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GIANTS



Great Coaches
in
New York Giants Football

This book begins with Coach #1 Bob Foywell,
through 18 coaches to Coach # 20 Pat Shurmur

by
Brian Kelly





Great Coaches in New York Giants Football

This book begins with Bob Folwell, through 18 coaches to the Pat Shurmur era.

This book is written for those of us who love New York Giants Football. Those who are not the top fans of the Giants will also want this book, so they can try to get a leg up on the facts missing from the bookshelves of those Giants' fans who do not have this book.

The book first tells the story about the founding of the Giants as a new team in 1925.

The late Tim Mara, who now is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame acquired the Giants for a song. Mara needed a few more bucks to get through that first season before the Giants had become a head-smashing success. Mara had to fork over (invest) another \$25,000 (50X the initial investment just to keep the franchise alive this first year. Because Mara kept the Giants alive, a team in NY City was assured and the team's success in its first three years in the NFL gave the NFL a must-have stronghold in the nation's largest city. The Giants are still a valuable property in the Mara family, with grandson John holding the reins today. .

It seems like yesterday but for those pros trying to create a league out of nothing, there would have been nothing without their work. And of course, this great book about the Giants, eventually takes a deep look at the great and soon-to-be-immortal-Giants' coaches including #1 Bill Parcells, #2 Tom Coughlin, #3 Steve Owen, and #4 Allie Sherman, all the way to the current immortal with lots of years left, Pat Shurmur.

This book captures the great Coaches in Giants Football. It takes the reader through stories about the Giants 20 coaches to great stories about the 94 seasons worth of great games with a preponderance of great Championship and Super Bowl wins.

I dare you to pick up this book for, if you are a Giants fan, you will never put it down again. You cannot ever get enough of Giants' greatness, but we do provide as many stories together in one spot as we can in this can't miss book.

Great Coaches in New York Giants Football

Author:

Brian W. Kelly

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Brian W. Kelly

Publisher/ Editor,

Brian P. Kelly

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Brian Kelly



New York Giants Coaches Season Records from 1925 to 2019

Total Games 1370

Total Wins 716

Total Losses 621

Total Ties 33 * Prior to Overtime Rules

Stats from 1925 * Through Feb 2019

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>W L T</u>
--------------	-------------	-------------	--------------

Bob Folwell	1925	4th	8 4 0
-------------	------	-----	-------

1925-1925 Coach #1 Bob Folwell final record (8-4-0)

Doc Alexander	1926	7 th	8 4 1
---------------	------	-----------------	-------

1926-1926 Coach #2 Doc Alexander final record (8-4-1)

Earl Potteiger	1927	1 st	11 1 1
----------------	------	-----------------	--------

Named NFL champions

Earl Potteiger	1928	6th	4 7 2
----------------	------	-----	-------

1927-1928 Coach # 3 Earl Potteiger final record (15-8-3)

LeRoy Andrews	1929	2nd	13 1 1
---------------	------	-----	--------

LeRoy Andrews	1930	2nd	11 4 0
---------------	------	-----	--------

1929-1930 Coach #4 LeRoy Andrews final record (26-5-1)

Benny Friedman	1930		
----------------	------	--	--

& Steve Owen	1930		2-0
--------------	------	--	-----

1930-1930 Coach #5 Benny Friedman & #Coach 6 Steve Owen (2-0)

Steve Owen	1931	5th	7 6 1
------------	------	-----	-------

Steve Owen	1932	5th	4 6 2
------------	------	-----	-------

Steve Owen	1933	1st +	11 3 0
------------	------	-------	--------

- Lost NFL Championship(at Bears) –23–21

Steve Owen	1934	1 st	8 5 0
------------	------	-----------------	-------

- Won NFL Championship v Bears—30–13

Steve Owen	1935	1st +	9 3 0
------------	------	-------	-------

- Lost NFL Championship(at Lions) 26–7

Steve Owen	1936	3rd	5 6 1
------------	------	-----	-------

Steve Owen	1937	2nd	6 3 2
------------	------	-----	-------

Steve Owen	1938	1st	6 3 2
------------	------	-----	-------

Steve Owen	1938	1st	8 2 1
------------	------	-----	-------

- Won NFL Championship (Packers) 23–17

- Mel Hein (NFL MVP)

Steve Owen	1939	1st	9 1 1
------------	------	-----	-------

- Lost NFL Championship(at Packers) 27–0
- | | | | |
|------------|------|-----|-------|
| Steve Owen | 1940 | 3rd | 6 4 1 |
| Steve Owen | 1941 | 1st | 8 3 0 |
- Lost NFL Championship(at Bears) 37–9
- | | | | |
|------------|------|-----|-------|
| Steve Owen | 1942 | 3rd | 5 5 1 |
| Steve Owen | 1943 | 2nd | 6 3 1 |
- Lost Divisional playoff(Redskins) 28–0
- | | | | |
|------------|------|-----------------|-------|
| Steve Owen | 1944 | 1 st | 8 1 1 |
|------------|------|-----------------|-------|
- Lost NFL Championship(Packers) 14–7
- | | | | |
|------------|------|-----------------|-------|
| Steve Owen | 1945 | T-3rd | 3 6 1 |
| Steve Owen | 1946 | 1 st | 7 3 1 |
- Lost NFL Championship(Bears) 24–14
- | | | | |
|------------|------|-------|--------|
| Steve Owen | 1947 | 5th | 2 8 2 |
| Steve Owen | 1948 | T-3rd | 4 8 0 |
| Steve Owen | 1949 | 3rd | 6 6 0 |
| Steve Owen | 1950 | 2nd | 10 2 0 |
- Lost Conference playoff (at Browns) 8–3
- | | | | |
|------------|------|-------|-------|
| Steve Owen | 1951 | 2nd | 9 2 1 |
| Steve Owen | 1952 | T-2nd | 7 5 0 |
| Steve Owen | 1953 | 5th | 3 9 0 |

1931-1953 Coach #6 Steve Owen final record (153-100-17)

