1972

AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 13, Oakland Raiders 7

Game summary

	1	2	3	4	Total
Raiders	0	0	0	7	7
Steelers	0	0	3	10	13

Venue: Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

This Divisional Championship Game began at 1:00 PM on December 23, 1972 at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. It was a packed house of 50,327 at this Steelers home

game. After a 13-3 regular season record, the Pittsburgh Steelers overpowered the Oakland Raiders W (13-7).

AFC Conference Championship Dec 31, 1972

Miami Dolphins 21, Pittsburgh Steelers 17

Game summary

	1	2	3	4	Total
Dolphins	0	7	7	7	21
Steelers	7	0	3	7	17

Venue: Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

This Conference Championship Game began at 12:00 PM on December 31, 1972 at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. The weather was unusually warm for late December at 67 degrees and partly cloudy There was a packed house of 50,845 at this Steelers home game. After a 13-3 regular season record, the Pittsburgh Steelers were edged out by the undefeated Dolphins by a 4-point margin L (17-21) 7). The Dolphins won all 17 games in 1972.

1973 Chuck Noll #14

The 1973 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their forty-first season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his fifth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record declined just a bit. The games were well-played as the record went from 11-3 in 1972 to 10-4 this year in Chuck Noll's fifth try. They came in 2nd in the AFC Central Division, made the playoffs for 2 in a row, and lost in the Divisional Playoff game to the Raiders L (14-33). Watch out for next year.

Pittsburgh started the season by tearing up the NFL for eight wins in the first nine games. Unfortunately, at the end of all that winning, a

costly three game losing streak put their playoff hopes in jeopardy. With some good play in their last two games the Steelers recovered to win their last two games, settled for a Wild Card berth with a 10-4 record. They lost in the playoffs to the Oakland Raiders 33-14 in Oakland.

The pundits suggest that the 1973 Steelers' pass defense may be the greatest in the history of the NFL. Their defensive passer rating—the quarterback passer rating of all opposing quarterbacks throughout the season—was 33.1, an NFL record for the Super Bowl era.

According to Cold Hard Football Facts, we know the following: Pittsburgh's pass-defense numbers that year were stunning. Opposing passers compiled 164 of 359 (45.7%) for 1,923 yards, 5.36 [yards-per-attempt], 11 [touchdowns] and 37 [interceptions]

The figure that the pundits suggest tops them all is the amazing 37 picks in 14 games. The 2009 Jets, by comparison, allowed a puny 8 TDs in 16 games, but hauled in just 17 picks.

Pittsburgh's all-time best pass defense was an “equal-opportunity unit.” Mike Wagner led the team with 8 INT, but 10 other guys recorded at least one pick. It was amazing. There were eleven who owned at least one INT for Pittsburgh that season. The entire starting secondary snagged 24 picks alone, and ironically, Hall of Fame cornerback Mel Blount was last on the list: Wagner (8), safety Glen Edwards(6), cornerback John Rowser (6) and Blount (4). In 1974, it will be the third time in a row for the Steelers to run through the playoffs and let's just say three is the charm.

In the season and home opener in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers defeated the Detroit Lions on September 16, 1973 W (24-10). At home on Sept 23, the Steelers slammed the Cleveland Browns W (33-6). At Houston, on Sept 30, the Steelers blasted the Oilers W (36-7). Then, on Oct 7, Pittsburgh beat San Diego's Chargers W (38-21). At Cincinnati on Oct 14, the Steelers suffered their first loss v the Bengals L (7-19).

At home in Three Rivers Stadium on Oct 21 , the Steelers beat the New York Jets W (26-14). At home again in Three Rivers Stadium on Oct 28, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals W (20-13). On Nov 5, at home, Pittsburgh defeated the Washington Redskins W

(21-16). At Oakland on Nov 11, the Steelers beat the Raiders W (17-9). Then, on Nov 18 at home, the Steelers lost to the Denver Broncos L 13-23) in the first of three losses in a row.

At Cleveland on November 25 the Steelers lost to the Browns L (16-21). At defending Super Bowl Champions, Miami, on Dec 3, the Dolphins beat the Steelers L (26-30). Back on the winning side, on Dec 9, at home in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers hammered the Houston Oilers W (33-7). Then, at San Francisco on Dec 15, the Steelers beat the 49ers in the season finale W (37-14). In the Divisional Playoffs at Oakland as described above, on Dec 22, the Steelers were defeated by the Oakland Raiders L (14-33).

1974 Chuck Noll #14

The 1974 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their forty-second season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his sixth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record improved this year. The games were well-played as the record went from 10-4 in 1973 to 10-3-1 this year in Chuck Noll's sixth try. With six, the Steelers may not have gotten egg-roll, but they got themselves a world championship. They came in 1st in the AFC Central Division, made the playoffs for 3 in a row, and won the Divisional Championship, the Conference Championship, and Super Bowl X. Watch out again for next year.

The '74 team became the first team in Steelers history (42 seasons) to win a league title following one of the franchise's greatest playoff runs ever. It may not have been luck or magic, but it sure seemed that both luck and magic and greatness were involved.

You have heard the story even before we got to 1974 on the season summaries but it is such a good story, let's give it a go again. After Chuck Noll was hired in 1969 as Steelers' Head coach, Noll signed Defensive Tackle #75 Joe Greene. He then signed Quarterback #12 Terry Bradshaw in 1970. Next came Linebacker #59 Jack Ham and then Cornerback #47 Mel Blount arrived in 1971. Each time the

team got better. In 1972, the Steelers signed a fullback from nearby Penn State—Franco Harris.

By 1973, Joe Greene was flanked on the line by Dwight White, Ernie Holmes, and L. C. Greenwood. In the 1974 draft, the Steelers took no time in signing some more talent for the team. Wide Receiver #88 Lynn Swann and #82 John Stallworth, Linebacker Jack Lambert, and Center Mike Webster all became future hall of famers. In retrospect, it can be conjectured that nobody could lose with talent like that. I beg to differ.

The Steelers had some darn good teams before 1969 but never a real championship. They had some darn good players but never a real championship. Buddy Harper might have done it. But, Chuck Noll did it. Can it be that Chuck Noll culled his talent pool to make them the best that they could be while in their own skins?

This season, the Steelers were feeling pretty good after 2 playoff appearances. They were in great shape after finishing the 1974 preseason as the only undefeated team in the NFL. After two straight games, the Steelers scored over 50 points and were 1-0-1.

However, the Steelers still could not manage to beat the Raiders at home. The QB at the time, Joe Gilliam's play continually deteriorated. By Week 7, the Steelers were 4-1-1, which is respectable but not when you want every win to be a win.

So, Noll benched Gilliam for Terry Bradshaw during a win against the Falcons. Bradshaw was one of a kind and still is. He put some Bradshaw oil on the pigskin and won the next two games. But, he was not the savior if he could not keep winning so after a loss in Cincinnati, Noll benched Bradshaw again. This time he was benched in favor of Terry Hanratty (who Noll had selected in the 1969 Draft).

Hanratty blew his chance however, by playing horribly in Cleveland, the Pittsburgh major nemesis from across the water. re . The offense was struggling. Nonetheless, the Steelers were winning and had won those tough games behind a not quite yet mature Steel Curtain defense.

Bradshaw was a little less cocky but still sure of himself when he reentered the Pittsburgh lineup. The Steelers beat the Browns the second time around and they beat the Saints (a game that Bradshaw ran more than he passed). Noll stayed with Bradshaw.

After a loss to Houston, the Steelers would play the most important game of the season in New England. With a win against the Patriots, the Steelers would clinch the AFC Central and they would assure their third straight playoff appearance. But they didn't have to worry. The Steelers dominated the Patriots and then they beat the Bengals and simply awaited the playoffs.

Games of the Season

In the season and home opener in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers blanked the Baltimore Colts on September 15, 1974 W (30-0). At home on Sept 22, at Mile High Stadium, the Steelers tied the Denver Broncos in OT T (35-35). At Oakland, on Sept 29, the Steelers took a hit from the Raiders L (0-17). Then, on Oct 6, Pittsburgh beat Houston's Oilers at the Astrodome W (13-7). At Kansas City on Oct 13, at Arrowhead Stadium, whipped the Chiefs W (34-24).

On Oct 20 at home in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns W (20-16). In a Monday night game on Oct 28 at home in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers beat the Atlanta Falcons W (24-17). At home in Three Rivers Stadium on Nov 3, the Steelers manhandled the Philadelphia Eagles W (27-0) in a shutout. Then, on Nov 10 at Riverfront Stadium in Cincinnati, the Bengals beat the Steelers L (10-17). Then at Cleveland Municipal Stadium on Nov 17, the Steelers defeated the Cleveland Browns W (26-16).

In a second Monday Night game for the 1974 Stadium (What did they know?) at Tulane Stadium on Nov 25, the Steelers hammered the New Orleans Saints W (28-7). Then on Dec 1 at home in Three Rivers Stadium, the Houston Oilers beat the Steelers L (10-13). This brought the Eagles record to 8-3-1, which was very respectable. In the two finales second-last and last games of the seasons, on Dec 8, at Schaefer Stadium, in Foxboro, the Steelers defeated the New England Patriots W (21-17). Then, wrapping up the season. On Dec

14 at home in Three Rivers Stadium the Steelers smothered the Cincinnati Bengals W (27-3).

Divisional Playoffs

In the Divisional Round Playoff Game, in which Pittsburgh had a 1-1 record the prior two years, the Steelers were slotted to play the Bills. What now? Sports Illustrated's Dan Jenkins had his opinion published. He felt that Pittsburgh was "the only team to reach the playoffs without a quarterback".

However, even without a quarterback, or perhaps Pittsburgh had three quarterbacks, the Steelers would dominate Buffalo and hold O.J. Simpson to 49 yards rushing (it was O.J.'s only playoff game appearance ever).

Conference Championship

In the 1974 AFC Championship Game, the Steelers would play an old foe, the Raiders. Each year, the rivalry was escalating: in 1972, the Steelers won in Pittsburgh; in 1973, the Raiders returned the favor in Oakland. However, the Steelers were ready for anything the Raiders could throw at them. Using the new "Stunt 4-3 defense" the Steelers held the Raiders to 29 yards rushing as the Steelers themselves ran for over 200 yards in Oakland.

After a Franco Harris touchdown run, the Steelers clinched their first Super Bowl appearance in club history (and their first league championship appearance). The rings were being sized and the Cigars were being humidor-zed.

Super Bowl IX

In Super Bowl IX, the Steelers and the Vikings had a hard time playing in the rough conditions of the old Tulane Stadium. After many exchanges of punts, the Steelers finally scored a safety on a bobbled handoff by Fran Tarkenton.

And, so, the score at the half was 2–0. The Steel Curtain continually dominated the Vikings. Somebody had thrown more iron ore into the steel formula. While coach Bud Grant tried to run at the strength of the Steel Curtain, the Vikings were shut down time and time again.

The only points Minnesota managed to squeeze off was a blocked punt (the extra point was blocked). After the MVP performance by Franco Harris, the Steelers came away with a 16-6 victory over the Vikings. It was the first league title in Steelers history.

1975 Chuck Noll #14

The 1975 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their forty-third season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his seventh of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record improved this year. The games were well-played as the record went from 10-3-1 in 1974 to 12-2 this year in Chuck Noll's seventh try. The Steelers picked up another World Championship. They came in 1st in the AFC Central Division, made the playoffs for 4 in a row, and won the Divisional Championship, the Conference Championship, and Super Bowl X.

This Pittsburgh Steelers team was the second championship team in club history with both championships coming in consecutive years. This Steelers team began the season as defending champions for the first time in their 43-year history. The team was led by a dominating defense and a quick offense, and they won Super Bowl X over the Dallas Cowboys, 21-17. The team posted their best defensive

numbers since 1946 and scored more points than any other Steeler team to that point. Bradshaw and company were simply terrific.

Though I suggest it is Bradshaw and the boys, it is clear that John Stallworth made Terry Bradshaw #12, the Pittsburgh QB better every week.

This year was the first time that a division ever had three 10-game winning teams. The Steelers had already beaten the Bengals, and in Week 8, the 6-1 Steelers hosted the 6-1 Oilers. With the game tied in the final minutes, a catch in the end zone by John Stallworth gave them the 24-17 win and placed them at the top of their division.

RB #32 Franco Harris as always, was a standout for the Steelers, rushing for more yards than any other back except for O.J. Simpson. The Steelers topped the league in stats with more wins, more points, and by allowing fewer points than in 1974. Just before beating New York, the Steelers beat the Oilers and the Bengals (a second time) for the AFC Central title. After losing a meaningless game in Los Angeles, the Steelers, with a league best 12-2 record were ready more than for the playoffs.

Games of the Season

In the season opener in San Diego Stadium, the Steelers blanked the Chargers on September 21, 1975 W (37-0). At home at Three Rivers Stadium on Sept 28, the Steelers lost a tough match to the Buffalo Bills L (21-30) At home on Oct 5, the Steelers shellacked the Cleveland Browns W (42-6) at Cleveland Municipal Stadium. Then, on Oct 12, Pittsburgh beat Denver at Three Rivers Stadium W (20-9) At home on Oct 19, the Steelers pounded the Chicago Bears W (34-3).

On Oct 26 at Green Bay, Pittsburgh edged out the Packers W (16-13) at County Stadium. On Nov 2, at Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium, the Steelers beat the Bengals W (30-24) At home in Three Rivers Stadium. On Nov 9 Pittsburgh beat the Houston Oilers W (24-17). At home on Nov 16 the Steelers smashed the Kansas City Chiefs W (28-3). Then in a Monday Night game on Nov 24, at Houston, the Steelers squashed the Oilers W (32-9) at the Houston Astrodome.

At New York on Nov 30, Pittsburgh defeated the Jets W (20–7) at Shea Stadium. On Dec 7, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns at home W (31–17) in Three Rivers Stadium. In a rare Saturday Night game on Dec 13 at home, the Steelers whipped the Cincinnati Bengals W (35–14). Then, in a game that did not matter with the Steelers already tops in the league in wins for the season at 12-1, in the closer on Dec 20 at Los Angeles. The Rams got the best of the Steelers L (3–10) at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Divisional Playoffs Dec 27 1975

The Steelers entered the playoffs at 12-2 and were prepared for the 10-4 Baltimore Colts. This game featured great offense and defense from Pittsburgh. The Steel Curtain proved its worth by holding down the Colts, causing their offense stall out in a cold and wet Three Rivers Stadium. The Steelers won, 28-10, and prepared for their rival, the Oakland Raiders.

AFC Championship Game Jan 4, 1976

This AFC Championship game match-was not an exact duplicate of the year before, because this time the Steelers would play in the comfort of Three Rivers and the ice for their joints. The whole week before the game, the weather was terrible in Pittsburgh. But it got worse. The field tarp split during the night, and this caused the sidelines to become iced over. The effect of the ice was that it narrowed the field for the deep outside passing game of Oakland. So, the bad weather would be in Pittsburgh's favor.

It was a grueling game. After three quarters only 3 points on total had been scored. The number of turnovers (13) was higher than the combined score. This most heated rivalry was ironically stuck in a deep freeze. The game's final tally came in the third quarter when Stabler hit running back Pete Banaszak with a 5-yard touchdown pass to put the Raiders ahead by the winning score of 24-7. Indeed,

the Raiders had overcome the stigma of making the final leap to the Super Bowl.

Super Bowl X January 18, 1976

Both the Cowboys and the Steelers had previously won Super Bowl victories. This was the first time ever that the game matched two teams that had already won Lombardi Trophies. The pundits kept asking questions about Lynn Swan, who was a victim in the AFC Conference Championship Game. He had received the worst concussion he had ever had.

At the end of the first half, the Cowboys were leading 10-7. The Steelers defense was very challenged by the complicated Cowboy offense. However, the Cowboys had never yet seen a defense quite like the Steelers.

The game ended on a Hail Mary. You never know how the Hail Mary's will go. This one was tipped by Mike Wagner and intercepted by Glen Edwards to end the game. f. The Steelers were Super Bowl champions again. They had beaten the Cowboys, 21-17. The MVP of course was #88 Lynn Swann. At the end of the game, Chuck Noll began to prepare his team in the locker room of the Miami Orange Bowl for the next year. Coaching pro football is definitely a full-time job.

1976 Chuck Noll #14

The 1976 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their forty-fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his eighth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record declined this year from 12-2 in 1975 to 10-4 this year. The Steelers picked up another World Championship. They came in 1st in the AFC Central Division, made the playoffs for 5 in a row, won the Divisional Championship and lost the Conference Championship.

After two Super Bowl wins in a row, The Steelers looked to become the first team in the Super Bowl era to win three-straight league

championships . This years was to have been the first since the 1929–1931 and 1965–1967 -both courtesy of Green Pay.

However, doubt set in big time when the team started the season at 1–4 and then when quarterback Terry Bradshaw was injured in the week 5 loss to the Cleveland Browns. There was a vicious sack by Joe "Turkey" Jones that has since become immortalized in NFL Films as part of the Browns-Steelers rivalry.

Despite the poor start, Pittsburgh would get itself adjusted and perform flawlessly to the playoffs. It was the sheer strength of the Steel Curtain and its dual threat at running back in Franco Harris and Rocky Bleier. Each runner went for over 1,000 yards. This brought the team to a 10–4 finish and they and posted five shutouts. Rookie quarterback Mike Kruczek, in Terry Bradshaw's spot. wound up going 6–0 largely due to the strength of the ground game. This would also stand as an NFL record for best start for a rookie quarterback until 2004—when the Steelers' own Ben Roethlisberger more than doubled that record and went 13–0 as a starter his rookie season. Not bad for a rookie.

In the season opener in Oakland, the Steelers lost to the Raiders on September 12, 1976 L (28-32). At home at Three Rivers Stadium on Sept 19, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns W (31-14) At home on Sept 26, the Steelers were edged out by the New England Patriots L (27-30). On Monday, Oct 4, at Minnesota, the Vikings beat the Steelers L (6-17). The fourth loss of five in a row from the onset of the season came on Oct 10, at Cleveland Municipal Stadium, as the Browns nosed out the Steelers L (16-18). There would be no more losses to the playoffs.

On Oct 17, Pittsburgh beat the Cincinnati Bengals W (23–6). At New York, on Oct 24, the Steelers shut out the Giants W (27–0) At home at Three Rivers Stadium on October 31, the Steelers overpowered the San Diego Chargers W (23–0). At Kansas City on Nov 7, the Steelers Shellacked the Chiefs W (45–0). At home, on Nov 14, the Steelers won a close game v the Miami Dolphins 1:00 pm NBC W (14–3)

At home in Three Rivers Stadium on Nov 21 Pittsburgh beat the Houston Oilers W (32–16). At Cincinnati on Nov 28, the Steelers edged out the Bengals W (7–3). At home on Dec 5, the Steelers decimated the Tampa Bay Buccaneers W (42–0). Then closing out the season, at Houston on Dec 11, the Steelers won against the Oilers W (21–0).

Divisional Playoffs Dec 17, 1976

The Steelers were on a roll having gotten the W in their last nine games of the season. They kept it rolling into the Divisional playoffs soundly defeating the Colts 40-14. The Steelers had the game under control from the beginning and ended up with the Division Championship. Significant plays of the game include the following (using short script) .

Conference Championship December 26, 1976

The Steelers are not looking for excuses, but they played without their two experienced star running backs with an attack that was mostly ground based or depending on a ground game. In this game, with injuries to both Bleier and Harris in the AFC Divisional Playoff game against the Baltimore Colts sidelining them both for this game, against the Oakland Raiders. Without both of their 1,000-yard rushers, the Steelers lost to the Raiders by a score of 24-7.

1977 Chuck Noll #14

The 1977 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their forty-fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his ninth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record declined this year from 10-4 in 1976 to 9-5 this year. The Steelers came in 1st in the AFC Central Division, made the playoffs for their sixth time in a row, and lost in the Divisional Championship to the Broncos L (21-34).

After what the experts consider Pittsburgh's best year ever in 1976, the 1977 Pittsburgh Steelers won a lower total of 9 games yet appeared in the playoffs for their 6th straight season. The Steelers were not as crisp as usual, but they won the AFC Central with a 9–5 record.

They struggled most of the season as their record hovered around .500. Even the Steel curtain seemed to have a little wear and tear allowing 243 points on the season, more than 100 more above the previous season. Lackluster play would catch up with them in the Divisional Playoffs when they were bumped off by the Broncos 34–21 in Denver.

In the season and home opener on Sep 19, in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers shut-out the San Francisco 49ers W (27-0). At home again in Three Rivers Stadium on Sept 25, the Steelers were beaten by the Oakland Raiders L (7-16). At Cleveland Municipal Stadium on Oct 2, the Steelers beat the Browns W (28-14). On Oct 9, at Houston, the Oilers beat the Steelers L (10-27) in the Astrodome. Then, on Oct 17, at home in Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh defeated Cincinnati W (20-14).

At home on Oct 23 the Steelers beat the Houston Oilers W (27–10). On Oct 30 at Memorial Stadium in Baltimore, the Colts whooped the Steelers L (14–31). At Denver on Nov. 6, the Broncos beat the Steelers L (7–21) in Mile High Stadium. At home in Three Rivers Stadium on Nov. 13, Pittsburgh edged out the Cleveland Browns W (35–31). In Three Rivers Stadium on Nov. 20, the Steelers beat the Dallas Cowboys W (28–13).

At New York's Shea Stadium, on Nov. 27 the Jets were defeated by the Steelers W (23–20). At home in Three Rivers on Dec. 4, Pittsburgh beat Seattle W 30–20. At Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium, on Dec. 10, the Bengals defeated the Steelers L (10-17). Then in the season saving finale, at San Diego Stadium, Pittsburgh barely nosed out the Chargers on Dec 18, W (10–9), finishing the season at 9-5 in first place in the AFC East.

