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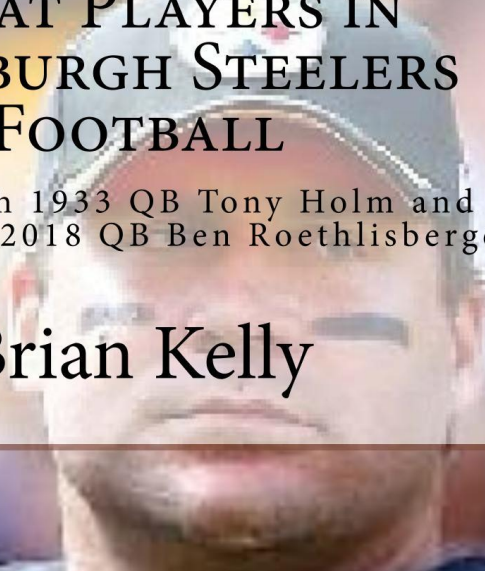
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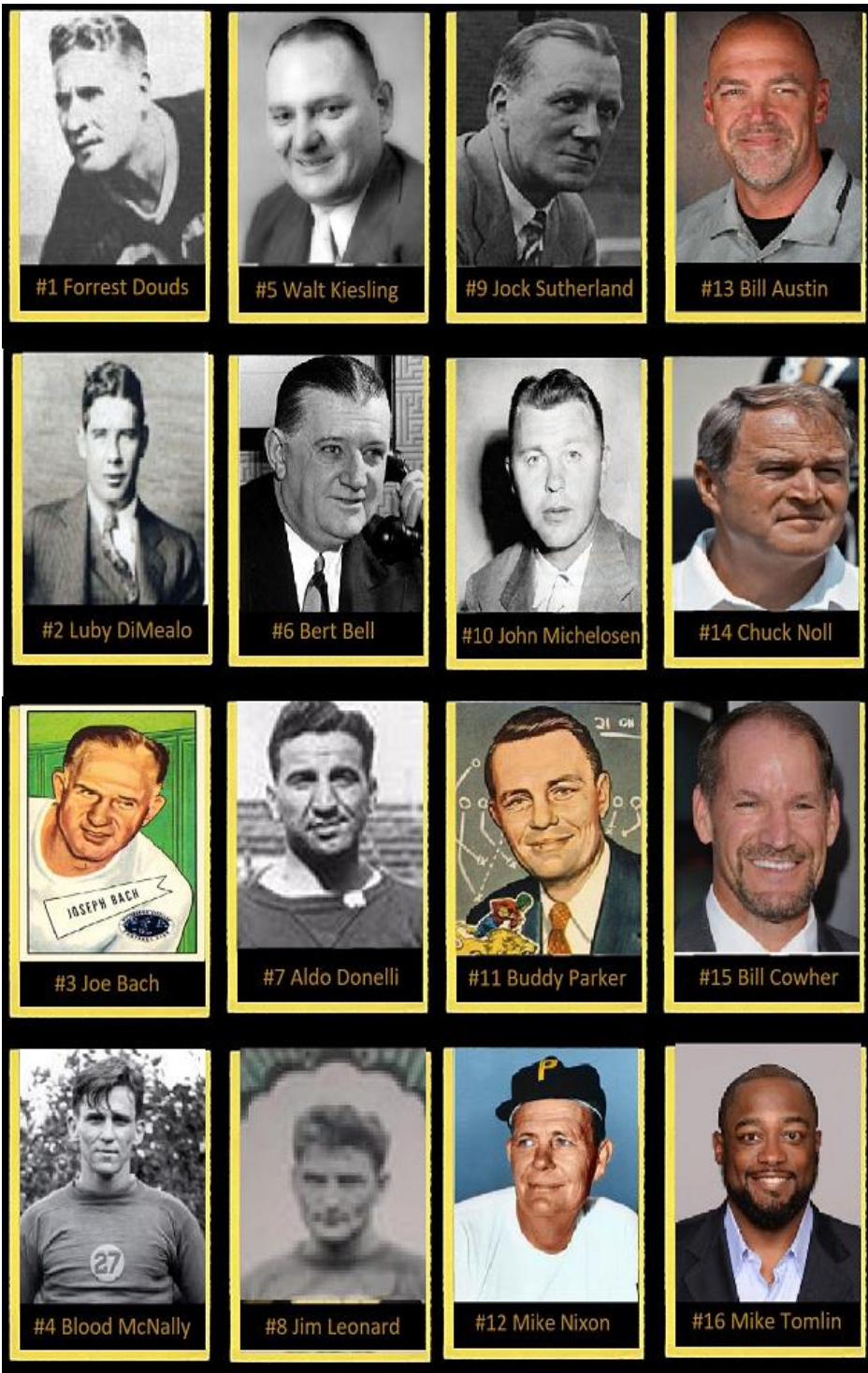


GREAT PLAYERS IN PITTSBURGH STEELERS FOOTBALL

Begins with 1933 QB Tony Holm and
finishes with 2018 QB Ben Roethlisberger.

Brian Kelly







PITTSBURGH STEELERS

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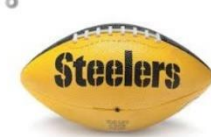
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Great Players in Pittsburgh Steelers Football

Begins with 1933 QB Tony Holm and finishes with 2018 QB Ben Roethlisberger.

This book is written for those of us who love Pittsburgh Steelers Football and who want to know the stories about all those great Pittsburgh players and their great Super Bowl victories. .

From the very beginning, the book moves you one season at a time, one player at a time, but rapidly through the Pittsburgh Steelers ages. We meet the great immortal Pittsburgh players from the first QB Tony Holm through Terry Bradshaw's great years as QB to Ben Roethlisberger, the current field marshal. Through the years we also stop to look at some great running backs like Jerome Bettis as well as great linemen and linebackers such as Jack Ham and Jack Lambert.

Besides the QB's you've heard of many other great players over the years who helped provide Pittsburgh its 655 wins. The book often stops in time and talks about a particular great player such as Tony Holm, John Stallworth, Jack Ham, Jack Lambert, Jerome Bettis, Hines Ward, Franco Harris, Rod Woodson, Mel Blount, Le'Veon Bell, Antonio Brown, and Jock Sutherland—some of the greats who played and won six Super Bowls over a forty-year period.

Those of us who enjoy the teams coming out every week in the fall know that it was because hundreds of Pittsburgh players in 85 years of football create the Steelers winning tradition. While the coaches masterminded the victories, the Pittsburgh players provided the scoring and the excitement.

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 many great players' stories about how they pulled it off.

This book is your finest source for a great read on your favorite players on your favorite professional football team by studying the history of its great players. It is for your reading pleasure but also is a great reference for when you want to see how a particular Pittsburgh great player performed during their career.

If you are a Pittsburgh Steelers fan. you will not want to put this book down until you know every great player's name and a lot more about their stories.

Brian Kelly



Great Players in Pittsburgh Steelers Football

Author:
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Pittsburgh Steelers Team 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
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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

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 156 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 players 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 players 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 Tony Holm, Franco Harris, Terry Bradshaw, Jack Ham, 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 players 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 players, some of whom were player 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 great moments, their great coaches; and their great players. 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 Players 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 quarterback, Tony Holm, 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 great players in all the football seasons from 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 Pirates or Steelers players who have ever played football as a professional in Pittsburgh PA in one of the finest football programs of all time.

Few sports books are a must-read but Brian Kelly's Great Players 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 157th 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 156 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 Players" 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



It was five years ago --- Everybody loves the Steelers!

There were no great Pittsburgh Steelers before the tradition began on July 8, 1933. At that time, the team was known 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.

Tell me more about this Pittsburgh Steelers Great Players book.

This book celebrates Pittsburgh Steelers Football; its founding; its struggles; its greatness; and the game of football's long-lasting impact on American life. People like me, who love the team from way back when Buddy Parker was the head coach, will love this book, as we reach back to the founding and up to the 80th anniversary and Pittsburgh moves towards its 90th anniversary of one of the best organizations that has ever played professional football. Thank you, Art Rooney, Dan Rooney, and Art Rooney II.

In defining the format of the book, we chose to use a timetable that is based on a historical chronology. Within this framework, which parallels the same chronology of the coach's eras, we discuss the great players in Pittsburgh Steelers Football History, and though there are hundreds of them, don't worry, we can't get to them all. The great players of the Pittsburgh Steelers 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:

<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.

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 these in the following 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 1938

PIRATES FORBES FIELD SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—New York Giants

Oct. 19—Brooklyn Dodgers

Oct. 16—Cleveland Rams

Nov. 6—Washington Redskins

Nov. 20—Philadelphia Eagles



Top Row, left to right—Saulis, Ferroh, Skulos, Tommerson, Cara, Weinstock, Pike, Gilmer, Lassahn, Perko, McKay.

Second Row, left to right—Nosich, Karp, Nicolai, Basarak, Chumich, Doyle, Karcis, Robinson, Kiesling, Musulin, Kroll.

Third Row, left to right—Gentry, Thompson, Fisk, McDonough, Bartaanen, Lee, Wilson, Gilbert, Hansen, Whizzer White, Blood, Rooney.

Bottom Row, left to right—Maher, Lindstrom, Smith, Davidson, Kakasic, Rizzo, J. White, Mayhew, Sortet, Stonis, Spitzak, McCaffrey.

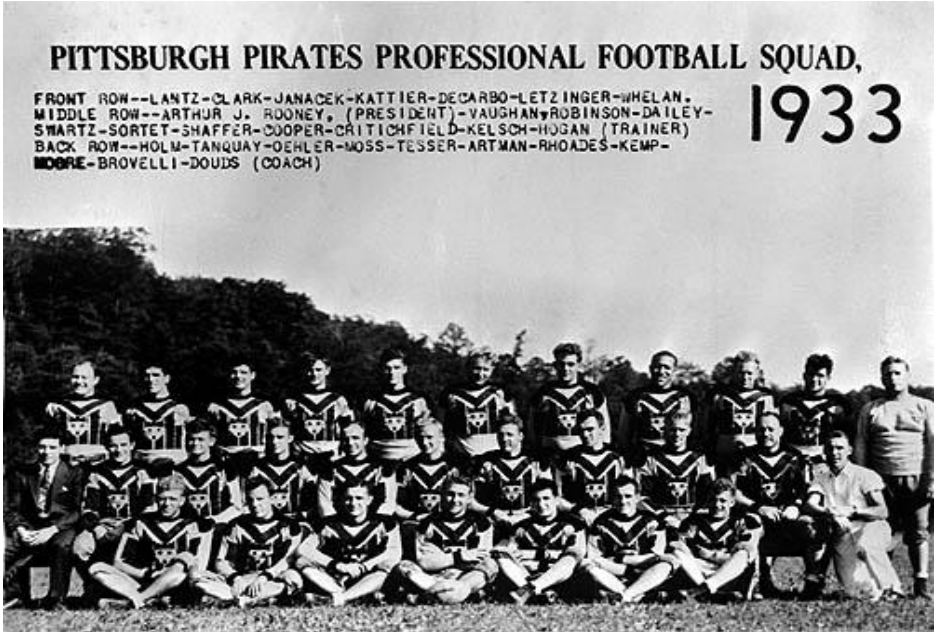
Pittsburgh Pirates Football Team from 1938 above



2017 Pittsburgh Steelers in Color

Chapter 2 Art Rooney Creates the Pittsburgh Pirates / Steelers

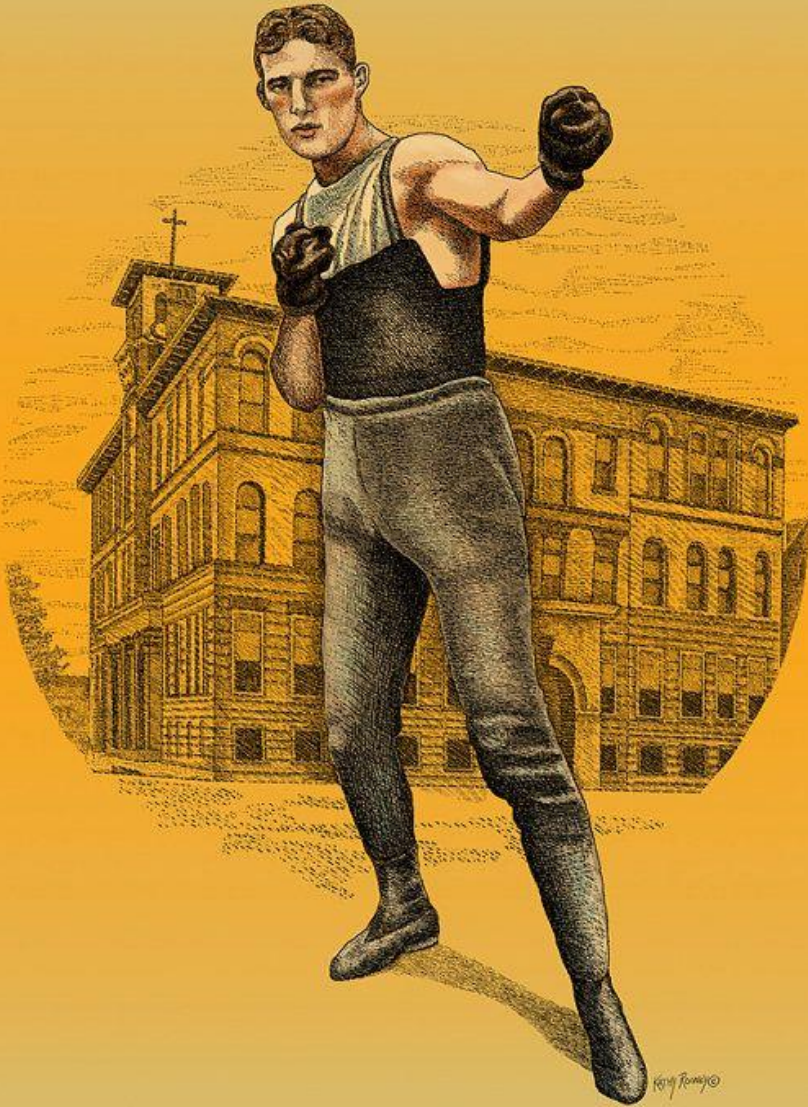
Rooney creates team with his hands from clay?



The Great 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.



<<< **Art Rooney Sr.** 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 Art Rooney's first team through the era of the Pittsburgh Pirates—the seven years preceding the renaming to the Pittsburgh Steelers. There were five coaches and tons of great players during this period. These great pioneers coached the Pirates and two, Walt Kiesling and Joe Bach coached the Pirates and then came back to coach several years later when they Pirates had become the Steelers.

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 “Jap” 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.

Chapter 3 NFL's Pittsburgh Pirates— Five Great Player Coaches

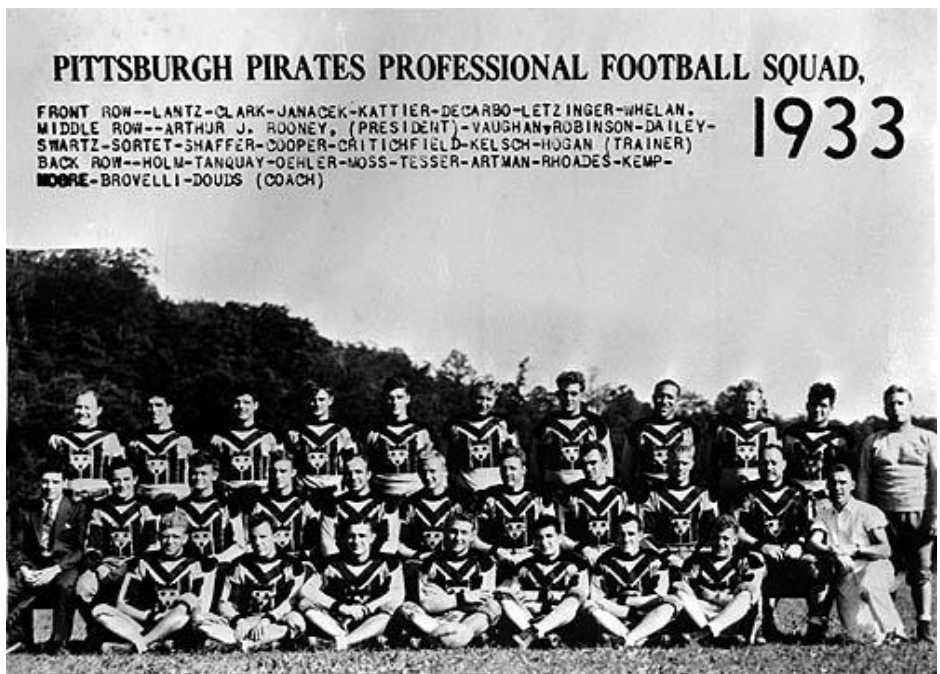
- #1 Coach Forrest Douds
- #2 Coach Luby DiMealo
- #3 Coach Joe Bach
- #4 Coach John Blood McNally
- #5 Coach Walt Kiesling

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1933	#1 Forrest Douds	NFLEast	5th	3 6 2	.364
1934	#2 Luby DiMealo	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

The Pittsburgh Pirates Professional NFL Football Team launched their first football team in 1933 under a different name than we know today. 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.

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

Top Pirates Player Forrest Douds



<< Player Coach Jap Douds.

Most Pittsburgh fans know about the great record of the players from Chuck Noll through Mike Tomlin, but few know about the many coaches (thirteen) 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. He was also a player on the team and a darn good one too.



<<< Jap Douds

Some pundits suggest that the word “captaining” than coaching is a more appropriate word for Forrest “Jap” Douds, who led the Pittsburgh Pirates in year one.

Douds 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 Douds, 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. Douds came in as a player and a coach and a player. A look at the Pittsburgh Media Guide and you will see Douds listed as a tackle from 1933 to 1935. He was surely a great player with little experience to back it up as a coach.

1933 Forrest “Jap” Douds, Coach #1

Douds was a player and 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 Douds carrying the load also won a state title with a 33-0 whooping of Monessen in 1920. As one might expect, Douds 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.

Top Pittsburgh Pirates Players Tony Holm



Bernard Patrick Holm (May 22, 1908 – July 15, 1978), nicknamed Tony Holm, was a professional American football player. In his four seasons in the NFL he played punter and quarterback. In 1933 he became the first quarterback for the now Pittsburgh Steelers. He was born in Birmingham, Alabama. Holm played college football for Wallace Wade's Alabama Crimson Tide football teams, earning All-America honors in 1929. "Wade's big express-train fullback, Tom Holm, is in the south all of what Al

Marsters and Chris Cagle are in the east.[1] His greatest game was in a 33–13 loss to Georgia Tech.[2]

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.



<< Luby Di Mealo.

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 needed the Pirates for looking like convicts.

Top Pirates Players Luby Di Mealo

Albert A. "Luby" DiMeolo (October 27, 1903 – June 17, 1966) was a football **player / coach** for the Pittsburgh Pirates in their second season. As player and coach, he was the second ever head coach for the Pittsburgh Pirates (later renamed the Steelers) of the National Football League. He coached the Pirates during their second season of 1934. He was born in Youngstown, Ohio, but lived nearly his entire life in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, just west of Pittsburgh.

DiMeolo was a guard and captain on the 1929 University of Pittsburgh team that was undefeated before losing in the 1930 Rose Bowl to USC. Upon graduating from Pittsburgh, DiMeolo served as offensive line coach at New York University under head coach Chick Meehan and later Howard Cann.

When the Pittsburgh Pirates joined the NFL in 1933, DiMeolo was rumored to be the leading candidate to become the team's initial player-coach. He was passed over for the job in favor of Jap Douds, who lasted just a single season as the team's coach. DiMeolo replaced Douds for the team's second season. He led the Pirates to a disappointing 2–10 record in his first season, after which he was dismissed.

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.



Joe Bach Circa 1935

Top Pirates Players Joe Bach



Player Coach Joe Bach. Pittsburgh had its third coach going into this season # three in Pittsburgh Steelers history. Art Rooney was affectionately known as the back then “Prez” then and he had originally opted for local college football heroes and gave both their first opportunity to be head coaches in his first two selections to lead the Pittsburgh football Pirates

The Prez liked to win and the first two options gave him little joy on the winning front. Some say it was not the fine players but how they were coached and motivated to win.

Rooney picked Joe Bach, a college hero but not local. Born in Minnesota, Joe Bach played at Notre Dame with the famous Four Horsemen who won the national championship in 1924. As a starting tackle; he was one of the Seven Mules that played in front of the four horsemen.