- | | | | |
|----------------|------|-----|-------|
| Jim Lee Howell | 1954 | 3rd | 7 5 0 |
| Jim Lee Howell | 1955 | 3rd | 6 5 1 |
| Jim Lee Howell | 1956 | 1st | 8 3 1 |
- Won NFL Championship(4) (Bears) 47–7
 - Frank Gifford(NFL MVP)[9]
- | | | | |
|----------------|------|-----------------|-------|
| Jim Lee Howell | 1957 | 2nd | 7 5 0 |
| Jim Lee Howell | 1958 | 1 st | 9 3 0 |
- Won Divisional playoff(Browns) 10–0
 - Lost NFL Championship(Colts) 23–17 (OT)
 - Frank Gifford (Pro Bowl MVP)
- | | | | |
|----------------|------|-----------------|--------|
| Jim Lee Howell | 1959 | 1 st | 10 2 0 |
|----------------|------|-----------------|--------|
- Lost NFL Championship(at Colts) 31–16 *
- | | | | |
|----------------|------|-----|-------|
| Jim Lee Howell | 1960 | 3rd | 6 4 2 |
|----------------|------|-----|-------|
- Sam Huff (Pro Bowl MVP)

1954-1960 Coach #7 Jim Lee Howell final record (53-27-4)

- | | | | |
|---------------|------|-----|--------|
| Allie Sherman | 1961 | 1st | 10 3 1 |
|---------------|------|-----|--------|
- Lost NFL Championship(at Packers) 37–0
 - Allie Sherman(NFL COY)
- | | | | |
|---------------|------|-----------------|--------|
| Allie Sherman | 1962 | 1 st | 12 2 0 |
|---------------|------|-----------------|--------|
- Lost NFL Championship(Packers) 16–7
 - YA Tittle NFL MVP
 - Allie Sherman (NFL COY),
 - Andy Robustelli (BBA)
- | | | | |
|---------------|------|-----|--------|
| Allie Sherman | 1963 | 1st | 11 3 0 |
|---------------|------|-----|--------|
- Lost NFL Championship (at Bears) 14–10

- YA Tittle NFL MVP

Allie Sherman	1964	7th	2 10 2
Allie Sherman	1965	T-2nd	7 7 0
Allie Sherman	1966	8th	1 12 1
Allie Sherman	1967	2nd	7 7 0
Allie Sherman	1968	2nd	7 7 0

1961-1968 Coach #8 Allie Sherman final record (57-51-4)

Alex Webster	1969	2nd	6 8 0
Alex Webster	1970	2nd	9 5 0

- Alex Webster(NFL COY)^l

Alex Webster	1971	5th	4 10 0
Alex Webster	1972	3rd	8 6 0
Alex Webster	1973	5th	2 11 1

1969-1973 Coach #9 Alex Webster final record (29-40-1)

Bill Arnsparger	1974	5th	2 12 0
-----------------	------	-----	--------

- John Hicks (UPI NFC ROY)^l

Bill Arnsparger	1975	4th	5 9 0 —
Bill Arnsparger	1976	5 th (0-7)	3 11 0 —

- Bill Arnsparger fired week 7 with 0-7 record
- John McVay interim last part of season 3-3

1974-1976 Coach #10 Bill Arnsparger final record (10-21-0)

John McVay (3-4)

John McVay	1977	5th	5 9 0
John McVay	1978	5th	6 10 0

1976-1978 Coach #11 John McVay final record (14-23-0)

Ray Perkins	1979	4th	6 10 0
Ray Perkins	1980	5th	4 12 0
Ray Perkins	1981	3rd	9 7 0

- Won Wild Card playoffs(at Eagles) 27-21
- Lost Divisional playoffs (at 49ers) 38-24
- Lawrence Taylor(NFL DPOY/NFL DROY)

Ray Perkins	1982	10th	4 5 0
-------------	------	------	-------

- Lawrence Taylor (NFL DPOY)

1979-1982 Coach #12 Ray Perkins final record (23-34-0)

Bill Parcells	1983	5th	3 12 1
---------------	------	-----	--------

- Lawrence Taylor (NFC POY)

Bill Parcells	1984	2nd	9 7 0
---------------	------	-----	-------

- Won Wild Card playoffs(at Rams) 16-13
- Lost Divisional playoffs (at 49ers) 21-10

Bill Parcells	1985	2nd[G]	10 6 0
---------------	------	--------	--------

- Won Wild Card playoffs(49ers) 17-3
- Lost Divisional playoffs (at Bears) 21-0
- Phil Simms (Pro Bowl MVP)[11]

Bill Parcells	1986	1 st	14 2 0
---------------	------	-----------------	--------

- Won Divisional playoffs(49ers) 49–3
- Won NFC Championship (Redskins) 17–0
- Won Super Bowl XXI (5) (vs. Broncos) 39–20
- Bill Parcells (NFL COY)[12]
- Phil Simms (Super Bowl XXI MVP)[19]

Bill Parcells 1987 5th 6 9 0 —

Bill Parcells 1988 2nd 10 6 0 —

Bill Parcells 1989 1st 12 4 0

- Lost Divisional playoffs(Rams) 19–13 (OT)
- Ottis Anderson(NFL CPOY)

Bill Parcells 1990 1st 13 3 0

- Won Divisional playoffs(Bears) 31–3
- Won NFC Championship (at 49ers) 15–13
- Won Super Bowl XXV (6)(vs. Bills) 20–19
- Ottis Anderson (Super Bowl XXV MVP)[22]

1983-1990 Coach # 13 Bill Parcells final record (74-49-1)

Ray Handley 1991 4th 8 8 0 —

Ray Handley 1992 4th 6 10 0 —

1991-1992 Coach #14 Ray Handley final record (14-18-0)

Dan Reeves 1993 2nd 11 5 0

- Won Wild Card playoffs(Vikings) 17–10
- Lost Divisional playoffs (at 49ers) 44–3
- Dan Reeves (NFL COY)[12]

Dan Reeves 1994 2nd 9 7 0 —

Dan Reeves 1995 4th 5 11 0 —

Dan Reeves 1996 5th 6 10 0 —

1993-1996 Coach #15 Dan Reeves final record (31-33-0)

Jim Fassel 1997 1st 10 5 1

- Lost Wild Card playoffs(Vikings) 23–22

Jim Fassel 1998 3rd 8 8 0 —

Jim Fassel 1999 3rd 7 9 0 —

Jim Fassel 2000 1st 12 4 0

- Won Divisional playoffs(Eagles) 20–10
- Won NFC Championship (Vikings) 41–0
- Lost Super Bowl XXXV(vs. Ravens) 34–7
- Jim Fassel (NFL COY)[12] *

Jim Fassel 2001 3rd 7 9 0

- Michael Strahan(NFL DPOY)[23]

Jim Fassel 2002 2nd 10 6 0

- Lost Wild Card playoffs(at 49ers) 39–38

Jim Fassel 2003 4th 4 12 0 —

1997-2003 Coach #16 Jim Fassel final record (58-53-1)