In 1977, the first round of the playoffs was set up differently because of the proximity of the Christmas Holidays. So, the playoffs began

on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1977. The full action tournament concluded with the Dallas Cowboys defeating the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XII, 27–10, on January 15, 1978, at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Due to Christmas, the Divisional playoff games in which Pittsburgh played were all held in a span of three days. The AFC playoff games were on Saturday December 24 while the NFC games were held on Monday December 26.

This year also was the only one since the AFL–NFL merger in 1970 that one conference held both of its divisional playoff games on one day and the other conference held both of its games on the other day. In every other season since 1970, the conferences have split their playoff games over the two days. Another last for these playoffs was that it was the last season that the NFL used an eight-team playoff tournament.

Pittsburgh made the playoffs with one of their worst #1 records since making the playoffs for the first time seven years earlier.

AFC East Playoffs: Denver 34, Pittsburgh 21

In Denver's first postseason football contest, linebacker Tom Jackson's 2 interceptions and a fumble recovery set up 17 points, 10 of them in the 4th quarter, as the Broncos defeated the Steelers for the first playoff win in their 18-year history.

1978 Chuck Noll #14

The 1978 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their forty-sixth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his tenth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record improved big time this year from 9-5 in 1977 to 12-2 in 1978. The Steelers came in 1st in the AFC Central Division, made the playoffs for their seventh time in a row. They won the Divisional Championships, the Conference Championship, and emerged victorious in the Super Bowl for their third Lombardi Trophy.

This 46th season as noted was finished off with a dramatic Super Bowl XIII Victory to become the first franchise in the NFL at the time, to win three Super Bowl titles. Pittsburgh accepts proudly its recognition as the NFL team with the most Super Bowl victories – 6.

It all started with Chuck Noll and then to get the job done a great cast of characters, especially Terry Bradshaw. Quarterback Terry Bradshaw gets major credit for the championship run along with a real comeback in force this year of the team's vaunted Steel Curtain defense. Bradshaw put together the best year of his career in 1988 becoming only the second Steeler to win the NFL MVP award. Ten Steelers players were named to the Pro Bowl team, and four were judged as first-team All-Pros by the AP. Head coach Chuck Noll returned for his tenth season—moving him ahead of Walt Kiesling as the longest tenured head coach in the team's history to that point.

The Steelers had an off year in 1977 coming in to this championship year. They were defending champions of the AFC Central Division, even after a disappointing 9–5 record in 1977. Though Pittsburgh won the Division, the previous season was a difficult one for the team (both on and off the field). The season culminated in a division round playoff loss to the Denver Broncos on Christmas Eve. It was like it was not the Pittsburgh we all know that had taken the field.

The Steelers had some issues with Mel Blount and Jack Ham not signing and that had a negative impact on the 1977 Steelers as the Steel Curtain had a tough time sustaining momentum from challenging offenses. Was Chuck Noll concerned about morale? Noll explained his philosophy of how he motivates players.

When asked, he acknowledged that he liked that he had taken the team to the top and they were Super Bowl winners, but he admitted that football was not his entire life. He never had made a claim to be a motivator. Instead, he said that he and his staff merely select self-motivating players and try to teach them. His hobbies are relaxing and that's what he does when he is not working.

Noll took the time to raise orchids, attend concerts, seek out vintage wines, pilot his own plane and fly his son to Florida on weekends to collect specimens for the saltwater aquarium in their Pittsburgh

home. If his players were not ready to play, he would address it but not in Knute Rockne style with a big pep talk. It would mean that the player lost the drive or the love of the team and there would be another player soon to replace them, regardless of talent comparison. No one player was indispensable if not for the team.

Pittsburgh got sick of this 1977 stink of being almost good enough in 1978. The team began its 1978 season with motivation at peak. They grabbed seven straight victories, before losing to the Houston Oilers in prime time on Monday Night Football. They finished the season with a league-best 14–2 record, including a 5-game winning streak to close the season. This record assured them they would play at home throughout the 1978 playoffs.

It was also the best record compiled in the team's history (since surpassed only by a 15–1 mark in 2004). (In 2004, the Steelers were 15-0 in the regular season but could not keep it going. What could have been are powerful words.

The 1978 Steelers team was rated the thirty-fifth best team in the history of the NFL (to September 2015) by FiveThirtyEight, a polling aggregation and statistical service. They have not been slouches in Mike Tomlins last two-years, but the Crown was taken in one year by the Patriots and the next by the Eagles.

That rating is based upon FiveThirtyEight's proprietary Elo rating system algorithm. Only two Steelers teams were rated higher were the 1975 team at twelfth and the 2005 team one slot ahead of the 1978 team at thirty-fourth. Once Chuck Noll brought his skills to Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh changed for the better and football became a winning sport.

Games of the Season

The NFL extended the season this year, 1978, from 14 games to 16 games. It may make a book that chronicles every game more difficult to write to the volume of games but since every game is exciting, there will be no impact on reading about any individual game. In 2018, as this book was originally written, the season is still set at 16 games with a bye week for a rest mid-season or so.

In the season opener at Buffalo, on Sep 3, the Steelers outplayed the Bills at Rich Stadium W (28-17). At home in Three Rivers Stadium on Sept 10, the Steelers beat the Seattle Seahawks W (21-10). Then at Riverfront Stadium, the Steelers defeated the Cincinnati Bengals W (28-3) At Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh defeated the Cleveland Browns on Sept 24, W (15-9) . On Oct 1, at New York's Shea Stadium, Pittsburgh beat the Jets W (28-17)

On Oct 8 at home, Pittsburgh slugged the Atlanta Falcons W (31-7). Then, on Oct. at Cleveland Municipal Stadium s, Pittsburgh dominated W (34-14). On Oct 23 at home in Three Rivers, in the first loss of the season, Pittsburgh went down in a close match to the Houston Oilers L (17-24). At home again on Oct 29. The Steelers edged out the Kansas City Chiefs W (27-24). Then at Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh beat the New Orleans Saints W (20-14) bringing their season record to a league- leading 9-1

At Los Angeles on Nov 12, , the Rams tagged the Steelers with their second loss of the year at LA Memorial Stadium L (7-10). Then at home on Nov. 19. Pittsburgh nosed out Cincinnati Bengals W (7-6) at Three Rivers Stadium. At San Francisco on Nov 27, the Steelers beat the 49ers W (24-7) at Candlestick Park. At Houston on Dec 3, the Steelers defeated the Oilers W (13-3) in the Astrodome. At home on Dec. 9, the Steelers whipped the Baltimore Colts W (35-13) at Three Rivers Stadium. Then, wrapping it up at Denver, the Steelers got the best of the Broncos on Dec 16 W (21-17) at Mile High Stadium.

1978 Playoffs

Divisional playoffs December 30, 1978

AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 33, Denver Broncos 10

The Steelers and the Broncos rivalry was turned up another notch, but it was the Steelers who had full control. Pittsburgh dominated the Broncos in the first playoff games by gaining 425 yards of total offense. Denver scored first on a field goal, but it was not long before

Pittsburgh responded by driving 66 yards in 8 plays to score on running back Franco Harris' 1-yard touchdown run.

Then on the Steelers' next drive, Harris ran 18 yards to the end zone for his second touchdown. Pittsburgh QB Terry Bradshaw threw two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, a 45-yarder to wide receiver John Stallworth and a 38-yard one to wide receiver Lynn Swann to wrap up the game

In the match, Bradshaw completed 16 of 29 passes for 272 yards and 2 touchdowns, Stallworth had 10 receptions for 156 yards and a touchdown, and Harris rushed for 105 yards and 2 touchdowns. The Steelers were off to the Conference Championship

1978 Conference Championships

January 7, 1979 AFC Championship: Pittsburgh Steelers 34, Houston Oilers 5

Playing at home on a wet, slick, and slippery field was commonplace for Pittsburgh. In this AFC Conference game, the Steelers dominated the Oilers. They forced 9 turnovers and allowed only 5 points. It was a walloping.

January 21, 1979 Super Bowl XIII Lombardi Trophy

Pittsburgh Steelers 34, Dallas Cowboys 5

Every match between Pittsburgh and Dallas can technically be called a rematch. They are always great football games. This particular rematch was a Super Bowl Rematch. In the first rematch in Super Bowl history, the Steelers defeated the Cowboys in the Big Game for the second time in four seasons, as Pittsburgh dethroned Dallas to win Super Bowl XIII, 35-31.

1979 Chuck Noll #14

The 1979 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their forty-seventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his eleventh of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record declined somewhat this year from 14-2 in 1978 to 12-4 in 1978. The Steelers came in 1st in the AFC Central Division, made the playoffs for their eighth time in a row. They won the Divisional Championships, the Conference Championship, and emerged victorious in Super Bowl XIV for an unprecedented fourth Lombardi Trophy.

After winning the Super Bowl, Pittsburgh now had to successfully defend the championship. And they did. They had a nice 12-4 record and they took the game to the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl XIV. The team started strong at 4-0 record. This gave them 12 in a row counting last season's wins.

In six of those games the opponents were held to a touchdown or less. In the playoffs Pittsburgh defeated Miami, 34-14 and then for the second consecutive season beat Houston 27-13, in the AFC championship game. Finally. They whooped the Los Angeles Rams 31-19 in Super Bowl XIV.

With the win, and the Pittsburgh Pirates win in the 1979 World Series, Pittsburgh would be the last city to claim Super Bowl and World Series wins in the same year until 1986 when the New York Mets won the World Series in 7 games over the Boston Red Sox, and the New York Giants won Super Bowl XXI 39-20 over the Denver Broncos.

Games of the 1979 Season

In the season opener at New England, on Sep 3, the Steelers beat the Patriots at Schaefer Stadium W (16-13). At home in Three Rivers Stadium on Sept 9, the Steelers whipped the Houston Oilers W (38-7). Then at Busch Memorial Stadium, the Steelers edged out the St. Louis Cardinals, W (24-21). At Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers snuck by the Baltimore Colts W (17-13). At Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium, the Eagles showed little respect for their cross-town rival

and defeated the Steelers L (14-17). At Cleveland on Oct 7, in a shootout, the Steelers pounded the Browns W (51-35) at Cleveland Municipal Stadium.

At Cincinnati on Oct 14, in one of the few losses this season, the Bengals blasted the Steelers L ((10-34) at Riverfront Stadium. At Three Rivers Stadium, on Oct. 22, Pittsburgh pounded the Denver Broncos W(42-7). At home in Three Rivers Stadium on Oct. 28, the Steelers edged out the Dallas Cowboys W (14-3). Then, at home gain, on Nov. 4 the Steelers crushed the Washington Redskins W (38-7) in Three Rivers Stadium. At Kansas City, on Nov 11, the Steelers outmuscled the Kansas City Chiefs W (30-3) at Arrowhead Stadium.

At San Diego on Nov. 18, the Chargers got the best of the Steelers L (7-35) at San Diego Stadium. At home in Three Rivers Stadium, on Nov 25, the Steelers nosed out the Cleveland Browns W (33-30) in OT. Then, on Dec 2, at home, the Steelers defeated the Cincinnati Bengals W (37-17). On Dec 10 at Houston's Astrodome, the Oilers edged out the Steelers L (17-20). In the final game of the 1979 regular season, at home, on Dec 16, Pittsburgh shut out Buffalo W (28-0) to close out the 1979 pre-playoff season, The Steelers would be advancing.

Divisional Playoffs December 30, 1979

AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 34, Miami Dolphins 14

On this day, the defending world champion Pittsburgh Steelers entered the precipice of another world championship and they were as determined as ever to bring all the rings and cigars home to Pittsburgh. They brought it all back to Pittsburgh.

AFC Championship January 6, 1980

Pittsburgh Steelers 27, Houston Oilers 13

The Steelers defense, aka the Steel Curtain was playing at peak. The team held the Oilers to only 24 rushing yards, Additionally, the Steelers were aided by a controversial non-touchdown, which helped the team walk away with a nice 27-13 win.

The Super Bowl XIV

National Championship Game January 20, 1980 Pittsburgh Steelers 31, Los Angeles Rams 19

Looking at his proud, unassuming face on Sundays with the other prognosticators, Terry Bradshaw stands out as very knowledgeable but the way he handles everything, you would not think he was the phenomenally great football player that he is. Who knows how old he is? Who wants to know? I know that if there were a game with guys his age in it today, I would be voting for Bradshaw's team. I'd even bet on them with my modest means of course.

Well, folks, that same guy in the prior paragraph was once a kid and as a kid, in this Super Bowl, after winning three prior Super Bowls, Terry Bradshaw completed 14 of 21 passes for 309 yards and he outdid himself by setting two passing records as the Steelers became the first team ever to win four Super Bowls. What a team!

Bradshaw was excited as were everybody in the ballpark. So, as long as things were going OK, he did not tighten up. He did not have to tighten up. Despite three interceptions by the Rams, Bradshaw kept his poise and brought the Steelers from behind twice in the second half. The team trailed 13-10 at halftime. Then, Pittsburgh went ahead 17-13 when Mr. Terry hit Lynn Swann with a 47-yard touchdown pass after 2:48 of the third quarter. It was all over Steelers 31; Rams 19.

1980 Chuck Noll #14

The 1980 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their forty-eighth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his twelfth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record declined this year from 12-4 in 1979 to 9-7 in 1980. The Steelers came in 3rd in

the AFC Central Division, and for the first time in nine years, they did not make the NFL playoffs.

The team was defending the Lombardi Trophy, but they did not qualify for the tournament that gave them the right to play.

Every team has a strange year. 1980 was strange for Pittsburgh.

In 1980, the Steelers struggled for the first time in many years. The defense was aging. It was not as effective as it had been in the 1978 and '79 seasons. The team fell from 2nd to 15th in yards allowed. That's a long fall. The Steelers also gave up 313 points, ranked 15th in the league, compared to 262 points (5th in league) the previous season. The Pittsburgh defense able to achieve only 18 quarterback sacks.

One year after a Super Bowl victory and the offense was also showing signs that it was faltering. It was plagued with 42 total turnovers, but it was able to achieve a #6 ranking in total offense, and it did score 352 points.

Despite the team's troubles, the Steelers still had a chance to obtain home field advantage throughout the playoffs. A number of games could have gone either way. They lost several close games, including games against Cincinnati and Cleveland in which they lost despite having large leads in the fourth quarter. Pittsburgh remained in the playoff hunt until week 12. It was a 28–13 loss to Buffalo in week 12 and then a 6–0 loss to Houston that effectively eliminated the team from the postseason.

To many, these two losses marked the end of the Steeler Dynasty. Several key players retired after the 1980 season and the team was never the same again. The 1980 season was the first in which the Steelers did not qualify for the playoffs since 1971. Just remember folks at this point, the Steelers had just won its fourth Super Bowl. Knowing the team has two more Super Bowl victories to its credit needs to give Pittsburgh fans a good feeling from 1981 to 2017, there were a number of other mini-dynasties that brought the Super Bowl total to six.

In the season and home opener in Three River Stadium, on Sep 7, the Steelers beat the Houston Oiler W (31-17). At Baltimore Colts

Memorial Stadium, on Sept 14, the Steelers were edged out by the Colts W (20-17). In the first loss of the year, a close match against Cincinnati in Riverfront Stadium, the Bengals edged out the Steelers L (28-30). Then at home in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers shellacked the Chicago Bears W (38-3). At Minnesota Metropolitan Stadium, on Oct 5, Steelers snuck by the Vikings W (23-17). At home in Three Rivers Stadium on Oct 12, the Cincinnati Bengals nosed out the Steelers L (16-17)

At home in Three Rivers on Oct 20, the Oakland Raiders beat the Steelers L (34-45). At Cleveland's Municipal Stadium, the Browns edged out the Steelers L (26-27). At home in Three Rivers on Nov 2, the Steelers got by the Green Bay Packers W (22-20). Then, at Tampa Bay on Nov 9, the Steelers beat the Buccaneers W (24-21). At home on Nov 16, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns in Three Rivers Stadium W (16-13).

On Nov. 23 at Buffalo 's Rich Stadium, the Steelers were beaten by the Bills L (13-28). At Three Rivers Stadium on Nov. 30, Pittsburgh beat Miami W (23-10). At Houston, on Dec. 4 in the Astrodome, the Oilers shut out the Steelers L (0-6). At home on Dec. 14, the Steelers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs in Three Rivers Stadium W (21-16). At San Diego Stadium on Dec. 22 in the final game of the season, the Chargers beat the Steelers L (17-26).

1981 Chuck Noll #14

The 1981 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their forty-ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his thirteenth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. Their record declined this year from 9-7 in 1980 to 8-8 in 1981. The Steelers came in 2nd in the AFC Central Division and did not make the NFL playoffs for the second year in a row.

After a tough, injury plagued 9-7 season one year after being world champions, the previous year, and then missing the playoffs for the first time since 1971, the Steelers had hoped that their 1980 season was not a harbinger but instead just a small diversion from

contending for championships. However, while the Steelers had flashes of their former glory years after starting the season with 2 unimpressive losses, the 1981 season would end at 8-8 record and eventually would be one of the bricks at the beginning of the end of the Steelers great dynasty of the 1970s. For many this realization was tough enough to cause a few tears.

In the season and home opener in Three River Stadium, on Sep 6, the Steelers lost to the Kansas City Chiefs L (33-37). At Miami in the Miami Orange Bowl, on Sept 10, , the Dolphins beat the Steelers L (10-30). In the first win of the year, the Steelers finally looked good against the New York Jets at home W (38-10). In a close match against New England in Three Rivers Stadium, , the Steelers prevailed W (27-21). Then at New Orleans in the Louisiana Super Dome, , the Steelers beat the Saints, W (20-6). Then, at home in Three Rivers Stadium on Oct 11, the got by the Cleveland Browns W (13-7).

At Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium on Oct. 18, the Bengals beat the Steelers L (7-34). At home on 8 on Oct. 26 Pittsburgh defeated Houston in Three Rivers Stadium W (26-13). At home on Nov 1, the San Francisco 49ers beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (14-17). At Seattle's Kingdome, on Nov 8, the Seahawks edged out the Steelers L (21-24). At Atlanta in Fulton County Stadium on Nov 15, Pittsburgh beat Atlanta (34-20).

At Cleveland's Municipal Stadium, the Steelers whooped the Browns, W (32-10). Then, on Nov. 29 at home, the Steelers shut-out the Los Angeles Rams in Three Rivers Stadium W (24-0). On Monday Night Dec 7 at Oakland, in the Alameda County Coliseum, the Raiders beat the Steelers L (27-30). At home on Dec. 13, the Cincinnati Bengals defeated the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (10-17) . In the season finale on Dec. 20 at Houston's Astrodome, the Oilers nosed out the Steelers L (20-21).

1982 Chuck Noll #14

The 1982 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fiftieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his fourteenth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. There was a strike this year

and the season was shortened to nine games and the playoff system was redone to accommodate the lack of games. The record improved this year from 8-8 in 1981 to 6-3 in 1980. The Steelers came in 4th in the AFC this special year, and they did make the abbreviated convoluted playoff structure but were taken out in the first round by the Chargers L (28-31).

Makin the playoffs this year was substantially easier than normal, but it is true that the 1982 Pittsburgh Steelers did return to the playoffs after a two-year hiatus. This was also the Steelers 50th Anniversary season. Although the season was shortened as a result of the 1982 strike, the Steelers finished a strong 6–3 record, good enough for fourth in the AFC as a whole. There was no standing for AFC East. Division standings were thrown out as a result of the strike, so the Steelers unofficially finished second in the AFC Central, one game behind defending AFC Champion Cincinnati.

Whereas the 1970's was the dynasty decade, the 1980's was the decade in which the dynasty was disassembled by old age and retirements. The 1982 season is best remembered as the final seasons for a lot of the best players from the 1970.

1982 was the last for Hall of Famers Lynn Swann and Jack Ham and it was the "unofficial" final season of fellow Hall of Famer Terry Bradshaw, who would also miss much of the 1983 season due to injuries before officially retiring. There were some replacements coming in but nothing like the stars of the 1970's.

For example, it was first year of future Hall of Fame placekicker Gary Anderson and the first year of the team using a 3-4 defense, a style still used by the team as of 2017. Having been given a shot at the playoffs by the new structure for the shortened season, the Steelers would nonetheless lose in the first round to the San Diego Chargers. Get out your crying towels folks as this would be the last home playoff game for the Steelers for the next ten years.

Games of the season

So you can see the cancellations during the season, I have presented the game summaries in text form below.

1. at Dallas Cowboys	Texas Stadium	W 36–28
2. Cincinnati Bengals	Three Rivers Stadium	W 26–20 (OT)
3. New York Giants	Three Rivers Stadium	Cancelled
4. at Denver Broncos	Mile High Stadium	Cancelled
5. Philadelphia Eagles	Three Rivers Stadium	Cancelled
6. at Washington Redskins	RFK Stadium	Cancelled
7. Cleveland Browns	Three Rivers Stadium	Postponed
8. Cincinnati Bengals	Riverfront Stadium	Cancelled
9. Houston Oilers	Three Rivers Stadium	Cancelled
10. New York Jets	Three Rivers Stadium	Cancelled
11. at Houston Oilers	Astrodome	W 24–10
12. at Seattle Seahawks	Kingdome	L 16–0
13. Kansas City Chiefs	Three Rivers Stadium	W 35–14
14. at Buffalo Bills	Rich Stadium	L 13–0
15. at Cleveland Browns	Cleveland Municipal	L 10–9
16. New England Patriots	Three Rivers Stadium	W 37–14
17. Cleveland Browns	Three Rivers Stadium	W 37–21

January 9, 1983 Conference Playoff Game

Wild Card: Pittsburgh 28 v. San Diego Chargers 31

Many of the Pittsburgh fans reading this book will use the highlights of the 1982 playoff game shown below as their swan-song story about the greatest dynasty in pro-football as it was beginning to dissipate. Many of the familiar names of the greats from the dynasty were in the game and the Steelers fought valiantly for the win and of course, it was a great game, but the Steelers did not bring it home. .