Knute Rockne was a great football innovator but also launched many coaching careers. Twelve of his players from the 1924 national championship team, including Joe Bach, went on to coach football. Another of those players was Elmer Layden who later became the NFL commissioner. Layden had been one of the four horsemen that Bach blocked for.



As the NFL commissioner, at the end of WWII he also asked all the NFL teams to continue playing the national anthem saying, ““The National Anthem should be as much a part of every game as the kick-off. We must not drop it simply because the war is over. We should never forget what it stands for.”

But Layden’s immediate impact on Pittsburgh’s professional football franchise was bringing Joe Bach to the city in 1929. Pat Regan resigned as assistant coach to join another of the four horsemen, Harry Stuhldreher who was coaching Villanova. Joe Bach was brought to be the assistant coach in charge of the linemen.



Art Rooney was well aware of a nationally known player from Notre Dame coming to coach in Pittsburgh. In fact, Joe Bach played at least two games for the Hope-Harvey Radio Majestics. A local football team that Art Rooney had been a player-coach and now ran as his own. It was a conglomeration of local neighborhood athletes, college players or anyone that looked like they could go for a few rounds.



Below in the team picture, you can get a look at what Bach's preseason team looked like in 1935. The first head coach, Jap Douds was still on the team as a player (# 44) in the picture. However, this year, he would not appear in any regular season games.

These Pittsburgh Pirates Of The Gridiron Are Art Rooney's Hopes For A Pro Championship



The Steelers had a tough time getting wins in the early days. 1935 was no different. Yet it was the team's best performance yet ... 4-8. Pittsburgh had one more game in 1935; which was the second annual contest against local college all-stars (Bach had coached the college team in 1934).

Art Rooney and Joe Bach used this as an opportunity to scout out local talent. While the 1935 results were mediocre there was an optimistic outlook going into the 1936 season. The NFL announced the schedule on August 11th noting that each team would play 12 regular season games with the Pirates (Steelers) hosting the Boston Redskins on September 13th and closing out their season on December 6th at Philadelphia. The winners of the Eastern & Western Divisions would play for the NFL championship on December 13th with the East hosting the game.

Pittsburgh started out strong with three straight victories over Boston, Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants. After two losses to the Bears and one to Green Bay; Pittsburgh was 4-3 and still in contention for the Eastern Division crown at the end of October. But they faced a brutal stretch to start November. Philadelphia agreed to move their home game scheduled for December 6th to November 5th at Johnstown, Pa.

Pittsburgh beat Brooklyn but lost three players to injury; the Wednesday game was rained out so was played on Thursday night. This gave an extra day to heal but cost a day preparation for the Lions which was a long train ride in those days. Pittsburgh managed to beat the Eagles to secure the Eastern Division lead but were

unsurprisingly thumped by the Lions in the 3rd game played in a week that included train travel to Detroit.

Pittsburgh then travelled onto to Chicago for a match versus the 1-7 Cardinals. Win this match and Pittsburgh could clinch the Eastern Division with their 7th win. It was not to be. The Cardinals upset Pittsburgh 14-6 for only their 2nd win of the season.

Still, the Steelers had one more game and would win the Eastern Division and be host to the NFL championship game if they beat Boston who they had beat on opening day in Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh had a bye the previous week. But in those days; NFL teams would play exhibition games.

The Steelers travelled all the way out to Los Angeles by train to play the Los Angeles Bulldogs which was a “probationary NFL franchise” (they would be passed over in favor of the Cleveland Rams for the 1937 season). Bach told his players to avoid injuries and they played like it; losing 7-27. A long train ride back to Pittsburgh got them home around the 25th in time to go to Boston where they got thumped 0-30.

With a championship game on the line; I'm not sure if I would have taken my team on a cross country train trip to play an exhibition team – but that's just me. Pittsburgh still could have won the division if Boston lost to the Giants the following week but as another team from New England has done so many times, they won and broke the hearts of Pittsburghers hoping for a championship in their 4th season in the league.

December also saw Pittsburgh participate in the second NFL draft picking Mike Basrak an all-American from Duquesne University as their top pick. However, rumors were already circulating that Bach wanted to return to coaching college football. A December 14, 1936 Post-Gazette article mentioned, “Joe Bach is with Rooney in New York negotiating for other players, although Bach is not certain to be here next season. Rooney wants him to return it is understood, but Bach is open for a job with a major college eleven if one comes his way.”

That was good gouge as Bach resigned in early February to take the head coach job at Niagara University despite a close relationship with Art Rooney. In fact, Rooney would be the best man at Bach's wedding one week after he quit the team.

1935 Joe Bach, Coach #3

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.

Top Steelers Players Johnny 'Blood' McNally

McNally was a player (1934, 1937-39), and Coach (1937-39) John "Blood" McNally played 14 seasons in the NFL with five different teams, including two stints with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He served as both a player and coach from 1937-39 for the Pirates and was considered possibly the best receiver in the NFL during his playing days.



He was a Pirates player coach. The Green Bay Packers were founded more than a decade before the Steelers, but the two teams an early star.

Johnny "Blood" McNally: A 6-foot-1, 188-pound speedster from New Richmond, Wis., who, his Pro Football Hall of Fame webpage said, "was unbelievably fast, a superb running back and possibly the finest receiver in the National Football League at that time. He could throw

passes and punt with the best."

He also had the flair to make him a favorite in the early game. "A totally unpredictable funster."

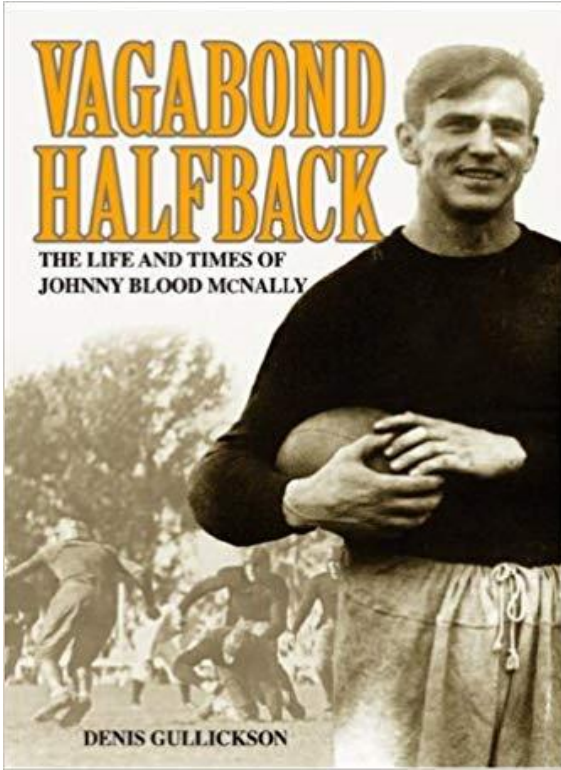
He played for the Packers from 1929-36 and helped them win their first four NFL championships (1929-31, '36).

He moved to the Steelers -- then known as the Pirates -- in 1937 as a player/coach. Although he was on the downside of his career at age 33, he reportedly returned the first kickoff of his first game 92 yards for a touchdown.

His playing talents didn't carry over to the sideline. The Pirates went 7-25-1 in his three seasons before he was replaced by Walt Kiesling in 1939.

Although his career was over, his legacy lived on. When the Pro Football Hall of Fame was founded in 1963, McNally was among the 17-member inaugural class -- a class that included Curly Lambeau, Jim Thorpe, Sammy Baugh and Bronko Nagurski. He died in 1985, but his legacy did not. George Clooney's character -- Dodge Connolly -- in the 2008 film "Leatherheads" was based on Johnny Blood. His was a life made for Hollywood. As his wife Marguerite once said: "Even when Johnny does the expected, he does it in an unexpected way." First Published February 2, 2011, 6:00am

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 of a number of years.

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

A few more tidbits on John Blood McNally, a fine player and an OK coach:

Johnny Blood McNally was a much better player than coach. He was tall and lean. In his day, he had a strong face and untroubled eyes and a good head of iron-gray hair. He looked like a scholar or a poet or a contemplative monk in mufti. In his time, he drew street-corner crowds with rousing recitations of Kipling and has silenced soapbox orators with strange but oddly plausible arguments for or against any proposition under discussion. He was quite a guy. Perhaps if he had taken it more seriously Johnny Blood McNally would have been a much better coach. But, nobody can deny what a great player he was for sure.

Candidate John F. Kennedy met him for the first time in Green Bay, during the Kennedy Wisconsin primary campaign. Kennedy let him know he was a household word in Massachusetts: "Your name," said Senator Kennedy, "was a household word in our home." After the election, President Kennedy greeted McNally again at a White House reception which he attended in the company of his friend Byron White, then deputy attorney general, and later a Justice of the Supreme Court.

In his life before moving on, McNally would say that he had played some football—but it was a lot of extraordinary football—and it was the kind of football he played that led to his election (along with Jim Thorpe, Red Grange, Bronko Nagurski, Cal Hubbard and a dozen others) as a charter member of pro football's Hall of Fame dedicated at Canton, Ohio, the birthplace of His full name, as entered in the records at Canton, is John Victor McNally. If it rings no bell, then for John Victor McNally read Johnny Blood—the name he used when he was a household word with the teen-age Kennedy boys, the name of the legendary halfback who scored 37 touchdowns and 224 points during his career with the Green Bay Packers and helped them win four NFL championships.

As Johnny Blood, he played all around the pro circuit and served three seasons as player-coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers, the team for which he once signed his friend, Whizzer White.

"I guess you could say," Justice White said recently, "that if it were not for Johnny Blood's persuasiveness, I would not have played professional football. We played together only a year, with the Pittsburgh Steelers, but we have kept in close touch ever since.

"He was a great teammate. A cheerful fellow, friendly off the field. Nothing fazed him. Sometimes, although he was player-coach, he might miss a practice and explain next day that he had been to the library. He was a fine defense man. He was fast. I tried all season to beat him at 100 yards and couldn't. He was a great receiver. He thought there wasn't a ball in the air he couldn't catch. I value him as a friend as much as I admired him as a player."

Don Hutson, Hall of Fame man and Johnny Blood's teammate with the Packers, has said of him:

"I never saw a fellow who could turn a ball game around as quickly as Johnny Blood. When he came into a game, the whole attitude of the players changed. He had complete confidence in himself. He had tremendous football sense."

A man who has seen all the great backs, from Johnny Blood to Jimmy Taylor of today's Green Bay Packers, said:

"Johnny Blood was one of the last great individualists of the football field when it was still called a gridiron. Like Red Grange, Bo McMillin and Jimmy Conzelman, he had the speed, the change of pace, the swivel hips and the quick eyes to break loose on his own and run through the opposition, whereas today's great backs largely depend on perfect execution of well-drilled blackboard plays laid out by their coaches. Johnny Blood could improvise, make up plays on the spot as the occasion demanded. I don't suppose this always made a hit with his coach, but his performance did."

The exploits of Johnny Blood McNally on and off the field during a professional career that spanned 22 seasons were often as wild as they were unpredictable, and yet there was a weird thread of logic running through them. There was the time, for instance, when the Packers were in Los Angeles for a game, and Johnny found himself in need of funds. He approached Coach Curly Lambeau (also a charter member of the Hall of Fame at Canton) in the hotel lobby

and stated his case. Lambeau not only refused to advance him 10¢, he said he was retiring to his eighth floor room and locking himself in for the night. If Johnny came to his door, he declared, he would not let him in.

Johnny pondered, pacing the lobby. He reviewed the facts. He had asked and had been refused. But does a man take no for an answer without making certain that the other party fully understands the urgency of the matter? Johnny decided that his coach must be made to listen again. But he had said that he would not open his door. The answer, by all rules of logic, must be found in another method of approach. The door would be locked, but had anything been said about the window?

Johnny hurried to the elevators and rode up to the eighth floor. He found a door leading to a fire escape and then determined that by making his way along a ledge, he could put himself within a mere five or six feet of Coach Lambeau's window. He moved confidently along the ledge until he was in position. He looked down to the courtyard eight floors below. He balanced himself, placing his hands behind him, palms against the wall. He bent his knees slightly and was about to leap when the voice of a teammate rang out from a window two-floors below.

"Is that you up there, Johnny Blood?" cried the teammate.

"The same," answered Johnny.

"Dear God in Heaven," shouted the teammate, "what are you going to do, Johnny?"

"Coach wants to see me," Johnny called back. "Told me to drop in and talk over a matter of business." With that he jumped, landed neatly on the window ledge, threw up the half-open window and presented himself to Coach Lambeau who fell back, clutching his heart.

"I thought that perhaps I didn't make myself clear, Coach," said Johnny, "about that advance I asked for. Now the fact is—"

Curly Lambeau staggered to the chair where his trousers hung. He thrust a hand in a pocket and pulled out a wad of bills.

"Take it, take it!" he cried. "Take it and go. Go where you want, Johnny Blood."

"Thank you, Coach," said Johnny politely. "I knew we could come to an understanding once we talked things over in a calm, reasonable way."

"Just go," groaned Curly. "Go, please go."

Johnny went to the door, turned the lock and opened it.

"Have a goodnight's sleep, Coach," he said, closing the door behind him.

Johnny Blood McNally is obviously pleased and certainly very proud to be included in the first band of football heroes whose heads have been sculptured and cast in bronze and will be placed on display in the Hall of Fame. In his wanderings up and down the land, meditating as he goes, he probably asked himself from time to time the question a horrified teammate called to him as he perched on a ledge eight-floors up many years ago. The answer should come easy, even if he insists that he is the least worthy of the heroes who will look down on the pilgrims at Canton. For just as it was when Coach Curly Lambeau saw the figure come through his hotel window, it is Johnny Blood up there, this time up there to stay.

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.

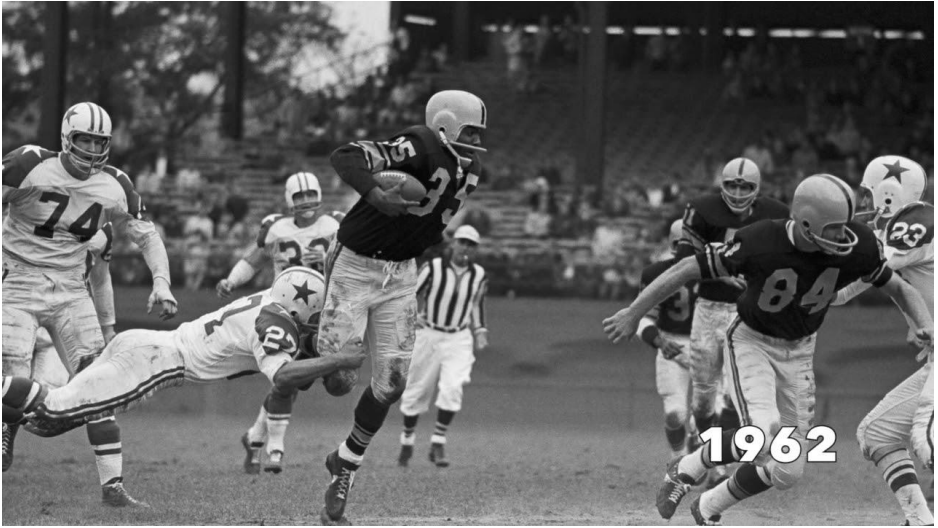
Because of baseball's popularity, many pro football teams named themselves the same (or similar) nickname as their baseball counterparts (i.e. Cubs-Bears) taking on the assumption that fans of the diamond would inherently become fans of the gridiron. Since tickets sales were the lone source of revenue 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 sheckles 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 next. We examine the great players 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 4 Steelers 1940's & 1950'



Vintage Pittsburgh Pirates / Steelers

A few signs of brilliance

The Steelers showed some signs of brilliance in the later 1940's, though it was not a recurring theme. They made the playoffs for the first time in 1947, tying for first place in the division at 8–4 with the Eagles. There was a tie-breaking playoff game at Forbes Field, which the Steelers lost 21–0. The playoff game between the Eagles and the Steelers in 1947 was an anomaly and never happened again.

Top Steelers Players Johnny Clement



Halfback, Quarterback...

In 1960, the American Football league formed and their eight team league was very successful. The NFL began merger talks and by 1970, the NFL expanded to include all the former AFL teams.

The Steelers and Eagles were placed in different conferences after the 1970 merger so the 1947 game was the only time that the two major Pennsylvania cities played each other in the NFL playoffs. Steelers Quarterback Johnny Clement, who was one of few people to ever wear number "0" actually finished second in the

league in rushing yardage with 670.

That would be Pittsburgh's last playoff game for 25 years. In the 1948 off season, coach Jock Sutherland died. The team struggled through the season (one quarterback, Ray Evans, threw 17 interceptions to only five touchdowns) and finished 4–8. The team once again faded down the stretch in 1949 after a strong start, ending with a 6–5–1 record.

In 1948, Pittsburgh drafted Bobby Layne but for some reason could not keep him. Layne did not want to play for the Steelers, because they were the last team in the NFL to use the single-wing formation, so his rights were quickly traded to the Chicago Bears. That was

followed up in 1950 with a 6–6 season, and consecutive losing seasons in 1951 (4–7–1) and 1952 (5–7).

After a 6–6 season in 1953 and 5–7 season in 1954, the Steelers drafted Johnny Unitas in 1955. Having watched Unitas and Charley Conerly of the Giants as a kid, I know that Unitas could have helped a lot. However, Johnny Unitas was cut by the Steelers in training camp. He was a great QB and later became a Super Bowl hero for the Baltimore Colts. Unitas for Pittsburgh was the good luck that the team was seeking for a long time, but they refused to recognize it.

On the way through the 1950's the Steelers suffered another two losing seasons before a 6–6 campaign in 1957 in the first season for coach Buddy Parker. Another highlight of 1957 showed the growth of inclusiveness in football as Pittsburgh hired the first NFL African American coach, Lowell Perry to coach the pass catching crew. He became the Steelers receivers coach.

Chapter 5 Steelers--1940-1942

#5 Coach Walt Kiesling

#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
	• 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)				
1942	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFLEast	2nd	7 4 0	.636



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

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. e

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.

For the first seven years of their being, 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 had some fine players along the way but were never sustained winners.

Once, in 1938, two years before the Pirates became the Steelers, their head coach took his job so lightly that Johnny Blood, who both played and coached the team, missed the team train home after a road game. On his return back to Pittsburgh alone, 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.

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.

1941 Bert Bell, Coach #6

1941 Aldo Donelli, Coach #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.

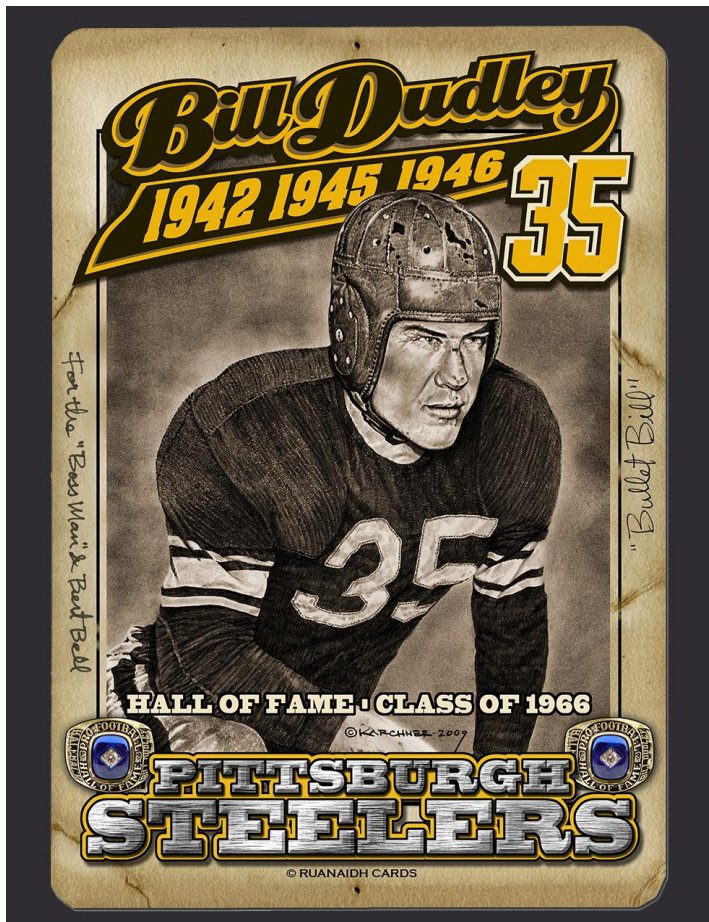
In this, the Pirates/Steelers ninth year, this Steelers team finished with a poor record of 1-9-1, winning one games, losing nine, and tying one. The Steelers team failed again to qualify for the playoffs.