Tom Coughlin 2004 2nd 6 10 0 —

Tom Coughlin 2005 1st 11 5 0

- Lost Wild Card playoffs(Panthers) 23–0
- Tom Coughlin 2006 3rd 8 8 0
- Lost Wild Card playoffs(at Eagles) 23–20
- Tom Coughlin 2007 2nd 10 6 0
- Won Wild Card playoffs (at Buccaneers) 24–14
 - Won Divisional playoffs (at Cowboys) 21–17
 - Won NFC Championship (at Packers) 23–20 (OT)^l
 - Won Super Bowl XLII (7)(vs. Patriots) 17–14
 - Eli Manning(Super Bowl XLII MVP)
- Tom Coughlin 2008 1st 12-4-0
- Lost Divisional playoffs(Eagles) 23–11
- Tom Coughlin 2009 3rd 8 8 0 —
- Tom Coughlin 2010 2nd 10 6 0 —
- Tom Coughlin 2011 1st 9 7 0
- Won Wild Card playoffs(Falcons) 24–2
 - Won Divisional playoffs (at Packers) 37–20
 - Won NFC Championship (at 49ers) 20–17 (OT)
 - Won Super Bowl XLVI (8)(vs. Patriots) 21–17
 - Eli Manning (Super Bowl XLVI MVP)[25]
- Tom Coughlin 2012 2nd 9 7 0 —
- Tom Coughlin 2013 3rd 7 9 0 —
- Tom Coughlin 2014 3rd 6 10 0
- Odell Beckham Jr.(NFL OROY)^l
- Tom Coughlin 2015 3rd 6 10 0 —

2004-2015 Coach #17 Tom Coughlin final record (108-90-0)

- Ben McAdoo 2016 2nd 11 5 0
- Lost Wild Card playoffs(at Packers) 38–13
 - Eli Manning (Co-NFL WPMOY)

Ben McAdoo 2017 4th (2-10) 3 13 0 —

2016-2017 Coach #18 Ben McAdoo final record (13-15)

Steve Spagnuolo(1–3) (2017)

2017-2017 Coach #19 Steve Spagnuolo final record (1-3)

Pat Shurmur 2018 4th 5 11 0

- Saquon Barkley(NFL OROY)^l

2018-2018 Coach #20 Pat Shurmur final record (5-11)

Giants totals from 1925 to Feb 2019

Total reg. season wins & losses thru February, 2019 **(692-596-33)-(536)**

Total playoff wins & losses from 1925-Feb 2019 **(24-25) .(490)**

Total all games from 1925- Feb 2019 including playoffs **(716-621-336) .(536)**

Dedication

I dedicate this book

To my wonderful brothers and sisters:

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 and a great wife, Patricia Piotroski Kelly

Mom & Dad—Edward J Kelly and Irene McKeown Kelly

Stanley (Smokey) Piotroski and Arlene (Skippe) Piotroski

Acknowledgments:

I appreciate all the help that I have received in putting this book together as well as all of the other 198 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 Arline “Skippo” Piotroski; Angel Stanley “Smokey” Piotroski, Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Jr., Ann Flannery, Angel James Flannery Sr., Mary Daniels, Bill Daniels, Angel Robert Gary Daniels, Angel Sarah Janice Daniels, Angel Punkie Daniels, Joe Kelly, Diane Kelly, Brian P. Kelly, Mike P. Kelly, Katie P. Kelly, Recent Angel Ben Kelly, and Budmund (Buddy) Arthur Kelly, who appears to own the premises.

Thank you all!

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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 written down in the proper sequence. Having to pay attention to such 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 199 other books before this book and several hundred articles published by many magazines and newspapers and I only cite when an idea is not mine or when I am quoting, and again, I choose to cite in place, and the reader does not have to trace strange numbers through strange footnotes and back to bibliography elements that may not be readily accessible or available.

Yet, I would be kidding you, if in a book about the great coaches in New York Giants 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 on the Giants for all the facts that I have uncovered.

Without any pain on your part, you can read this book from cover to cover to enjoy the stories about the many great coaches in New York Giants Football.

This book is not intended for historians *per se*, but it does teach a lot of history. It is for regular people of all levels of intelligence. It is for people that want to have a fun read, who like smiling when Giants Football is the topic. It is fun reading about each of the NY Giants' 716 total wins. This book is for people who love NY Giants' Football

and perhaps it is also for some Giants' 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 Giants because they are the Giants and who enjoy football because it is football. It is that simple.

When the Giants 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 Giants and the Mara's copyright their original material but not public 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 the coaches of the many NYG championship 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. 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. 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.

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:

Tom Coughlin is the latest living disciple of Bill Parcells with the winning attitude and the winning record. Pat Shurmur is expected by many fans and many in the Giants organization to be in the Tom Coughlin Mold. That is good news.

“Winning is what happens when commitment, desire, talent, preparation, hard work, and leadership all come together. This is a quote by Tom Coughlin, a Super-Bowl Winning NY Giant Coach and a fine man.

The New York Football Giants will be entering their 95th season in the fall of 2019. With Pat Shurmur at the helm, many of us cannot wait. Over the course of their team history they’ve had a bevy of legendary coaches. Do the names Vince Lombardi, Tom Landry, and Bill Belichick ring a bell? None of these greats however, ever got to be a Giants head coach. No sir, and we should probably say that again for effect. But, these greats all contributed to making the Giant s the great legacy tea that they are.

Even with these immortals gracing Giants blue, only 20 men in total—some longer than others, have been lucky enough to be the head man in charge of all the action. The Giants, from day one, have been a great team—winning from the start and going 11-1 in their third year 1927. This was an NFL Championship before the Super Bowl And, there were others.

The team since 1925 has won 8 championships between former NFL Championship games and the modern Super Bowls,. So, there is a clear history of winners and some of the best football ever played in the US, the Capitol of American Football.

Legendary NY Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells is one of the more quoted of the Giant’s past coaching masters. It is no wonder why. In his years at the Giants and elsewhere, Parcells called it as he saw it, and he has been right most of the time. He was a great coach besides being a great prognosticator.

“Everything that is—can be made better.” That’s not a Bill Parcells quote. It is my own, but Parcells could just as easily have said it

because that was his coaching philosophy in a nutshell. That's why he won so much. Everything that is—can be made better

Bill Parcells was never a whiner, but telling it like it is, means you are not always cheery as we can see by this Parcells' classic quote: .

“Even when you're successful, even when you win the game, about an hour after the game, you have a litany of things that you now deal with that are problematic... So, the times that you are happy are minute compared to the time that you're dealing with problems.”