Chapter 14 Coach Chuck Noll II, 1983 to 1991

Coach #14 Chuck Noll

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1983	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	10 6 0	.625
	• Lost Divisional Playoffs(Raiders) 38–10				
1984	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	1st	9 7 0	.563
	• Won Divisional Playoffs(Broncos) 24–17				
	• Lost Conference Championship(Dolphins) 45–28				
	• Louis Lipps – Offensive Rookie of the Year				
	• John Stallworth – Comeback Player of the Year				
1985	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	7 9 0	.438
1986	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	6 10 0	.375
1987	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	8 7 0	.533
1988	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	4th	5 11 0	.313
1989	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	2nd	9 7 0	.563
	• Won Wild Card Playoffs(Oilers) 26–23				
	• Lost Divisional playoff(Broncos) 24–23				
	• Chuck Noll – Maxwell Football Club Coach of the Year				
1990	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	9 7 0	.563
1991	#14 Chuck Noll	NFLAFCCentral	2nd	7 9 0	.438



1983 Chuck Noll #14

The 1983 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fifty-first season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his fifteenth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The season game limit went back to 16 and the playoffs were executed as usual after the strike shortened 1982-season. The record improved this year from 6-3 in 1982 to 10-6 in 1983. The Steelers came in 1st in the AFC Central this year, and they made the playoffs. But they were taken out in the first round by the Raiders L (38-10).

By the time the 1983 season began, the Steelers had suffered many retirements, and thus they had been forced to adapt to many changes. There was no longer a Steel Curtain. There was no assurance that it could be rebuilt. Joe Greene, L.C. Greenwood, Dwight White and Ernie Holmes had all retired. Moreover, the team had switched from a 4-3 to the 3-4.

The pundits at the time suggested that nothing was as dramatic as what they were about to live through for the first time in a very long time. Life without Terry Bradshaw. Though Pittsburgh's whole team during the dynasty was great, Terry Bradshaw was the difference maker.

In just one more year, Jack Lambert's career would be ended by a dislocated big toe, but at this point in franchise history the most important appendage to the team was Bradshaw's right arm, which had already endured lots of action over the years. More specifically, the part of Bradshaw's arm that gave him the most trouble was his right elbow. If you could put an egg timer display on that elbow, it would be tough to find any time left for the 1983 season.

Sometime in the months that would follow the 1983 NFL season, a doctor would perform surgery on that very valuable elbow, but in September 1983, the medical plan agreed to by the Steelers and Bradshaw called for rest and treatment. Several times over the season, the false hope for Bradshaw's return to the starting lineup would crystallize, but then inevitably it evaporated. Deadlines passed. More deadlines were set. They passed as well. And on and on it went.

The sporting press loved the QB as much as the fans and they had their concerns. They would dutifully attend each practice session from the start of the 1983 season and report the one thing everyone wanted to know, and it usually read like this: Bradshaw didn't throw today. He was viewed to be that important because he was.

Coach Chuck Noll never was one who spent any time worrying – or even talking – about injured players, and so when the Steelers opened their regular season at Three Rivers Stadium against the Denver Broncos and rookie sensation John Elway, it was Cliff Stoudt starting at quarterback and fourth-year pro Mark Malone as the No. 2 QB. Neither were Terry Bradshaw.

The 1983 Steelers were not a bad team on either side of the ball. They had talent, but they also had their flaws. When they turned the ball over and/or were highly penalized they had a tough time coming up with ways and plays that could make up for their faux pas.

When they tried to make things up quickly, such as – three interceptions vs. Green Bay, five interceptions vs. Detroit on Thanksgiving Day, three fumbles and two interceptions vs. Cincinnati, two interceptions combined with 11 penalties in Cleveland – they lost the games decisively. Comebacks were not part of the game plan.

When the Steelers were not beating themselves, the season record shows they were good enough to win 10 games, finish 10-6 and claim the AFC Central Division title--#1 over the 9-7 Cleveland Browns. The clincher for the regular season came against the New York Jets in what was the final NFL game to be played at Shea Stadium. To Steelers fans, this was a game that always will be remembered as Terry Bradshaw's final appearance at quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers—even though it was not necessarily supposed to be.

That it would be Bradshaw's last NFL game wasn't known at the time, but what was known was the Steelers needed a hero because they needed a win. The team has started 9-2 but found itself mired in a three-game losing streak at the time bringing the record to 9-5.

They faced back-to-back road trips – at New York and then at Cleveland.

In New York, Bradshaw dragged his 36-year-old right arm out for one grand finale in the media capital of the world. Clearly not himself, Bradshaw still mustered what he had and authored a final great performance.

The ailing QB played two complete series and directed touchdown drives of 77 yards in eight plays and 72 yards in nine plays. He completed 5-of-8 for 77 yards and the two scores – 17 yards to Gregg Garrity and 10 yards to Calvin Sweeney. Above all else, he inspired the team to a great 34-7 win that clinched the division championship and it gave Pittsburgh a second-straight appearance in the playoffs.

Unfortunately for the Steelers, the coaches, and the loyal fans, Terry Bradshaw's 10th trip to the playoffs would only be as a spectator. He still looked great standing there on the sideline of the Los Angeles Coliseum in his uniform, but the self-described gunslinger had no more bullets and if he did the revolver cylinder had a few issues needing fixing.

Games of the season

In the home and season opener at Three Rivers, on Sep 4, the Steelers were beaten by the Denver Broncos L (10-14). At Green Bay in Lambeau Field, on Sep 18, the Steelers beat the Packers W (25-21). Then at the Houston Astrodome, the Steelers defeated the Oilers W (40-28). At home in Three Rivers Stadium on Sep 25, the Patriots defeated the Steelers L ((28-33). At Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers beat the Houston Oilers W (17-10). At Cincinnati on Oct 10, , the Steelers picked up a win on the Bengals W (24-14).

On Oct. 16 at home in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers scorched the Cleveland Browns W (44–17). At Seattle in the Kingdome, on Oct 23, Pittsburgh prevailed against the Seahawks W (27-21). On Oct. 30 at home, the Steelers beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Three Rivers Stadium W (17-12). Then on Nov. 6 at home the Steelers whipped the San Diego Chargers in Three Rivers Stadium w (26-3). At Baltimore, Colts Memorial Stadium, on Nov 13, the Steelers won v the Colts W (24-13).

At home on Nov. 20 the Minnesota Vikings beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L 14–17). At Detroit in the Pontiac Silverdome on Nov 24, , the Lions pounded the Steelers L (3-45). Then, at home on Dec. 4 the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (10–23). At New York, on Dec 10. The Steelers blasted the Jets at Shea Stadium W (34–7). Then, at Cleveland in the season finale, on Dec 18, in Municipal Stadium, the Browns beat the Steelers L (17–30).

1984 Chuck Noll #14

The 1984 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fifty-second season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his sixteenth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. .The record improved this year from 10-6 in 1983 to 9-7 in 1984. The Steelers came in 1st again in the AFC Central this year, and they made the playoffs. They defeated the Broncos W (24-17) in the Divisional Round and then in the AFC Championship, they were beaten by the Dolphins W (45-28)

It hurts me to say this but most of the stars from the 1970s were already gone. However, Pittsburgh showed signs of their past glory by putting up a 9-7 record to capture the AFC Central Title again. The highlight of the season was an October 14th win over the 49ers in San Francisco. It was the only loss the 49ers had all season.

Also making it to the highlight reel this year, was WR Louis Lipps who won the Offensive Rookie of the Year. In the playoffs the Steelers stunned the Broncos 24-17 in Denver to earn a trip to the AFC Championship. However, the Steelers season would end with a 45-28 scorching at the hands of the Dolphins in Miami. Though all the fame and glory guys were supposedly gone, Chuck Noll kept the refresher button on and maybe every now and then the new Steelers even surprised Chuck Noll.

In the home and season opener at Three Rivers Stadium, on Sep 4, the Steelers were beaten by the Kansas City Chiefs L (27-37). At New York's Jets-Giants Stadium, the Steelers beat the Jets W (23-17). Then at home on Sep 16, in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers

defeated the Los Angeles Rams W (24-14). At Cleveland Municipal Stadium, on Sep 23, the Browns defeated the Steelers L (10-20). At Three Rivers Stadium, on Oct 1, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals W (38-17) At home on Oct 10, the Steelers lost to the Miami Dolphins in Three River Stadium, L (7-31).

At San Francisco's Candlestick park on Oct. 14, the Steelers edged out the 49ers W (20-17). At Indianapolis on Oct. 21 in the Colts Hoosier Dome, the Colts beat the Steelers L (16-17). At home on Oct. 28, the Steelers hammered the Atlanta Falcons in Three Rivers Stadium W (35-10). Then at Cincinnati on Nov. 11, the Steelers lost to the Bengals in Three Rivers Stadium L (20-22) .

At New Orleans in the Superdome, the Saints beat the Steelers L 24-27). At home on Nov 25, , Pittsburgh shellacked the San Diego Chargers at Three Rivers Stadium W (52-24). Then on Dec. 2 at the Astrodome, the Houston Oilers beat the Steelers L (20-23) (OT). At home on Dec. 9 the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns in Three Rivers Stadium W (23-20). Then, in the last game of the 1984 season, on Dec. 16 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the Steelers edged out the Los Angeles Raiders W (13-7). And that was the season.

1985 Chuck Noll #14

The 1985 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fifty-third season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his seventeenth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. .The record declined this year from 9-7 in 1984 to 7-9 in 1985. The Steelers came in 2nd in the AFC Central this year, but they did not make the playoffs.

To look back The Steelers were close all year long until after the twelfth game. They led the AFC Central most of the season. Sitting at 7-5, after twelve games, there was a breakdown that saw a season ending four game losing streak. It ended the chances of a division title and any playoff hopes. Their 7-9 record was Pittsburgh's first losing season in 14 years. That was a cold glass of water in the face for sure

In the home and season opener at Three Rivers Stadium, on Sep 8, the Steelers pounded the Indianapolis Colts W (45-3) . At Cleveland on Monday Sep 16, the Browns beat the Steelers L (7-17). At home on Sept 23, the Steelers shut-out the Houston Oilers W (20-0) in Three Rivers Stadium W (20-0). Then at home on Sep 30, in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers were defeated by the Cincinnati Bengals L (24-37). At Miami on Oct 6 in the Orange Bowl, the Dolphins beat the Steelers L (20-24) . At Dallas, in Texas Stadium on Oct 13, the Cowboys pasted the Steelers L (13-27).

At home on Oct. 20, the Steelers were able to somewhat scorch the St. Louis Cardinals in Three Rivers Stadium W (23-10). At Cincinnati on Oct 27, in Riverfront Stadium, the Bengals prevailed L (21-26). On Nov. 3 at home, the Steelers got the best of the Cleveland Browns in Three Rivers Stadium W (10-9). The maintenance staff was picking up a lot of bit fingernails and teeth-skin after such a close game. On Nov. 10 at Kansas City, in Arrowhead Stadium, the Steelers got by the Chiefs W (36-28). In a slow materializing season, at Houston on Nov 17, in the Astrodome, the Steelers slammed the Oilers W (30-7).

At home on Nov. 24, the Washington Redskins beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (23-30). At home again on Dec. 1, the Denver Broncos beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (23-31). At San Diego on Dec. 8 in Jack Murphy Stadium , the Chargers overwhelmed the Steelers in a shootout L (44-54). Then at home on Dec. 15, the Steelers beat the Buffalo Bills in Three Rivers Stadium W (30-24). Wrapping up the regular season on Sat. Dec. 21 at New York in Giants Stadium, the Giants beat the Steelers L (10-28).

1986 Chuck Noll #14

The 1986 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fifty-fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his eighteenth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. .The record declined further this year from 7-9 in 1985 to 6-10 in 1986. The Steelers came in 3rd in the AFC Central this year, but they did not make the playoffs for the second straight season.

In the season opener at Seattle's Kingdom, on Sep 7, the Seahawks ripped the Steelers W (30-0). At home in Monday Night Football on Sep 16, the Broncos beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (10-21). At Minnesota in the HHH Metrodome, the Vikings beat the Steelers L (7-31). Then at Houston's Astrodome, on Sep 28, the Steelers defeated the Oilers W (22-16). At home on Oct 5, the Cleveland Browns beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (24-27). At Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium on Oct 13, the Bengals beat the Steelers L (22-24). At home in Three Rivers Stadium, the Patriots shellacked the Steelers L (0-34).

At home on Oct. 26, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals in Three Rivers Stadium W (30-9). Then, on Nov. 2 at home, the Steelers beat the Green Bay Packers in Three Rivers Stadium W (27-3). On Nov 9 at Buffalo's Rich Stadium, , the Bills beat the Steelers L)12-16. At home on Nov 16, the Steelers beat the Houston Oilers in Three Rivers Stadium W (21-10). Then, at Cleveland Municipal Stadium, the Browns beat the Steelers in OT L (31-37)

At Chicago's Soldier Field in OT, the Bears beat the Steelers L (10-13). At home on Dec. 7, the Steelers beat the Detroit Lions in Three Rivers Stadium W (27-17). At New York's Giants Stadium on Dec 13, the Steelers pounded the Jets W (45-24). In the final season home game on Dec. 21, the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (19-24).

1987 Chuck Noll #14

The 1987 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fifty-fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his nineteenth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. .The record improved from 6-10 in 1986 to 8-7 in 1986 using replacement players. The Steelers came in 3rd in the AFC Central this year and did not make the playoffs for the third straight season.

Chuck Noll was looked upon by most as a stoical character, but in complete contrast was his reaction to Jerry Glanville, the head coach of the Oilers. After the Steelers second meeting, Noll in the

postgame handshake grabbed Glanville and told him he'd better watch out or he'd get jumped on. This was in reaction to Glanville's earlier comments on how the Oilers field was the 'house of pain' and his prediction that his players would intentionally hurt the Steelers. Noll cared about all his Steelers.

Games of the 1987 season

In the season and home opener at Three Rivers Stadium on Sep 13, the Steelers beat the San Francisco 49ers W (30-10). At Cleveland on Sept 20, in Municipal Stadium, the Browns beat the Steelers L (10-34). At home on Sep 27, the game between the Jets and Steelers was canceled due to the strike. At Atlanta, in Fulton County Stadium, the Steelers beat the Falcons W (28-12). At Los Angeles in Anaheim Stadium on Oct 11, the Rams beat the Steelers L (21-31). Then, on Oct 18, at home, the Indianapolis Colts lost to the Steelers W (21-7). Then at home again, on Oct 25, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals in Three Rivers Stadium W (23-20).

At home in Monday Night Football on Sep 16, the Broncos beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (10-21). At Minnesota in the HHH Metrodome, the Vikings beat the Steelers L (7-31). Then at Houston's Astrodome, on Sep 28, the Steelers defeated the Oilers W (22-16). At home on Oct 5, the Cleveland Browns beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (24-27). At Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium on Oct 13, the Bengals beat the Steelers L (22-24). At home in Three Rivers Stadium, the Patriots shellacked the Steelers L (0-34).

At Miami on Nov 1, in Joe Robbie Stadium the Dolphins beat the Steelers L (24-35). Then at Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium. The Steelers defeated the Chiefs by one-point W (17-16). At home on Nov. 15, the Houston Oilers defeated Pittsburgh in Three Rivers Stadium L 3-23). At Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium on Nov 22, the Steelers beat the Bengals W (30-16). At home, on Nov 29, the New Orleans Saints beat the Steelers L (16-20).

At home on Dec. 6, the Seattle Seahawks lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers W (13-9). Then, at San Diego's Jack Murphy Stadium, the Steelers beat the Chargers W (20-16). On Dec. 20 at Houston's Astrodome, the Oilers beat Pittsburgh L (16-24). Then to close out

the season, at home, on Dec. 26, the Cleveland Browns beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (13–19.)

1988 Chuck Noll #14

The 1988 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fifty-sixth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his twentieth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined from 8-7 in 1987 to 5-11 in 1988. The Steelers came in 4th in the AFC Central this year, and did not make the playoffs for the fourth straight season.

After fifty-six seasons of management by the CHIEF, Art Rooney, Sr. the Steelers community suffered a major setback this year with the death of Hall of Fame team founder & owner Art Rooney on August 25, at age 87 less than two weeks before the start of the season. The team honored the man who put the Steelers on the map by wearing AJR patches on the left shoulder the entire season in memory of "The Chief".

This year's record was the worst at 5–11, since finishing an NFL-worst 1–13 in 1969. As of 2018, the 5–11 mark remains the team's worst record since 1969, and have only finished with ten losses twice since, in 1999 and 2003.

The 1988 squad never got off the dime. After winning their home opener against the Dallas Cowboys, the team lost 6 straight, their first 6 game losing streak since 1969. They never recovered after the skid, and at one point fell to a 2-10 record after a 27-7 loss to the Cleveland Browns.

Pittsburgh had several horrible and forgettable games during the season. One of those games was their week 10 game against the Cincinnati Bengals, a game in which they lost 42-7, the most points they had allowed in a game since 1985, when they allowed 54 points against the Chargers. The Steelers would, however, finish the season on a positive note, winning 3 of its last 4 games to finish the season 5-11.

Two of the last three remaining players who won all four Super Bowls retired in 1988 -- wide receiver John Stallworth and strong safety Donnie Shell. Both were both from the team's famous Class of 1974 that saw four players go on to the Pro Football Hall of Fame (although Shell was undrafted, he was still from the same rookie class), and in the case of Stallworth, retired as the team's all-time leading receiver. Stallworth's record was surpassed by Hines Ward in 2005. Mike Webster, who was also from the Class of 1974, stayed with the team through 1988. Webster would be released by the Steelers in the following offseason, officially ending the team's link to all four of its spectacular 1970's era Super Bowl clubs.

Games of the season

In the season and home opener at Three Rivers Stadium on Sep 4, the Steelers beat the Dallas Cowboys W (24-21). At Washington on Sept 11, in RFK Stadium, Redskins edged out the Steelers L (29-30). At home on Sep 18, the Cincinnati Bengals defeated the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (12-17). At Buffalo, in Rich Stadium, the Bills beat the Steelers L (28-36). At home in Three Rivers Stadium, on Oct 2, the Cleveland Browns beat the Steelers L (9-23). Then, on Oct 9, at Phoenix's Sun Devil Stadium, home, the Steelers lost to the Cardinals L (14-31). Then at home again, on Oct 16, the Houston Oilers beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (14-34).

At home on Oct. 23, the Steelers defeated the Denver Broncos in Three Rivers Stadium W (39-21). Then on Oct. 30 at Giants Stadium, the NY Jets beat the Steelers L (20-24). At Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium, the Bengals pounded the Steelers L (7-42). At home on Nov. 13, the Philadelphia Eagles nosed out the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (26-27) At Cleveland on Nov 20, in Municipal Stadium, the Browns beat the Steelers L (7-27).

At home on Nov. 27, the Steelers beat the Kansas City Chiefs in Three Rivers Stadium W (16-10). At the Houston Astrodome on Dec 4, the Steelers edged out the Oilers W (37-34). At San Diego's Jack Murphy Stadium on Dec. 11, the Chargers beat the Steelers L (14-20). Ending this terrible season, the Steelers put it away on the bright side with a win at home on Dec. 18 against the Miami Dolphins in Three Rivers Stadium W (40-24). It would be a much better year in 1989.

1989 Chuck Noll #14

The 1989 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fifty-seventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his twenty-first of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record improved from 5-11 in 1988 to 9-7 in 1988. The Steelers came in 3rd in the AFC Central this year and did not make the playoffs for the fifth straight season.

The “being rebuilt” 1989 Pittsburgh Steelers were filled with many young players, especially after the release of longtime center Mike Webster in the offseason. The young team exuded inexperience in many positions. In the first game of the season, when the squad lost at home to archrival Cleveland Browns L (51–0). This loss marked the Steelers worst defeat in franchise history. The following week wasn't much better, with a 41–10 thumping from another division rival, the defending AFC Champion Cincinnati Bengals.

Nonetheless, the Steelers came back and snagged the final playoff spot in the last week in the season with a 9–7 record. Chuck Noll, operating in his 21st year as head coach, was named the NFL's Coach of the Year for the only time in his coaching career. Ironically the four Super Bowls had not swayed the judges.

The Steelers were in the playoffs again. That was big news after the five lean years. In the first round, they enjoyed a memorable come-from-behind overtime victory over the division-rival Houston Oilers 26–23. Kicker Gary Anderson was a big hero with his game-winning, 50-yard field goal in the extra period.

The following week, the Steelers were on their way to the Super Bowl as they nearly pulled off a major upset against the Denver Broncos at Mile High Stadium, losing by one point on Melvin Bratton's one-yard touchdown run with 2:22 remaining in the game. Though the Steelers would not make the playoffs again under Chuck Noll (missing in 1990 with an identical 9–7 record and again in 1991 at 7–9, despite a second-place finish that year), the season did set the tone for the team's return to prominence in the 1990s under his Chuck Noll's successor, Bill Cowher.