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.

Top Steelers Players Bill Dudley



Dudley was a halfback (1942, 1945-46) Elected to hall of fame 1966 Bill Dudley nicknamed "Bullet Bill", was a first-round draft pick of the Steelers in 1942 and finished his rookie season as the league's leading rusher with 696 yards, earning him all-league honors. In 1946, he became the

NFL's first player to lead the league in four distinctly different statistical categories, including rushing, punt returns, interceptions and lateral passes attempted. That same year he was named the NFL's Most Valuable Player. Dudley was a two-time All-NFL selection during his nine-year career.

Chapter 6 1943 Steagles; 1944 Card-Pitt

Coach #5 Walt Kiesling

Pittsburgh & Philadelphia = Steagles

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

Chicago Cardinals & Pittsburgh = Card-Pitt

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



Combined 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 Kasinitz 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

By Aaron Kasinitz
akasinitz@pennlive.com

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."



Walt Kiesling Co-Coach of Card-Pitt

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.

"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."

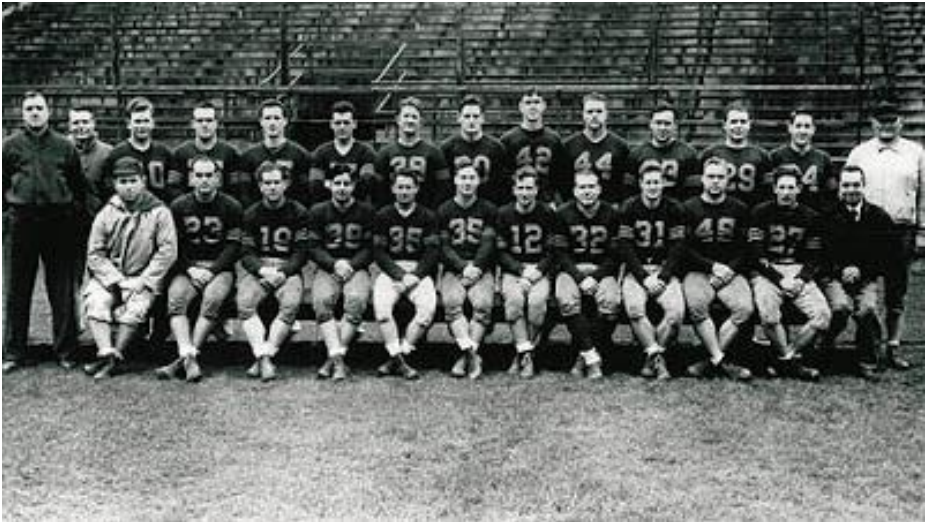
After nine years in the NFL, Bulger coached and taught for 30-plus years at De La Salle Institute in Chicago. The school named its main athletic field for him, and he continues to help with its fundraising efforts. And he keeps rooting for his old team.

"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..

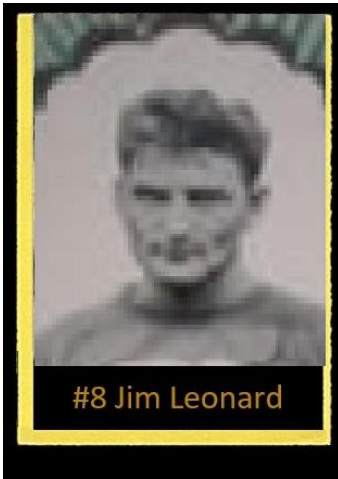
- 1 September 24, 1944 Cleveland Rams L 28–30
- 2 October 8, 1944 at Green Bay Packers L 7–34
- 3 October 15, 1944 at Chicago Bears L 7–34
- 4 October 22, 1944 at New York Giants L 0–23
- 5 October 29, 1944 at Washington Redskins L 20-42
- 6 November 5, 1944 Detroit Lions L 6–27
- 7 November 12, 1944 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 7 Steelers 1945—1956

Coach #8 Jim Leonard
 Coach #9 Jock Sutherland
 Coach #10 John Michelosen
 Coach #3 Joe Bach
 Coach #5 Walt Kiesling

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1945	#8 Jim Leonard	NFL East	5th	2 8 0	.200
1946	#9 Jock Sutherland	NFL East	3 rd -T	5 5 1	.500
	• Bill Dudley – Joe F. Carr Trophy (MVP)				
1947	#9 Jock Sutherland	NFL East	2nd	8 4 0	.667
	• Lost Eastern Divisional Playoff (Eagles)		21-0		
1948	#10 John Michelosen	NFL East	3 rd -T	4 8 0	.333
1949	#10 John Michelosen	NFL East	2nd	6 5 1	.542
1950	#10 John Michelosen	NFL American	3 rd -T	6 6 0	.500
1951	#10 John Michelosen	NFL American	4th	4 7 1	.375
1952	#3 Joe Bach	NFL American	4th	5 7 0	.417
1953	#3 Joe Bach	NFL Eastern	4th	6 6 0	.500
1954	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFL Eastern	4th	5 7 0	.417
1955	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFL Eastern	6th	4 8 0	.346
1956	#5 Walt Kiesling	NFL Eastern	4 th -T	5 7 0	.500

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.

1946 Jock Sutherland, Coach #9



<< Jock Sutherland
circa 1945

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.

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.

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.

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.

1949 John Michelosen, Coach #9

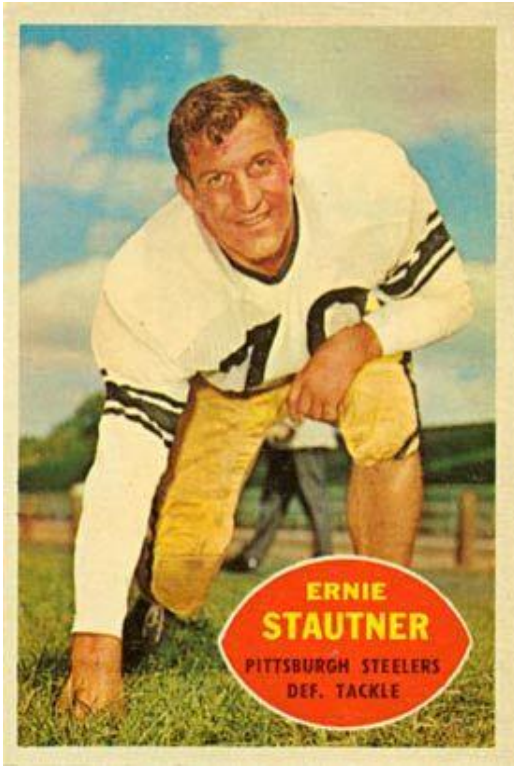
The 1949 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their seventeenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by John Michelosen in his second of four seasons. Their record improved from last year's result of 4-8-0, to better than 500 at 6-5-1. The Steelers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

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.

Top Steelers Players Ernie Stautner



Defensive Tackle (1950-63)
Elected: 1969

Ernie Stautner, considered one of the toughest players in league history by his teammates and opponents, was a nine-time Pro Bowl selection as he anchored Pittsburgh's defense for 14 seasons. He captured the NFL's Best Lineman Award in 1957 and was named all-league four times. Showing his gritty and hard-working attitude, Stautner missed just six games during his 14-year career despite having numerous broken ribs, shoulders, hands and a

nose. The Steelers honored him by retiring his No. 70 jersey in 1964 following his retirement, and he remains the only Steeler to have received that honor.

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.

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.

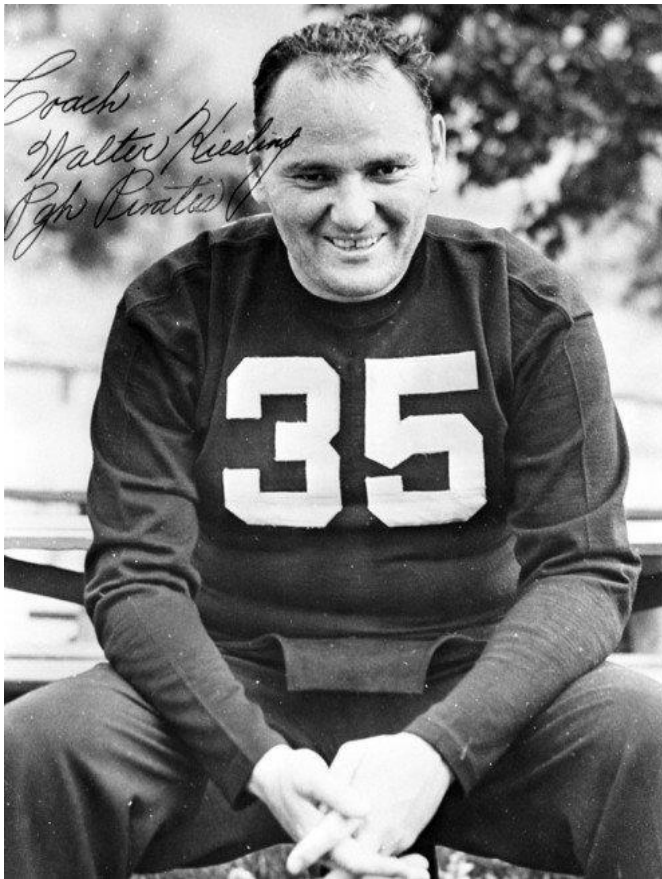
1953 Joe Bach, Coach #3

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.

1954 Walt Kiesling, Coach #5

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.

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.

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.

Chapter 8 Steelers, 1957—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

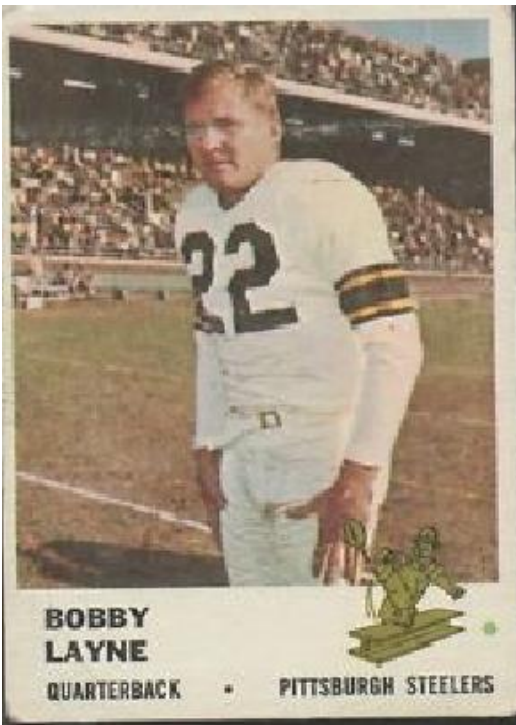
The 1957 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their twenty-fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Buddy Parker in the first of his eight years as coach of the Steelers. Their record improved slightly from a

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.

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.

Top Steeler Players Bobby Layne



Layne was a great quarterback (1958-62)
Elected: 1967

Bobby Layne played five of his 15 NFL seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers. He helped provide the Steelers with some of their finest seasons up to that point. Prior to Pittsburgh, Layne was a two-time All-NFL selection and was the league's scoring champion in 1956. His last-second touchdown pass won the 1953 NFL title game for the Detroit Lions.

I can remember pictures of Bobby Lane, the QB with no facemask as a kid on football cards. Early in the 1958 season the Steelers traded for Layne, who had led the Detroit Lions to two NFL championships.

Here's what happened back then. After the second game of the 1958 season, Pittsburgh Steelers coach Buddy Parker, formerly of Detroit, arranged a trade on October 6 that brought Layne to the Steelers. This was Pittsburgh's second chance with the great Bobby Layne.

During his eight seasons in Detroit, after being traded by Pittsburgh, the Lions won three NFL championships and Layne played in four Pro Bowls. Layne made first team All-Pro twice, and at various times led the league in over a dozen single-season statistical categories.

Following the trade, Layne played five seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Though he made the Pro Bowl two more times, he never made it back to the playoffs, and the team's best finish was second in the conference in 1962. Nonetheless, the results of Layne being with the Steelers were immediate. The Steelers went 7–4–1 for the best record in nine years, though they still missed the playoffs by two games.

The Steelers finished above .500 again with a 6–5–1 record in 1959. After a 5–6–1 season in 1960, Rudy Bukich took over the starting QB job during the 1961 season but fared no better. Pittsburgh finished 6–8.

1959 Buddy Parker, Coach #11

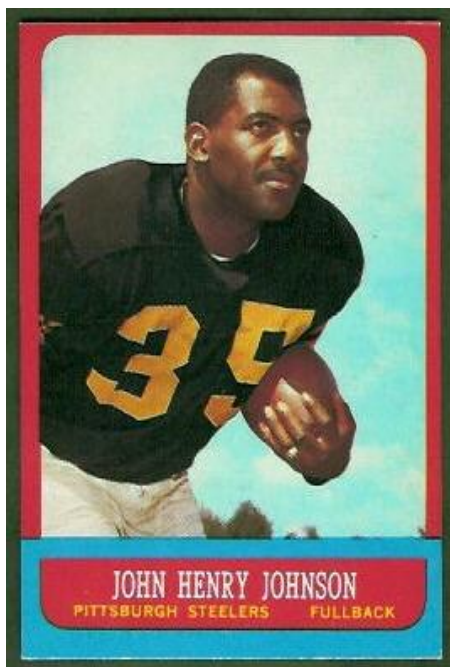
The 1959 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their twenty-seventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Buddy Parker in the third of his eight years as coach of the Steelers. Their record declined slightly from a prior result of 7-4-1 to 6-5-1.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

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.

Top Steelers Players John Henry Johnson



Fullback (1960-65) Elected: 1987
Originally drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1953, John Henry Johnson spent his first eight years in the NFL outside of the Steel City. However, Johnson enjoyed his finest seasons with the Steelers. In both 1962 and 1964, Johnson became the first Steeler to eclipse the 1,000-yard rushing barrier. After retiring in 1966 from the Houston Oilers, Johnson's 6,803 career rushing yards ranked him fourth at the time among the NFL's all-time top ground gainers behind only Jim Brown, Jim Taylor and Joe Perry

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.

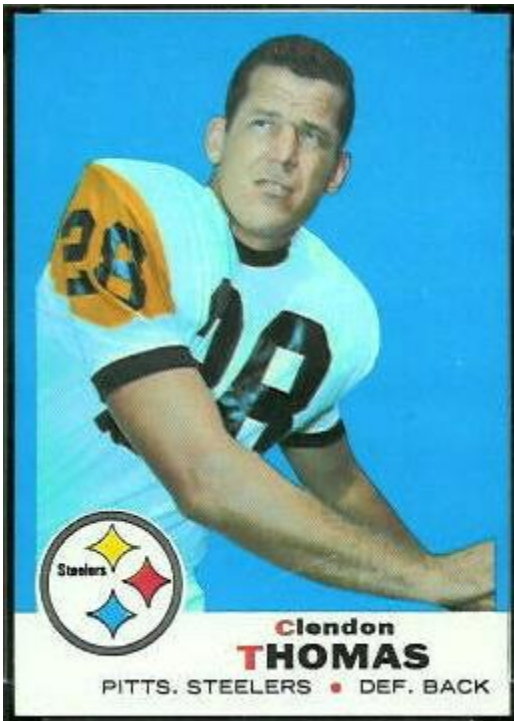
1962 Buddy Parker, Coach #11

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.

Top Steelers Players Clendon Thomas



Both a halfback and defensive back. (born December 28, 1935 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Thomas was a football halfback and Defensive back for Pittsburgh in the 1960's.

In college, Clendon was a great athlete for the Oklahoma Sooners under coach Bud Wilkinson. He was the Sooners scoring leader during both the 1956 and '57 seasons. He also was the nation's leading scorer in 1956.

In the 1958 NFL Draft, Thomas was selected by the Los Angeles Rams in the second round. He played for the Rams for four seasons before being traded to the Pittsburgh Steelers where he played for another seven years and finished his career. He was selected to the Pro Bowl after the 1963 NFL season.

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.

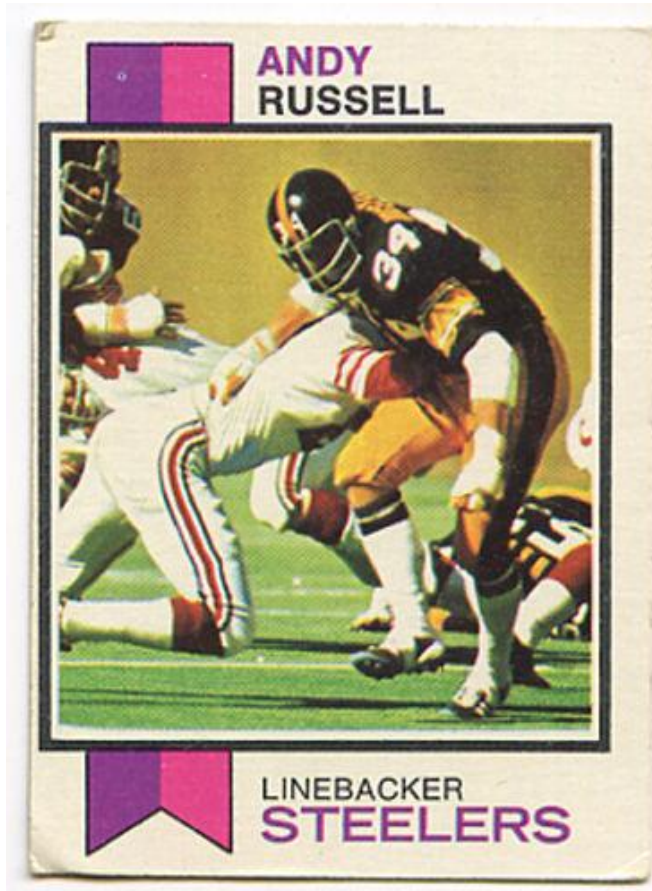
For the first time in 1963, the Steelers wore their trademark black helmets with their logo on one side of the helmet. They had used the logo previously on yellow helmets, but 1963 was the first season in which their now-signature look was used full-time in the regular season. The Steelers were preparing 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.

Top Steelers Players Andy Russel

Linebacker Andy Russell was one of the few Steelers from the pre-Chuck Noll era to hang around for the team's first Super Bowl

victory. He and a pair of Jacks in Ham and Lambert became the gold standard for linebacker play in the NFL



A seven-time Pro Bowler, Russell's legacy hasn't stood the test of time like Ham and Lambert. Nonetheless, I'm sure he takes solace in the fact that he was able to earn two Super Bowl victories after enduring quite a bit of losing earlier in his career.

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

Chapter 9 Steelers 1965—1968

Coach #12 Mike Nixon

Coach #13 Bill Austin

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

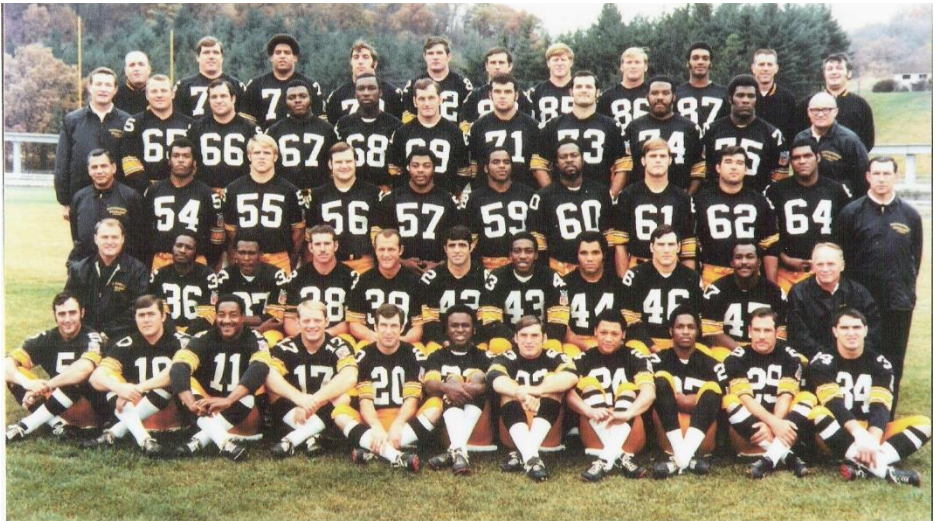
Additionally, the Steelers lost to the Baltimore Colts at home, 41–7, in Week 3. They Colts went on to play in Super Bowl III, in which they were upset by the AFL's New York Jets. After that loss, the Steelers would go another 40 years before losing to the Colts at home again, winning 12 straight (including 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.