Coach Pat Shurmur is already turning the Giants around. He inherited a team that had gone 3-13 in the 2017 season and he revamped most of it but the improvements have yet to pay off as the Giants finished as they did 2017, but with two more win. Still the team had a lock on last place in the NFC East.

No one had told Shurmur it would be easy, and though he felt some glimmers of hope the best he could go was snag two more wins for the franchise. We're all hoping this is the year and Shurmur thinks Eli Manning is just the guy to unleash the victory tiger once again.

Looking back in history as we do often in this book, we find a ton of great coaches out of the 20 heads in total on the Giants' list. For all their great games in about 95 seasons, this great team still has about 100 wins more than losses, making them the third winningest team in pro football history.

After writing about Notre Dame, Penn State, Clemson, Alabama, Florida, Syracuse, and Army, Brian Kelly, your author was moved by his memories of watching the old 21" B/W Admiral TV on Sundays with his dad. So, here we are in this book waiting to get the chance to memorialize some of these colorful Charlie Conerly and YA Tittle football games The New York Giants were always a favorite of the Kelly family with my dad, and brothers Ed and Joe and I enjoying the great games while stealing as much heat from the old Parlor Heatrola coal stove as possible.

This new book by Brian Kelly, which highlights the Great Coaches in New York Giants Football is one of the items that is expected to be available all 52 weeks and in fact all 365 days each year except in LEAP YEAR where the Giants add an extra day for your book shopping pleasure.

Amazon, Kindle, Barnes & Noble and other online sites in the US and overseas carry this new book and it will add to your year-round football experience, especially in the off-season. Once you get this book, it is yours forever unless, of course you may give it away to one of the many Giants fans, who will be in awe of your new possession.



The LA Rams v NY Giants Polo Grounds November 14, 1948. Photo by AP Photo/HH

Who is Author Brian Kelly?

Brian Kelly aka Brian W. Kelly, is one of the leading authors in America with this, his 199th published book. Brian continues as an outspoken and eloquent expert on a variety of topics. Moreover, Kelly also has written several hundred articles on other topics of interest to Americans and people across the globe.

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. If I could get the pen out of Dad's hand for just awhile, I might be able to write a few books of my own, but my editing chores at Lets Go Publish always come first.

Brian Kelly's books are highlighted at www.letsgopublish.com. They are for sale at Amazon, Kindle, and Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com/author/brianwkelly, as well as and other fine booksellers.

The best!

Sincerely,

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

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 199 books, including 50 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 Giants and he became a big fan in the 1950's and 1960's watching games with his dad on Sundays on the family's new 21" Admiral B/W TV.

Writing about the New York Giants has been a special treat.

Chapter 1 Introduction to the NY Giants Coaches Book

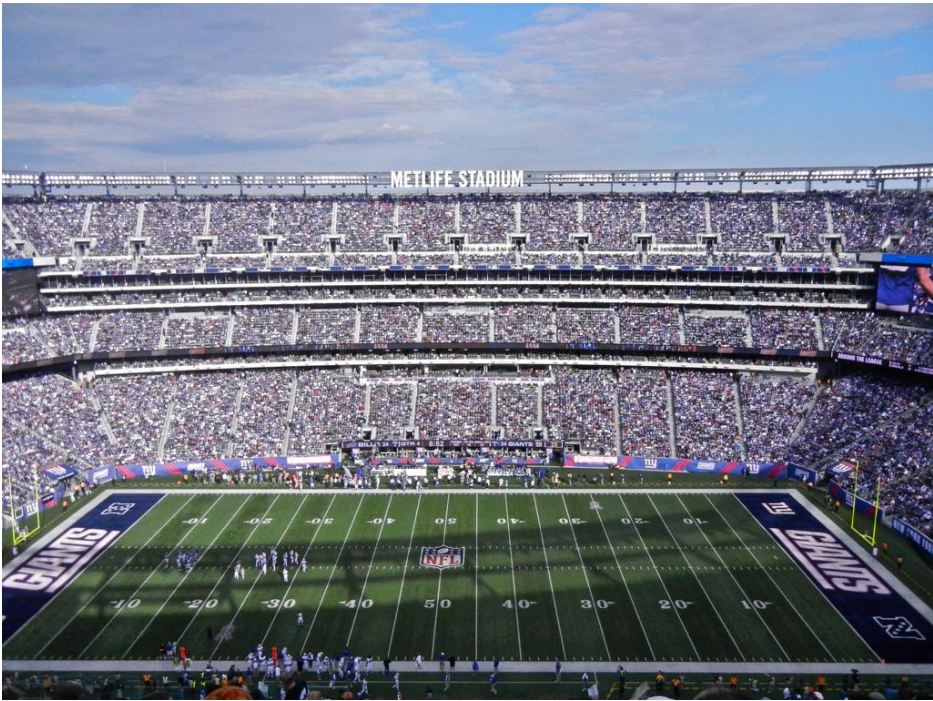
The Giants celebrate 95th year of football



Everybody loves the New York Giants!

In 2019, New York is celebrating its 95th year of Giants football.

This book celebrates New York Giants Football; its founding; its struggles; its greatness; and football's long-lasting impact on American life. People like me, who love the team from way back when they were in their thirtieth year, will love this book. Giants Haters will want their own copy of this book just for additional ammo. Yet, it won't help them! Hah!



NY Giants Current Stadium – Met Life Stadium

In defining the format of the book, we chose to use a timetable that is based on a historical chronology. Within this framework, we discuss the great coaches in New York Giants Football History, and there are many great coaches.

Looking at the quick snapshot of coaches and seasons at the beginning of the book, it is clear that New York (Giants) has been able to survive a number of coaches who could not survive themselves, while the Giants football program has grown both in acceptance and popularity.

Look across the Internet with your web browser and you will be reminded that the New York Giants have eight football championships to the franchise's credit.

I have done my best to portray an accurate depiction of New York Giant Football History by telling the stories of the great Giants' coaches, displayed in a properly summarized format so that none of us are reading this book forever. There are about 300 pages to this book and so there is more than enough to accompany you on those cold winter nights after the close of the football season.

There are a ton of great stories for sure. More importantly, none of us should need to search further than this book for the truth about many of the depictions in this book. Let's talk about some formative Giants football moments and some great athletes and coaches now, before we close out the first chapter of this book highlighting the Great Coaches in New York Giants Football.

Brief Overview

Ya just gotta love New York as a sports city and the New York Giants Professional Football Team. I know I do from way back. I have been to a number of the New York and New Jersey stadiums where the games are played. I have always been a Sunday football watcher, and a proud New York Giants fan long before my years required two digits to show.