Until 2015, it was the last season the Steelers made the playoffs in a season the Super Bowl aired on CBS. Each of the next six such seasons (1991, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012) would see the team missing the playoffs.

Games of the season

In the season and home opener at Three Rivers Stadium on Sep 10, the Steelers were shellacked by the Cleveland Browns L (0-51). At Cincinnati on Sept 17, in Riverfront Stadium, the Bengals pounded the Steelers L (10-41). At home on Sep 24, the Steelers defeated the Minnesota Vikings in Three Rivers Stadium W (27-14). At Detroit in the Pontiac Silverdome, the Steelers beat the Lions W (3-3). At home in Three Rivers Stadium, on Oct 8, the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Steelers L (16-26). Then, on Oct 15, at Cleveland Municipal Stadium, the Steelers beat the Browns W (17-7). Then at Houston's Astrodome, on Oct 22, the Oilers shut-out the Steelers L (0-27).

At home on Oct. 29, the Kansas City Chiefs were beaten in Three Rivers Stadium by the Steelers W (23-17). On Nov. 5 at Denver's Mile High Stadium, the Broncos beat the Steelers L (7-34). At home on Nov. 12, the Chicago bears shut out the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (0-20). On Nov. 19 at home, the San Diego Chargers were beaten by the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium W (20-17). At Miami's Joe Robbie Stadium on Nov 26, the Steelers beat the Dolphins W (34-14).

At home on Dec. 3, the Houston Oilers beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (16-23). At New York's Giants Stadium, the Steelers shut-out the Jets W (13-0). At home on Dec. 17, the Steelers beat the New England Patriots in Three Rivers Stadium W (28-10). Then, in the season finale on Dec 24, at Tampa Bay Stadium, the Steelers overpowered the Buccaneers W (31-22)

AFC Wild Card Playoffs Dec 31, 1989

Pittsburgh Steelers 26, Houston Oilers 23 (OT)

In their first playoff game in some time, the Steelers had their two comebacks in one event. They were back at the playoffs and they came back to win. In OT, Steelers defensive back Rod Woodson recovered a fumble to set up Gary Anderson's winning 50-yard field goal in overtime to give Pittsburgh the win, 26-23. Go Steelers!

AFC Division Championship January 7, 1990: Denver Broncos 24, Pittsburgh Steelers 23

The Broncos were down for the count a number of times in the game, but they recovered from two early 10-point deficits to eventually win on a 71-yard drive. The drive was capped by Mel Bratton's 1-yard touchdown run with 2:27 left in the game. For the second game in a row, Steelers running back Merrill Hoge had a superb performance, rushing for 120 yards on 16 carries and catching eight passes for 60 yards. But this time it wasn't enough to lift his team to victory. Broncos receiver Mark Jackson caught five passes for 111 yards. The Steelers lost by just one point 23-24.

1990 Chuck Noll #14

The 1990 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fifty-eighth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his twenty-second of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record stayed the same 9-7 in 1989 to 9-7 in 1990. The Steelers came in 3rd in the AFC Central this year and did not make the playoffs.

This was not Pittsburgh's best year; but it was far better than the years before Chuck Noll. The Steelers did not score an offensive touchdown until the 5th game of the season, but they did rebound to a 9-7 record (the same they had posted the previous season).

Unlike the previous season, all the other records competing for playoff berths were better this year. 9-7 was not enough to gain a playoff berth. The Steelers continued to show improvement

overcoming a 1-3 start to find themselves in a showdown with the Oilers in Houston for the AFC's final playoff spot in the final game of the season. However, the Steelers were never in the game as the Oilers beat the Steelers 34-14 ending their season without entering the playoffs.

In the season opener at Cleveland Municipal Stadium , on Sep 9, the Steelers were beaten by the Cleveland Browns L (3-13). At home on Sept 16, in Three Rivers Stadium, the Houston Oilers were beaten by the Steelers L (9-20). At LA Memorial Coliseum, on Sep 23, the Raiders defeated the Steelers W (3-20). At home on Sep 30, the Miami Dolphins whipped the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (6-28). At home in Three Rivers Stadium, on Oct 7, the San Diego Chargers were whipped by the Steelers W (36-14). At Denver's Mile High Stadium, on Oct 14, the Steelers beat the Broncos W (34—17). Then at San Francisco's Candlestick Park, on Oct 21, the Steelers were beaten by the 49ers L (7-27).

At home on Monday Night, Oct. 29 the Steelers pounded the Los Angeles Rams in Three Rivers Stadium at 9:00 p.m. on ABC W (41—10). Then on Nov. 4 at home, the Atlanta Falcons were beaten by the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium W (21—9). The next week (Nov 11) was a league mandated bye. On Nov. 18 at Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium, the Bengals blasted the Steelers L (3—27). At NY on Nov. 25, the Steelers pummeled the Jets in Giants Stadium W (24—7). At home on Dec. 2, the Cincinnati Bengals edged out the Steelers at Three Rivers Stadium L (12—16).

At home on Dec. 9, the New England Patriots were outmanned at Three Rivers Stadium by the Steelers W (24—3). At New Orleans in the Superdome, on Dec 16, the Steelers squeaked out a win from the Saints W (9—6). At home, playing against the Cleveland Browns in Three Rivers Stadium on Dec 23, the Steelers pounded forth a shutout W (35—0). Wrapping up an OK season, the Stealers showed up on Dec 30 at the Houston Oilers Astrodome and were beaten by the Oilers L (14—34).

1991 Chuck Noll #14

The 1991 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fifty-ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his twenty-third and last of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record reversed itself from 1990's 9-7 to 1991's 7-9. The Steelers came in 2nd in the AFC Central this year, and they did not make the playoffs this year.

There had not been an easy Pittsburgh season since the last Super Bowl from the 1970's as the team was looking to get its roster right and its plays more perfect during that time, while players were aging.

The Steelers struggled early in Chuck Noll's last season as Neil O'Donnell took over from Bubby Brister at quarterback. The Steelers ended the season winning their last two games, 17–10, over the Cincinnati Bengals and Cleveland Browns at Three Rivers Stadium to finish with a 7–9 record.

Following the season Chuck Noll had figured out the country was a better option and he announced his retirement. As much as he loved the Steelers, he knew he had not delivered like he accustomed the management and the fans to expect. This ended his 23-year career in which he won four Super Bowls while posting an overall record of 209–156–1.

Games of the season

In the season and home opener at Three Rivers Stadium, on Sep 1, the Steelers beat the San Diego Chargers W (26-20). At Buffalo's Rich Stadium, on Sept 8, Buffalo Bills beat the Steelers L (34-52). At home on Sep 15, the New England Patriots were beaten by the Steelers W (20-6). At Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium on Sep 22, the Eagles beat the Steelers L (14-23). On Sep 29, the team drew a bye. At the Indianapolis Hoosier Dome, the Steelers beat the Colts W (21-3). At home on Oct 14, the Steelers were beaten by the Giants L (20—23). Then at home on Oct20, the Steelers were beaten by the Seahawks L (7-27).

On Oct 27, at Cleveland Municipal Stadium, the Browns beat the Steelers L (14–17). At Denver's Mile High Stadium, the Broncos beat the Steelers L (13–20). At Cincinnati on Nov 10, the Steelers beat the Bengals in Riverfront Stadium W (33–27). At home again on Nov. 17, the Washington Redskins pounded the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (14–41). Then at home on Nov. 24, Pittsburgh beat the Houston Oilers in Three Rivers Stadium W (14–26).

At Dallas on Nov 28, in Texas Stadium, , the cowboys beat the Steelers L (10–20). At Houston on Dec 8, the Oilers beat Pittsburgh in the Astrodome L (6–31). At home on Dec. 15, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals in Three Rivers Stadium W (17–10). In the season ending game at home, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns in Three Rivers Stadium W (17–10).

From the PG Archives: The Curtain Falls

Morris Berman/Post-Gazette

Steelers' Noll decides it's time to get on with life's work

ED BOUCHETTE/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

OCT 21, 2007
5:15 AM

This story from the Post-Gazette archives was first published on December 27, 1991.

Chuck Noll retired yesterday after 23 years as the Steelers' coach, holding an emotional news conference that left one question unanswered:

Why?

Ten days before his 60th birthday, Noll said he decided only yesterday morning to retire because "39 years in professional football is a goodly time."

He said he did not come to his decision easily and that he recently had gone through an up-and-down process about it.

But when he was asked if he would rule out coaching again, he paused, then said, "probably. One day at a time."

Noll, the only man to coach four Super Bowl champions, strode into the Steelers' offices at Three Rivers Stadium a few minutes after 10 a.m. for his scheduled meeting with Steeler President Dan Rooney.

They talked for about 45 minutes and Rooney told Noll that he wanted him back. Before Rooney could tell him about changes he wanted to make in the coaching staff and, perhaps, the front office, Noll told Rooney he had decided to retire.

Rooney had planned to tell Noll that he must fire offensive coordinator Joe Walton and maybe make a few more changes on his coaching staff. A source close to Noll said Rooney also wanted to take away some of the control Noll had over the football operation.

Noll had been dropping hints for the past three weeks that he had a decision to make at the end of the season but would never say why. At one point, he said he had not lost his desire to coach.

He said yesterday that a successful season in 1991 probably would not have changed his mind about retiring.

"It would have been great to have had 10 victories and been in the playoffs and have gone all the way and then said, 'Goodbye,' but it didn't work out that way."

He said he was not angry and "for you investigative reporters, there's no challenge to find a reason.

Whatever the reasons, an era ended yesterday. Noll's final record was 209-156-1, a .568 winning percentage in all games. His most important winning percentage came in Super Bowls, where he batted .1000 as the Steelers won them in the seasons of 1974, 1975, 1978 and 1979.

But Noll was never one for looking back, and he did not do much of that yesterday.

"Reminisce?" he said to a question. "When we get in rocking chairs, we'll probably do that. There are things to be done, and I'm sure I'll be busy from that standpoint. And I'll miss all the guys, I'll miss the training camps. I'll miss the season. That's going to be tough, but I'm sure you'll help me."

Rooney announced that Noll would stay with the organization, but Noll made it clear it would not be an active role.

"I don't want to get in the way."

Tom Donahoe, the Steelers director of football development, will lead the search for a new head coach, beginning immediately. Noll and Rooney conducted their joint news conference at 1:05 p.m., and it was televised live in Pittsburgh. Noll ended it 20 minutes later when he seemed near tears.

"You've got enough now," he told reporters, "before it gets tougher."

While Rooney read from a statement to open the press conference, Noll sat beside him with his hand on his forehead shielding his face and looking down.

Moments earlier, Noll had been chatting amiably with several reporters in the Steelers' lunchroom. He poured coffee for them and discussed various topics, football not among them.

He laughed and seemed to be in a good mood. But the mood turned somber as it came time for the press conference.

Rooney opened by reading a handwritten statement, saying Noll would remain a part of the team.

"It has been a wonderful 23 years. Chuck is a great man, and he hasn't changed from day one. He brought dignity and integrity to the coaching profession and that, even more than four Super Bowls, is what it means to be a Steeler. . .

"He ranks with the great coaches of the game, I always liked to compare him with Amos Alonzo Stagg. He ranks up there with George Halas, Vince Lombardi and Curly Lambeau. . .

"The greatest compliment that I know is what my wife said a long time ago, "If anything happens to us, I would like Chuck Noll to raise my kids."

Noll then thanked everyone.

"You know, it's much easier coming in than going out," said the man the Steelers hired on Jan. 27, 1969 when he was 37. "The emotions that build up and then attachments that build up over 23 years are tough to, I guess, sever. . .

"Thank you. I mean this is to everybody. The city of Pittsburgh, to the coaches that I've been associated with through the years, to the players. Especially to the players, because those are the guys that make it happen on the field, those are the guys that meant our success, and it's been great memories and a real upbeat experience for me and my family."

Noll laughed when he was asked what he would do now.

"That's the \$64,000 question. . . I put in for a government program, so I could re-educate myself, so I could do something, but I don't think it's going to come through.

"I think after 39 years in it I have to step back and see what the flowers smell like for a little bit."

Asked if coaching burnout caused him to retire, Noll quipped: "Natural death."

"I can remember," he added, "running laps when I was in college, saying, 'What am I doing out here? This is terrible.' And then the next minute, 'This is the greatest thing that ever happened.'"

"That's life. Right now, I'm not planning on coaching any more, although I've been accused of coaching all my life."

He was once asked how he would like to be remembered: "Don't leave anything on the beach but your footprints. I'm not big on history. Who is that masked man?"

Two minutes after the news conference ended, Noll pulled on his black overcoat and walked briskly out the front door, jumped in his car and was gone.

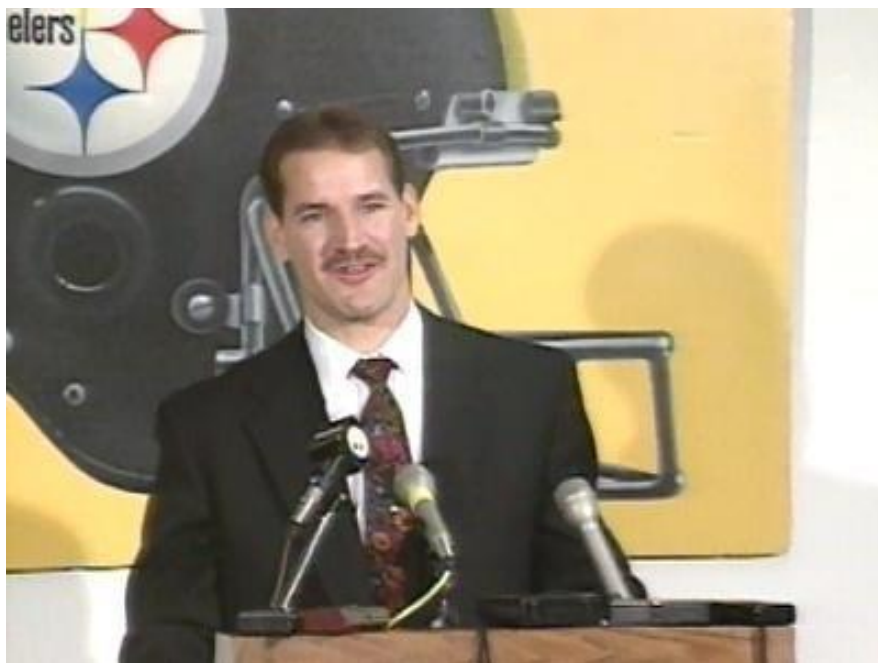
He never once glanced at the four Super Bowl trophies in the lobby as he passed within feet of them. They are his footprints.

Chapter 15 Coach Bill Cowher 1992 to 2006

Coach #15 Bill Cowher

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>League/Conf/Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
1992	#15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCentral	1st	11 5 0	.688
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Divisional Playoffs(Bills) 24–3 • Bill Cowher – NFL Coach of the Year • Barry Foster – AFC Offensive Player of the Year 				
1993	#15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCentral	2nd	9 7 0	.563
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Chiefs) 27–24 (OT) • Rod Woodson– Defensive Player of the Year 				

Yearly Summaries continued below picture >>>



1994	#15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCentral	1st 1	2 4 0	.750
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Divisional Playoffs(Browns) 29–9 • Lost Conference Championship(Chargers) 17–13 • Greg Lloyd – AFC Defensive Player of the Year 				
1995	#15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCentral	1st	11 5 0	.688
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Divisional Playoffs(Bills) 40–21 • Won Conference Championship (Colts) 20–16 • Lost Super Bowl XXX(Cowboys) 27–17 				
1996	#15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCentral	1st	10 6 0	.625
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Wild Card Playoffs(Colts) 42–14 • Lost Divisional Playoffs(Patriots) 28–3 				

Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football

• Jerome Bettis– Comeback Player of the Year					
1997 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	1st	11 5 0	.688	
• Won Divisional Playoffs(Patriots) 7–6					
• Lost Conference Championship(Broncos) 24–21					
1998 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	7 9 0	.438	
1999 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	4th	6 10 0	.375	
2000 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	3rd	9 7 0	.563	
2001 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCCentral	1st	13 3 0	.813	
• Won Divisional Playoffs(Ravens) 27–10					
• Lost Conference Championship (Patriots) 24–17					
• Kendrell Bell – Defensive Rookie of the Year					
2002 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCNorth	1st	10 5 1	.656	
• Won Wild Card Playoffs(Browns) 36–33					
• Lost Divisional Playoffs(Titans) 34–31					
• Tommy Maddox – Comeback Player of the Year					
2003 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCNorth	3rd	6 10 0	.375	
2004 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCNorth	1st	15 1 0	.938	
• Won Divisional Playoffs(Jets) 20–17					
• Lost Conference Championship (Patriots) 41–27					
• Bill Cowher – Sporting News Coach of the Year					
• Ben Roethlisberger– Offensive Rookie of the Year					
2005 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCNorth	2nd	11 5 0	.688	
• Won Wild Card Playoffs(Bengals) 31–17					
• Won Divisional Playoffs(Colts) 21–18					
• Won Conference Championship(Broncos) 34–17					
• Won Super Bowl XL(5) (Seahawks) 21–10					
• Hines Ward – Super Bowl MVP					
2006 #15 Bill Cowher	NFLAFCNorth	3rd	8 8 0	.500	

1992 Bill Cowher #15

The 1992 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their sixtieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his first of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record improved substantially from 1991's 7-9 to 1992's 11-5-0. The Steelers came in 1st in the AFC Central this year, and they lost in the divisional playoffs.

The Pittsburgh Steelers celebrated their 60th Anniversary season in 1992. Cowher led the Steelers to an 11–5 record in his first season and the top seed in the AFC playoffs. However, in what later became somewhat commonplace according to history and the pundits, in Cowher's reign as coach of the Steelers, the team failed to

capitalize on the seeding and lost to the eventual AFC Champion Buffalo Bills in the divisional playoffs. Cowher did end the regular season record slide that had occurred during the second half of the Chuck Noll era.

In the season opener at Houston's Astrodome, on Sep 6, the Steelers won their opener by beating the Oilers W (29-24). At home on Sep 13, the Steelers beat the New York Jets W (27-10). At San Diego on Sep 20, the Steelers defeated the Chargers W (23-6). 20). At Green Bay's Lambeau Field, the Packers defeated the Steelers L (3-17). On Sun, Oct 4, Bye. On Oct 11 at Cleveland's Municipal Stadium, the Browns beat the Steelers L (9-17). At home on Monday Night, Oct 19, the Steelers shut out the Cincinnati Bengals W (20-0). On Oct 25, at Kanas City's Arrowhead Stadium, the Steelers pounded the Chiefs W (27-3).

On Sep 29, the team drew a bye. At the Indianapolis Hoosier Dome, the Steelers beat the Colts W (21-3). At home on Oct 14, the Steelers were beaten by the Giants L (20—23). Then at home on Oct20, the Steelers were beaten by the Seahawks L (7-27).

At home on Nov. 1, the Steelers beat the Houston Oilers in a close match in Three Rivers Stadium W (21—20). Then, at Buffalo's Rich Stadium, on Nov 8, the Bills beat the Steelers L (20—28). At home on Nov. 15, the Steelers defeated the Detroit Lions W (17-14). On Nov. 22, at home, the Steelers beat the Indianapolis Colts in Three Rivers Stadium W (30—14). Then, at Cincinnati on Nov 29, the Steelers beat the Bengals in Riverfront Stadium W (21—9).

On Dec. 6, at home Pittsburgh defeated the Seattle Seahawks in Three Rivers W (20—14). At Chicago on Dec. 13, the Bears whipped the Steelers in Soldier Field L (6-30). At home on Dec. 20, the Minnesota Vikings beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium in a low scoring game L (3—6). In the season finale, on Dec. 27, the Steelers defeated the Cleveland Browns in Three Rivers Stadium W (23—13).

Divisional Playoffs January 9, 1993

AFC Central: Buffalo Bills 24, Pittsburgh Steelers 3

The Divisional Playoff game for the AFC Central was not the Steelers finest hour. The Bills had numbers like we had once been accustomed to see in the Pittsburgh ledger. They forced four fumbles, three turnovers, and seven sacks as they held the Steelers to just one field goal. There have been better games for Bill Cowher than this 3-24 loss to the Bills.

1993 Bill Cowher #15

The 1993 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their sixty-first season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his second of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined from 1992's 11-5 to 1993's 9-7-0. The Steelers came in 2nd in the AFC Central this year, and they lost in the Wild Card game.

The Steelers planned to continue the progress made under second year head coach Bill Cowher. However, the team would take a slight step backwards, finishing 9-7 (three games behind the eventual AFC Central champion Houston Oilers). Despite that, the Steelers did clinch the final wild card spot, making the playoffs for the second consecutive year.

The team had some tough close games, such as losing to the Kansas City Chiefs 27-24 in overtime in the AFC Wild Card Round of the playoffs, in what is considered one of the best playoff games in NFL history even though the Steelers were on the losing end.

In the second week, when the Steelers suffered a rare shutout loss to the Los Angeles Rams 27-0, it was one of the team's last visits to the Los Angeles area in the foreseeable future. The day highlighted rookie Jerome Bettis who spent the day running over the Steelers defense. Though no one knew it at the time, it would foreshadow what was to come with Bettis' career—as a member of the Steelers, who would acquire Bettis in a draft day trade with the Rams three years later.

1993 was also the season in which the Steelers began their policy of "blacking out" regular season contract negotiations. Early in the season the Steelers had reached contract extensions with Rod Woodson and Barry Foster and continued negotiations with other players. However, this led to discord in the locker room, and management felt that contract talk was taking the team's focus from winning. At mid-season the Steelers broke off all contract negotiations and have refused to negotiate contracts during the regular season ever since.