Chapter 10 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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 below



1969 PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Bottom Row: Terry Hanratty, Kent Nix, Gene Mingo, Dick Shiner, Paul Martha, Jim Shorter, Bob Campbell, Jon Henderson, Clarence Oliver, Bob Hohn, Andy Russell

Second Row: Head Coach Chuck Noll, Don McCall, Chuck Beatty, Earl Gros, Bobby Walden, Dick Hoak, Erwin Williams, Lee Calland, Warren Bankston, Mary Woodson, Coach John Bridges

Third Row: Coach Max Coley, Doug Fisher, Jon Kolb, Ray Mansfield, Sam Davis, Ray May, Ben McGee, Brian Stenger, Ralph Wenzel, Chuck Hinton, Coach Charley Sumner,

Fourth Row: Coach Bob Fry, Lloyd Voss, Bruce Van Dyke, Clarence Washington, L.C. Greenwood, Jerry Hillebrand, Dick Arndt, Ernie Ruple, John Brown, Joe Greene, Coach Wall Hackett

Fifth Row: Trainer Ralph Berlin, Mike Haggerty, Mike Taylor, Larry Gagner, John Hilton, Don Alley, Bob Adams, J.R. Wilburn, Roy Jefferson, Field Manager Jack Hart, Equipment Manager Tony Parisi

1969 Pittsburgh Steelers Team Picture

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
1972	#14 Chuck Noll	NFL AFC Central	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 Harris Offensive Rookie of the Year • Joe Greene – Defensive Player of the Year • Franco Harris – AFC Offensive Rookie of the Year 				
1973	#14 Chuck Noll	NFL AFC Central	2nd	10 4 0	.714

Lost Divisional Playoffs(Raiders) 33–14

Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
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.

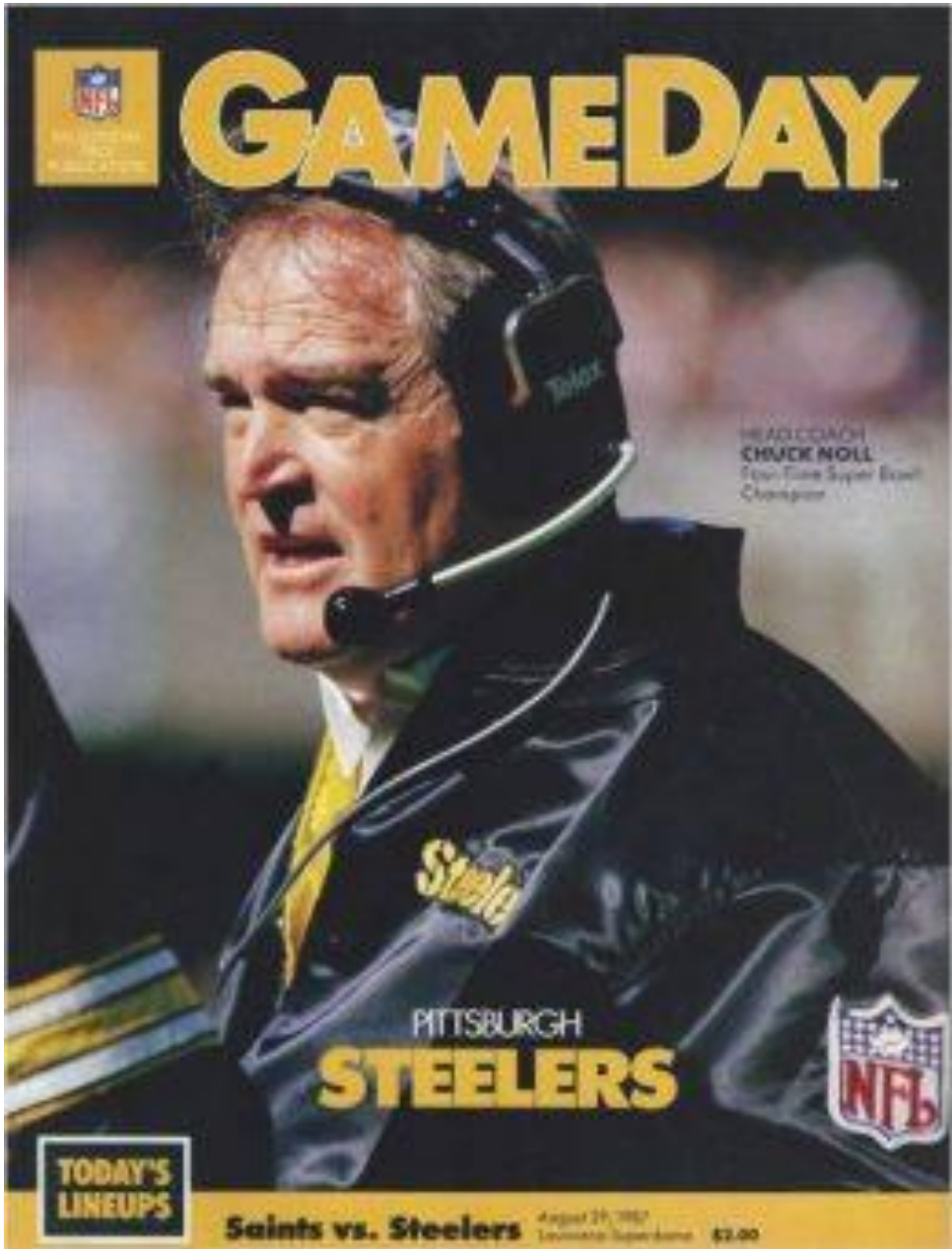
The Steelers first interviewed Joe Paterno a few days after Penn State won the Orange Bowl. Fortunately, he was thinking more about his pension with the University than professional football. He turned down a projected yearly salary of \$70,000 which was over three times what he was receiving at Penn 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.

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.

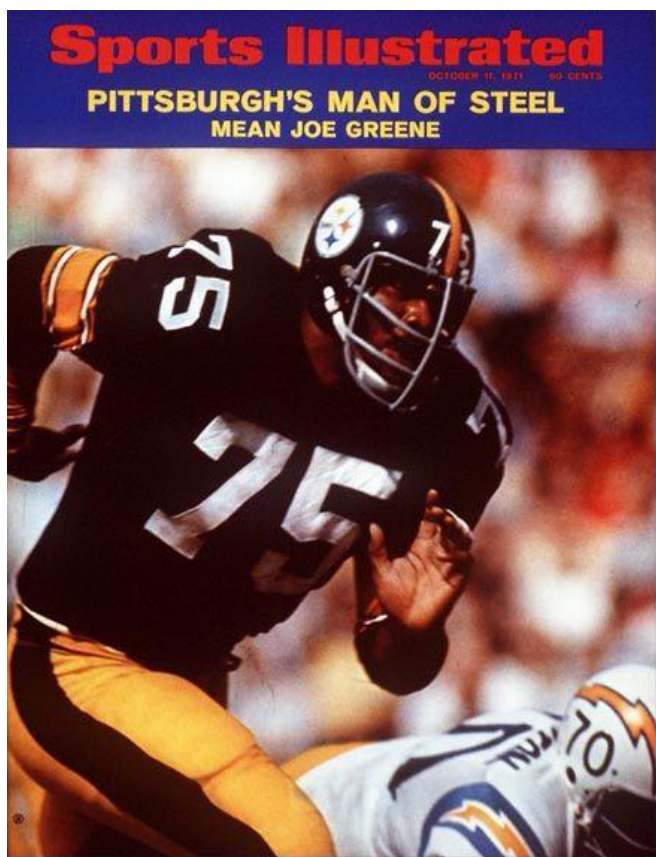
Finally, Pittsburgh hired a coach who could win and would stay and would not pick fights with management that would get him fired. Noll stayed through 1991, establishing coaching stability for the Steelers not seen in any other NFL franchises for the next 46 years. Since Noll's retirement, only Bill 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.

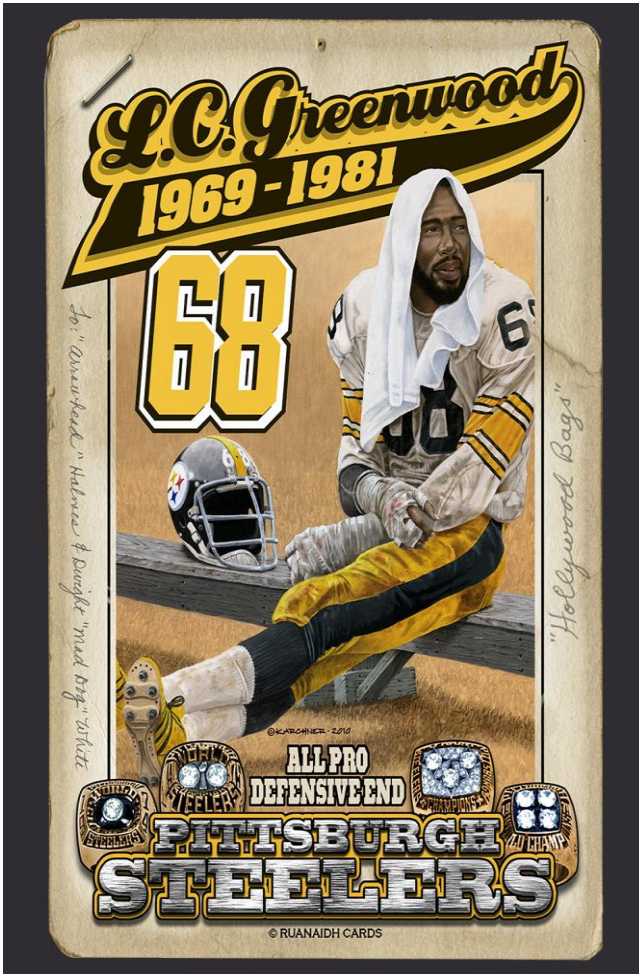
Top Steelers Players Joe Greene



Defensive Tackle (1969-81) Elected: 1987 The leader of the “Steel Curtain” defense during the 1970s, Joe Greene dominated the NFL during that decade and helped the Steelers to four Super Bowl victories. The team’s No. 1 draft pick in 1969, Greene quickly became a presence in the league as he was named the NFL’s Rookie of the Year and received the first of his 10

Pro Bowl invitations. He earned All-NFL honors five times and all-conference 11 straight years to begin his career. Greene was twice the league’s Defensive Player of the Year and played a critical role in the Steelers’ Super Bowl IX victory over the Minnesota Vikings with a pass interception and a fumble recovery

Top Steelers Players L.C. Greenwood



Defensive End While the Steel Curtain has become synonymous with the likes of “Mean” Joe Greene and Jack Lambert, L.C. Greenwood was another key cog on those dominant defenses.

Sacks weren’t a recorded stat in Greenwood’s playing days, but he’s been credited with 73.5 of them. That total’s just five less than the indomitable Greene was credited with for his career.

More importantly, Greenwood saved his best performances for the biggest moments. Unofficially, he recorded five sacks in his team’s four Super Bowl wins.

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.

Pittsburgh also upgraded its public presence. WTAE-TV sportscaster Myron Cope joined the Steelers radio network as color commentator

for the 1970 season. Cope remained a fixture of the Steelers radio network through the 2004 season. He quickly became beloved by fans due to his enthusiasm and catchphrases behind the announcing booth. In 1975, Cope invented the Terrible Towel, originally conceived as a gimmick in the Steelers playoff game against Baltimore and now, of course, a staple among Steelers fans.

Top Steelers Players Mel Blount



Cornerback (1970-'83)

Elected: 1989

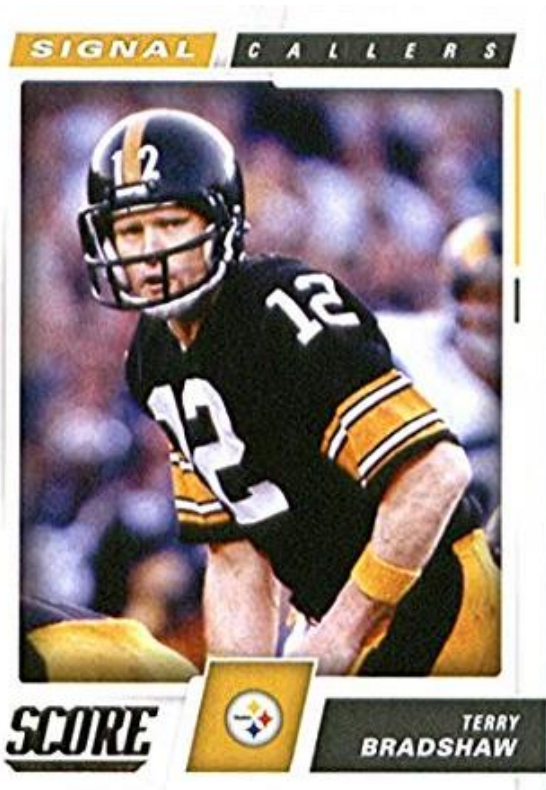
Melvin Cornell Blount, the Steelers' third-round pick in 1970, had superior size, speed, strength and intelligence. His physical style of play is widely credited for changing NFL pass defense rules.

Blount played 14 seasons and 200 regular-season games in Pittsburgh and his 57 interceptions remain a Steelers record.

Blount

played in five Pro Bowls and was named an All-Pro four times and the NFL defensive MVP in 1975.

Top Steelers Players Terry Bradshaw



Quarterback (1970-'83)
 Elected: 1989 Terry Paxton Bradshaw was the top-overall pick in the 1970 NFL Draft. Bradshaw led the Steelers to eight AFC Central division and four Super Bowl titles while calling his own plays. Bradshaw was named MVP in Super Bowls XIII and XIV and NFL MVP in 1978. Bradshaw finished his career with 27,989 yards passing and 212 TDs.

The following is from biography.com. Thank you

Bradshaw is the best!

He is a Television Personality, Football Player, Athlete (1948–)

Terry Bradshaw is one of the greatest quarterbacks in NFL history, Terry Bradshaw has spent much of his life playing, reporting and commenting on football.

Born on September 2, 1948, in Shreveport, Louisiana, professional football player Terry Bradshaw was named an All-American while playing for Louisiana Polytechnic Institute. The first player selected in the 1970 NFL draft, Bradshaw went to great success with the Pittsburgh Steelers. During his 14-year NFL career, he helped take

his team to the Super Bowl several times and rightfully earned four Super Bowl rings. Following his successful career, he became a leading television personality and analyst for the NFL.

He is a former professional football player on the Pittsburgh Steelers, a television host, an author and an actor. Terry Paxton Bradshaw was born on September 2, 1948, in Shreveport, Louisiana. One of the greatest quarterbacks in NFL history, Bradshaw has spent much of his life playing, reporting and commenting on football. He was named an All-American while playing for Louisiana Polytechnic Institute. The first player selected in the 1970 NFL draft, Bradshaw went to play for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Like many new players in the NFL, during his first few years, Bradshaw struggled to find his footing with the team. Some people made jokes about his intelligence, calling him "dumb" and the "Bayou Bumpkin," but in the 1974 season he showed his opponents and critics that he was a force to be reckoned with. Bradshaw helped lead the team to a Super Bowl victory over the Minnesota Vikings.

The next year, he and his teammates took on the Dallas Cowboys to win the Super Bowl again. These two teams faced off in 1978 for Super Bowl XIII, with Steelers winning by a narrow margin, 35 to 31. Bradshaw was selected as the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player and the NFL Player of the Year for his accomplishments on the field.

With an arm like a cannon, Bradshaw continued to succeed as quarterback of the Steelers. He won the Super Bowl MVP Award again in 1980 after helping his team defeat the Los Angeles Rams. Unfortunately, he began having difficulty with the muscles in one of his elbows. Bradshaw had surgery to correct the problem, but he returned before he was fully healthy and ended up with permanent damage. He retired after playing just one game in 1983.

Having been a guest commentator for CBS Sports over the years, Bradshaw became one of the network's game analysts. He eventually joined the staff of the show *The NFL Today*. After 10 years with CBS, Bradshaw jumped ship for Fox Sports in 1994. He became one of the co-hosts and analysts on *Fox NFL Sunday*. With a sharp

strategic mind and a warm sense of humor, Bradshaw has become one of football's most popular commentators.

In addition to his broadcast work, Bradshaw is an author, singer, actor and motivational speaker. He has written several best sellers, including *It's Only a Game* (2001). A born-again Christian, he has recorded gospel and country music, scoring a Top 10 hit with "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry," a cover of a song by Hank Williams. Bradshaw has also appeared in several films and television shows, including *Failure to Launch* (2006) with Matthew McConaughey and Sarah Jessica Parker. In addition, he travels the country each year, giving motivational speeches.

When I was with IBM, and he had first retired, we had these events at golf courses, and the company would arrange to have great people like Terry Bradshaw mingle with us during our rec time. A number of IBMers at the time, reported that Bradshaw played golf in their foursome, and he was as regular a guy as regular can be. I love their stories. Bradshaw is one of us.

Top Steelers Players Rocky Bleier

Heart of a Champion: The Story of Rocky Bleier
BY BRYN SWARTZ, DECEMBER 27, 2008

Rocky Bleier's story is one of the most gripping tales of courage and determination that I have ever heard. Had Bleier been a Philadelphia Eagle, he would probably be my favorite athlete of all time. As it is, he is still one of my heroes, despite playing for a franchise I despise—the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Robert Bleier was born in 1946 but earned the nickname "Rocky" as a baby when his dad used to bring people over to the crib to see his newborn "rock." Someone came up with the nickname, and it stuck.

Bleier played running back and defensive back in high school, earning All-State honors three times on offense and All-Conference twice on defense.



Rocky Bleier

Bleier accepted a scholarship to Notre Dame, where he led the Fighting Irish to the National Championship in 1966. His teammate and quarterback, Terry Hanratty, would later be his teammate on the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Bleier wasn't drafted until the 16th round of the 1968 NFL draft—the 417th overall pick—by the Pittsburgh Steelers. He received very little playing time as a rookie, carrying just six times for 39 yards, and catching three passes for 68 yards, including a 54-yard screen pass. He also returned six kickoffs and two punts.

Bleier was drafted into the United States Army in December of 1968, as his rookie season was ending. He shipped out to Vietnam after five months and served with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

On August 20, 1969, Bleier was on a routine patrol in Heip Duic when his platoon was ambushed in a rice paddy, wounding his left thigh. He was also seriously injured when an enemy grenade sent shrapnel into his right leg.

Bleier was sent to a hospital in Tokyo to ensure proper treatment. While recovering from his injuries, he was informed by doctors that he would never play professional football again.

Bleier says he remembers walking the streets late at night, crying because his world was completely turned upside down. As he says, "Playing football was the only thing I knew how to do."

Then something happened that changed Bleier's life forever. He received a postcard from Art Rooney, the owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers. The postcard read "Rock—the team's not doing well. We need you. Art Rooney."

Bleier had a great deal of respect for Art Rooney.

"When you have somebody take the time and interest to send you a postcard, something that they didn't have to do, you have a special place for those kinds of people," he said.

Bleier reported to the Steelers' training camp one year after being wounded. He weighed 180 pounds, having lost 30 pounds in a year. He couldn't even walk without being in pain and, not surprisingly, didn't earn a spot on the Steelers' roster.

Bleier spent two full seasons trying to gain a spot on the active roster and was waived twice by the organization.

But he never gave up. He worked for five to six hours a day to get himself into supreme physical shape.

"Some time in the future you won't have to ask yourself 'what if?'" said Bleier of his hard work habits. "I didn't lose a leg. I didn't lose a foot. I was going to come back and play. That was my desire. I wasn't going to go back and run my daddy's bar."

Bleier finally made the Steelers' roster in 1971. He played in six games, but only on special teams.

"It was enough to get credit for the year," said Bleier.

Bleier played in all 14 games in 1972, but again mostly played on special teams. He carried the ball one time—for 17 yards but fumbled at the end of his run.

He played in 13 of the 14 games in 1973. He carried the ball three times but gained zero yards rushing. He also fumbled twice, meaning he fumbled on three of his first four carries in the National Football League.