The Giants have been around since their beginning in 1925. Unlike other NFL beginnings there was no syndicate responsible for getting the Giants going. The late Tim Mara, who is now a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, purchased a new NFL franchise for \$500 in 1925. However, it cost him a lot more to get through the first season. Before it was ended, Mara had to fork over another \$25,000 to keep the franchise alive.

This NY Giants history is reported by the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The history and tradition of the New York Giants is linked to pro football itself for one might have perished without the other in the early days of the National Football League. The value of New York exposure was clearly demonstrated in December of the first season when more than 70,000 turned out at the Polo Grounds to see the Giants play the Chicago Bears, who had just signed Red Grange, the most famous pro football player of the 1920s.

The very next season (1926), Grange and his agent formed a rival American Football League and placed their flagship team, the Yankees, in New York to battle the Giants head-to-head. It proved to

be a costly battle but the Giants and the NFL won. This first version of the AFL lasted only one year.

Pro football was not a sure thing in the very early days. It could have been successful but there were no guarantees. Unlike college football, there were no rich alums who bankrolled the bad years. Teams either made money for the owners or the teams folded.

In the 1930's there were a lot of conflicts in Europe and eventually the US entered what became known as World War II in 1939.

As the US geared up for the possibility of war and especially after war was declared, both college and professional football had a tough time getting the players that were needed as the armed services were grabbing all able-bodied men and assuring their enlistment. On September 16, 1940, the United States instituted the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, which required all men between the ages of 21 and 45 to register for the draft. This was the first peacetime draft in United States' history.

Unlike Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and several other teams, New York had some funding which helped it with recruiting and stocking enough players to get through the war years. You may know that in 1943, it was so difficult getting players that Philadelphia and the Pittsburgh franchises combined for this one season. They called themselves the Steagles.

The manpower shortage was created by World War II. Men were needed for the war, and for the major manufacturing that was set up in the US to build the armaments. New York did not have major issues though it was taxing for all teams to survive.

In its third season in 1927, the Giants were a real power-house. They won their first NFL championship behind a defense led by tackle Steve Owen . That defense permitted an all-time low of 20 points in 13 games. Owen became the Giants' coach in 1930. He held the job for 23 seasons, the longest for any of the Giant's 17 coaches. Owen finished with a 153-108-17 record.

He still ranks twenty-first in all-time coaching victories. The Giants enjoyed some of their finest seasons during the Owen years.

Beginning with the start of divisional play in 1933, the Giants won eight Eastern division titles in 14 seasons and NFL championships in 1934 and 1938. Ken Strong, a triple-threat halfback and a premier placekicker, and Mel Hein, a center-linebacker who didn't miss a game in 15 seasons, were Giants standouts through most of the 1930s and 1940s.

With the coaching of first Jim Lee Howell in the late 1950s and Allie Sherman in the early 1960s, the Giants won the NFL title in 1956 and six NFL Eastern championships in eight years from 1956 to 1963. Such stars as Charlie Conerly, Y. A. Tittle, Frank Gifford, Roosevelt Brown, Emlen Tunnell and Andy Robustelli led New York's annual chase to the title game.

From 1964 to 1985, the Giants remained out of championship contention. With Bill Parcells at the helm, they won NFC Eastern division crowns in 1986, 1989 and 1990. They concluded the 1986 and 1990 campaigns with victories over Denver in Super Bowl XXI and Buffalo in Super Bowl XXV.

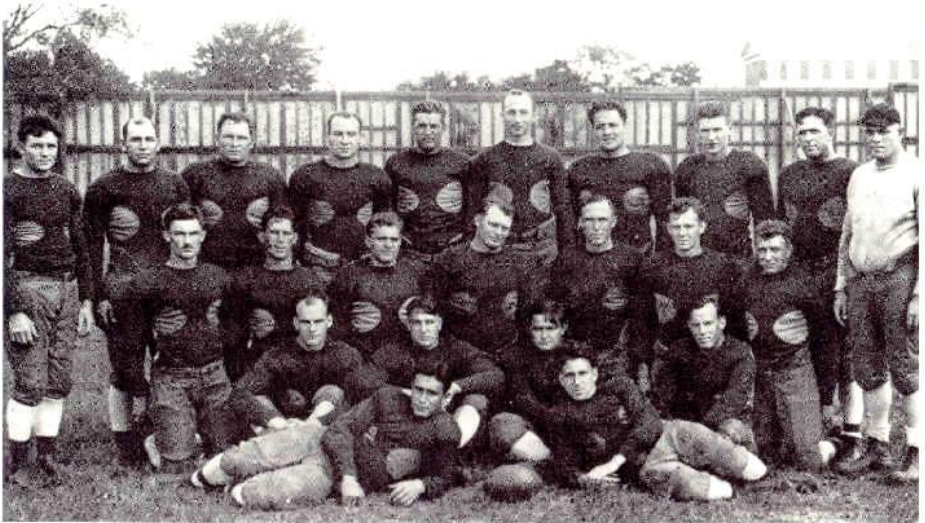
From the start, the Giants have been a family enterprise. Founder Tim Mara's sons, Jack and Wellington, succeeded him and Tim Mara II served for many years as the club's vice president. Wellington Mara and Preston Robert Tisch, who purchased 50 percent of the club in 1991, served as co-chief executive officers until their deaths in 2005. In 2007, the Giants, led by quarterback Eli Manning and defensive end Michael Strahan, defeated the previously unbeaten New England Patriots to capture the Super Bowl XLII championship. Manning and the Giants won a second Super Bowl four years later in a rematch against the Patriots in Super Bowl XLVI. We're ready for another Super Bowl Win in 2019.

Chapter 2 First Giants Coach--Bob Folwell 1925

Coach #1 Bob Folwell

Bob Folwell 1925 4th 8 4 0

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>Conf/Div</u>
1925	Bob Folwell	8-4-0	4 th	NFL



1925 New York Giants Football Team

The year was 1925. It was four years after the NFL's first try in New York, Tim Mara, who was a successful businessman, promoter, and bookmaker (a term used for a legal “racket” at the time), purchased a team franchise in the five-year old National Football League (NFL) for a reported \$500.

This time period in which Mara got the Giant’s franchise was after college football had already become successful. Former college football stars from Michigan and Penn State and Notre Dame were graduating and that typically meant the end of their football careers. For those wanting to make a career out of playing football, they were simply out of luck even though there were many college football stars who wanted to continue to play football.

The fans were not yet accustomed to a professional cadre of football players who received a living wage by getting paid in real dollars to play football. Therefore before 1920, professional football was kept in the shadows by “real sports” such as baseball, boxing, horse racing and college football.