In the home and season opener on Sep 5, San Francisco defeated Pittsburgh L (13-24) in Three Rivers stadium. At Los Angeles on Sep 12, the Rams shut-out the Steelers in Anaheim Stadium L (0-27). Then, at home on Sep 19, the Steelers defeated the Cincinnati Bengals in Three Rivers Stadium W (34-7). At Atlanta in the Georgia Dome, the Steelers thumped the Falcons W (45-17). Oct 3 – bye. On Oct 10, at home Pittsburgh defeated San Diego W (16-3). Then, on Oct 17, the Steelers pounded the New Orleans Saints, in Three Rivers Stadium, W (37-14). At Cleveland on Oct 24, the Browns beat the Steelers in Municipal Stadium L (23-28).

On Sun. Oct. 31 Bye, Then, on Nov 7, at Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium, the Steelers beat the Bengals W (24-16). On Monday Night, Nov 15, at home the Steelers shut-out the Buffalo Bills W (23-0). At Denver on Nov 21, in Mile High Stadium, the Broncos beat the Steelers L (13-37). At Houston on Nov. 28 in the Astrodome, the Oilers beat the Steelers L (3-26). Then at home on Dec 5, the Steelers beat the New England Patriots in Three Rivers Stadium in a close match W (17-14).

At Miami on Dec 13, in a Monday Night Football Game in Joe Robbie Stadium, in a one-point match, the Steelers defeated the Dolphins W (21-20). At home on Dec. 19, the Houston Oilers beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (17-26). At Seattle's Kingdome, on Dec 26, the Seahawks beat the Steelers L (6-16). Then in the last day of the regular season on Jan. 2, 1994, at home, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns in Three Rivers Stadium W (16-9).

Wild Card Playoffs January 8, 1994

AFC Central: KC Chiefs 27, Pittsburgh Steelers 24 (OT)

It is tough to lose by any amount, especially a field goal. The Steelers had this game, but they let it get away. Chiefs kicker Nick Lowery was the game difference as he made the winning 32-yard field goal after 11:03 of overtime was played. Overall it was a great game in which both teams combined for 770 yards, no fumbles lost, and no interceptions. But the Steelers went home empty 24-27.

1994 Bill Cowher #15

The 1994 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their sixty-second season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his third of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record improved from 1993's 9-7 to 1994's 12-4. The Steelers came in 1st in the AFC Central this year. They advanced from their win in the Divisional playoff and lost in the Conference Playoff game, and they lost in the Wild Card game.

This was Bill Cowher's third consecutive trip with the Steelers to the playoffs. For the second time in Cowher's three seasons as head coach of the Steelers the team was the top seed in the AFC playoffs. Pittsburgh won its first playoff game since 1989 with a win in the divisional playoffs over their division rival Cleveland Browns, but failed to advance to the Super Bowl after losing to the San Diego Chargers in the AFC Championship Game. Pittsburgh had again become an NFL force with which to reckon.

In the home and season opener on Sep 4, Dallas defeated Pittsburgh L (9-26) in Three Rivers stadium. At Cleveland on Sep 11, the Steelers beat the Browns in Municipal Stadium W (17-10). Then, at home on Sep 18, the Steelers defeated the Indianapolis Colts in Three Rivers Stadium W (34-7). At Seattle, in Husky Stadium, the Steelers thumped the Seahawks W (30-13). On Oct 3, at home Pittsburgh defeated Houston Oilers W (30-14). Oct 17 -bye. The Steelers edged out the Cincinnati Bengals on Oct 16, in Three Rivers Stadium, W (14-10). At New York in Giants Stadium, the Steelers squeaked by the Giants W (10-6)

At Arizona on Oct. 30, the Steelers lost in OT to the Cardinals L (17–20). At Houston on Nov 6 in the Astrodome, the Steelers edged out the Oilers in OT W (12–9). Monday Night Football game on Nov 14, saw the Steelers beat the Buffalo Bills in Three Rivers Stadium W (23–10). Then at home, on Nov 20, the Steelers played another OT game and this time beat the Miami Dolphins in Three Rivers Stadium W (16–13). At Los Angeles, on Nov 27, the Steelers whipped the Raiders in the Memorial Coliseum W (21–3)

At Cincinnati on Dec 4, in Riverfront Stadium, the Steelers pounded the Bengals W (38–15). At home on Dec 11, the Steelers beat the Philadelphia Eagles in Three Rivers Stadium W (14–3). At home in Three Rivers Stadium on Dec. 18, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns W (17–7). Finishing a great season with a loss was not part of the plan but it was a close game on Sat. Dec. 24 at San Diego's Jack Murphy Stadium when the Chargers beat the Steelers L (34–37).

Divisional Playoffs January 7, 1995[edit]

AFC Central: Pittsburgh Steelers 29, Cleveland Browns 9

Pittsburgh's 12-4 season was tops in the Central Division and so the Divisional playoffs was the first game for the Steelers. No Wild Card Game was needed. In this season, the Steelers had defeated the Browns twice and they were able to beat the Browns in this playoff game 29-9.

Conference championship January 15, 1995

AFC Championship: Chargers 17, Steelers 13

The Steelers were showing signs of the Chuck Noll dynasty, but Bill Cowher squad had developed a problem with finishing strong. The Steelers were set back by the Chargers scoring 14-unanswered points in the second half . In one of the greatest games in his career, Junior Seau recorded 16 tackles while playing hurt with a pinched nerve in his neck.

Although the Steelers led in stats such as total plays (80–47), total offensive yards (415–226), and time of possession (37:13–22:47), it was San Diego that made the big plays when it counted and they won the game 17-13.

1995 Bill Cowher #15

The 1995 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their sixty-third season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his fourth of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined slightly from 1994's 12-4 to 1995's 11-5. The Steelers came in 1st again in the AFC Central this year. They advanced from their win in the Divisional playoff and won the Conference Playoff game. They made it to the Super Bowl but were beaten by the Cowboys in a well-played tough game.

Yes, this season, the Steelers returned to the Super Bowl for the first time in sixteen years (Super Bowl XIV). The team's 11–5 finish was good enough for the AFC Central championship and the second seed in the conference.

For the second consecutive season Pittsburgh hosted the AFC Championship Game at home by virtue of the Indianapolis Colts' that upset the top-seeded Kansas City Chiefs at Arrowhead Stadium. The Steelers won the game, but then two-weeks later, lost to the 1995 Dallas Cowboys in the Super Bowl in a matchup of teams that were looking to join the San Francisco 49ers as the only other team (at the time) to win five Super Bowls.

It was the first time in three Super Bowl meetings that the Steelers had lost to the Cowboys. Pittsburgh coach Bill Cowher became (at the time) the youngest head coach to lead his team to the Super Bowl.

After the Super Bowl loss, quarterback Neil O'Donnell signed as a free agent with the New York Jets. The Steelers unfortunately would not return to the Super Bowl for the next 10 seasons.

In the home and season opener on Sep 3 Pittsburgh defeated Detroit W (23–20) in Three Rivers stadium. At Houston's Astrodome, the Steelers beat the Oilers on Sep 10, W (34–17). Then, at Miami on

Sep 18, the Dolphins defeated the Steelers in Joe Robbie Stadium L (10-23). At home on Sept 24, the Minnesota Vikings beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium, L 24-44). On Oct 1, at home Pittsburgh defeated San Diego W (31-16). The Steelers were edged out by the Jacksonville Jaguars in Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, on Oct 8, W (16-20). Oct 15—Bye. At home on Oct 19, the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Steelers L (9-27).

At home on Oct. 29 the Steelers beat the Jacksonville Jaguars in Three Rivers Stadium W (24-7). At Chicago, on Nov 5, in Soldier Field, the Steelers beat the Bears W (37-34) in OT. Then at home again on Monday Night Nov. 13, Pittsburgh defeated Cleveland in Three Rivers Stadium W (20-3). On Nov 19, at Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium, the Steelers beat the Bengals in a shootout W (49-31). At Cleveland on Nov 26, in Cleveland Municipal Stadium, the Steelers beat the Browns W (20-17)

On Dec. 3 at home, the Steelers defeated the Houston Oilers in Three Rivers Stadium W (21-7). At Oakland on Dec. 10 in the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum, the Steelers beat the Raiders W (29-10). Then, at home on Dec 16, the Steelers defeated the England Patriots in Three Rivers Stadium W (41-27). In the season ender on Dec. 24 at Green Bay's Lambeau Field, the Packers took the joy of winning the last game of the season from the Steelers in a close match L (19-24).

Divisional Playoffs January 6, 1996

AFC Central: Pittsburgh Steelers 40, Buffalo Bills 21

The Steelers almost got themselves another Super Bowl and this game is where it began in the post season. It was running back Bam Morris, who scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter as the Steelers stopped the Bills, from coming back from a 20-0 deficit. By the end of the game, the Steelers outgained them in total yards 409-250 and forced four turnovers. The Steelers 40-21 victory was aided by the absence of Bruce Smith, who fell ill the day before the game,

Conference Championship January 14, 1996

AFC Championship: Steelers 20, Colts 16

Bill Cowher deservedly or undeservedly got a reputation for not finishing seasons well by blowing the playoffs. Yet, here he was in his fourth season and he was four for four bringing the Steelers to the playoffs. In Chuck Noll's last nine seasons, he was three playoffs for nine seasons, and he missed his last three. Nonetheless after a losing season, Cowher came in and immediately got Pittsburgh moving. In his fourth year, he had them in the Super Bowl. That's not too shabby. This Pittsburgh win helped get them there 20-16.

Super Bowl XXX Jan 28, 1996

Dallas Cowboys 27, Pittsburgh Steelers 17

Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe, Arizona Attendance 76,347

For the first time since the Chuck Noll dynasty in the 1970's, the Pittsburgh Steelers were in the Super Bowl. This would be their fifth shot and it was their first loss. The Cowboys defeated the Steelers by the score of 27-17. In a game played on January 28, 1996, at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Arizona, both teams were trying for five wins, which at the time was the current record held by the San Francisco 49ers.

The Cowboys had a 12-4 regular season record, and the Steelers came in with an 11-5 regular season record. Both had won their two playoff games to get into the big contest. Another point of note on this game is this would be the fifth rematch between Super Bowl teams and it was the third meeting between the two longtime rivals—Cowboys & Steelers in a Super Bowl. This is the most Super Bowl rematches between any two NFL teams.

Dallas became the first team to win three Super Bowls in four years, while Pittsburgh's defeat 27-17 was their first Super Bowl loss in team history.

1996 Bill Cowher #15

The 1996 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their sixty-fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his fifth of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined slightly from 1995's 11-5 to 1996's 10-6. The Steelers came in 1st again in the AFC Central this year for the fourth time but did not win enough to get a first seed. / first round bye. They had to play a Wild-Card game, which they won; but then they lost in the Divisional playoff game.

In their first playoff game, a rematch of the previous year's AFC Championship Game, the Steelers defeated the Colts, However, their season would come to a halt a week later as the Steelers lost to the New England Patriots, 28-3.

In the season opener on Sep 1, at Jacksonville, the Jaguars defeated the Steelers L (9-24). At Baltimore on Sep 8, the Steelers beat the Ravens W (31-17). Then, at home on Sep 16, 8, the Steelers beat the Buffalo Bills in Three Rivers Stadium, W (24-6). Sep 22—Bye. On Sep 29, at home, the Steelers beat the Houston Oilers W (30-16). At Kansas City on Oct 7, in Arrowhead Stadium, the Steelers beat the Chiefs W (17-7). On Oct 13, at home Pittsburgh defeated Cincinnati W (20-15). 8 Sun. On Oct. 20 at Houston's Astrodome, the Oilers beat the Steelers L (13-23).

At Atlanta on Oct 27, in the Georgia Dome, , the Steelers beat the Falcons W (20-17). At home on Nov 3, the Steelers blasted the St. Louis Rams in Three Rivers Stadium W (42-6). At Cincinnati on Nov. 10 in Cinergy Field, the Bengals defeated the Steelers L (24-34). At home on Nov. 17, the Steelers beat the Jacksonville Jaguars in Three Rivers Stadium W (28-3). At Miami on Nov 25, the Steelers beat the Dolphins in Pro Player Stadium W (24-17).

Then on Dec 1, in Baltimore Memorial Stadium, the Ravens beat the Steelers L (17-31). At home on Dec, the Steelers beat the San Diego Chargers in Three Rivers Stadium W (16-3). The next two games were losses beginning at home on Dec 15 when the San Francisco 49ers beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (15-25).

Then, in the season finale on Dec. 22, the Carolina Panthers defeated the Steelers L (14–18).

Wild Card Playoffs December 29, 1996

AFC Central: Pittsburgh 42, Indianapolis 14

58,078 fans saw the Steelers blow a 13-point lead in the first half but then score 29 unanswered points in the second half. Meanwhile, Pittsburgh held the Colts to 146 total yards of offense, while gaining 407 yards for themselves (with 236 on the ground). It was a sweet 42-14 victory for the Steelers over the Colts.

January 5, 1997 AFC Conference Championship

New England Patriots 28, Pittsburgh Steelers 3

The Patriots were about to enter their dynasty years as they hired a great coach with Super Bowl inning experience. Bill Parcells did not bring all the cigars and rings, but he helped move the program forward. In their first home playoff game in 18 years, New England blew away the Steelers 28–3 with a big show of 346 yards of total offense, while limiting the Steelers to 213. Nobody likes a game like this, other than the opposition team.

1997 Bill Cowher #15

The 1997 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their sixty-fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his sixth of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record improved from 1996's 10-6 to 1997's 11-5. The Steelers came in 1st again in the AFC Central this year for the fifth time under Cowher. They won the Divisional Championship but lost again going for all the Conference marbles.

The 1997 season was considered a transitional year due to many key free agent losses in the offseason, as well as it being the first season of Kordell Stewart scheduled to start at QB.

Bill Cowher had not missed a playoff, and this would be his sixth in a row after Chuck Noll's 3 of 9 performance as Noll was approaching his Swan Song. In this effort, Steelers head coach Bill Cowher tied Hall of Fame coach Paul Brown with most consecutive playoff appearances to start a head coaching career in the NFL—a record Cowher still co-owns with Brown, as the Steelers missed the playoffs the very next year after the six in a row.

The Steelers had 572 rushing attempts in 1997, the most in the 1990s. Their 2,479 total rushing yards were third-most of the decade by any team.

The Steelers would host the AFC Championship Game for the third time in four years; however, they would ultimately lose to the eventual Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos. That game was the last playoff appearance for the Steelers during the 1990s and they did not return to the postseason until 2001. It helps to remember as you read that there is a Super Bowl coming up during the Cowher years. We'll keep it a secret as we approach it, so we can all enjoy it.

As of 2017, this remains the only time in their history the Steelers defeated the Patriots in the playoffs. In their first playoff game, a rematch of the previous year's AFC Championship Game, the Steelers defeated the Colts. However, their season would come to a halt a week later as the Steelers lost to the New England Patriots, 28–3.

In the season and home opener on Aug 31, the Dallas Cowboys belted the Steelers L (7–37) in Three Rivers Stadium. Then, at home on Sep 7, the Steelers nosed out the Washington Redskins at Three Rivers Stadium W (14–13). Sun Sep 14—Bye. On Sep 22, at Jacksonville, the Jaguars beat the Steelers L (21–30). At home on Sep 28, the Tennessee Oilers were beaten by the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium W 37–24). On Oct 15 at Memorial Stadium, Pittsburgh beat Baltimore W (42–34). On Oct. 12 at home, the Steelers beat the Indianapolis Colts W(24–22). Then, at Cincinnati's Cinergy Field, the Steelers beat the Bengals W (26–10).

At home on Oct. 26, the Steelers beat the Jacksonville Jaguars in Three Rivers Stadium in OT W (23–17). Then, on Mon Night Football, on Nov. 3 at Kansas City in Arrowhead Stadium, the

Chiefs beat the Steelers L (10–13). At home on Nov. 9, the Steelers pounded in a shutout to beat the Baltimore Ravens in Three Rivers Stadium W (37–0). Then, at home on Nov. 16 the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals in Three Rivers Stadium W (20–3). At Philadelphia in Veterans Stadium. The Eagles beat the Steelers L (20–23).

At Arizona on Nov. 30, in Sun Devil Stadium, the Steelers beat the Cardinals W (26–20) in OT. At home on Dec. 7, the Steelers beat the Denver Broncos in Three Rivers Stadium W (35–24). On Sat Dec 13, playing at New England's Foxboro Stadium, the Steelers beat the Patriots W (24–21) in OT. At Tennessee on Dec 21, in Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium , the Oilers won the final game v the Steelers L (6–16). And, so, other than the playoffs, that was another season.

AFC Divisional Playoffs January 3, 1998 **Pittsburgh Steelers 7, New England Patriots 6**

Working in front of an attendance: 61,228 at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh, it was Quarterback Kordell Stewart's 40-yard touchdown run in the first quarter that was the difference in a defense-dominated game. A 7-6 Pittsburgh win sounds more like a Pirates win but the Steelers were happy to collect it.

AFC Conference Championships Jan. 11, 1998 **Denver Broncos 24, Pittsburgh Steelers 21**

At Pittsburgh's Three River stadium before 61,382, Pittsburgh took its chance at another AFC Championship but failed. Denver had other plans. For Denver, it was the second week in a row, that the team eliminated a strong team on the road. Pittsburgh had beaten them in the regular season. In Week 15, Pittsburgh got the best of Denver 35–24. This time it was Broncos 24, Steelers 21.

1998 Bill Cowher #15

The 1998 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their sixty-sixth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his seventh of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record improved from 1997's 11-5 to 1998's 7-9. The Steelers came in 3rd in the AFC Central this year. They did not qualify for the playoffs for the first time since 1991.

The Team was doing well but then finished 7–9 after starting the season 5–2. They lost their last five games which caused them to lose a spot in the playoffs. It was Bill Cowher's first losing record as coach of the Steelers.

The season was marked by a controversial ending to the team's Thanksgiving Day game against the Detroit Lions, where Jerome Bettis claimed he called the coin toss in overtime as "tails" although referee Phil Luckett heard "heads." One of the first times if not the only time that hearing affected a football game. The Lions won the game 19–16 and this began the Steelers' losing streak to finish the season.

Kordell Stewart did not look good this year. It can be said that the inept plays of Kordell Stewart were cited as another conflict, as the fans slowly began to turn on him. After their 11–5 1997 season, Pittsburgh lost two key offensive components: Chan Gailey, the offensive coordinator who went on to become head coach of the Dallas Cowboys, and their leading receiver, Yancey Thigpen, a Pro Bowler for Pittsburgh in 1997, who joined the Tennessee Oilers. The 1998 Steelers did not adapt.

In the season opener at Baltimore on Sep 6, the Steelers beat the Ravens in Ravens Stadium W (20–13). Then, at home on Sep 13, the Steelers beat the Chicago Bears in Three River Stadium W (17–12). At Miami's Pro Player Stadium, the Dolphins beat the Steelers L (0-21). On Sep 27, at home in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers beat the Seahawks W (13-10). Oct 4, Bye. At Cincinnati's Cinergy Field, the Bengals beat the Steelers L (20–25). At home on Oct 18, the Baltimore Ravens were beaten by the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium W 16-6). On Oct 26, at Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium,

Pittsburgh beat the Chiefs W (20-13). On Nov 1 at home, the Steelers were beaten by the Tennessee Oilers in Three Rivers Stadium L (31-41).

At home on Monday Night Nov. 9, the Steelers beat the Green Bay Packers in Three Rivers Stadium W (27-20). At Tennessee, in Vanderbilt Stadium on Nov 15, the Steelers lost to the Oilers L (14-23). At home on Nov. 22 the Steelers beat the Jacksonville Jaguars in Three Rivers Stadium W (30-15).

At Detroit's Pontiac Silverdome 1 on Nov 26, the Lions beat the Steelers L (16-19) in OT. Then on Dec. 6 at home, the New England Patriots beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (9-23). At Tampa Bay on Dec 13, the Buccaneers beat the Steelers in Raymond James Stadium L (3-16). At home on Dec. 20, the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (24-25). At Jacksonville on Mon. Dec. 28 in the season finale, at Alltel Stadium, the Jaguars beat the Steelers L (3-21).

1999 Bill Cowher #15

The 1999 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their sixty-seventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his eighth of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined from 1998's 7-9 to 1999's 6-10. The Steelers came in 4th in the AFC Central. They did not qualify for the playoffs for the first time since 1991.

For the second consecutive season the Steelers did not make the playoffs after starting off the season by winning 5 of their first 8 games. Losing seven of the remaining eight dropped Pittsburgh to 6-10 for the year, their worst record under Bill Cowher.

In the season opener at Cleveland on Sep 12, the Steelers shut out the Browns in a shellacking at Browns Stadium W (43-0). Then, at Baltimore at PSI Net Stadium Sep 19, the Steelers beat the Ravens W (23-20). At home on Sep 26, the Seattle Seahawks beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium, L (10-29). At home, on Oct 3, the Jacksonville Jaguars beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L

(30–17). At Buffalo on Oct 10, in Wilson Stadium, the Bills beat the Steelers L (21-24). On Oct 17, at Cincinnati in Cinergy Field, , the Steelers beat the Bengals W (17-3). On Oct 25, at home, the Steelers beat the Falcons W (13-9). Oct 31, Bye

At San Francisco, on Nov. 7, the Steelers beat the 49ers in 3Com Park W (27–6). Then, at home on Nov. 14, the Cleveland Browns beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (15–16). On Nov 21 at Tennessee's Adelphia Coliseum, the Titans beat the Steelers L (10–16). At home on Nov. 28, the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (20–27). On Thursday Night Dec. 2 at Jacksonville's Alltel Stadium, the Jaguars beat the Steelers L 6–20).