And after the season ended, Bleier made the hardest decision of his entire life. He decided to quit professional football.

Then he got a call from Andy Russell, a linebacker for the Steelers, inviting him to a pro football players dinner. Bleier rejected the invitation, telling Russell that he had decided not to come back to professional football.

“You can't quit, Rock. You've got to come back,” said Russell to Bleier. “You go back to camp and you make them make a decision as to whether to keep you or cut you. Don't make it easy for them.”

Rocky Bleier reported to training camp in 1974.

In 1974, Bleier finally received some playing time at running back. He carried the ball 88 times for 373 yards (4.2 yards per rush) and two touchdowns. More importantly, he only fumbled two times.

The Steelers finished first in the AFC Central Division and won Super Bowl IX, during which Bleier carried the ball 17 times for 65 yards against one of the greatest defensive lines in NFL history—the Purple People Eaters.

Bleier began to earn national recognition for his comeback. He appeared on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* on June 9, 1975, with the headline, “Rocky Bleier's War: A Pro Football Player in Vietnam.”

Bleier made the first 11 starts of his NFL career during the regular season, at the ripe old age of 29.

He rushed for 528 yards and two touchdowns while leading the Steelers to a second consecutive Super Bowl victory. He rushed for 51 yards in the 21-17 victory against the Dallas Cowboys.

The greatest season of Rocky's career occurred in 1976. At an age when most running backs have hung up their cleats for good, Rocky rushed for 1036 yards and five touchdowns (4.7 yards per rush).

He did all this despite not making a single start. He joined teammate Franco Harris as the second set of teammates to each rush for 1000 yards in the same season and earned a reputation as one of the best blocking backs in the league.

Bleier began to show his age in 1977 and 1978. Although he carried 300 times, he gained only 1098 yards. He did score 10 touchdowns, but his 12 fumbles were cause for concern. He did lead the Steelers to a third Super Bowl victory in 1978. His touchdown reception in Super Bowl XIII proved to be the winning score in a 35-31 defeat of the Dallas Cowboys.

Bleier led the Steelers to an unprecedented fourth Super Bowl victory after the 1979 season. He rebounded to set career highs in rushing average (4.7) and receptions (31). He also scored the longest touchdown of his career, a 70-yard romp.

Bleier retired after the 1980 season, at the age of 34. He retired as the Steelers' fourth-leading rusher, with 3865 rushing yards. He scored 30 touchdowns in his 11-year career—25 in the regular season, four in the playoffs, and one in the Super Bowl.

Bleier played in 14 postseason games in his NFL career. His teams won 13 of them. They cemented their legacy as the most dominant dynasty in the history of the National Football League.

Almost 30 years after his final game, Rocky Bleier remains one of the most popular players in the history of Pittsburgh sports. He wrote a book called *Fighting Back: The Rocky Bleier Story*, which was made into a TV movie in 1980.

Bleier currently tours the United States, talking to high school students as a motivational speaker.

Bleier epitomizes what it means to truly have the heart of a champion. By never giving up, no matter the odds or the enemy, Bleier proved that ordinary people can become extraordinary achievers.

From winning the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, to finally earning a spot on the Steelers roster, to earning four Super Bowl rings, Rocky Bleier proved that he is truly the definition of success in the 20th century.

Amen!

1971 Chuck Noll #14

The 1971 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their thirtieth 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.

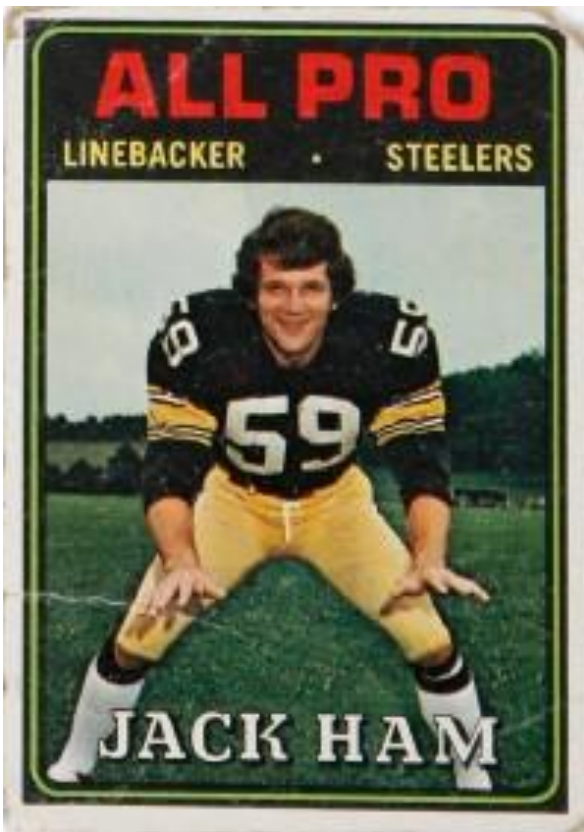
Terry Bradshaw, the #1 draftee struggled with turnovers in his second season. He threw 22 interceptions to 13 touchdown passes. Bradshaw is a smart guy and he knew this would not do so I suspect he knew he had to cut off some of the fun and practice his game. Just saying!

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.

Top Steelers Players Jack Ham



Linebacker (1971-82)
Elected: 1988 Playing all 12 seasons of his NFL career with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Jack Ham earned All-Pro or All-AFC honors in seven consecutive seasons (1973-79). He also was selected to play in eight straight Pro Bowls and was named the Football News Defensive Player of the Year in 1975. Ham won the starting linebacker job as a rookie and never looked back, playing in five AFC

Championship games and three Super Bowls

(sat out Super Bowl XIV due to injuries). His interception return against Oakland in the 1974 AFC Championship game that set up the Steelers' go-ahead touchdown, giving the team its first ever championship victory and a berth in Super Bowl IX.

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.

Top Steelers Players Franco Harris

Running Back (1972-'83) Elected: 1990 Franco Harris is the Steelers' all-time leading rusher with 11,950 yards and all-time leader in rushing touchdowns (91). Harris, the Steelers' first-round pick in 1972, was a big-power back who was on the receiving end of the "Immaculate Reception", which is widely recognized as the greatest play in NFL history. Harris was named Super Bowl IX MVP, after rushing for a then-record 158 yards and a touchdown.

From the pro football hall of fame site re Franco Harris:

"A player should not be measured by statistics alone. He should be measured by something more special, such as the sharing of teammates and fans.



Franco Harris began his pro football career as the Pittsburgh Steelers' No.1 pick and the 13th player selected in the 1972 NFL Draft. For 12 seasons, the 6-2, 230-pounder from Penn State was a big-yardage running back, a key man in the powerful Pittsburgh offensive machine, which also included an outstanding passing attack.

Harris established himself as a future superstar when he became only the fourth rookie in NFL annals to rush for 1,000 yards. He

gained additional attention by being on the receiving end of the famous "Immaculate Reception" pass from Terry Bradshaw that gave the Steelers their first-ever playoff win, a 13-7 victory over the Oakland Raiders. In his 13 seasons, the last of which was spent with the Seattle Seahawks in 1984, Harris rushed 2,949 times for 12,120 yards and 91 touchdowns.

He rushed for 1,000 yards or more eight seasons and for more than 100 yards in 47 games. He also caught 307 passes for 2,287 yards and nine touchdowns. His career rushing total and his combined net yardage figure of 14,622 both ranked as the third highest marks in pro football history at the time of his retirement.

Harris, who was born in Fort Dix, New Jersey, on March 7, 1950, was an All-AFC choice in 1972, 1975, 1976, and 1977 and first- or second-team All-Pro six times. He was selected to nine Pro Bowls. Franco played in five AFC championships – missing a sixth because of injury – and four Super Bowls.

In Super Bowl IX, when the Steelers won their first-ever league title with a 16-6 victory over Minnesota, Harris rushed for 158 yards, compared to just 17 yards rushing for the entire Viking team. He was named the game's Most Valuable Player. Harris held numerous Super Bowl and postseason game records by the end of his career. The most notable included 24 points and 354 yards rushing in four Super Bowls and 17 touchdowns and 1,556 yards rushing in 19 postseason playoff games.

--- End of Top Steeler

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.

Divisional Playoffs December 23, 1972

AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 13, Oakland Raiders 7

AFC Conference Championship Dec 31, 1972

Miami Dolphins 21, Pittsburgh Steelers 17

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.

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).

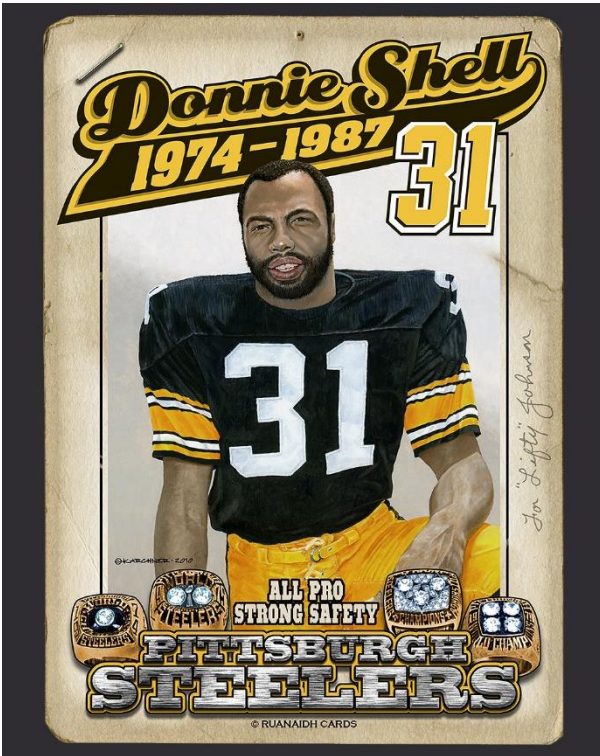
Hanratty blew his chance however, by playing horribly in Cleveland, the Pittsburgh major nemesis from across the water. The offense was struggling. Nonetheless, the Steelers were winning and had won those tough games behind a not quite yet mature Steel Curtain defense.

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.

Top Steelers Players Donnie Shell

Safety... Shell was a five-time Pro Bowler between 1978 and 1982, a 4-time All-Pro selection, and was the Steelers team MVP in 1980. He saved several possible six points in Super Bowl XIII and Super Bowl XIV.



He had been in the top fifteen in balloting for the Pro Football Hall of Fame once before, in 2002 but with no success.] The Professional Football Researchers Association named Shell to the PRFA Hall of Very Good Class of 2013

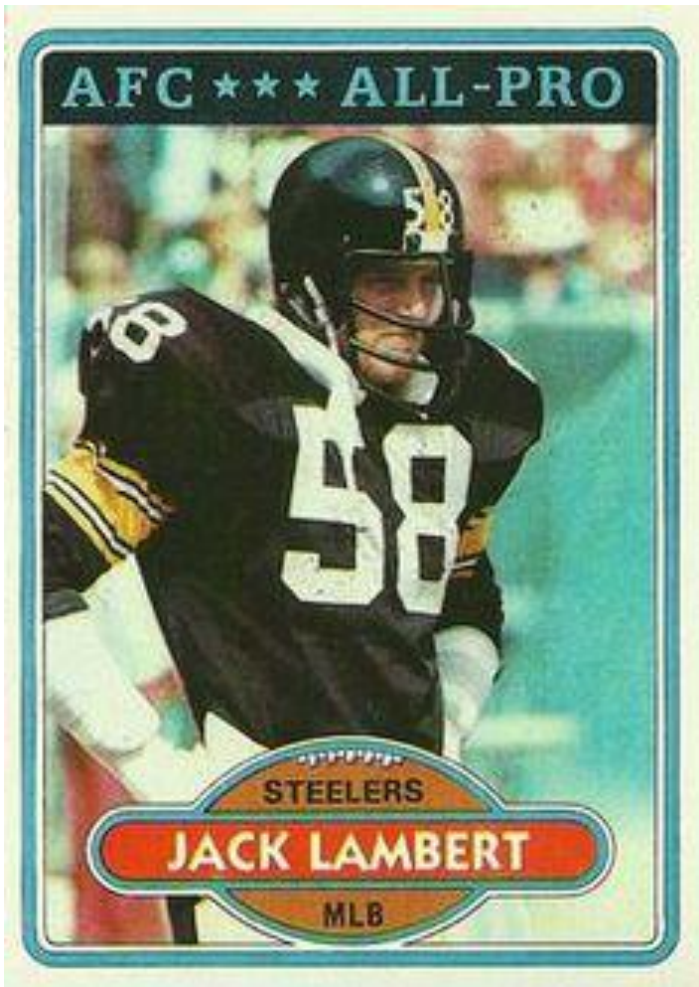
Shell resides in Rock Hill, South Carolina and was the Carolina Panthers Director of Player Development from 1994 to 2009. With the lone exception of former

Steelers safety Mike Logan, who grew up in McKeesport, Pennsylvania just outside Pittsburgh, Shell's number 31 has not been reissued by the team.

He played in 201 games for the Steelers, second only to Hall of Fame Center Mike Webster (who played in 220).

Top Steelers Player Jack Lambert

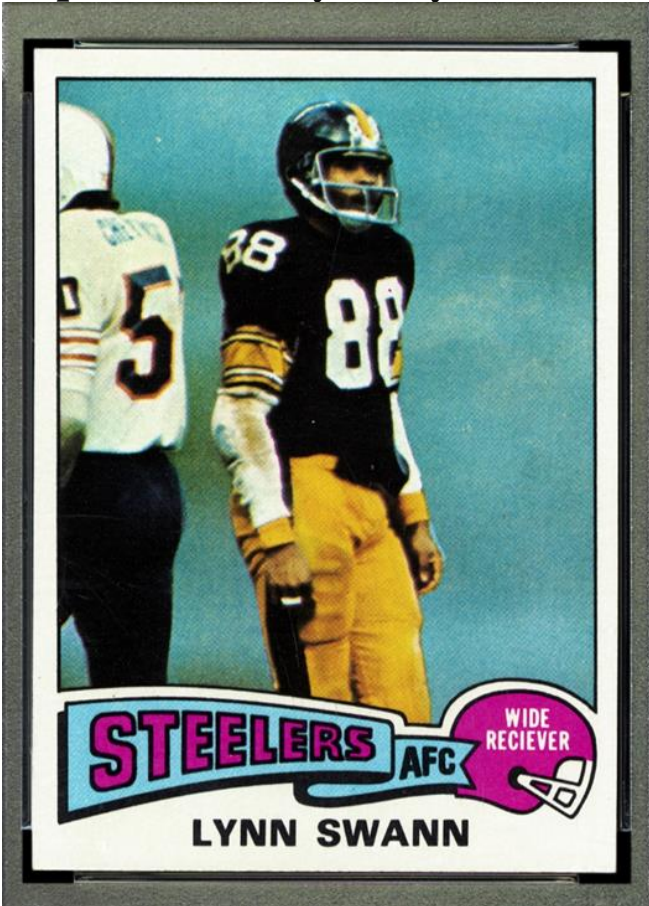
Linebacker (1974-'84) Elected: 1990 John Harold Lambert was a two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year, eight-time All-Pro and nine-time Pro-Bowler.



He led the team in tackles in every season except his last, when he missed extensive action due to a severe toe injury that forced him to retire.

Lambert, the Steelers' second-round draft pick in 1974, was noted for his vicious tackling and is recognized as the premier linebacker of his era.

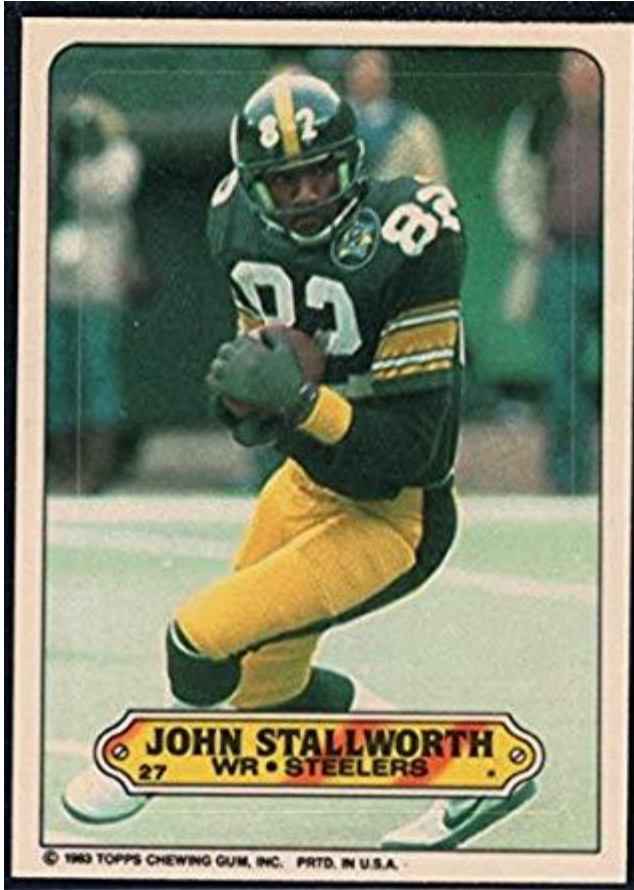
Top Steelers Players Lynn Swann



Wide Receiver
(1974-'82)
Elected: 2001
Lynn Curtis Swann was the Steelers' first-round draft pick in 1974. Swann filled the highlight reels with his graceful moves and leaping ability. Swann was at his best in the team's biggest games and earned MVP honors for his performance in Super Bowl X when he caught four passes for 161 yards and a TD. Swann finished his career with 336

receptions for 5,462 yards and 51 TDs.

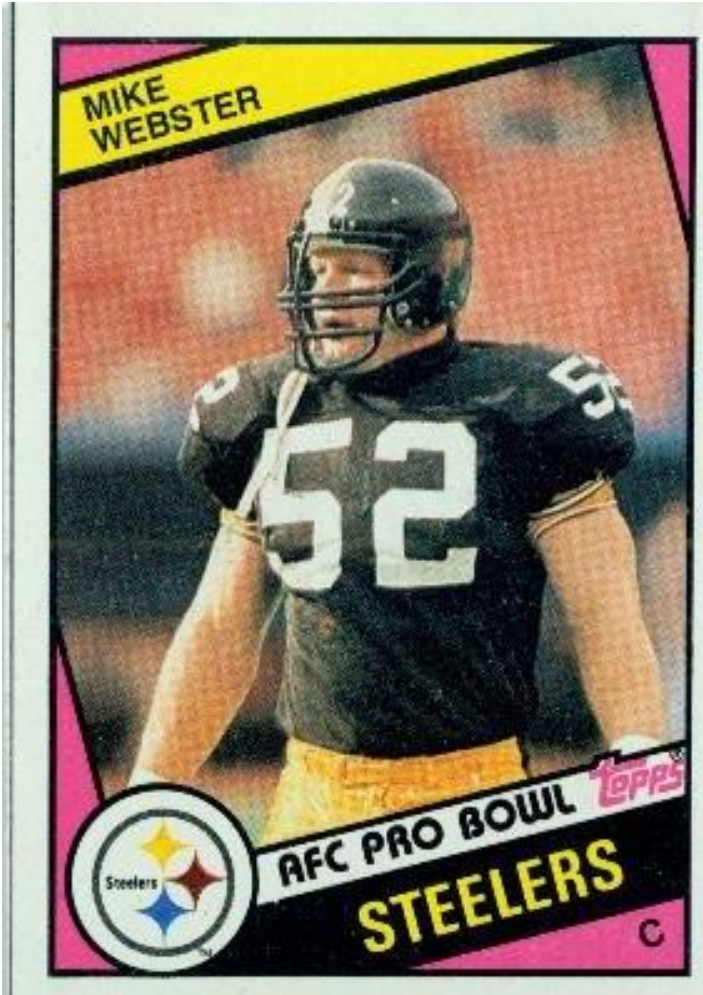
Top Steelers Player John Stallworth



Wide Receiver (1974-'87) Elected: 2002 Johnny Lee Stallworth was the Steelers' fourth-round draft pick in 1974. He had 12 postseason touchdown catches and 17-consecutive postseason games with a reception. Stallworth set Super Bowl records for career average-per-catch (24.4 yards) and for single-game average (40.3), set in Super Bowl XIV. A two-time team MVP, Stallworth retired as the Steelers' all-time leader in

receptions (537) yards (8,723) 100-yards receiving games (25) and receiving TDs (63)

Top Steelers Players Mike Webster



Center (1974-'88) Elected: 1997
 Michael Lewis
 Webster spent his first 15 NFL seasons in a Steelers uniform. Webster was the leader of one of the most dominant offensive lines of his era. Webster was very durable, missing only six games in his first 16 seasons while playing in 150 consecutive games.