Though there were regional football teams that paid players small amounts for their services, such professional football teams had not yet hit the big cities. Instead, the teams hailed from the towns of Dayton, Rochester and Columbus. Nonetheless, league officials believed that a team in a large market such as New York was exactly what was needed to keep the fledgling NFL alive and turn it into a successful business venture.

How to get that job done was the problem,. From the beginning, during their first season in 1925, the Giants were in danger of bankruptcy despite playing competitive football in their first season. They started off their season poorly with three losses. Then, after a seven-game winning streak, their record stood at a respectable 7-3. They were positioned to survive.

More important than Wins and Losses for any pro team at the time, was, according to the analysts, what could get the team out of the red? A December 11th 1925 game at the Polo Grounds against Red Grange and the Chicago Bears was expected to be key to a profitable season. It was. The game was a huge gate attraction drawing over 70,000 fans at the Polo Grounds. It kept the startup Giants in business, and it helped to give pro-football a nice foothold in New York City. The New York Football Giants went on to finish with an 8-4 record splitting a home and home end-of season series with the Chicago Bears.

The 1925 New York Giants season was the franchise's inaugural season in the National Football League. The team finished with a record of 8–4 against NFL league opponents.

1925 Coach #1 Bob Folwell

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1925 professional football season. The Giants played in their inaugural NFL season. At the time the entire league was in one

Division. This changed in 1933. At that time, the NFL East Division and the NFL West Division were formed.

Instead of two teams competing for one title, the split gave five teams and another five teams each going for separate titles. From the two divisions, a championship game was played. It was not the super bowl but the champion helped the NFL Football Championship which was as good as the Super Bowl at the time.

The five teams in the Eastern Division where the Giants played were as follows:

- New York Giants
- Brooklyn Dodgers
- Boston Redskins
- Philadelphia Eagles
- Pittsburgh Pirates

The Giants were led by coach Bob Folwell in his first year as head coach of the NY Giant. The Giants finished the season with an 8-4 record, which gave them 4th place in the NFL. The Giants played seventeen games overall. Five were non-NFL league games.

Coach Bob Folwell



Bob Folwell was a football coach in the National Football League (NFL) during the 1925 season. He served as the head coach of the New York Football Giants. He does not have a large resume but during his lone season in the NFL the Giants went 8-4-0.

Born Robert Cook Folwell Jr. on February 17, 1885, Folwell passed away on January 8, 1928. He played football and he coached at the college and pro-level. He was head coach at three Pennsylvania

colleges--Lafayette College (1909–1911); Washington & Jefferson College (1912–1915); the University of Pennsylvania (1916–1919). Additionally, he coached the United States Naval Academy from 1920–1924). His career college football record was very good at 106–29–9. When the NFL was five years old, Folwell moved his trade to the professional ranks—including a stint with the New York Giants of the National Football League (NFL) in 1925, the Philadelphia Quakers of the American Football League in 1926, and the Atlantic City Roses of the Eastern League of Professional Football in 1927.

Games of the 1925 Season

The 1925 season opener was played on Sep 27 against the Newark Red Jackets in a non-NFL game at Dreamland Park. The Giants prevailed W (3-0). On Oct 4, my wedding anniversary in another non-NFL game, against All-New Britain, the Giants won again W (26-0) in New Britain Connecticut. On Oct 11, at the Cycledrom, the Giants were beaten by the Providence Steam Rollers L (0-14). Then on Oct 17 at Frankford Stadium in Philadelphia, the Giants finally played against the precursor team to the Philadelphia Eagles, the Frankford Yellow Jackets. In a losing effort L (3-5). The next day on Oct 18, Frankford's Yellow Jackets appeared at the Polo Grounds in NY and again they prevailed against the Giants L (0-14)..

On Nov 1, 1925 the Giants picked up their first NFL win against the Cleveland Bulldogs W (19–0) at the Polo Grounds. Again, at the Polo Grounds, the Giants claimed a victory—this time on Nov 3, against the Buffalo Bisons W (7–0). Then, on Nov 8, 1925, the Giants shut out the Columbus Tigers W (19–0) at the Polo Grounds. This was followed on Veterans Day, Nov 11 with a win against Rochester Jeffersons W (13–0) at the Polo Grounds.

On Nov 15, after an early season loss, the Giants defeated the Providence Steam Roller W (13–12) at the Polo Grounds. On Nov 22, the Giants outscored the Kansas City Cowboys W 9–3 at the Polo Grounds. After a four-day break, on Nov 26, the Giants beat the Staten Island Stapletons W 7–0 in Albany, New York. Then as November came to a close, on the 29th, the Giants shut out the Dayton Triangles W (23–0) at the Polo Grounds.

Next came two tough games against Chicago. On Dec 6, the Giants were beaten by the Chicago Bears L (7–19) at home in the Polo Grounds. The following week at Wrigley Field, on Dec 13, the Giants came back and beat the Bears W (9-0).

The Giants played two more exhibition games at the end of the season. The first was lost on Jan 1, 1926 in Palm Beach Florida against the Coral Gables Collegians L (3–13). The second loss in the “post season” came on January 6, 1926 at the Coral Gables Collegians L (13–14). This game was played at Coral Gables, Florida.

Successful First Season

This was the Giants first season of football games. With an 8-4 record, nobody could call this a poor season. The Giants’ Coach Bob Folwell moved on after this inaugural year and the team replaced him with a new coach for 1926, Coach Doc Alexander. The “Doc” brought an 8-4-1 record to the Giants in their second year. It would be awhile for the giants to have a losing record. They were a great New York team right from the start.

Chapter 3 Doc Alexander Era 1926

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>W L T</u>
2. Doc Alexander	1926	7 th	8 4 1

1926 Coach # 2 Doc Alexander



<< Coach Doc Alexander.

Alexander was both a player and a coach .He got his start as a player at Syracuse University.

Joe Alexander was a three-time All-America choice, making it as a guard in 1918-19 and center in 1920. He was Syracuse captain two years and also captained the lacrosse team one season.

Alexander graduated from medical school and began practicing medicine in New York City.

He specialized in lung treatment and helped found one of the first tuberculosis centers in New York. For seven years 1921-27 he played in the National Football League on weekends while practicing medicine. He was playing coach of the New York Giants in 1926 posting an 8-4-1 record. Playing for Syracuse in 1918 against Rutgers, he picked up a loose ball and ran 75 yards for a touchdown. He starred in a 1919 conquest of Pittsburgh. It was Pitt's first loss in four years.