At home on Dec. 12, the Baltimore Ravens beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (24–31). At Kansas City, on Sat. Dec. 18, the Chiefs beat the Steelers in Arrowhead Stadium L (19–35). At home on Dec. 26, the Steelers beat the Carolina Panthers in Three Rivers Stadium W (30–20). On Jan. 2, at home, in the season finale, the Tennessee Titans beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (26–47)

2000 Bill Cowher #15

The 2000 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their sixty-eighth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his ninth of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined from 1999's 6-10 to 2000's 9-7. The Steelers came in 3rd in the AFC Central. They did not qualify for the playoffs for the first time since 1991.

This year, the Steelers were trying to get on with better seasons after hitting just 6–10 in 1999, a season in which they failed to qualify for the playoffs. While Pittsburgh did improve to 9–7 and had their first winning season since 1997, it was not enough for the team to qualify for the playoffs. This season also marked the Steelers' last year at Three Rivers Stadium.

Coach Bill Cowher named Kent Graham as the team's starting quarterback for the season, but after an auspicious 1–3 start, Graham

got hurt, and Kordell Stewart, who was a backup, took over the starting job again. Graham was released at the end of the season.

In the season opener at home on Sep 3, the Baltimore Ravens shut out Steelers L (0-16). Sept 10 Bye. At Cleveland on Sep 17, in Browns Stadium, the Browns beat the Steelers L (20-23). At home on Sep 24, at home, the Tennessee Titans defeated the Steelers L (20-23). At Jacksonville in Alltel Stadium on Oct1, the Steelers beat the Jaguars W (24-13). At New York, on Oct 8, in Giants Stadium, the Steelers beat the Giants W(20-3). On Oct 15, at home in Three Rivers Stadium, the Steelers shut out the Cincinnati Bengals W (15-0). On Oct 22, at home, the Steelers shut out the Cleveland Browns W (22-0).

At Baltimore on Oct. 29 in PSInet Stadium, the Steelers beat the Ravens W (9-6). At Tennessee on Nov 5, in the Adelphia Coliseum, the Titans defeated the Steelers L (7-9). Then, at home on Nov. 12, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (23-26) in OT. At home on Nov. 19, the Jacksonville Jaguars defeated the Steelers in Three Rivers Stadium L (24-34). On Nov. 26 at Cincinnati, in Paul Brown Stadium, the Steelers walloped the Bengals W (48-28).

On Dec. 3, at home the Steelers beat the Oakland Raiders in Three Rivers Stadium W (21-20). At New York Giants Stadium, on Dec. 10, the Giants beat the Steelers L (10-30). At home on Dec. 16, the Steelers beat the Washington Redskins in Three Rivers Stadium W (24-3). Then in the season closing game, on Dec 24 at San Diego in Qualcomm Stadium, the Steelers beat the Chargers W (34-21).

2001 Bill Cowher #15

The 2001 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their sixty-ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his tenth of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined from 2000's 9-7 to 2001's 13-3. The Steelers came in 1st in the AFC Central. They won the Divisional Playoffs and lost the Conference Championship.

After finishing the previous three seasons a combined 22–26, the Steelers were back and there was reason to think about a Super Bowl. They were back as the top seed in the AFC, rolling to a 13–3 record in their first season since 1997 and playing for the first time in the spectacular Heinz Field. The Steelers went 7–1 this year in their new home stadium, with the only loss coming to the defending Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens (a loss, which the Steelers avenged in the divisional playoffs).

However, for the third time in Bill Cowher's coaching tenure, the Steelers were beaten in the AFC Championship Game at home. This time, the eventual Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots defeated the top-seeded Steelers.

In the season opener at home on Sep 9, at Jacksonville in Alltel Stadium, the Jaguars beat the Steelers L (3–21). Sept 23 Bye. At Buffalo on Sep 30, in Ralph Wilson Stadium, the Steelers prevailed v the Bills W (20-3). At home on Oct 7, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals in Heinz Field W (16-7). At Kansas City on Oct 14, in Arrowhead Stadium, the Steelers won W (20–17). At Tampa Bay, the Steelers beat the Buccaneers W (17-10). At home on Oct 29, the Steelers beat the Tennessee Titans in Heinz Field W (34-7). At home on Nov 4, the Baltimore Ravens beat the Steelers L (10–13) in Heinz Field.

At Cleveland on Browns Stadium on Nov. 11, the Steelers beat the Browns W (5–12) in OT. At home on Nov. 18, the Steelers beat the Jacksonville Jaguars W (20–7) in Heinz Field. At Tennessee on Nov. 25, the Steelers beat the Titans W (34–24) at Adelphia Coliseum. At home on Dec. 2, the Steelers beat the Minnesota Vikings W (21–16) in Heinz Field. Then, on Dec 16 at home, the Steelers defeated the New York Jets W (18–7).

At Baltimore on Dec. 16 the Steelers beat the Ravens W (26–21) in PSINet Stadium . At home on Dec. 23, the Steelers thumped the Detroit Lions W (47–14) on Heinz Field. On Dec 30 at Cincinnati , the Bengals squeaked out a win against the Steelers L (23–26) in OT in Paul Brown Stadium. The Steelers won their last game of the season on Sunday Jan 6, 1992, W(28–7) in Heinz Field

Sunday January 20, 2002 Divisional Playoffs

AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 27, Baltimore Ravens 10

Every team has a star and often more than one. This year, the Steelers hoped to have Jerome Bettis lugging the ball for TD's all year long, but he was sidelined for much of the regular season. He was recuperated and was scheduled to make his return in this first playoff ever at the Steelers new home, Heinz Field. Unfortunately, Bettis came up with an undisclosed ailment at the last minute. The good news for this game was that it did not matter.

The Pittsburgh offense ran for 150 yards and held the ball for over 40 minutes. Their defense limited the defending champion Ravens to 150 yards and seven first downs, forced four turnovers, and recorded three sacks. Bettis' replacement, Amos Zereoué, rushed for two touchdowns. Pittsburgh prevailed v the Ravens 27-10.

Conference Championship Sun Jan 27, 2002

AFC: New England Patriots 24, Pittsburgh Steelers 17

This was the first Conference Championship game played in the brand-new Heinz Field. The Steelers were hoping to apply some magical dust to their own season as in this game, they bumped into the Patriots' storybook season. The Steelers did their best but did not stop the Pats story as Drew Bledsoe came into the game in the second quarter in place of an injured Tom Brady. Brady had replaced Bledsoe himself early in the season when he suffered a sheared blood vessel. Despite the kinks, the Patriots were able to fire it up for the victory and Pittsburgh had to take the defeat 17-24.

2002 Bill Cowher #15

The 2002 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their seventieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his eleventh of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined from 2001's 13-3 to 2002's 10-5-1. The Steelers again came in 1st in the AFC North. Bill Cowher's team won the Wild Card Game,

defeating the Cleveland Browns at home, but lost to AFC South champion Tennessee Titans in the divisional round.

As noted, the team was coming off a fine 13–3 record in 2001 and they had won an appearance in the AFC Championship Game. With their finish of 10-5-1 this year, the Steelers became the first champions of the newly created AFC North. Week 4 saw Kordell Stewart's final game as the Steelers' starting quarterback, as he was replaced by Tommy Maddox during the game and although he did relieve an injured Maddox, Stewart never regained his job as he was released following the season.

In the season opener at home on Sep 9, at New England, the Patriots whipped the Steelers L (14-30). On Sep 15, at home, the Oakland Raiders pounded the Steelers in Heinz Field L (17–30).
 Sept 23 Bye week. At home on Sep 29, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns in Heinz Field, W (16-13). At New Orleans on Oct 6, the Saints beat the Steelers in the Louisiana Superdome L (29-32) At Cincinnati on Oct 13, the Steelers squashed the Bengals in Paul Brown Stadium W (34-7). At home on Oct 21, in Heinz Field, the Steelers beat the Indianapolis Colts W (28-10). At Baltimore on Oct 27, the Steelers beat the Ravens in PSINet Stadium W (31-18).

On Nov. 3 at Cleveland in Cleveland Browns Stadium, the Steelers beat the Browns W (23–20). Then on Nov. 10, the Atlanta Falcons tied the Pittsburgh Steelers T 34–34 in O. At Tennessee on Nov 17, the Titans beat the Steelers in Adelphia Coliseum L (23–35). At home on Nov. 24, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals W (29–21). On Dec. 1 at Jacksonville, the Steelers beat the Jaguars in Alltel Stadium W (25–23).

At home, on Dec. 8 the Houston Texans beat the Steelers L (6–24). On 15 Sun. Dec. 15 the Steelers beat the Carolina Panthers in Heinz Field W (30–14). Then at Tampa Bay, on Monday Night Dec. 23, the Steelers defeated the Buccaneers in Raymond James Stadium W (17–7). Wrapping up the 20012 season, at home, on Dec 29, the Steelers beat the Baltimore Ravens W (34–31).

2003 Bill Cowher #15

The 2003 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their seventy-first season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his twelfth of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined from 2002's 10-5-1 to 2003's 6-10. The Steelers came in 3rd and did not qualify for the playoffs.

The Steelers had an OK record in 2002 but they began 2003 looking to improve on their 10-5-1 record. They had lost to the Tennessee Titans in the Divisional round of the playoffs.

This was a big injury year. With the team suffering through injuries as well as less reliance on the running game than normal, the Steelers stumbled to a 6-10 record. They went through the entire season without winning consecutive games. Since moving to Heinz Field, this marked their first losing season as well as missing the playoff along with the 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2013. The team's 6-10 finish matched their worst record under Bill Cowher (1999).

This was linebacker Jason Gildon's last season. He had become the franchise's career sack leader during a game against the Arizona Cardinals on November 9. As of the 2017 season, this was the most recent losing season for the Steeler. It never feels good.

In the home and season opener on Sep 7, the Steelers beat the Baltimore Ravens W (34-15). On Sep 14, at Kansas City, in Arrowhead Stadium, the Chiefs beat the Steelers L (20-41). On Sep 21, at Cincinnati, in Paul Brown Stadium, the Steelers beat the Bengals W (17-10). At home on Sep 28, the Tennessee Titans beat the Steelers in Heinz Field, L (13-30). At home against Cleveland, on Oct 5, the Browns beat the Steelers in Heinz Field L (13-33). At Denver on Oct 12, in Invesco Field, the Broncos beat the Steelers L (14-17). Oct 19 Bye week. Home on Oct 26, against St. Louis, the Rams beat the Steelers L (21-33).

At Seattle on Nov. 2, the Seahawks beat the Steelers in Seahawk Stadium L (16-23). On Nov. 9 at home the Steelers beat the Arizona Cardinals in Heinz Field W (28-15). In a Monday Night Football game on Nov. 17 at San Francisco, the 49ers beat the Steelers in San Francisco Stadium L (14-30). At Cleveland Browns Stadium on Nov. 23, the Steelers beat the Browns W (13-6). Then at home on

Nov. 30, the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Steelers in Heinz Field L (20–24).

On Dec. 7 at home, the Steelers defeated the Oakland Raiders in Heinz Field W (27–7). At New York, on Dec. 14 the Jets beat the Steelers in Giants Stadium L (0–6). Then on Dec. 21 at home, the Steelers beat the San Diego Chargers in Heinz Field W (40–24). In the season finale at Baltimore on Dec 28, the Ravens beat the Steelers in OT in M&T Bank Stadium L (10–13).

2004 Bill Cowher #15

The 2004 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their seventy-second season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his thirteenth of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record improved from 2003's 6-10-1 to 2004's 15-1. The Steelers came in 1st place in the AFC North, won the Divisional Championship and lost the Conference.

The team roared back after a disappointing 6–10 season the year before. This year's 15–1 record topped the 14–2 team record from 1978 and joined the 1984 San Francisco 49ers, the 1985 Chicago Bears, and the 1998 Minnesota Vikings as the only teams in NFL history to that point since the league adopted a 16-game schedule in 1978 to finish with such a record. Their 15-1 record also made the Steelers the first AFC team to achieve a 15–1 record.

Along the way, the Steelers ended the New England Patriots NFL-record 21-game winning streak in Week 8, then defeated their crosstown rival the Philadelphia Eagles the following week to hand the NFL's last two undefeated teams their first losses in back-to-back weeks, both at home. It was a good year.

After so many years from Bradshaw, finally, a consistently great quarterback began to play for Pittsburgh. The season was highlighted by the surprising emergence of rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. He was the team's top pick in that year's draft. Originally the Steelers planned to sit "Big Ben" behind veteran Tommy Maddox the entire season. However, the plans abruptly

changed when Maddox was hurt in the team's Week 2 loss to Baltimore.

Surrounded by talent in all positions, "Big Ben" went an NFL-record 13–0 as a rookie starting quarterback, shattering the old NFL record (and coincidentally, also the team record) of 6–0 to start an NFL career set by Mike Kruczek filling in for an injured Terry Bradshaw in 1976.

The Steelers were back hosting the AFC Championship. It was the fifth time in eleven years. However, for the fourth time under Bill Cowher in that same span, the Steelers lost at home one game away from the Super Bowl. Just like in 2001, they lost to the Patriots in a rematch from Week 8.

It really was a heartbreak season and it was written up that way. The 2006 edition of Pro Football Prospectus listed the 2004 Steelers as one of their "Heartbreak Seasons." These were the seasons in which teams "dominated the entire regular season only to falter in the playoffs, unable to close the deal." Said Pro Football Prospectus, "

In the playoffs, Roethlisberger hit an inconvenient slump, just like the Pittsburgh quarterbacks who came before him. Roethlisberger threw two killer interceptions against the Jets, but the Steelers were bailed out when Jets kicker Doug Brien missed a game-winning field goal. The next week against New England, head coach Bill Cowher was clearly worried about Roethlisberger, letting him throw only once on first or second down in the first quarter.

By the time the offense opened up, the Patriots were beating the Steelers by two touchdowns. A Roethlisberger interception was returned 87 yards for a touchdown by Rodney Harrison, and the game was effectively over. For the second time in seven years, a 15–1 team had failed to make it to the Super Bowl."

Games of the Season

In the home and season opener on Sep 12, the Steelers beat the Oakland Raiders in Heinz Stadium W (24-21). On Sep 19, at Baltimore the Ravens beat the Steelers in M&T Bank Stadium L (13-30). On Sep 26, at Miami's Joe Robbie Stadium, the Steelers beat the Dolphins W (17-10). At home on Oct 3, the Steelers beat

the Cincinnati Bengals in Heinz Field, W (28-17). At home on Oct 10, against Cleveland, the Steelers beat the Browns in Heinz Field W (34-23). At Dallas on Oct 17, in Texas Stadium, the Steelers beat the Cowboys W (24-20) Oct 24 Bye week. At home on Oct 31, the Steelers beat the New England Patriots in Heinz Field W (34-20).

At home on Nov. 7, the Steelers pounded the Philadelphia Eagles W (27-3) in Heinz Field. At Cleveland on Nov. 14, the Steelers beat the Browns W (24-10) in Cleveland Browns Stadium. At Cincinnati, on Nov 21, the Steelers defeated the Cincinnati Bengals W (19-14) in Paul Brown Stadium . On Nov. 28 at home, the Steelers defeated the Washington Redskins W (16-7) in Heinz Field. At Jacksonville, on Dec. 5, the Steelers beat the Jaguars W (17-16) in Alltel Stadium.

On Dec. 12 at home, the Steelers beat the New York Jets W (17-6) in Heinz Field. Then on Sat. Dec. 18, at New York, the Steelers beat the Giants W (33-30) in Giants Stadium. On Dec. 26, at home, the Steelers defeated the Baltimore Ravens W (20-7) in Heinz Field. Then in the last game of the season, at Buffalo on Jan. 2, the Steelers beat the Bills W (29-24) in Ralph Wilson Stadium.

Divisional playoffs Saturday January 15, 2005

AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 20, New York Jets 17 (OT)

The two-week breather did not help the Steelers before the Divisional Playoffs began. After a 15-1 season, resting did not help the Steelers. They squeaked out a victory 20-17 in OT in this game but then lost the Conference championship again the following week..

AFC Championship: January 23 Heinz Field New England Patriots 41, Pittsburgh Steelers 27

A nice crowd of Pittsburgh fans assembled in Heinz Field hoping this would be the year when the Conference game jinx would end, and their beloved Steelers would be again off to the Super Bowl.

It was a Pittsburgh cold game in mid-January with the game-time temperature of 11 °F (-12 °C). This marked the second-coldest game ever in Pittsburgh and the coldest ever in Steel City playoff annals. This should have given the Steelers the advantage, but New England was accustomed to the cold. The Patriots handed Ben Roethlisberger his first loss as a starter after a 14-game winning streak, the longest by a rookie quarterback in NFL history. The Steelers became the second NFL team ever to record a 15–1 record and fail to reach the Super Bowl. Pats 41, Steelers 27. That was it.

2005 Bill Cowher #15

The 2005 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their seventy-third season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his fourteenth of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined from 2004's 15-1 to 2005's 11-5. The Steelers came in 2nd place in the AFC North, won the Divisional Championship, the Conference Title & the Super Bowl.

The Steelers failed to duplicate or improve on their 15-1 record from the year prior, but this time, even with an 11-5 2nd place finish, they did not lose the AFC Conference Championship game. In which they lost to the New England Patriots in the AFC Championship Game at Heinz Field and finishing at 11-5.

The Steelers were lucky to get the sixth and final seed for the playoffs. They became just the second team ever (and the first in 20 years) to win three road games on their way to the Super Bowl. They got to the big game and they defeated the NFC Champion Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl XL to secure their league-tying fifth Super Bowl title. In doing so, they also became the first team since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger to win a Super Bowl without playing a single home playoff game until the 2007 Giants. They are also the first 6th seeded team to beat the top 3 seeds on the road. Go Steelers!

In the home and season opener on Sep 11, the Steelers beat the Tennessee Titans in Heinz Field W (34-7). On Sep 18, at Houston, the Steelers beat the Texans in Reliant Stadium W (27-7). Then on Sep 25, at home, the New England Patriots beat the Pittsburgh Steelers at Heinz Field L (20-23). Oct 3 Bye Week. On Oct 10, at

San Diego , the Steelers beat the Chargers W (24-22). At home on Oct 16, the Jacksonville Jaguars beat the Steelers in OT in Heinz Field L (17-23). At home on Oct 23, against Cincinnati, in Paul Brown Stadium, the Steelers beat the Bengals in Heinz Field W (27-13). At home on Nov 6, at Green Bay, the Steelers beat the Packers in Lambeau Field W (20-10).

At home on Nov. 13, the Steelers defeated the Cleveland Browns W 34–21 in Heinz Field. Then on Nov. 20 at Baltimore, the Ravens beat the Steelers L (13–16) in M&T Bank Stadium during an Overtime Contest. On Monday Night, on Nov. 28 at Indianapolis, the Colts beat the Steelers L (7–26) in the RCA Dome. Then, on Dec. 4, the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Steelers L 31–38 in Heinz Field.

On Dec. 11, the Steelers beat the Chicago Bears W (21–9) in Heinz Field. Then at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minnesota, the Steelers defeated the Vikings W 18–3. As playoff time approached, on Sat. Dec. 24 at Cleveland Browns Stadium, the Steelers shellacked the Browns in a major shutout W 41–0. Then in the last regular season game on Jan. 1, 2006, the Steelers pounded the Detroit Lions W (35–21) in Heinz Field. The Steelers finished the season 11–5 and won all the way out of the playoffs. Great year!

Wild Card Playoffs January 8, 2006

AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 31, Cincinnati Bengals 17

After a 15-1 season in which fans were looking for and somewhat expected a Super Bowl appearance, the Steelers got there this year, one year later with an 11-5 record. They got there on the skin of their teeth, having finished in 2nd place the AFC North and having to scratch their way through all away games beginning with having to compete in the Wild-Card games. Their win is a testament to continued play as opposed to getting a break in the action and losing the edge. Steelers 31; Bengals 17.

AFC Divisional Championship January 15, 2006 Pittsburgh Steelers 21, Indianapolis Colts 18

Before 57,449 at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, The Steelers became the first #6 playoff seed (since the league expanded to a 12-team playoff format in 1990) to defeat a #1 seed. They were also the first #6 seed to reach a conference championship game. Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, who struggled for years trying to win his first Super Bowl, would have to wait seven more years to get his trophy. But, he gave it a great go. Manning threw for 290 passing yards and a touchdown, but it wasn't enough to beat the Steelers. Pittsburgh by 3, 31-17.

AFC Conference Championship: Jan 22, 2006 Pittsburgh Steelers 34, Denver Broncos 17

In perfect football weather at 34 degrees in Denver's Mile High Stadium, the Steelers played their third playoff game on the road. This was the first time since 1984, that the Steelers played on the road in the AFC Championship Game. Pittsburgh was on their game and the home field did not matter as the Steelers forced four turnovers and went into halftime with a 24-3 lead on the way to advancing to their sixth Super Bowl appearance in team history. Final score Steelers 34, Broncos 17.

Super Bowl XL February 5, 2006: Pittsburgh Steelers 21, Seattle Seahawks 10

Winning a Super for a coach and a team is a sheer joy like no other. This game was played indoors at Ford Field in Detroit Michigan before 68,206 fans. This was Super Bowl XL (40). The National Football Conference (NFC) champion Seattle Seahawks played the American Football Conference (AFC) champion Pittsburgh Steelers. The outcome of this game would decide the National Football League (NFL) champion for the 2005 season. The Steelers defeated the Seahawks by the score of 21-10.