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.

Divisional Playoffs Dec 27 1975

Steelers 28, Colts, 10

AFC Championship Game Jan 4, 1976

Steelers 16, Raiders 10

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.

There was some controversy injected when the Cowboys safety Cliff Harris made a statement that Lynn Swann was not the only Steeler who was challenged.

The game got off to a fast start with the Cowboys scoring quickly on a 29-yard pass to #88 Drew Pearson. The Steel Curtain were back on their heels as they had not previously allowed a first quarter touchdown all year. Swann's presence in the game was quickly noted when he made a leaping sideline catch over Cowboys CB

Mark Washington. Later, Swan made another catch that is often repeated by NFL Films as one of the greatest catches in NFL History. Bradshaw threw it deep to Swann who was covered very well by Washington again. However, when the ball was batted, it began to fall. As the ball and Swann were falling, he was able to stick his hands up and grab it with Washington underneath him. What a play.

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.

Roger Staubach was sacked seven times for a loss of 42 yards. When the third quarter resumed, Cowboys' safety Cliff Harris began to taunt Steelers kicker #10, Roy Gerela. Jack Lambert, seeing this, ran over and threw Harris to the ground. It became a crucial moment in the game - a huge momentum shift.

Kicker Roy Gerela's ribs were hurting from a game saving tackle he had made earlier in the game and so he was not at his best. , Cliff Harris was mouthing off, and Jack Lambert had seen enough. The first half of Super Bowl X was not kind to Gerela, the Steelers kicker. After Dallas ran a reverse on the opening kickoff, Gerela found himself as the last Steeler that could stop Thomas Henderson from recording the first kickoff return for a touchdown in Super Bowl history. Gerela made the tackle but paid for it by suffering badly bruised ribs that would affect his kicking for the remainder of the game.

Immediately, Harris began to play the victim, and he lobbied for the official to throw Lambert out. After convincing the official to let him remain in the game, Lambert, in NFL Films broadcaster John Facandae's words used the altercation to "psyche himself into an even higher level of rage. With Joe Greene injured, Lambert became the symbol of Steeler muscle, shifting and rooting through blockers until he found the ball-carrier, which Lambert found 14 times in Super Bowl X."

Eventually things turned a bit for the Steelers as Mike Wagner's pick helped the Steelers to their first lead. Midway through the 4th

quarter, ahead 15-10, Pittsburgh struck again deep from their own territory. This was a brilliant, long touchdown pass from Bradshaw to Lynn Swann. However, it came at a cost, as Bradshaw was shaken up and forced to leave the game.

A Dallas touchdown then cut their lead to 4. When #5 Terry Hanratty took over, Chuck Noll made a bold and unusual decision. He turned the game over to the Steel curtain minus Joe Greene. On 4th and 9, the Steelers ran the ball up the middle, giving the ball back to the Cowboys near mid-field. It was clearly the faith Noll had in his defense that caused this decision. With just three seconds left, the Cowboys were not dead yet, but close. They had one last chance and threw a pass into the end-zone.

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 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.

Divisional Playoffs Dec 17, 1976

Steelers 40, Colts 14

Conference Championship December 26, 1976

Raiders 24 Steelers 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.

Playoffs: 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

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.

1978 Divisional playoffs December 30, 1978 AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 33, Denver Broncos 10

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

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.

After John Banaszak recovered Tony Dorsett's fumble on the game's first drive, the Steelers quickly took a 7-0 lead, as John Stallworth pulled down a nice 28-yard pass from Terry Bradshaw.

After falling behind 14-7, after Bradshaw's 75-yard TD pass to John Stallworth tied the score at 14-14 in the second quarter.

The game progressed and Mel Blount intercepted Roger Staubach, Following the pick, Bradshaw's TD pass to Rocky Bleier gave Pittsburgh a nice 21-14 halftime lead but Dallas was not done for the day.

Dallas got a field goal on the way to the fourth quarter and with Pittsburgh leading 21-17 late in the fourth quarter, Franco Harris broke through on a 22-yard scamper giving the Steelers an 11-point advantage.

Two controversial penalties early in the fourth quarter paved the way for the Steelers to score 14 unanswered points. The game moved quickly after this TD as Pittsburgh got the ball back again. Just 11 seconds after Franco's TD run, Terry Bradshaw fired what proved to be the game-clinching touchdown, pass to Lynn Swann as

The Steelers' had a lead of 35-17 with less than 7 minutes left in the game. The touchdown was Bradshaw's last pass of the game.

Some of the Steelers were already celebrating victory on the sidelines, but the Cowboys refused to give up. On their next drive, Dallas drove 89 yards in 8 plays, including an 18-yard scramble by Staubach on 3rd and 11 and a 29-yard run by Dorsett, to score on Staubach's 7-yard touchdown pass to DuPree.

Then after Dallas' Dennis Thurman recovered an onside kick at 2:19, Drew Pearson caught 2 passes for gains of 22 and 25 yards (the second catch on 4th down and 18) as the Cowboys drove 52 yards in 9 plays to score on Staubach's 4-yard touchdown pass to Butch Johnson. With the ensuing extra point, the Steelers' lead was cut to 35-31 with just 0:22 left in the game. It still felt like it was over. But Staubach kept them going.

The Cowboys' second onside kick attempt was unsuccessful. Bleier recovered the ball, and the Steelers were able to run out the clock to win the game.

Pittsburgh had prevailed in the Super Bowl to become the first NFL team to win three Super-Bowl titles. And, so, on to 1979 with the Noll / Bradshaw dynasty.

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 and 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.

Divisional Playoffs December 30, 1979

AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 34, Miami Dolphins 14

AFC Championship January 6, 1980

Pittsburgh Steelers 27, Houston Oilers 13

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.

Nobody was giving anything up to Pittsburgh. Anything they got, they had to earn. Vince Ferragamo, a fine QB took the next possession to complete the beginning of 15 of 25 passes for 212 yards. In this scenario, he responded with a 50-yard pass to Billy Waddy that moved Los Angeles from its 26 to the Steelers' 24. Ferragamo was looking to get the ball past the goal line.

On the following play, Lawrence McCutcheon connected with Ron Smith on a halfback option pass that gave the Rams a 19-17 lead. Could Pittsburgh possibly lose this Super Bowl attempted win? The answer was forthcoming. On the Steeler's initial set of downs in the 4th quarter, Bradshaw still knew how to pass. He lofted a 73-yard scoring pass to John Stallworth to put the Steelers in front to stay 24-19. What a deal for an NFL team to have Terry Bradshaw and Lance Stallworth able to play catch with each other.

Franco Harris loved to add to the mix. He scored on a 1-yard run later in the quarter to seal the verdict. It began with a 45-yard pass from Bradshaw to Stallworth setting the ball up on the ONE. Harris only needed to get the ball to score.

Bradshaw, was announced as the game's most valuable player for the second straight year. He was as good as it could get. He set career Super Bowl records for most touchdown passes (9) and most passing yards (932). Terry Bradshaw does not look to beat records. He looks to ignore records for or against to get that ball past the goal line as often as possible to assure victory.

Larry Anderson gave the Steelers excellent field position throughout the game with five kickoff returns for a record 162 yards.

There was not a Pittsburgh Steeler on the field or on the bench or in the locker room or in upper management who did not feel that participated in this fine Super Bowl XIV Victory. Pittsburgh would be in the running forever for more Super Bowls.

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.

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.

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 1982. 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.

January 9, 1983 Conference Playoff Game Wild Card: Pittsburgh 28 v. San Diego Chargers 31

Chapter 11 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				
Year	Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.
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.

Un fortunately 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.

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.

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

1986 Chuck Noll #14

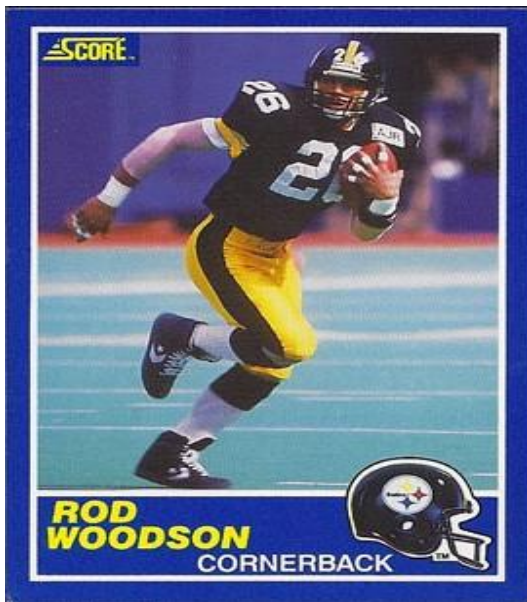
The 1986 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their fifty-fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Chuck Noll in his eighteenth of twenty-three seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined further this year from 7-9 in 1985 to 6-10 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.

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.

Top Steelers Players Rod Woodson



Cornerback (1987-'96)
Elected: 2009 Roderick
Kevin Woodson was the Steelers' first-round draft pick in 1987. He was the 1993 NFL Defensive Player of the Year and a member of the NFL's 75th anniversary team. A three-time team MVP, Woodson ranks fourth in team history with 38 interceptions. Woodson was selected to seven Pro Bowls, six AP All-Pro teams and was named to the 1990s All-Decade team.

He returned five interceptions, two punts and two kickoffs for scores

The Replacement Players

On the Steelers: Tales of 1987 strike

Post-Gazette archives

ED BOUCHETTEPITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Mar 13, 2011 9:00 AM

Two games into the 1987 season, the NFL Players Association called a strike and Art Rooney Sr. called me into his office.

A press conference was being held down the hall, but the Chief waylaid me as I rushed toward the press room to grab a pen, paper and tape recorder.

"I want to talk to you," he said.

I tried to tell him I had to go to the press conference to learn what the Steelers' plans were during the strike.

"This is more important," he said sternly.

So I entered his office with none of my reporting tools. He gave me a pen and some pages from his personal stationary -- gold paper -- and told me to take notes.

Art Rooney went on to tell me that the strike would ruin football and explained why. I still have the notes on his stationary, but of course it did not ruin football. The strike eventually prompted a collective bargaining agreement that helped foster labor peace until, maybe, now.

Still, it was one big story the next day in the Post-Gazette, the first of many during the last NFL labor strife, which really did not last long. One game was canceled and then three more were played with "replacement" players. It remains perhaps the most

unique season in NFL history because of it. Guys off the street playing next to Hall of Famers like Mike Webster.

The strike of 1987 even produced a bad movie -- "The Replacements," which could not hold a candle to what actually went on around the NFL during that one month.

The collective bargaining agreement had run out and there was little progress made toward a new one. The players' main goal during that time was to get some sort of free agency, and ownership stiffened on that topic. So, the players walked out. It ultimately led to a new CBA, free agency and the salary cap with a not-so-gentle push from a federal judge overseeing the case. Tunch Ilkin was the Steelers' union rep at the time, and it was my third season covering the team for the Post-Gazette.

Unlike some teams that had their heads stuck in the sand, the Steelers had prepared for the possibility of a strike and the NFL's determination to continue playing games with what NFLPA called scabs.

The Steelers held a replacement training camp in Johnstown, far enough from Pittsburgh that their striking players never came around to cause trouble -- except for one Saturday in which they drove up in a convoy and almost laughingly walked a picket line. Dan Rooney helped diffuse the situation by secretly giving Ilkin a key to the grass practice field outside Three Rivers Stadium and telling him to "keep the team together." The real Steelers practiced there throughout the five-week strike.

The Steelers stayed at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown for their two-week strike camp. The writers stayed there, too. The team's personnel people did a good job of lining up available players to play, and while many were not of NFL caliber, some were and remained on the team after the strike ended.

They did not allow the media into practices for the first three days nor let us know which players they had signed. So, the writers decided to use our collective resources to come up with as many names as possible and put together our own roster. We fanned out and compiled a Steelers replacement roster.

Every time we bumped into what looked like a football player at the Holiday Inn, we'd ask where he was from, what position he played and how big he was. I once slipped into an elevator with a guy who looked to me like he was the quarterback and on the ride up got all the info on Steve Bono I needed.

We wound up publishing a pretty complete roster, to the Steelers' surprise.

With word that practices would be closed for the first three days to us, the ingenuity flowed again. They held practices at the old baseball/football field in Johnstown's Point Stadium. Johnstown's Incline ran up the hill near the stadium, and a few writers took that to the top with binoculars to try to watch practice, including one from the old Pittsburgh Press. That newspaper also hired a helicopter to fly overhead to take photos.

A few of us took a different approach. Bob Labriola, then of the Greensburg Tribune-Review and now with the Steelers, and I scouted spots outside the stadium on the first day of closed practice. We noticed a handful of people on a third-floor porch across the street from the stadium watching practice. They invited us up.

There, we had a clear view of everything the Steelers were doing because the only barrier was a wall about 12 to 15 feet high. We were 30 feet above and right across the street with our binoculars. A Post-Gazette photographer joined us and the next day the newspaper had great photos and a good report of what was going on behind the almost-closed doors at the Steelers' replacement practices.

We watched practices from that vantage point until the Steelers finally opened them up to us. At one point as we watched practice through binoculars, Chuck Noll looked up and saw us and gave us a little wave of the hand.

As you might imagine, that band of replacement players was a pretty diverse bunch. The first day of open practice, we followed the players as they walked several blocks from the Holiday Inn to

Point Stadium. One of them be-bopped along the way to the music on his Walkman. Problem is, he never took the thing off once they got onto the field.

This was a walk-through practice and the players were mostly in street clothes. As Noll spoke to his team on the field, the player still listened to his Walkman and not to Noll. I was chatting with the replacement kicker, David Trout, and mentioned it to him. Trout excused himself, walked over to the player and said a few words. The player sheepishly put the Walkman away.

One player the Steelers signed had been the fullback in high school in Passaic, N.J., for Craig "Ironhead" Heyward, the former Pitt player and 11-year NFL back who died of a brain tumor in 2006. His son, Cameron, will follow him into the league in next month's draft as the fine defensive end at Ohio State.

Heyward's fullback -- can't recall his name -- regaled us with stories about Ironhead and how they could not find a helmet big enough for him back in midget football. He said at one point they put a helmet on top of his head.

This was the kind of eclectic collection of players the Steelers strung together and somehow came up with a team to compete in three NFL replacement games. Several of their real players crossed the picket line to play -- led by Webster, who reported to Johnstown along with halfback Earnest Jackson before the first strike game. Later, John Stallworth and Donnie Shell joined them. So, two Hall of Famers, Webster and Stallworth, played in those games. Stallworth even caught his 500th NFL pass in a replacement game. He finished with 41 catches that season, his last, and finished his career with 537 -- the Steelers record until Hines Ward came along and obliterated it.

No one knows where the current labor strife will take everyone, but it won't take the Steelers to Johnstown and it won't produce any fun stories the way it did 24 years ago.

--- End of article --- First Published March 13, 2011, 5:00am

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, St. 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.

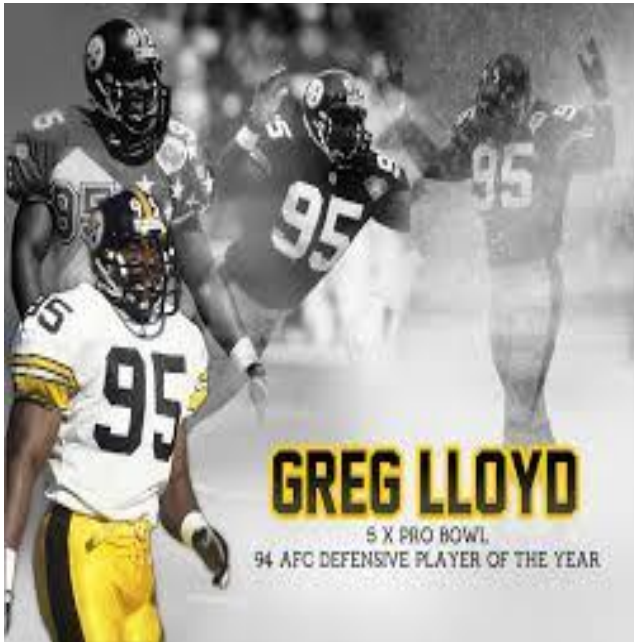
The 1988 squad never got off the dime. After winning their home opener against the Dallas Cowboys, the team lost 6 straight, their first 6 game losing streak since 1969. They never recovered after the skid, and at one point fell to a 2-10 record after a 27-7 loss to the Cleveland Browns.

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.

Top Steeler Players Greg Lloyd



Linebacker--Before Joey Porter and James Harrison, it was Greg Lloyd mean-mugging his way into the hearts of Steelers Nation. Like those men, Lloyd was known for providing big hits and shocking quotes in equal measure.

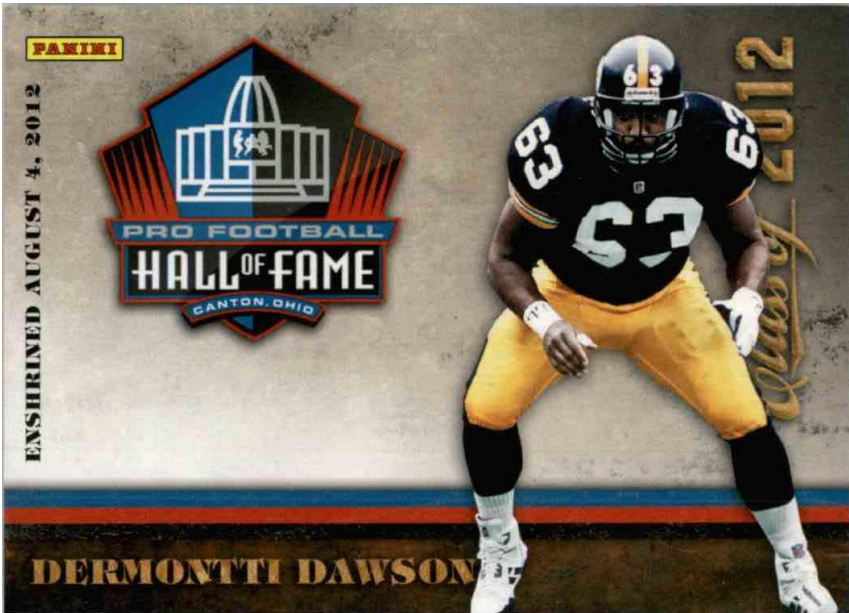
Between the 1991 and '95 seasons, Lloyd tallied 37 sacks and garnered

five Pro Bowl bids. A 10-sack season in 1994 earned him the honor of the UPI's AFC Defensive Player of the Year award.

Lloyd, the unquestioned leader of the great "Blitzburgh" defenses in the 1990s, was known for wearing a shirt that read, "I wasn't hired for my disposition."

Truer words were never written.

Top Steelers Players Dermontti Dawson



Guard. Dawson was selected by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the second round of the 1988 NFL Draft. In his rookie season he played guard alongside Hall of Fame center Mike Webster. When Webster left the team following that season, Dawson succeeded him as the starting center. He soon became one of the most respected players among the Steelers, and one of the best in the league at his position. He earned the name "Dirt" for the way he would try to grind defenders into the ground. In contrast, his friendly off-field demeanor led to a second nickname, Ned Flanders, after the annoyingly cheerful character from *The Simpsons*.

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.

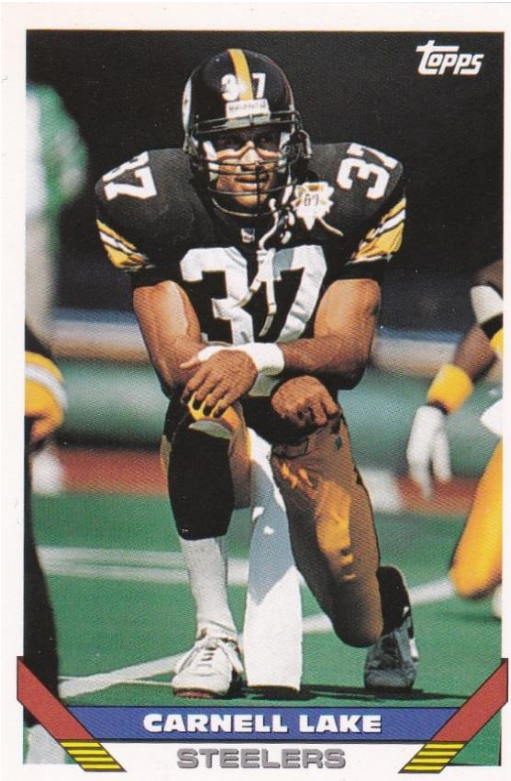
Nonetheless, the Steelers came back and snagged the final playoff spot in the last week in the season with a 9–7 record. Chuck Noll, operating in his 21st year as head coach, was named the NFL's Coach of the Year for the only time in his coaching career. Ironically the four Super Bowls had not swayed 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 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.