Against Colgate in 1920 he lined up on defense on the one-yard line. Colgate ran four plays. Alexander made the tackle on the first three and intercepted a pass on the fourth. He stood 5-11, weighed 210 pounds, and Walter Camp called him "a whirlwind with weight." In 1937 the New York World-Telegram named him on an all-time All-America team. In 1954 Syracuse University started the Joseph Alexander Award, given each year to a Syracuse player for

excellence in football, scholarship, and citizenship. Alexander was born April 1, 1898, and died September 12, 1975.

As coach of the Giants' his team finished with a winning record of 8-4-1. This was almost the same exact record in the regular season for the Giants as the 1925 season. They also gained a postseason appearance against the original AFL Philadelphia Quakers, which the Giants won 31-0.

Games in Doc Alexander's season with Giants

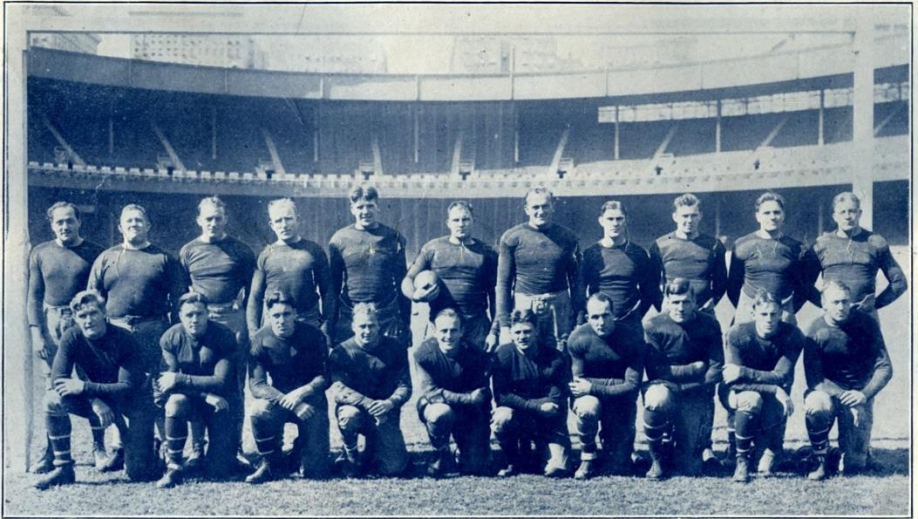
On Sept 26 at Hartford, in the season opener, the Giants shut out the Blues W(21-0). Then, on Oct 3, at Providence, the Giants edged out the Steam Roller W (7-6). On Oct 10 at Chicago, the Giants shut out the Bears W (7-0). This was followed on Oct 16 with a defeat by the Franklin Yellow Jackets, predecessors to the Eagles L (0-6), The next day in New York, the Yellow Jackets beat the Giants again by the same score L (0-6). On Oct 24, the Giants beat the Kansas City Cowboys W (13-0) at the Polo Grounds.

At home on Nov 2, the Canton Bulldogs tied the Giants T (7-7). Then, on Nov 7 at home, the Giants shut-out the Chicago Cardinals W (20-0). The Giants beat the Duluth Eskimos on Nov 11 W (14-13). On Nov 14 at home, the Los Angeles Buccaneers got the best of the Giants L (6-0)

With four games left, the Giants won out. The first win was on Nov 21, at home—a shutout v Providence Steam Roller W (21-0). Then, on Nov 25 at Brooklyn, the Giants defeated the Lions W (17-0) Three days later, at home, the Giants again shutout the Lions on Nov 28, W 27-0. In the season finale on Dec 12 at the Polo Grounds v the Philadelphia Quakers (AFL), the Giants prevailed W (31-0). 1926-1933 Top Giants Players Steve Owen OL/DL

Chapter 4 Earl Potteiger Era 1927-1928

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>W L T</u>
3. Earl Potteiger	1927	1 st	11 1 1
3. Earl Potteiger	1928	6th	4 7 2



NEW YORK FOOTBALL GIANTS 1927

1927 New York Giants Team Picture

Who in today's world ever would have begun to think that an untough named man such as Earl Potteiger would have won a world championship in the toughest, most bruising sports game ever played by human beings? Not me. But, yes, Earl was the man!

This chapter includes a lengthy enjoyable essay with few modifications written by Big Blue Interactive.com. Your author loved it and could not make it better. The reason such an addition is included in this comprehensive work is to both make the reader aware of a great source such as BigBlueInteractive.com as well as to set the stage for what the NFL was really like in its formative years. Their insights in this are riveting. The essay is well written and very interesting. We thank these fine folks for their inclusion.

In the early chapters of this coaching book, from Bob Folwell up to and including Steve Owen, we have chosen to include more information about the Giants and the NFL than you might expect in

a book about Giants coaches. We hope you agree that this makes your reading much more enjoyable.

1927 Coach # 3 Earl Potteiger



1927 Giants Champions



The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1927 professional football season. The 1927 New York Giants football team competed in their third season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Earl Potteiger in his first of two seasons as head coach of the Giants

As noted, this was the franchise's 3rd season in the NFL but just the first under head coach Potteiger. It was a great season for sure and

the Giants took all the marbles that could be gotten. The ants suffered their only loss and just on tie to the Cleveland Bulldogs. The team was ranked first in yards allowed, yards gained, and points allowed, and were second in points scored. Over the entire season, the Giants scored 197 points and allowed 20.

Fullback Jack McBride led the team in scoring with 57 points consisting of six rushing touchdowns, two field goals, and 15 extra points. In the post season, the Giants lost an exhibition game on Dec 26, 1927, in Oklahoma against Otto and Ira Hamilton's Hominy Indians. The Hominy teams consisted of all Native American players. The giants lost L (6-13) 13-6 (Documentary: Playground of the Native Son).

Games of 1927 Season

On Sept 25 at Providence, in the effective season opener, the Giants shut out the Steam Roller W(8-0). There was no game scheduled in week 1. In the season's third game on Oct 2, at Cleveland, the Giants tied the Bulldogs T (0-0). It was as close as it could get. Then, in the 4th slot of the season, on Oct 9 at Pottsville, The Giants whooped the Maroons W (19-0). On Oct 16, at home, the Cleveland Bulldogs beat the Giants L (6-0). Then, on Oct 22, at Frankford, the NY Giants beat the Yellow Jackets W (13-0). In the repeat performance at home v Frankford, the Giants shut out the Yellow Jackets W (27-0).