With this win, the Steelers tied the San Francisco 49ers and the Dallas Cowboys with the then-record five Super Bowls. Right now, Pittsburgh leads the pack with six wins but in 2006 for this game, that was just a nice thought.

The Steelers' victory was their first Super Bowl victory since Super Bowl XIV in 1980. Pittsburgh had finished the regular season with an 11–5 record, and this got them into the action. They had to play in the wild card playoffs to get their chance. And, so, they became the fourth wild card team, the third in nine years, and the first ever number 6 seed in the NFL playoffs, to win a Super Bowl. The Seahawks, on the other hand, in their 30th season, were making their first ever Super Bowl appearance after posting an NFC-best 13–3 regular season record.

2006 Bill Cowher #15

The 2006 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their seventy-fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his fifteenth and last season as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined from 2005's 11-5 to 2006's 8-8. The Steelers did not make the Playoffs

Ben Roethlisberger suffered a near death accident in the offseason while riding his motorcycle in downtown Pittsburgh. An out of state vehicle failed to yield and hit him. Roethlisberger was not at fault but was moments away from dying due to a cut artery. However medics stopped the bleeding in time. This set him back for training camp and the Preseason. However, he did manage to play in part of the Preseason games.

Shortly after the Preseason however, Roethlisberger needed an emergency appendectomy which caused him to miss the first game of the season. Between both of these events, Ben reportedly lost 15 pounds and was not up to regular form with the team due to lack of practice time and time spent in camp. His health early in the year is pointed to as the cause for this rough season.

He experienced continued problems in the Atlanta Falcons game in Atlanta during the year. He was hit after throwing the ball by

multiple defenders, one of which caused a helmet to helmet collision. Roethlisberger was diagnosed with a concussion and had to sit out the rest of the game and appeared to have difficulties in the next couple of games. Obviously, the health Of Ben Roethlisberger was a paramount reason for the poor season.

In the home and season opener on Sep 7, the Steelers beat the Miami Dolphins in Heinz Field W (28-7). On Monday Night Sep 18, at Jacksonville, the Jaguars beat the Steelers in Alltel Stadium L (0-9). Then on Sep 24, at home, the Cincinnati Bengals defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers at Heinz Field L (20-28) Oct 1 Bye Week. On Oct 8 at San Diego , the Chargers beat the Steelers in Qualcomm Stadium L (13-23). W (24-22). At home on Oct 15, the Steelers pounded the Kansas City Chiefs in Heinz Field W (45-7). At Atlanta on Oct 22, the Falcons beat the Steelers beat the Bengals in the Georgia Dome, L (38-41). At Oakland on Oct 29, in the McAfee Coliseum, the Raiders beat the Steelers L (13-20).

At home on Nov. 5, the Denver Broncos beat the Steelers L (20–31) in Heinz Field. On Nov 12, at home, the Steelers beat the New Orleans Saints in Heinz Field W (38–31). Then, on Nov. 19 at Cleveland, the Steelers beat the Browns W (24–20) in Cleveland Browns Stadium. At Baltimore, on Nov. 26 the Ravens shut-out the Steelers L (0–27) in M&T Bank Stadium. On Dec 3 at home, the Steelers beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers W (20–3) in Heinz Field.

At home on Dec. 7, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns W (27–7) in Heinz Field. Then at Carolina's Bank of America Stadium, the Steelers beat the Panthers W 37–3. On Dec 24, at home, the Baltimore Ravens beat the Steelers L (7–31) in Heinz Field. Then, on New Year's Eve, Dec 31, in the season finale, in OT, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals W (23–17) in Paul Brown Stadium. This was Bill Cowher's last game as the Steeler's head coach.

Chapter 16 Coach Mike Tomlin 2007 to 2017+

Coach #16 Mike Tomlin

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
2007	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	1st	10 6 0	.625
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Jaguars) 31–29 				
2008	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	1st	12 4 0	.750
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Divisional Playoffs(Chargers) 35–24 • Won Conference Championship (Ravens) 23–14 • Won Super Bowl XLIII(6) (Cardinals) 27–23 • James Harrison – Defensive Player of the Year • Santonio Holmes – Super Bowl MVP • Mike Tomlin – Motorola NFL Coach of the Year 				

Continued below picture



Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
2009	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	3rd	9 7 0	.563
2010	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	1st	12 4 0	.750
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Divisional Playoffs(Ravens) 31–24 • Won Conference Championship (Jets) 24–19 • Lost Super Bowl XLV(Packers) 31–25 • Troy Polamalu– Defensive Player of the Year 				
2011	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	2nd	12 4 0	.750

Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football

- Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Broncos) 29–23 (OT)

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
2012	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	3rd	8 8 0	.500
2013	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	2nd	8 8 0	.500
2014	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	1st	11 5 0	.688
2015	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	2nd	10 6 0	.625
2016	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	1st	11 5 0	.688
2017	#16 Mike Tomlin	NFLAFCNorth	1st	13 3 0	.813



2007 Mike Tomlin #16

The 2007 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their seventy-fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Mike Tomlin in his first season as head coach of the Steelers. The record improved from 2006's 8-8 to 2006's 10-6. The Steelers came in first in the AFC North and made the playoffs in their first year under Mike Tomlin. They lost their first wild card game against Jacksonville L (29-31).

This Steelers' season contained two notable playoff rematches. The Steelers again played the New England Patriots on December 9. This was the first time in the regular season since 2005, when the Steelers lost at home on a last-second Adam Vinatieri field goal 23–20. The 34–13 loss was also the Steelers' first visit to Foxboro, Massachusetts since 2002.

The Steelers shut-out the Seattle Seahawks 21–0 in week 5 on October 7. This was the teams' first meeting since the Steelers' 21–10 victory in Super Bowl XL20 just months earlier. The week 5 match was the Steelers' and Seahawks' first meeting in Pittsburgh since 1999 as well as the Seahawks' first-ever visit to Heinz Field.

Another notable game occurred December 20 when the Steelers defeated the St. Louis Rams, 41–24, for their first-ever road win over the “new” Cleveland/Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams (1–9–1). It was the two teams' first-ever meeting in St. Louis, a city the Steelers last visited in 1979 (a 24–21 win over the then-St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Memorial Stadium).

In the season opener on Sep 9, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns in Cleveland Browns Stadium W (34-7). On Sep 16, at home, the Steelers beat the Buffalo Bills in Heinz Field W (26-3). Then on Sep 23, at home, the Steelers beat the San Francisco 49ers in Heinz Field W (37-16). On Sep 30, at Arizona, in University of Phoenix Stadium, the Cardinals beat the Steelers L (14-21). At home on Oct 7, the Steelers shut-out the Seattle Seahawks in Heinz Field W (21-0). Oct 14 Bye Week. At Denver on Oct 21, the Broncos beat the Steelers in Invesco Field L (28-31). At Cincinnati the Steelers beat the Bengals in Paul Brown Stadium W (24-13).

At Atlanta on Oct 22, the Falcons beat the Steelers beat the Bengals in the Georgia Dome, L (38-41). At Oakland on Oct 29, in the McAfee Coliseum, the Raiders beat the Steelers L (13-20).

On Monday Night at home on Nov. 5, the Steelers stuffed the Baltimore Ravens W (38–7) in Heinz Field. At home on Nov 11, the Steelers defeated the Cleveland Browns, W 31–28 in Heinz Field. At New York on Nov 18 in OT, the Jets defeated the Steelers L (16–19) in Giants Stadium. On Monday Night, at home, Nov 26,

the Steelers defeated the Miami Dolphins W (3–0) in Heinz Field . On Dec. 2, at home, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals W (24–10) in Heinz Field.

On Dec 9, at New England , the Patriots beat the Steelers L (13–34) in Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass. On Dec. 16, the Jacksonville Jaguars beat the Steelers L (22–29) in Heinz Field. Then on Thu. Night, Dec. 20, at St. Louis, the Steelers beat the Rams W (41–24) at the Edward Jones Dome. In the season closing game at Baltimore, the Ravens beat the Steelers on Dec. 30 L (21–27) in M&T Bank Stadium 10–6 Summary

2008 Mike Tomlin #16

The 2008 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their seventy-sixth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Mike Tomlin in his second season as head coach of the Steelers. .The record improved from 2007's 10-6 to 2008's 12-4. The Steelers came in first in the AFC North and made the playoffs in their second year under Mike Tomlin. They won it all including the Super Bowl Pittsburgh become the first franchise in the NFL with six Super Bowl titles.

The Steelers entered the season as defending champions of the AFC North Division, coming off a 10–6 record in 2007. Based on the previous season's results, the team faced the most difficult schedule in over 30 years; however, they were identified as Super Bowl contenders by ESPN.

The team opened their regular season in Mike Tomlin's second season on September 7, with a win over the Houston Texans while headed to a fine 12–4 record, and a second straight AFC North Division title. Mike Tomlin was selected in fan balloting as the Motorola Coach of the Year.

Linebacker James Harrison was named the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year after leading a defense which set the standard for the league in nearly every defensive category, including total yardage allowed, points allowed, passing yardage allowed, first downs allowed, yards per play, and yards per pass, among others. The playoffs began on January 11, 2009, with a win over the San Diego

Chargers. The following week saw the third victory of the season over the Baltimore Ravens in the AFC Championship game and the advancement to Super Bowl XLIII, where the Steelers defeated the Arizona Cardinals on February 1, 2009. Go Steelers!

In the home and season opener on Sep 7, the Steelers beat the Houston Texans in Heinz Field W (38-17). On Sep 14, at Cleveland Browns Stadium, the Steelers beat the Browns W (10-6). Then on Sep 21, at Philadelphia, the Eagles beat the Steelers in Lincoln Financial Field L (6-15). On Sep 29, at home in Heinz Field, the Steelers beat the Baltimore Ravens W (23-20). At Jacksonville Municipal Stadium on Oct 5, the Steelers beat the Jaguars, W (26-21). Oct 12 Bye Week. At Cincinnati on Oct 19 in Paul Brown Stadium, the Steelers beat the Bengals W (38-10). At New York on Oct 26, the Giants beat the Steelers at Giants Stadium L (14-21).

On Monday Night, Nov. 3, at Washington the Steelers beat the Redskins W (23-6) in FedEx Field. On Nov. 9, at home, the Indianapolis Colts beat the Steelers L (20-24) in Heinz Field. At home again, on Nov. 16, the Steelers edged out the San Diego Chargers W (11-10) at Heinz Field. On Thursday Night, Nov 20, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals W (27-10) in Heinz Field. Then on Nov. 30 at New England, the Steelers beat the Patriots W (33-10) in Gillette Stadium.

On Dec. 7, at home, the Steelers beat the Dallas Cowboys W (20-13) in Heinz Field. At Baltimore on Dec 14, the Steelers beat the Ravens W (13-9) in M&T Bank Stadium. On Dec. 21 at Tennessee, the Titans beat the Steelers L (14-31) in LP Field. In the last game of the season, on Dec. 28, Pittsburgh shut out Cleveland Browns W (31-0) in Heinz Field

AFC Divisional Round: January 11, 2009

Pittsburgh Steelers 35 San Diego Chargers 24

Heinz Field was alive on Jan 11 as the Pittsburgh Steelers hosted the San Diego Chargers. The Chargers' were fresh from an overtime victory over the Indianapolis Colts during the Wild Card round. In Mike Tomlin's second season, Pittsburgh beat the Chargers 35-24 to move on to the Conference Championship game.

AFC Championship: January 16, 2009

Pittsburgh Steelers 23 Baltimore Ravens 14



The Pittsburgh Steelers rallied at the Allegheny County Courthouse before the game. It was a big deal. They won the game 23-14. Perhaps more rallies when needed are in order. Off to the Super Bowl.

Super Bowl: XLIII (48) February 1, 2009 Pittsburgh Steelers 27 Arizona Cardinals 23

Super Bowls are often fraught with a bunch of nervous players, especially the quarterbacks who have to rely on their accuracy to lead their teams to victory. The games are often dull in the beginning as the teams get the feel of the game. In this game it took some time, but Jeff Reed concluded the first drive of Super Bowl XLIII with a field goal—giving the Steelers a 3–0 lead over the Arizona Cardinals.



The next go was also successful as Gary Russell scored on a 1-yard touchdown rush on the Steelers' second drive. The Cardinals stopped watching the Steelers score and so they responded by going for a touchdown on their next opportunity with the ball.

On the final play of the first half Kurt Warner threw a pick-6 that was snagged by James Harrison and returned 100 yards for a touchdown. As he did in the first quarter, Reed scored the sole

points of the third quarter giving the Steelers a 20–7 lead entering the final quarter.

Nothing is ever sure but the score on the final game whistle 27-23 Pittsburgh's favor. Not a bad day's work for Mike Tomlin's Steelers.

2009 Mike Tomlin #16

The 2009 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their seventy-seventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Mike Tomlin in his third season as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined from 2008's 12-4 to 2009's 9-7. The defending Super Bowl Champions Steelers came in third in the AFC North and did not qualify for the playoffs.

The team thinkers in the front office had a lot of off-season work to do to keep the Steelers a vibrant team. The major goals were to retain most of the team's own free agents and to look to add talent primarily through the draft rather than free agent acquisitions. This had been the primary philosophy of the Steelers since Chuck Noll took over as head coach in 1969.

There were a number of other major items that needed to be accomplished such as extending the contracts of certain players who were coming into the final year of their contracts—such as linebacker and 2008 NFL Defensive Player of the Year, James Harrison, tight end Heath Miller, and tackle Max Starks. The overall objective was to keep the winning Super Bowl team intact as much as possible

The front office managed to accomplish their highest-priority task by signing Harrison on a six-year, \$51.175 million contract. They were also successful in extending the contracts of Starks (four years, \$26.3 million)[8] and Miller (six years, \$35.3 million), both of whom were potential free agents after the season. Additionally, important contract extensions were accomplished with receiver Hines Ward (five years, \$22.1 million), guard Chris Kemoatu (five years, \$20 million), center Justin Hartwig (4 years, \$10 million) and defensive end Brett Kiesel (5 years, \$18.885 million). Can you imagine Art Rooney having bought the whole team in 1933 for \$2500.00?

The team's recognized needs coming into 2009 were seen as bolstering the offensive line and perfecting the performance of special teams, primarily at kick returner. Moreover, they had to replace free agent losses such as starting cornerback Bryant McFadden and number three wide receiver Nate Washington.

The team management were also looking at those elements of the team that were still vital but beginning to age -- Aaron Smith[13] and cornerback Deshaea Townsend, 33 and 34 respectively at the start of the season. ESPN got their two cents in on the Steelers needs suggesting that their pre-draft needs (in order), were defensive end, offensive tackle, wide receiver and cornerback. With a 9-7 season in 2009, it was clear not all aspects of the needs were fulfilled.

The season after a Super Bowl is not always the best. Such was the case for the 2009 after winning all the marbles in 2008. They were coming off a season in which they compiled a 12-4 regular season record and capped the season by winning the franchise's record sixth Super Bowl. The team's coaching staff remained the same for the third consecutive year.

As the defending champions, the Steelers opened the season by hosting the NFL Kickoff Game on Thursday, September 10, 2009. They scored an overtime victory against the Tennessee Titans. The team compiled a 6-2 record over the season's first half, but then began a five-game losing streak which included losses to all three division opponents. Three late wins led to a 9-7 record, but the team failed to qualify for the playoffs. This was the third straight time the team has missed the playoffs following a Super Bowl victory; 1980 and 2006 being the previous two. Mike Tomlin would have the team ready for 2010.

Games of the season

In the home and season opener on Thursday Sep 10, the Steelers beat the Tennessee Titans in OT in Heinz Field W (13-10). On Sunday Sep 20, at Chicago, the Bears beat the Steelers in Soldier Field, W (10-6). Then on Sep 27, at Cincinnati, the Bengals beat the Steelers in Paul Brown Stadium L (20-23). On Oct 4, my wedding anniversary, at home, the Steelers beat the San Diego

Chargers in Heinz Field, W (38-28). At Detroit on Oct 11, the Steelers defeated the Lions at Ford Field W (28-20). On Oct 18, at home, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns, in Heinz Field W (27-14). At home against Minnesota on Oct 25, the Steelers beat the Vikings W (27-17) in Heinz Field. Nov 2 Bye Week.

On Monday Night on Nov. 9 at Denver, the Steelers beat the Broncos W (28-10) in Invesco Field at Mile High. After this Monday Night win, the Steelers lost five in a row. On Nov 15, at home, the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Steelers L (12-18) in Heinz Field CBS . At Kansas City on Nov 22, the Chiefs beat the Steelers in Arrowhead Stadium L (24-27). At Baltimore on Nov. 29, the Ravens beat the Steelers L (17-20) in M&T Bank Stadium. At home on Dec. 6, the Oakland Raiders edged out the Steelers L (24-27) in Heinz Field.

At Cleveland on Dec 10, the Browns beat the Steelers L (6-13) in Cleveland Browns Stadium. At home on Dec. 20, the Steelers nosed out the Green Bay Packers W (37-36) in Heinz Field. Fox on Dec. 27, the Steelers beat the Baltimore Ravens W (23-20) in Heinz Field. Then, in the regular season finale at Miami on Jan. 3, the Steelers beat the Dolphins W 30-24 in Land Shark Stadium.

2010 Mike Tomlin #16

The 2010 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their seventy-eighth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Mike Tomlin in his fourth season as head coach of the Steelers. This was also the eleventh season under the leadership of general manager Kevin Colber. The record improved from 2009's 9-7 to 2010's 12-4. The defending Super Bowl Champions Steelers came in first in the AFC North and they made it to the playoffs but were beaten L (25-31) by Green Bay in Super Bowl XLV in their eighth Super Bowl appearance in a try for a seventh Super Bowl victory. The Steelers allowed the fewest points in the NFL in 2010, with 232 (14.5 points per game). It was a fine season with a disappointing ending.

After a 9-7 season, the Steelers looked to make some changes before the 2010 season began. They traded Santonio Holmes, and they endured the six-game suspension (then reduced to four games) of

quarterback Ben Roethlisberger for off-the-field issues. The team did not re-sign free agent running back Willie Parker, who had been with the team since 2004. They added receiver Antwaan Randle El and linebacker Larry Foote, who were both with the team for their Super Bowl XL victory.

In the home and season opener on Sep 12, the Steelers beat the Atlanta Falcons in OT in Heinz Field W (15-9). On Sunday Sep 20, at Tennessee, the Steelers beat the Titans in LP Field W (19-12). Then on Sep 26, at Tampa Bay, the Steelers thumped the Buccaneers in Raymond James Stadium W (38-13). On Oct 3, at home, the Baltimore Ravens beat the Steelers in Heinz Field, L (14-17). Oct 10, Bye Week. On Oct 17, at home, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns, in Heinz Field W (28-10). At Miami in Sun Life Stadium, on Oct 24, the Steelers nosed out the Dolphins W (23-22) On Oct 31, at New Orleans the Saints beat the Steelers L (10-20) in at the Louisiana Superdome.

At Cincinnati on Monday Night Nov. the Steelers beat the Bengals W 27–21 in Paul Brown Stadium. On Nov. 14, at home the New England Patriots beat the Steelers L (26–39) in Heinz Field. On Nov 21, at home, the Steelers pounded the Oakland Raiders W (35–3) in Heinz Field. At Buffalo on Nov. 28, the Steelers beat the Bills in OT W (19–16) in Ralph Wilson Stadium. At Baltimore on Dec. 5, the Steelers beat the Ravens W (13–10) in M&T Bank Stadium.

On Dec. 12 at home, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals W (23–7) in Heinz Field. At home on Dec 19, the NY Jets beat the New Steelers L (17–22) in Heinz Field. On Thursday Night, Dec. 23, the Steelers beat the Carolina Panthers in Heinz Field W (27–3). In the final game of the regular season, on Jan 2, in Cleveland Browns Stadium, the Steelers lambasted the Cleveland Browns W (41–9).

AFC Divisional Playoffs January 15

Pittsburgh Steelers 31 Baltimore Ravens 24

Beginning their postseason at Heinz Field before 64,879, after a fine 12-4 season, the Steelers enjoyed reasonably good weather for football, 32 degrees and cloudy

This year, the Steelers entered the postseason as the AFC's No. 2 seed. They did not compete in the wild card playoffs but began their playoff run at home in the AFC Divisional Round against their AFC North rival, the #5 Baltimore Ravens, for the third time in the season. Pittsburgh got on the board first with an opening strike in the first quarter. It was a quick 1-yard touchdown run from running back Rashard Mendenhall. The Steelers finished the game ahead as the winners 31-24.

AFC Championship Game January 23, 2011

Pittsburgh Steelers 24 New York Jets 19

With the Patriots out of the picture, the Steelers hosted the Conference Championship game at Heinz Field before 66,662 after their fine 12-4 season, It was a cold, crisp day, 12 degrees and clear.

It was a nice advantage staying at home after the win against the Ravens. This game for the AFC Championship Game pitted the Steelers against the No. 6 New York Jets. The Steelers were prepared to avenge their Week 15 loss. They did, 24-19.

Super Bowl XLV February 6, 2011

Green Bay Packers 31 vs. Pittsburgh Steelers 25

This was the Steelers' eighth time in a Super Bowl, tying the record at the time with the Dallas Cowboys for the most appearances in Super Bowl history. They were denied their seventh ring, however, by the Green Bay Packers, who defeated them 31-25.

2011 Mike Tomlin #16

The 2011 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their seventy-ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Mike Tomlin in his fifth season as head coach of the Steelers. This was also the twelfth season under the leadership of general manager Kevin Colber. The record stayed the same from 2010-'s 12-4 to 2011's 12-4. The defending Super Bowl Champions Steelers came in second the AFC North and they made it to the playoffs for the wild card game but lost 29-23 in OT to the Denver Broncos. .