Top Steelers Players Carnell Lake



Defensive Back... As a defensive back, Lake played 12 seasons in the NFL from 1989 to 2001 for the Pittsburgh Steelers, Jacksonville Jaguars, and Baltimore Ravens.

As a rookie, Lake started 15 of 16 games and led the Steelers with 5 fumble recoveries.

He was a 5-time Pro Bowl selection. Over the course of his career he recorded 25 quarterback sacks, intercepted 16 passes, recovered 17 fumbles, and scored 5 defensive touchdowns. In 1997, Lake

received a vote for MVP from Sports Illustrated writer Peter King, which created a situation where Barry Sanders and Brett Favre tied for the award that season.

AFC Wild Card Playoffs Dec 31, 1989
Pittsburgh Steelers 26, Houston Oilers 23 (OT)

AFC Division Championship January 7, 1990:
Denver Broncos 24, Pittsburgh Steelers 23

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.

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.

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.

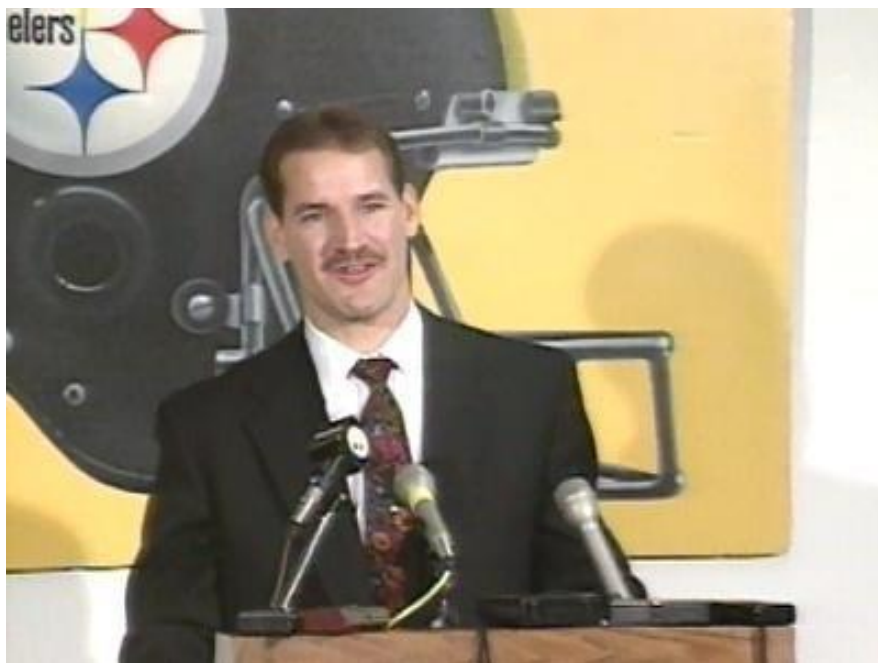
He never once glanced at the four Super Bowl trophies in the lobby as he passed within feet of them. They are his footprints.

Chapter 12 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	NFLAFCCentral	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	NFLAFCCentral	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	NFLAFCCentral	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	NFLAFCCentral	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	NFLAFCCentral	1st	10 6 0	.625
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Wild Card Playoffs(Colts) 42–14 • Lost Divisional Playoffs(Patriots) 28–3 				

• 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						
Year Coach	League/Conf/Div	Pl	Record	Pct.		
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.

Divisional Playoffs January 9, 1993

AFC Central: Buffalo Bills 24, Pittsburgh Steelers 3

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.

Wild Card Playoffs January 8, 1994

AFC Central: KC Chiefs 27, Pittsburgh Steelers 24 (OT)

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.

Divisional Playoffs January 7, 1995[edit]

AFC Central: Pittsburgh Steelers 29, Cleveland Browns 9

Conference championship January 15, 1995

AFC Championship: Chargers 17, Steelers 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.

Divisional Playoffs January 6, 1996

AFC Central: Pittsburgh Steelers 40, Buffalo Bills 21

Conference Championship January 14, 1996

AFC Championship: Steelers 20, Colts 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 was their first Super Bowl loss in team history.

Unlike many games, the QB was not the MVP this year. Instead it was Dallas' Larry Brown, a 12th-round draft pick. He became the

first cornerback to gain the honor by recording two interceptions in the second half, (game difference), which the Cowboys converted into two touchdowns to prevent a Steelers comeback.

Dallas had a 13–0 lead in the second quarter before Pittsburgh scored with 13 seconds left in the half to cut the Cowboys' lead six points (13-7). Midway through the 3rd quarter, Brown made his first interception and brought it back 44 yards to the Pittsburgh 18-yard line. This set up Emmitt Smith's 1-yard touchdown run. The Steelers then rallied to cut their deficit to 20–17 in the 4th quarter. However, Brown got his second pick on the Steelers' next drive, and he brought it back 33 yards to the Steelers 6-yard line, setting up Emmett Smith's 4-yard rushing touchdown.

The NBC television broadcast averaged 95.13 million people in the United States, breaking the then-record for most watched sporting event ever on American television, and the second-most watched program of all, trailing only the final episode of M*A*S*H.[6]

Sometimes it is good to get another perspective on a game. The following recap is from NFL.COM:

Cornerback Larry Brown's 2 interceptions led to 14 second-half points and helped lift the Cowboys to their third Super Bowl victory in the last four seasons and their record-tying fifth title overall. Brown's interceptions foiled the comeback efforts of the Steelers and earned him the Pete Rozelle Trophy as the game's most valuable player.

Dallas scored on each of its first three possessions, taking a 13-0 lead on Troy Aikman's 3-yard touchdown pass to Jay Novacek and a pair of field goals by Chris Boniol. Neil O'Donnell's 6-yard touchdown pass to Yancey Thigpen 13 seconds before halftime pulled Pittsburgh within 6 points, and the Steelers had the ball near midfield midway through the third quarter. But O'Donnell's third-down pass was intercepted by Brown at the Cowboys' 38-yard line, and his 44-yard return was carried to Pittsburgh's 18.

After Aikman's 17-yard completion to Michael Irvin, Emmitt Smith ran 1 yard for the touchdown that put Dallas ahead again by 13 points. The Steelers rallied, though, behind Norm

Johnson's 46-yard field goal, a successful surprise onside kick, and Byron (Bam) Morris' 1-yard touchdown run with 6:36 to play in the game.

And when they forced a punt and took possession at their own 32-yard line trailing only 20-17 with 4:15 remaining, it appeared they might have a chance to break the NFC's recent domination in the Super Bowl. But on second down, Brown struck again, intercepting O'Donnell's pass at the 39 and returning it 33 yards to the 6. Two plays later, Smith barreled over from 4 yards out for the clinching touchdown with 3:43 to go.

Pittsburgh limited the Cowboys' powerful running game to only 56 yards and enjoyed a whopping 201-61 advantage in total yards in the second half but could not overcome the 3 interceptions (another came on the game's final play) thrown by O'Donnell, the NFL's career leader for fewest interceptions per pass attempt. In all, O'Donnell completed 28 of 49 passes for 239 yards. Morris rushed for a game-high 73 yards on 19 carries. For Dallas, Aikman completed 15 of 23 pass attempts for 209 yards. The Cowboys' victory was the twelfth in a row for NFC teams over AFC teams in the Super Bowl.

1996 Bill Cowher #15

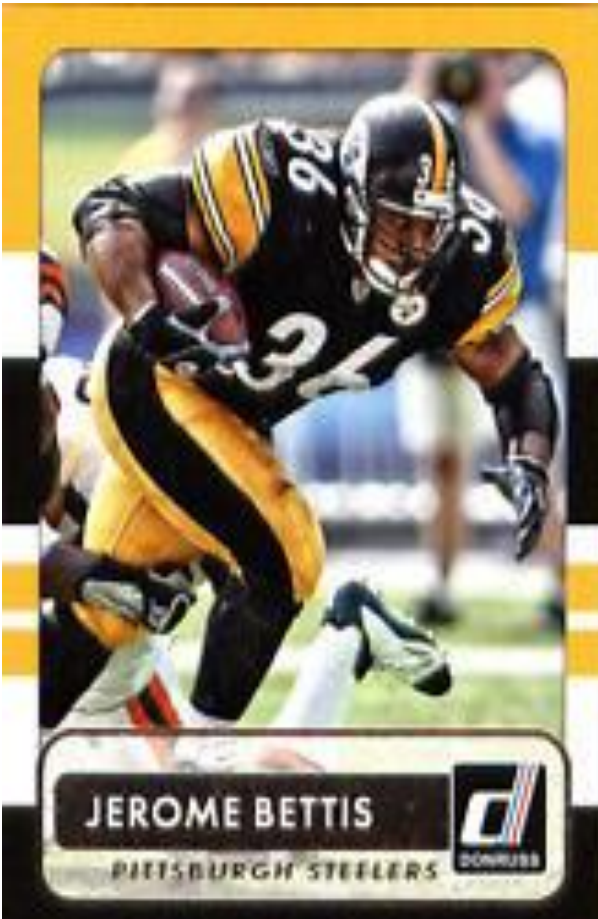
The 1996 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their sixty-fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his fifth of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined slightly from 1995's 11-5 to 1996's 10-6. The Steelers 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.

Wild Card Playoffs December 29, 1996 AFC Central: Pittsburgh 42, Indianapolis 14

January 5, 1997 AFC Conference Championship New England Patriots 28, Pittsburgh Steelers 3

Top Steelers Players Jerome Bettis



Running Back
Several players on this list finished their careers in different uniforms, but Bettis is the only one to start his in one.

The Steelers sent second- and fourth-round draft picks to the St. Louis Rams in 1996 in order to obtain Bettis, and the move proved fruitful to say the least.

Listed at 250 pounds (in some years that seemed generous), the aptly nicknamed “Bus” steamrolled defenders on his way to sixth on the NFL’s all-time rushing list.

Bettis’ first six seasons in Pittsburgh saw him top 1,000 rushing yards, but it may be his last season that proves most memorable.

Bettis considered retirement before the 2005 season but decided to stick around for one more shot at an elusive Super Bowl ring.

Of course, Steelers fans all know how this story ends. “The Bus” rode into his hometown of Detroit for Super Bowl XL and was able to close his career in a fashion befitting such a valued contributor.



Jerome Bettis was a hard-nosed ball carrier who fit the Steelers style of play.

When he was hunting Super Bowls, Bill Cowher had his nose pressed against the glass of the big championship scenario but could not get through soon enough to suit him so that he could smoke one of those huge cigars. The scent of the glass and the dream of the rings and the big cigars had to be like great Jockey Mike Smith helping the great horse “Justify” gain the scent of the Preakness finish line after collecting the Derby trophy in 2018.

It looked like the Steelers would be back in the playoffs for most of the 1998 regular season, especially after going 7–4 in their first eleven games. But two losses to the Cincinnati Bengals and a loss on Thanksgiving to the Detroit Lions kept the Steelers out of the playoffs. Again.

Please let me entertain you with a recount of the Thanksgiving game against the Detroit Lions in 1998, which is most known for the infamous coin flip call before overtime was played. It was a big deal.

The Flip

It was a 16–16 game at the end of regulation. Captain Jerome Bettis was asked to call "heads" or "tails" as the ref flipped the coin in the air. Bettis stammered while making the call, and referee (Phil Luckett) stated "the Steelers called heads; it's tails." This caused an uproar from Bettis and the Steelers, as replays seemed to show that Bettis clearly called "tails." Replays tell the truth but what if Bettis called heads and tails. Then, what, a re-flip probably?

Contrary to many press reports, Referee Luckett did not make a mistake in this incident. At least he could justify his call. A week after the game, the tape was enhanced by local Pittsburgh TV station KDKA-TV and Bettis is clearly heard saying "hea-tails." A sideline microphone enhancement also clearly had Bettis telling Coach Bill Cowher that (Bettis) had said "hea-tails." Seems to me like it should have been a void toss if there is such a thing in the NFL rule book.

It is tough for any fan to believe that gibberish or a stuck tongue should determine the fate of an important football game. Nonetheless, the call stood, and the Steelers never got to touch the ball again and went on to lose 19–16. They would lose their next four games and would end up finishing 7–9. Their lack of heart after being so close gave them their poor finish. Cowher had yet to win his Super Bowl. His big cigar ash-tray was still unused.

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.

AFC Divisional Playoffs January 3, 1998 Pittsburgh Steelers 7, New England Patriots 6

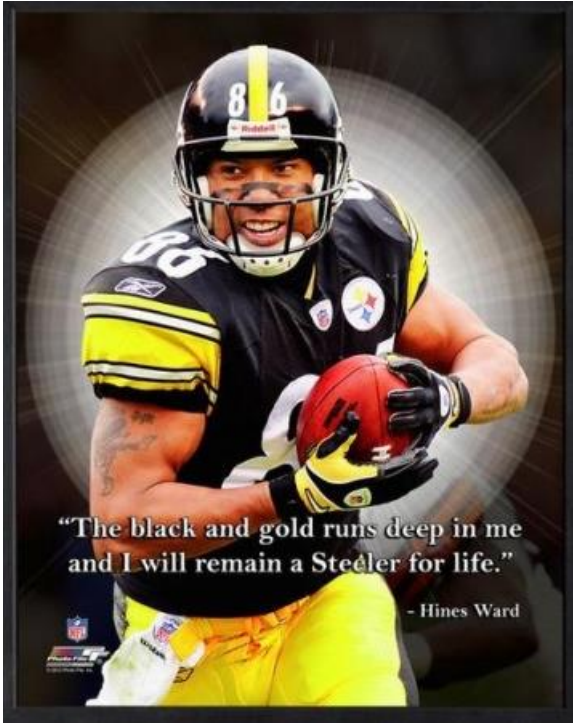
AFC Conference Championships Jan. 11, 1998 Denver Broncos 24, Pittsburgh Steelers 21

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.

Top Steelers Players Hines Ward



Wide Receiver

...Throughout his career, Hines Ward was an exemplary wide receiver.

Ward ranks in the top 20 in NFL history in both receptions and receiving touchdowns. With 12,083 receiving yards, he ranks just outside the 20-mark. But it isn't solely Ward's receiving abilities that earned him a spot in this list's top 10. In fact, it's another aspect of his game that many fans will remember fondly.

Ward played fearlessly. Never the biggest on the field, he had no problem laying a vicious block on any opponent. And he did it with a smile.

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.

Top Steeler Players Alan Faneca

Tackle. Faneca was picked by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the first round (26th overall) in the 1998 NFL Draft. He saw limited playing time at first, but other players misfortune became his early fortune as he got his chance to play because of injuries to fellow Steelers. For example, with Will Wolford and Jim Sweeney out of the lineup, it allowed him to get his first start against the Cincinnati Bengals. He earned the Joe Greene Award as the team's top rookie.



In 1999 against the Cleveland Browns Faneca was having a bad season debut before leaving the game at halftime, after suffering a left ankle injury late in the second quarter of the game and played the rest of the first half after sustaining the injury but did not play during the second half.

Against Baltimore Ravens he returned from his ankle injury but was replaced in the second half by Roger Duffy. One of his best games on the Season was against the Cincinnati Bengals helping to pave the way for Jerome Bettis first 100-yard game of that season. Against the Carolina Panthers helped pave the way for Bettis season-high

137 yards rushing and the Steelers second highest rushing performance of the season.

In 2000, Faneca helped the Steelers rank fourth in the league in rushing, one of only 10 teams to compile more than 2,000 yards rushing in 2000.

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.

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.

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.

Top Steelers Players Casey Hampton

Defensive Tackle... The Steelers selected Hampton in the first round (19th overall) of the 2001 NFL Draft. He was the fifth defensive tackle drafted in 2001. He signed a five-year, \$6.80 million contract on July 22, 2001 with a nice signing bonus of \$3.10 million.



He did not have a free ride. Throughout training camp, Hampton competed for the job as the starting nose tackle against Kendrick Clancy. Head coach Bill Cowher named Hampton the backup nose tackle behind Kendrick Clancy to start the regular season.

His first game was in the Pittsburgh Steelers' season-opening 21–3 loss at the Jacksonville Jaguars. On October 26, 2001, Pittsburgh Steelers' head coach Bill Cowher named Hampton the starting nose tackle for the remainder of the season but stated he would still be rotated by Kendrick Clancy.

On October 29, 2001, Hampton got his first career start and recorded two combined tackles during a 34–7 victory against the Tennessee Titans in Week 7. In Week 9, he collected a season-high four combined tackles and made his first career sack on quarterback Tim Couch in the Steelers' 15–12 win at the Cleveland Browns.

In his rookie season in 2002, he had 22 combined tackles (nine solo) and a sack in 16 games and 11 starts.[13] The Steelers' defense was ranked as the No. 1 overall and also finished first against the run.

The Steelers finished first in the AFC Central with a 13–3 record and clinched a playoff berth. On January 20, 2002, Hampton started in his first career playoff game and recorded three combined tackles in a 27–10 victory against the Baltimore Ravens in the AFC Divisional Round. The following week, he made two combined tackles in the

Steelers' 34–17 loss to the New England Patriots in the AFC Championship Game.

Sunday January 20, 2002 Divisional Playoffs
AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 27, Baltimore Ravens 10

Conference Championship Sun Jan 27, 2002
AFC: New England Patriots 24, Pittsburgh Steelers 17

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

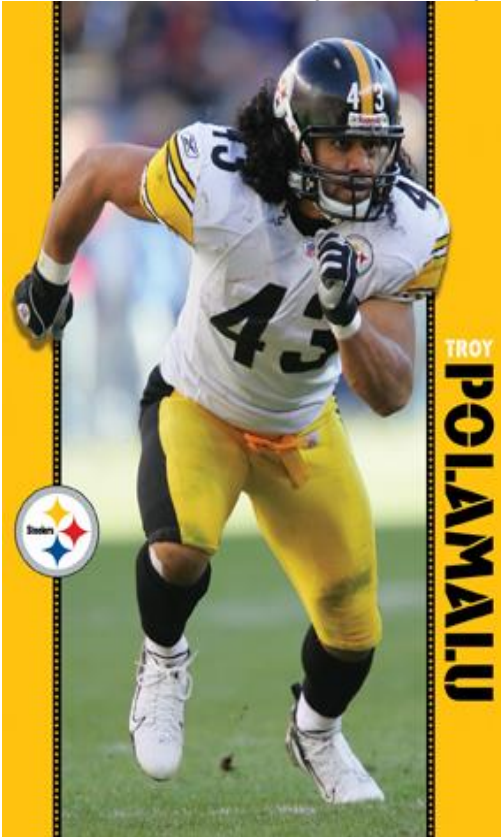
The 2003 Pittsburgh Steelers football team competed in their seventy-first season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. The team was led by Bill Cowher in his twelfth of fifteen seasons as head coach of the Steelers. The record declined from 2002's 10-5-1 to 2003's 6-10. The Steelers 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.

Top Steelers Players Troy Aumua Polamalu



(/ˌpʊləˈmɑːluː/; born Troy Aumua; April 19, 1981) is a former American football strong safety of Samoan descent, who played his entire twelve-year career for the Pittsburgh Steelers of the National Football League (NFL). He played college football for the University of Southern California (USC), and earned consensus All-American honors. He was chosen by the Steelers in the first round of the 2003 NFL Draft. He was a member of two of the Steelers' Super Bowl championship teams and was the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 2010.

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 Cowhens 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."

Divisional playoffs Saturday January 15, 2005

AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 20, New York Jets 17 (OT)

AFC Championship: January 23 Heinz Field

New England Patriots 41, Pittsburgh Steelers 27

Attendance: 65, 242

Top Pittsburgh Players James Harrison



Outside Linebacker Perhaps no permanently scowling face is more beloved in Pittsburgh than that of James Harrison.

I remember attending the

Steelers/Ravens game in the 2010 AFC Divisional Round and being awestruck when Harrison exited the tunnel. The look on his face just told me Joe Flacco was in for a long day.

Of course, Harrison notched three sacks in that contest. The undrafted product out of Kent State entered the NFL with low expectations and matched them by toiling on practice squads and in the NFL Europe through the early portion of his career. Eventually, Silverback earned a spot in the starting lineup and made 31 teams regret overlooking him. Harrison tallied 60 sacks in six years as a starter and took home Defensive Player of the Year honors in 2008.

What he'll most be remembered for, though, is an astounding pick-six against the Cardinals in Super Bowl XLIII.

Top Steelers Players Ben Roethlisberger



Quarterback: Some may contend that a close to the top spot on a ranking site is a little high for Ben Roethlisberger, but they need only look at the years between his arrival and Terry Bradshaw's departure.

The Steelers fielded several competitive squads and All-Pro-caliber players, but quarterback play always seemed to be their downfall. Enter Roethlisberger.

Yes, he inherited a talented squad. But he also led it to heights not seen in decades.

With three Super Bowl appearances and two victories, Roethlisberger has already given younger Steelers fans a golden age of their own. His 32-career game-winning drives are good enough for 11th in NFL history.

And of course, one of those 32 drives stands well above the rest. Roethlisberger is the author of the game-winning drive against the Cardinals in Super Bowl XLIII. It firmly cemented his status as one of the all-time Steelers greats.

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 2004'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!

Wild Card Playoffs January 8, 2006

AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 31, Cincinnati Bengals 17

AFC Divisional Championship January 15, 2006

Pittsburgh Steelers 21, Indianapolis Colts 18

AFC Conference Championship: Jan 22, 2006

Pittsburgh Steelers 34, Denver Broncos 17

Super Bowl XL February 5, 2006: Pittsburgh Steelers 21, Seattle Seahawks 10

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.

Pittsburgh was on its game and they capitalized on two big plays that were converted into touchdowns. They jumped to a 14–3 lead early in the third quarter with running back Willie Parker's Super Bowl record 75-yard touchdown run. Seahawks defensive back Kelly Herndon's Super Bowl record 76-yard interception return then set up a Seattle touchdown to cut the lead 14–10. However, Pittsburgh responded with Antwaan Randle El's 43-yard touchdown pass to Hines Ward. This was the first time a wide receiver threw a touchdown pass in a Super Bowl. This action clinched the game in the fourth quarter.

Hines Ward, who caught 5 passes for 123 yards and a touchdown, while also rushing for 18 yards. He was then named Super Bowl

MVP. There was criticism of the officiating in Super Bowl XL. Members of the media piped in soon after the game, leading NFL Films to rank it as one of the top ten controversial calls of all time.

It was the last Super Bowl game broadcast on ABC. Although the Super Bowl had largely been presented in high definition since Super Bowl XXXIV, Super Bowl XL was the first Super Bowl where all aspects of the game itself were aired in HD.

The Steelers' catchphrase for the playoffs was "One for the Thumb", a phrase originally made popular by Joe Greene as an allusion to a fifth Super Bowl ring. The Steelers got their thumb ring.

The first four tries with the ball in Super Bowl XL resulted in punts. There are always big game jitters in these big games. Seahawks punt returner Peter Warrick eventually gave the team good field position when he returned Chris Gardocki's 37-yard punt 12 yards to Seattle's 49-yard line. QB Matt Hasselbeck then started off the drive with a pair of completions to receivers Darrell Jackson and Joe Jurevicius for gains of 20 and 11 yards, respectively. The Seahawks were forced to settle for a 47-yard field goal by kicker Josh Brown.

By the end of the first quarter, the Steelers had failed to gain a first down, and quarterback Ben Roethlisberger had completed one of five pass attempts for one yard. On their first second-quarter possession, Pittsburgh had to punt again in a three-and-out. However, they benefited from another Seahawks holding call that nullified Warrick's 34-yard punt return. The Steelers forced a Seattle punt, but Seattle safety Michael Boulware intercepted a Roethlisberger pass at the Seattle 17-yard line, but the Seahawks ultimately punted.

As the quarter moved on, Roethlisberger hit receiver Hines Ward out of a scramble with an against the grain pass for a 37-yard gain to keep the drive going. Jerome Bettis carried the ball on the next two plays, taking his team to the one-yard line but not into the end-zone. On the third-down play, after the two-minute warning, Roethlisberger faked a handoff and dove into the end-zone himself.

Confusion reigned after Big Ben's score. The referee hesitated for a bit after the play ended, but he eventually signaled a touchdown, and it was upheld after a replay challenge.

After a 19-yard Jurevicius reception, Seattle took the ball to the Pittsburgh 36-yard line, but, after the drive stalled, Brown's field goal attempt from 54-yards failed and the Steelers ran out the clock to end the first half.

Pittsburgh got the ball to begin the second half, and on the second play, running back Willie Parker broke through for a 75-yard touchdown run, giving his team a 14–3 lead and setting a record for the longest run in Super Bowl history. It beat Marcus Allen's Super Bowl XVIII mark by one yard.

The Seahawks were into Pittsburgh territory on the next drive, sparked by a 21-yard run by Alexander. However, Brown again missed a field-goal attempt, this one from 50 yards, as Seattle could not close the 11-point deficit.

Pittsburgh then took the ball 54 yards to the Seattle six-yard line to put themselves in position to take a large lead, but Seahawks defensive back Kelly Herndon picked off a Roethlisberger pass and brought it 76-yards for a Super Bowl record. The next play began on the Steelers 20-yard line. From there, the Seahawks took just two plays to score on Hasselbeck's 16-yard touchdown pass to tight end Jerramy Stevens, cutting the Pittsburgh lead to four points (14–10).

After an exchange of punts (two from Pittsburgh, one from Seattle), which occupied most of the third quarter, the Seahawks had taken the ball from their own two-yard line to near midfield as the fourth quarter began. .

The drive continued, and the Seahawks reached the Pittsburgh 19-yard line. Stevens then caught an 18-yard pass, but it was negated on a penalty call against Seattle tackle Sean Locklear for holding. This kept the Seahawks from getting a first-down-and-goal from the 1-yard-line.

Just three plays later, Pittsburgh defensive back Ike Taylor intercepted a Hasselbeck pass at the 5-yard line and took it back 24

yards. While tackling Taylor, Hasselbeck was flagged for blocking below the waist. The penalty added 15 yards to the return and gave the Steelers the ball on their own 44-yard line.

Pittsburgh ran a wide receiver reverse after having run four prior plays. This play turned out to be a pass play by wide receiver Antwaan Randle El, who played quarterback while in college. Parker took a pitch from Roethlisberger and handed off to Randle El, who was running in the opposite direction. Randle El then pulled up and threw a 43-yard touchdown pass to a wide-open Hines Ward, giving the Steelers a 21–10 lead. This was the first time a wide receiver threw a touchdown pass in a Super Bowl.

On the next possession, Hasselbeck ran for eighteen yards and was briefly touched by Steelers linebacker Larry Foote as the QB fell to the ground. Though the play was initially ruled a fumble, with the ball recovered by the Steelers, a Seahawks challenge proved successful, as officials ruled Hasselbeck was down prior to his having lost the ball. Hasselbeck hit Jurevicius for a thirteen-yard reception, and he drove the team to the Pittsburgh 48-yard line but could go no further. Tom Rouen punted, and the ball was in the end-zone for a touchback. The Steelers got possession on their own 20-yard line.

Pittsburgh held the ball for about nearly four-and-one-half minutes on their next drive, as Bettis carried seven times. Seattle had to use all three timeouts to stop the clock. There was 1:51 left when they took the ball from their own 20-yard line following a Gardocki punt.

Jurevicius then snagged a 35-yard reception taking the Seahawks into Pittsburgh territory. This was followed by a 13-yard Bobby Engram reception which took the team to within field-goal range. Poor clock-management and play-calling left the team with just 35 seconds remaining. Then an incompleteness and a three-yard pass to Stevens over the middle of the field took another 26 seconds, and Hasselbeck threw incomplete near Stevens on fourth down, giving the Steelers the ball on downs with just three seconds remaining. Roethlisberger was pleased to kneel-down to end the game. Pittsburgh were Super Bowl Champions for the fifth time.

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.

Chapter 13 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

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).

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!

Notes on the wild card round: Pittsburgh bye week

After the Dec 28 game, the team took a well-deserved rest on December 29—the day following their final regular-season game. They began to prepare for their first post-season game on Tuesday, December 30 through Thursday, January 1, before three days of a nice weekend rest. Bog Ben Roethlisberger did not practice until Monday, January 5. Tomlin was quoted as follows: "We will proceed slowly with him because we have that luxury. But we feel comfortable with where he is relative to Sunday and where he's capable of being next week."

The Steelers January 1 practice was expected to be normal, but Tomlin allowed players to leave after team meetings and a walk-through. Multiple Steelers stated that they would watch the Wild Card games. Some including James Farrior and Ryan Clark watched as fans; however, Chris Hoke said, "I will be watching the guys I am going against... That is how I watch it." The Steelers wanted this ring to start their second hand.

AFC Divisional Round: January 11, 2009

Pittsburgh Steelers 35 San Diego Chargers 24

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.

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. The Cardinals scored three consecutive times in the fourth quarter—with two Larry Fitzgerald touchdown receptions and a Steelers' holding call in the end zone that resulted in a safety. It could have been a Steelers loss as there was a 23–20 Cardinal lead with just 2:37 remaining in regulation.

Pittsburgh needed to score and so Big Ben drove 78 yards in 2:02 and scored on a touchdown pass from Ben Roethlisberger to Santonio Holmes. The Steelers four-point lead held until the end as time expired and the Pittsburgh Steelers became the first team to win six Super Bowl titles. Go Steelers.

Lots of people were celebrating and no practice was scheduled for Monday. Santonio Holmes was voted the game's Most Valuable Player. Mike Tomlin became the youngest coach to win a Super Bowl. Harrison's interception return was logged as the longest play in Super Bowl history.

On February 3 a parade was held in the city of Pittsburgh to celebrate the victory. The town was excited. According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette an estimated 400,000 people attended. The City's name was ceremonially changed to "the City of Sixburgh" for the duration of 2009. Go Steelers. Amen to the 2008 season.

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.

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.

AFC Divisional Playoffs January 15
Pittsburgh Steelers 31 Baltimore Ravens 24

AFC Championship Game January 23, 2011
Pittsburgh Steelers 24 New York Jets 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.

Super Bowl XLV was a great football game between the American Football Conference (AFC) champion Pittsburgh Steelers and the National Football Conference (NFC) champion Green Bay Packers to decide the National Football League (NFL) champion for the 2010 season. The Packers edged out the Steelers by the score of 31–25. The game was played on February 6, 2011, at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, the first time the Super Bowl was played in the Dallas–Fort Worth area.

Not all Super Bowls have such title-abundant franchises competing. Coming into the game, the Packers held the most NFL championships with 12 (9 league championships prior to the Super Bowl era and 3 Super Bowl championships), while the Steelers held the most Super Bowl championships with 6. The Packers entered their fifth Super Bowl in team history and became the first number 6-seeded team in the NFC to compete in the Super Bowl, after posting a 10–6 regular season record. The Steelers finished the regular season with a 12–4 record, and advanced to a league-tying 8th Super Bowl appearance.

The Packers dominated most of the first half of Super Bowl XLV, jumping to a 21–3 lead before the Steelers brought it down to 21–10 just before halftime. After the teams exchanged touchdowns, the Steelers pulled within 28–25 midway through the fourth quarter with wide receiver Mike Wallace's 25-yard touchdown reception from quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and a two-point conversion. But the Packers came back and answered with Mason Crosby's 23-yard field goal with 2:07 remaining. They then prevented the Steelers from scoring on their final drive of the game. Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers was named Super Bowl MVP, completing 24 of 39 passes for 304 yards and three touchdowns.

The game was decided in the fourth quarter, but Green Bay was winning most of the game. The Steelers were having bad luck. For example, on the first play of the fourth quarter, the Steelers lost their third turnover of the game when Mendenhall fumbled the ball while

being tackled behind the line by Matthews and Ryan Pickett. Bishop recovered the ball and returned it 7 yards to the Packers 45.

Just five plays later on third down and 10, Rodgers completed a 38-yard pass to Nelson at the Steelers 2-yard line. Pittsburgh linebacker LaMar Woodley fortuitously sacked Rodgers for a 6-yard loss on the next play, but Rodgers picked himself up, dusted himself off, and on the next play threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to Jennings thereby increasing the Packers lead to 11 points -- 28-17.

Roethlisberger led the Steelers right back with 6 of 7 completions. After a 9-yard pass to tight end Matt Spaeth, he threw three completions to receiver Mike Wallace for 27 yards to the Green Bay 40-yard line. Then after a 15-yard completion to Ward, he finished the drive with a 25-yard touchdown pass to Wallace.

Pittsburgh went for two. On the two-point conversion play, Roethlisberger faked a handoff to Mendenhall and ran up to the line before pitching the ball to Randle El, who scored on an outside sweep, cutting the Steelers deficit to 3 points at 28-25.

There was just over 7 minutes left when Green Bay got the ball back. They soon found themselves facing third down and 10 after two plays, but Rodgers kept the drive going with a 31-yard completion to Jennings over the middle. Starks then ran 14 yards to the Steelers 30. Two plays later, James Jones caught a 21-yard pass at the 8. The Steelers defense kept Green Bay out of the end zone, forcing the Packers to settle for a 23-yard field goal by Mason Crosby that gave Green Bay a 31-25 lead with 2:07 left in regulation. There was still an opportunity for Pittsburgh.

The Steelers did not get a good kickoff return and took over on their own 13-yard line following a penalty on the kickoff. On their first play, Roethlisberger completed a 15-yard pass to Miller. But after a 5-yard reception by Ward, his next three passes were incomplete, turning the ball over and allowing the Packers to run out the rest of the clock. Nice try but no cigar.

There were a ton of people across the world who saw this game including 111 million FOX viewers, breaking the record for the

most-watched program in American television history. The game's attendance was 103,219, just short of the Super Bowl record 103,985 set in Super Bowl XIV at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. The halftime show featured the American hip hop group *The Black Eyed Peas*, with additional performances by *Usher and Slash*.

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...

Postseason Wild Card Playoffs January 8, 2013 Pittsburgh Steelers 23 v Denver Broncos 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.

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 Colber. 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.

Top Steelers Players Le'Veon Bell



When we were finishing up this book in 2018, Le'Veon Bell's future with Pittsburgh was in doubt and he was not working out with the team.

Nonetheless, few

will argue that this Pittsburgh Steelers running back, Le'Veon Bell, has been arguably the best running back in the NFL for the last two years. NFL Spin Zone recently said they "could not agree more."

“Le’Veon Bell has been a force in this league for years, now. Even if his offseason is being spent searching for a long-term deal instead of improving, he’s still considered one of the most exciting players to look forward to in 2018.

“For the second-straight season, Bell has surpassed 1,200 yards on the ground and 600 yards receiving, with 11 total touchdowns in 2017. Averaging 128.9 yards per game last season, Bell proved to be Pittsburgh’s greatest force all over the field.

“NFL Spin Zone took on the challenge of ranking all 32 starting running backs. Not all Steelers fans are going to be happy with the rankings. Despite missing all of last offseason and still performing well, Randy Gurzi acknowledges that not showing up over the summer is hurting his stock.

“Gurzi ranks Bell as the second best starting running back in 2018. Bell could’ve topped the list with his talent and versatility. He’s a game changer at running back and receiver. But the more time he misses during the summer, the less of certain anyone is of his success in the future.

“If Bell was attending offseason workouts, he would probably rank first. Gurley proved he’s right on Bell’s level. With him participating in Rams’ OTAs and summer camps, he gets an early leg up on Bell before the season starts.

At this point, the future is pretty shady for Bell. No one knows if he’ll be in Pittsburgh after 2018. For now, though, the hope is that he continues the same success he’s had the last two years.

NEXT: 4 players who must improve in 2018

?No. 2 isn’t bad in a league full of talented runners. Even without showing up during the summer, Bell is expected to be a top three running back in every aspect. Something that’ll keep the Steelers as a Super Bowl favorite in 2018.

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.

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 Colber. 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.

AFC Wild Card Game January 8, 2016 Pittsburgh Steelers 18, Cincinnati Bengals 16

AFC Divisional Championship January 17, 2016 Denver Broncos 23, Pittsburgh Steelers 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 Colber. The record improved from year to year from 2015-'s 10-6 to 2016's 11-5. The Steelers came in 1st 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]

Wild Card Playoffs Sunday, January 8, 2017 **AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers 30, Miami Dolphins 12**

AFC Divisional Championship January 15, 2017 **Pittsburgh Steelers 18, Kansas City Chiefs 16[edit]**

AFC Championship Game January 22, 2017 **New England Patriots 36, Pittsburgh Steelers 17**

New England had recently become a Pittsburgh 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.

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.

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.

Jacksonville started the game by driving 66 yards in eight plays on their opening drive. Blake Bortles completing passes to tight ends

Ben Koyack and James O'Shaughnessy for gains of 21 and 19 yards on the way to a one-yard fourth-down touchdown run by Leonard Fournette. Later in the first quarter, linebacker Myles Jack intercepted a pass from Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger on the Steelers 18-yard line, and Fournette increased Jacksonville's lead to 14–0 with a touchdown run on the next play.

Pittsburgh came back with a drive to the Jacksonville 21-yard line, but on fourth-and-1, running back Le'Veon Bell was tackled by Jalen Ramsey and Malik Jackson for a four-yard loss. The Jaguars then drove 75 yards in 11 plays and scored on T. J. Yeldon's 4-yard touchdown run, increasing their lead to 21–0 with just over 11 minutes left in the half.

The Steelers roared back with a 64-yard scoring drive. Highlights included a 21-yard run by Bell and Roethlisberger's 23-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Brown. Nobody is perfect but perfect play does win games. The next Pittsburgh possession saw Roethlisberger losing the ball on a fumble while being sacked by Yannick Ngakoue. Linebacker Telvin Smith recovered the ball and returned it 50 yards for a touchdown, making the score 28–7 with less than two minutes left until halftime.

On the play, Jaguars were penalized 15 yards for excessive celebration, and then Cameron Sutton returned the ensuing kickoff 22 yards to the Jacksonville 49-yard line. Pittsburgh went on to drive 51 yards and cut their deficit to 28–14 on Roethlisberger's 36-yard touchdown completion to Martavis Bryant with 25 seconds remaining.

The Steelers drove 77 yards in 10 plays at the opening of the second half. The deficit then stood at 7, 21–28–21 with Roethlisberger's 19-yard touchdown pass to Bell. Early in the final period, the Steelers got the ball on the Jags' 48-yard line due to a deflected punt but ended up turning the ball over with an incomplete pass on fourth-and-1.

On the next Jacksonville drive, Bortles' 45-yard completion to Keelan Cole put them on the Steelers' 3-yard line, and Fournette ran the ball in for a touchdown on the next play, giving the Jaguars a

35–21 lead. This was the start of a scoring run from both teams. Together both teams accumulated 38 points in the fourth quarter.

After Fournette's score, Roethlisberger started the next drive with a 21-yard completion to Brown. He finished with a 43-yard touchdown pass to Brown that cut the score to 35–28. Jacksonville did not sit still. They came right back, 75 yards in eight plays. One of the plays was a 40-yard completion from Bortles to Yeldon on third-and-5. Fullback Tommy Bohanon caught a 14-yard touchdown pass from Bortles with 4:19 left, giving the Jaguars a 42–28 lead. The Steelers responded by taking the ball 75 yards in 12 plays, the longest a 22-yard reception from Bell. Bell finished the drive with an eight-yard touchdown run, reducing the jags lead to 7 at 35–42 with 2:19 to play.

Pittsburgh tried an onside kick which resulted in Jacksonville getting the ball back on the Steelers' 36-yard line with Josh Lambo nailing a field goal that put the Jaguars up 45–35. Pittsburgh then drove 75 yards in 10 plays, including a 42-yard completion from Roethlisberger to Brown. He ended up throwing a four-yard touchdown pass to JuJu Smith-Schuster, but by then, just one second remained. It was over, and the Steelers were forced to wait for the 2018 season to try again for the Super Bowl.

Other books by Brian Kelly: (amazon.com, & Kindle)

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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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Brian has written 155 books in total. Other books can be found at amazon.com/author/brianwkelly