The Steelers played all of their home games at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Steelers' defense allowed the fewest points, passing yards, and total yards in the 2011 NFL season. So close, yet...

In the season opener on Sep 11, the Baltimore Ravens pounded the Steelers in M& T Bank Stadium L (7-35). On Sep 18, at home, the Steelers shut out the Seattle Seahawks, W (24-0) in Heinz Field. On Sep 25, at Indianapolis, the Steelers beat the colts in Lucas Oil Stadium. At Houston on Oct 2, the Houston Texans beat the Steelers L (10-17) in Reliant Stadium. On Oct 9 at home, the Steelers beat the Tennessee Titans W (38-17) in Heinz Field. At home again on Oct 16, the Steelers beat the Jacksonville Jaguars W (17-13) at Heinz Field. On Oct 23, at Arizona, the Steelers beat the Cardinals W (32-20) at University of Phoenix Stadium. Then, on Oct 30, at home, the Steelers beat the New England Patriots W (25-17) in Heinz Field

At home on Nov 6, the Baltimore Ravens beat the Steelers L (20-23) in Heinz Field. At Cincinnati on Nov. 13 the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals W (24-17) in Paul Brown Stadium. At Kansas City, on Nov 27, the Steelers beat the Kansas City Chiefs W (13-9) in Arrowhead Stadium. Then, on Dec 4, at home, the Steelers whipped the Cincinnati Bengals W (35-7) in Heinz Field.

On Dec. 8, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns W (14-3) in Heinz Field. At San Francisco on Dec. 19, the 49ers beat the Steelers L (3-20) in Candlestick Park. Then, on Sat. Dec. 24, the

Steelers shutout the St. Louis Rams W (27–0) in Heinz Field. Then in the Season Finale, on Jan. 1, at Cleveland the Steelers beat the Browns W (13–9) in Cleveland Browns Stadium.

Postseason Wild Card Playoffs January 8, 2013 Pittsburgh Steelers 23 v Denver Broncos 29 in OT

This game was played in Sports Authority field in Mile High Stadium in Denver. It was great weather at 40 degrees and sunny—perfect day for a nice football game. For the Steelers, that’s about all that was perfect. They fell to the Broncos 23-29 in OT.

2012 Mike Tomlin #16

The 2012 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their eightieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Mike Tomlin in his sixth season as head coach of the Steelers. This was also the thirteenth season under the leadership of general manager Kevin Colber. The record declined substantially from 2011-’s 12-4 to 2012’s 8-8. The Steelers came in third in AFC North and they did not make it to the playoffs.

In the season opener on Sep 11, at Denver, the Broncos beat the Steelers in Sports Authority Field in Mile High L (19-31). Then, at Heinz Field, the Steelers beat the New York Jets W (27-10). On Sep 23, at Oakland, the Raiders beat the Steelers L (31-34). Sept 30 Bye Week. Then at home, the Steelers beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (16-14) in Heinz Field. At Tennessee, the Titans beat the Steelers L (23-26) in LP Field. Then, at Cincinnati on Oct 21, the Steelers beat the Bengals W (24-17) in Paul Brown Stadium. At home on Oct 28, the Steelers beat the Washington Redskins W (27-12) in Heinz. On Nov 4, at New York, the Steelers beat the Giants W (24-20, in Met Life Stadium.

On Nov 12, the Steelers beat the Kansas City Chiefs in OT W (16–13) in Heinz Field. On Nov 18, the Baltimore Ravens beat the Steelers L (10–13) in Heinz Field. On Nov 25 at Cleveland , the Browns beat the Steelers L (14–20) in Cleveland Browns Stadium. Then on December 2 at Baltimore, the Steelers beat the Ravens W (23–20) in M&T Bank Stadium.

On Dec 9 at home, the San Diego Chargers beat the Steelers L (24–34) in Heinz Field. At Dallas on Dec 16, the Cowboys beat the Steelers in OT L (24–27) in Cowboys Stadium. Then, on Dec 23, the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Steelers L (10–13) in Heinz Field. In the sixteenth and last game of the season on Dec 30, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns W (24–10) in Heinz Field.

2013 Mike Tomlin #16

The 2013 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their eighty-first season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Mike Tomlin in his seventh season as head coach of the Steelers. This was also the fourteenth season under the leadership of general manager Kevin Colbert. The record stayed the same year to year from 2012-'s 8-8 to 2013's 8-8. The Steelers came in second in AFC North and they did not make it to the playoffs.

The Steelers had a chance at the playoffs 'til the end. The Ravens, Dolphins, and Chargers were 8–7 going into Week 17, while the Steelers were 7–8. This meant that the Steelers had to win and the Ravens, Dolphins, and Chargers all had to lose. Despite a win from the Steelers and losses from the Ravens and Dolphins, the Chargers went on to beat the Kansas City Chiefs 27–24 in overtime, taking the playoff spot. It was the first season since 1999 the Steelers would miss back-to-back postseason playoffs.

In the season and home opener on Sep 8, at Tennessee, the Titans defeated the Steelers in Heinz Field L (9-16) Then, at Paul Brown Stadium, the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Steelers L (10-20). On Sep 22, at home, the Chicago Bears beat the Steelers L (23-40) in Heinz Field. At Minnesota on Sep 29, the Vikings beat the Steelers L (27-34) in Wembley Stadium. In England. Oct 6 Bye Week. On Oct 13, at New York, the Steelers beat the Jets in Met Life Stadium W (19-6). At home on Oct 20, the Steelers beat the Baltimore Ravens W (19-16) in Heinz Field. At Oakland on Oct 27, the Raiders beat the Steelers in the Coliseum L (18-21). At New England in Gillette Stadium, on Nov 3, the Patriots smothered the Steelers L (33-55).

At home on Nov 10, the Steelers beat the Buffalo Bills W (23–10) in Heinz Field. At home again on Nov 17 the Steelers beat the Detroit Lions W (37–27) in Heinz Field. At Cleveland, on Nov 24, the Steelers beat the Browns W (27–11) in FirstEnergy Stadium. At Baltimore, on Nov 28 the Ravens beat the Steelers L (20–22) in M&T Bank Stadium

On Dec 8 at home, the Miami Dolphins beat the Steelers L (28–34) in Heinz Field. At home on Dec 15, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals W (30–20) in Heinz Field. At Green Bay on Dec 22 in Lambeau Field, the Steelers beat the Packers W (38–31). Then the Steelers ended the season at home on Dec 29 hammering the Cleveland Browns W (20–7) in Heinz Field.

2014 Mike Tomlin #16

The 2014 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their eighty-second season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Mike Tomlin in his eighth season as head coach of the Steelers. This was also the fifteenth season under the leadership of general manager Kevin Colbert. The record improved from year to year from 2013-'s 8-8 to 2014's 11-5. The Steelers came in first in the AFC North and they made the playoffs in the wild card round.

It's tough to believe that we have chronicled 40 years of games since the Steelers won their first Super Bowl. Terry Bradshaw still looks to me like he can suit up on Sundays and help the team. Don't you think?

The Steelers made a big celebration of the honor of the 40th anniversary of their first Super Bowl winning team, Super Bowl IX. They put this on during their Week 13 game against the New Orleans Saints at Heinz Field on November 30. (The Steelers played the Super Bowl at Tulane Stadium that year.)

The team wore a special patch and honored the players at halftime. Though it also serves as the team's annual alumni weekend, the team did not wear their alternate 1934 "Bumblebee" throwbacks for

this game. Instead, the Steelers wore the "Bumblebee" jerseys vs. the Indianapolis Colts on October 26.

The Steelers managed to improve from their 8-8 record from each of their previous two seasons with their week 15 victory against the Atlanta Falcons, and ensured their first winning season since 2011. They also clinched a playoff berth for the first time since that same year with their week 16 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs. The Steelers won the AFC North division title, but the success was overwhelming, and they lost to the Baltimore Ravens in the Wild Card round of the playoffs by a score of 30–17.

The Steelers were so good, yet they did not close the deal. They became the first team in NFL history to have a 4,500-yard passer, 1,500-yard receiver and 1,300-yard rusher in the same season.

In the season and home opener on Sep 7, Steelers defeated the Cleveland Browns in Heinz Field W (20-27) Then, at M & T Bank Stadium, on Sep 11, the Baltimore Ravens beat the Steelers L (6-26). At Carolina, on Sep 21, in Bank of America Stadium, the Steeles beat the Panthers W (37-19). On Sep 28, at home, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat the Steelers L (24-27) in Heinz Field. At Jacksonville on Oct 5, the Steelers beat the Jaguars W (17-9). in EverBank Field. At Cleveland, in First Energy Stadium, the Browns beat the Steelers L (10-31) . At home on Oct 20, the Steelers beat the Houston Texans W (30-23) in Heinz Field. At Indianapolis on Oct 20, , the Steelers beat the Colts in a Shootout W (51-34) in Heinz Field.

On Nov 2, the Steelers beat the Baltimore Ravens W (43–23) in Heinz Field. At New York, on Nov 9 the Jets beat the Steelers L (13–20) in MetLife Stadium. At Tennessee on Nov 23, the Steelers beat the Titans W (27–24). Then, on November 30, the New Orleans Saints beat the Steelers L (32–35) in Heinz Field.

At Cincinnati on December 7 the Steelers beat the Bengals W 42–21 in Paul Brown Stadium. At Atlanta, on Dec 14the Steelers beat the Falcons W (27–20) in the Georgia Dome. Then, on December 21, the Steelers beat the Kansas City Chiefs W (20–12) in Heinz Field.

At home for the season finale, on Dec 28 the Steelers bat the Cincinnati Bengals W (27–17) in Heinz Field.

2015 Mike Tomlin #16

The 2015 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their eighty-third season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Mike Tomlin in his ninth season as head coach of the Steelers. This was also the sixteenth season under the leadership of general manager Kevin Colbert. The record declined from year to year from 2014-'s 11-5 to 2015's 10-6. The Steelers came in 2nd in the AFC North and they made the playoffs.

For the first time since 2003, safety Troy Polamalu was not on the opening day roster, as he announced his retirement on April 9. The Steelers clinched the last AFC playoff spot, finishing tied with the New York Jets with a 10–6 record but winning the tiebreaker over the Jets based on a better record vs. common opponents. The Steelers defeated the Cincinnati Bengals in the Wild Card round but lost to the eventual Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos in the Divisional round.

In the season opener on Sep 10, the New England Patriots defeated the Steelers in Gillette Stadium L (21-28). Then, at Heinz Field, on Sep 20, the Steelers shellacked the San Francisco 49ers W (43-18). At St. Louis, on Sep 27, the Steelers defeated the Rams in the Edward Jones Dome W (12-6). On Oct 1, at home, the Baltimore Ravens beat the Steelers in OT L (20-23) in Heinz Field. At San Diego, on Oct 12, the Steelers defeated the Chargers W (24-20) in Qualcomm Stadium. At home on Oct 18, the Steelers beat the Arizona Cardinals W (25-13) in Heinz Field. At Kansas City on Oct 25, the Chiefs beat the Steelers L (13-23) in Arrowhead Stadium. On Nov 1, in Heinz Field, the Cincinnati Bengals beat the Steelers L (13-23).

At home on Nov 8, the Steelers beat the Oakland Raiders W (38–35) in Heinz Field. On November 15 at home, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns W (30–9) in Heinz Field. On November 29 at Seattle, the Seahawks beat the Steelers L (30–39) on CenturyLink Field. On Dec 6 at home, the Steelers smothered the Indianapolis Colts W (45–10) in Heinz Field

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At Cincinnati on Dec 13, the Steelers beat the Bengals W (33–20) in Paul Brown Stadium. At home on Dec 20, the Steelers beat the Denver Broncos W (34–27) in Heinz Field. At Baltimore, on Dec 27, the Ravens beat the Steelers L (17–20) in M&T Bank Stadium. In the season finale, on Jan 3, at Cleveland, the Steelers defeated the Browns W (28–12) in FirstEnergy Stadium

AFC Wild Card Game January 8, 2016 Pittsburgh Steelers 18, Cincinnati Bengals 16

Before 63,257 at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati Ohio, with 51-degree weather, what was supposed to be a light rain turned out to be a rain-soaked vicious battle between two AFC North rivals, filled with injuries and personal fouls on both sides. Tomlin's Steelers won the game by two points Steelers 18; Bengals 16.

AFC Divisional Championship January 17, 2016 Denver Broncos 23, Pittsburgh Steelers 16

At the Sports Authority Field at Mile High in Denver Colorado the Steelers and Broncos basked in sunny 43-degree weather before 76,956 in their encounter for the AFC Divisional Championship.

It was one of those tough defensive struggles in which both teams could work the ball into the end zone once, Denver looked like the game was theirs when they pulled ahead by scoring 11 points in the final three minutes of the game. They kept the lead and won 23-16.

2016 Mike Tomlin #16

The 2016 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their eighty-fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Mike Tomlin in his tenth season as head coach of the Steelers. This was also the seventeenth season under the leadership of general manager Kevin Colbert. The record

improved from year to year from 2015-'s 10-6 to 2016's 11-5. The Steelers came in 1st^d in the AFC North and they made the playoffs, winning the wild card and divisional championships and losing the conference championship.

For the first time since 2004, tight end Heath Miller was not on the opening day roster, as he announced his retirement on February 19, 2016. The Steelers were the first team since the 2011 Green Bay Packers to play on both Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. The Steelers won the AFC North for the second time in three years and made the playoffs for the third straight year.

The team also improved upon their 10–6 record from 2015. Le'Veon Bell made his career first playoff appearance with the Steelers in the 2016–17 playoffs. The Steelers went on to defeat the Miami Dolphins in the Wild Card round and the Kansas City Chiefs in the Divisional round before losing to the eventual Super Bowl champion New England Patriots 36–17 in the AFC Championship Game. This was the Steelers' first appearance in the AFC Championship Game since the 2010–11 NFL Season. This was also the final season under the ownership of Dan Rooney, as he died on April 13, 2017.[1]

In the season opener on Sep 12, the Steelers defeated the Washington Redskins in FedEx Field W (38-16). Then, at Heinz Field, on Sep 18, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals W (24-16). At Philadelphia on Sep 27, the Steelers were defeated by the Eagles L (3-34) in Lincoln Financial Field. On Oct 2, at home, the Steelers pummeled the Kansas City Chiefs W 43-14) in Heinz Field. At San Diego, on Oct 9, the Steelers defeated the New York Jets (31-13) in Heinz Field. At Miami on Oct 16, the Dolphins beat the Steelers L (15-30) in the Hard Rock Stadium. At home, on Oct 23, the New England Patriots beat the Steelers in Heinz Field L (16-27). Oct 30, Bye Week. On Nov 6, at Baltimore, the Ravens beat the Steelers L (14-21) in M&T Stadium.

At home on Nov 13, the Dallas Cowboys beat the Steelers L (30–35) in Heinz Field. At Cleveland on Nov 20, the Steelers beat the Browns in at FirstEnergy Stadium W (24–9). At Indianapolis on Nov 24 , the Steelers beat the Colts W (28–7) in Lucas Oil Stadium. At home in Heinz Field on December 4, the Steelers beat the New York Giants W (24–14).

At Buffalo on Dec 11, Pittsburgh defeated the Bills W (27–20) in New Era Field. At Cincinnati on Dec 18, the Steelers beat the Bengals in Paul Brown Stadium W (24–20). Then, at home on Dec 25, the Steelers beat the Baltimore Ravens in Heinz Field W (31–27). On January 1, at home in OT, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns in the season finale in Heinz Field W (27–24).

Wild Card Playoffs Sunday, January 8, 2017

AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 30, Miami Dolphins 12

When Miami and Pittsburgh played on Oct 16, Miami racked up 474 yards and they whopped the Steelers 30–15. This game played before 62,726 in 17-degree weather at Heinz Field would have a very different outcome. Pittsburgh pounded Miami for 387 yards, forced three turnovers, recorded five sacks and scored three touchdowns in the first half on the way to a great 18-point win. There was little doubt. Pittsburgh 30, Miami 12.

AFC Divisional Championship January 15, 2017

Pittsburgh Steelers 18, Kansas City Chiefs 16[edit]

Oh, the weather outside was frightful so the 75,678 fans lined up to see the game in Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City had to sit around from the proposed 1:05 PM start for about seven hours until 8:00 PM. Ironically, because of the time pushback, this was the first ever divisional round playoff game in NFL history to premiere on Sunday Night Football.

Although Pittsburgh was unable to get into the end zone all night, Chris Boswell's nailed a postseason record of six field goals, which was just enough for the Steelers to become the first team to win a playoff game without scoring a touchdown since the 2006 Indianapolis Colts on their run to a victory in Super Bowl XLI. Pittsburgh moved on thanks to this 2-point win 18-16.

AFC Championship Game January 22, 2017 New England Patriots 36, Pittsburgh Steelers 17

New England had recently become a Pittsburgh yearly nemesis. The Patriots had not begun their resurgence to prominence in football when the Steelers along with Bradshaw and Noll were tearing up the gridiron with four Super Bowl Championships.

The Patriots advanced to their seventh Super Bowl in the last 16 seasons under quarterback Tom Brady and coach Bill Belichick. The weather was balmy for the New England area and the 66,829 fans enjoyed 41 degrees weather and the clouds kept the earth's heat from escaping. The Patriots wacked the Steelers with 431 yards and 26 first downs. The score does not tell it all but it was bad enough Pats 36; Steelers 17.

2017 Mike Tomlin #16

The 2017 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their eighty-third season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Mike Tomlin in his eleventh season as head coach of the Steelers. This was also the eighteenth season under the leadership of general manager Kevin Colber. The record improved from year to year from 2016-'s 11-5 to 2017's 13-3. The Steelers came in 1st^d in the AFC North and they made the playoffs.

The Steelers won the AFC North division title for the second consecutive season with a 39–38 win over the Baltimore Ravens in Week 14, and they got a first-round playoff bye for the first time since 2010 following a 34–6 win over the Houston Texans in Week 16. In the Divisional Round however, the Steelers lost to the Jacksonville Jaguars by a score of 45–42 after falling behind 28–14 at halftime. After their loss, the Steelers were criticized for looking past the Jaguars and anticipating a rematch with the New England Patriots. With a fine record of 13–3, the Steelers posted their best mark since 2004.

In the season opener on Sep 10, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns in First energy Stadium W (21-18). Then, at Heinz Field, on Sep 17, the Steelers defeated the Minnesota Vikings W (26-9). At Chicago on Sep 24, the Bears beat the Steelers L (17-23) at Soldier

Field. On Oct 1, at M&T Bank Stadium, the Steelers defeated the Baltimore Ravens W (26-9.) At home on Oct 8.m in Heinz Field, the Jacksonville Jaguars defeated the Steelers L (9-30). At Kansas City on Oct 15 in Arrowhead Stadium, the Steelers beat the Chiefs W (19-13). On Oct 22, at home, the Steelers beat the Cincinnati Bengals W (29-14) in Heinz Field. At Detroit, on Oct 29, the Steelers defeated the Lions at Ford Field W (20-15). Nov 5, Bye Week.

At Indianapolis on Nov 12, the Steelers beat the Colts W (20-17) in Lucas Oil Stadium. At home, on Nov 16, the Steelers pounded the Tennessee Titans W (40-17) in Heinz Field. At home again on Nov 26, the Steelers beat the Green Bay Packers W (31-28) in Heinz Field. At Cincinnati, on Dec 4, Pittsburgh beat the Bengals W (23-20) in Paul Brown Stadium

At home on December 10, the Steelers beat the Baltimore Ravens W (39-38) in Heinz Field. On Dec 17, at home in Heinz Field, the New England Patriots barely beat the Steelers L (24-27) in Heinz Field. At Houston, on Christmas Day, Dec 25, the Steelers trounced the Texans W (34-6) in NRG Stadium. To finish off a fine season, the Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns on Dec 31 in Heinz Field W (28-24).

AFC Divisional Playoffs January 14, 2018

Jacksonville Jaguars 45, Pittsburgh Steelers 42

With sunny, 18-degree weather in Heinz Field, before 64,524 fans, Jacksonville took the opportunity to build up a 28-7 first-half lead. Then, they held off a second-half Steelers comeback to win the fourth highest scoring NFL playoff game of all time. For both teams, it was week 5 game rematch between the 2 teams, which the Jags had won 30-9 thanks to a defense that intercepted Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger 5 times. It was not as easy for the Jaguars in this game but nonetheless, they prevailed 45-42.

Other books by Brian Kelly: (amazon.com, & Kindle)

[Great Moments in New England Patriots Football](#) Great football moments from Boston to New England

[Great Moments in Philadelphia Eagles Football](#). The best from the Eagles from the beginning of football.

[Great Moments in Syracuse Football](#) The great moments, coaches & players in Syracuse Football

[Boost Social Security Now! Hey Buddy Can You Spare a Dime?](#)

[The Birth of American Football](#). From the first college game in 1869 to the last Super Bowl

[Obamacare: A One-Line Repeal Congress must get this done.](#)

[A Wilkes-Barre Christmas Story](#) A wonderful town makes Christmas all the better

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[Great Coaches in Army Football](#) Army's coaches are all great.

[Great Moments in Army Football](#) Army Football at its best.

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[The Constitution by Hamilton, Jefferson, & Madison](#) – Big type and in English

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[America 4 Dummies!](#) All Americans should read to learn about this great country.

[The Electoral College 4 Dummies!](#) How does it really work?

[The All-Everything Machine](#) Story about IBM's finest computer server.

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