On Oct 30, at home, the Giants beat the Pottsville Maroons W (16-0). Winning almost all the time, on Nov 6, at home, the Giants whipped the Duluth Eskimos W (21-0). Then, on Nov 8, at home, the Giants were in full gear beating the Providence Steam Roller W (25-0). At the Polo Grounds on Nov 20, the Chicago Cardinals could not keep up and lost W (28-7). And, so, on Nov 27 at home, the Giants defeated the Chicago Bears W (13-7). Playing against another NY team, the Giants, on Dec 4, beat the New York Yankees W (14-0). One week later at the NY Yankees home stadium, the Giants prevailed v the Yanks W (13-0). The Giants had a more than overwhelming season in this great championship season.

The 1927 Season wrap-up

Great Write-up to read

by Larry Schmitt for **BigBlueInteractive.com**

Our thanks to Larry Schmitt for this fine wrap-up of the championship 1927 New York Giants Football Season 11-1-1. Considering the Giants were just three years old at the time, trying to survive financially, it was a harbinger of great things to come for Potteiger's team to gain the NFL Championship. This "season" wrap up puts football in perspective in the third year of the Giants existence and delivers a unique perspective. That's why we thank Larry Schmitt so heartily from BigBlueInteractive.Com. When you have a chance, please thank these fine folks for this contribution to the book

As you have already read in this book, the early attempts to organize professional football were no doubt sincere. However, it is also true that results were minimal. In hindsight, it's easy to see that trial-and-error was the guiding principal for many of the organizational efforts by the nascent National Football League (NFL). Even its original name, the American Professional Football Association (APFA), required refinement. At least that was a quick-and-easy fix; many others were not.

Eventually, the NFL emerged. The full story and history is Brian Kelly's [Great Moments In New York Giants Football](#). Enjoy!

1928 Earl Potteiger Coach #3

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1928 professional football season. The 1928 New York Giants football team competed in their fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Earl Potteiger in his second of two seasons as head coach of the Giants

As noted, this was the franchise's 4th season in the NFL. It was nothing like the championship season of just a year before. The team finished a disappointing sixth with a 4-7-2 record after winning the

NFL title in 1927. The Giants played two games against the Detroit Wolverines and failed to win either one (a 28-0 loss in Detroit and a 19-all tie at the Polo Grounds); at season's end, Giants owner Tim Mara used his pocketbook to strengthen the Giants. He bought the entire Detroit franchise (mostly to secure the services of star tailback Benny Friedman) and merged the two clubs under the Giants

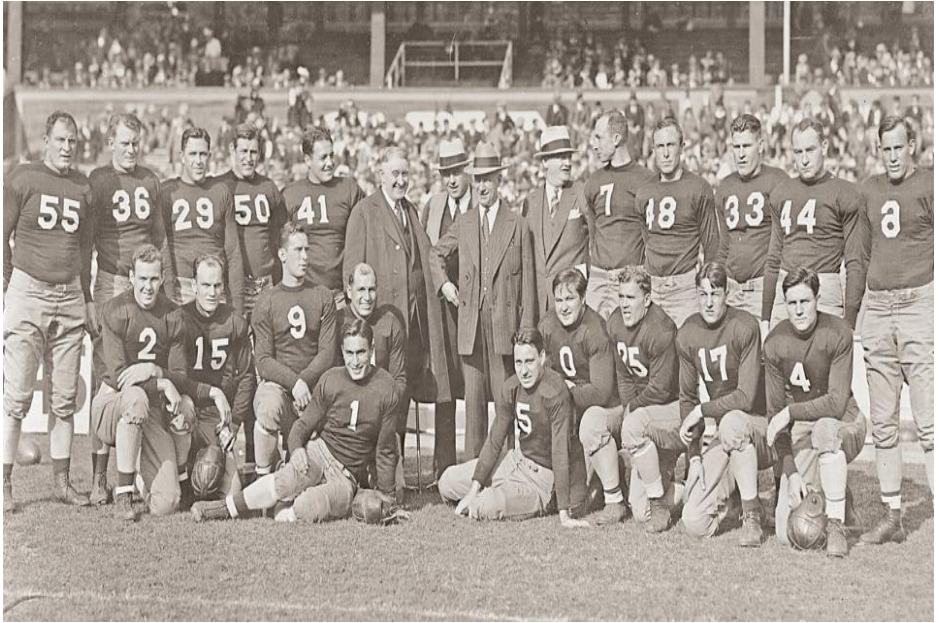
Games of the 1928 Season

On Sep 30, at Pottsville, Giants beat the Maroons W (12–6). On Oct 7, at Green Bay, the Giants defeated the Packers W (6–0). Then, at Chicago on Oct 14, the Bears shut out the Giants L (0-13). At Detroit on Oct 21, the Wolverines pounded the Giants L (0-28). At New York, on Oct 28, the Giants defeated the Yankees W (10–7). Against the precursor to the Eagles, on Nov 4, the Giants tied the Frankford Yellow Jackets T (0–0). At home on Nov 6, the Giants defeated the Pottsville Maroons W (13–7).

At the Polo Grounds in a home match, on Nov 11, the Giants tied the Detroit Wolverines T (19–19). At home again, on Nov 18, the Giants were shut out by the Green Bay Packers in a close match L (0-7). At Providence on Nov 25, the Giants were shutout by the Steam Roller L (0-16). On Dec 2, at home, the New York Yankees beat the Giants L (13-19). Then, on Dec 8 at Frankford, the Yellow Jackets shutout the Giants L (0-7). In the season finale at New York, on Dec 16, the Yankees beat the Giants L (6-7).

Chapter 5 LeRoy Andrews Era 1929-1930

4. LeRoy Andrews	1929	2nd	13 1 1
4. LeRoy Andrews	1930	2nd	11 4 0; 13-4 all coaches



1929 Giants

There is little wonder why Giant co-owners Tim Mara and Dr. Harry March were obsessed with passing sensation Benny Friedman. While his NFL-best 20 touchdown passes his first two years in the league may not seem impressive, consider the league's next highest scoring team in 1927-28, the Frankford Yellow Jackets.

Their leading passer, Ken Mercer, combined for nine touchdown passes in those two seasons. Moreover, the Yellow Jackets played 34 games during that timeframe while Friedman's two teams played 23. Yardage statistics from this era are incomplete and unreliable, but the box scores don't lie. Nobody has ever questioned the value of a passer who gets the ball into the end zone.

Even more impressive was the fact that Friedman accomplished this with two different franchises. In his rookie season, Friedman and the 1927 Cleveland Bulldogs led the NFL in scoring. However, the financially strapped Bulldogs disbanded after the season. Friedman

and several of his teammates signed on with the Detroit Wolverines (most player contracts were one-year deals anyway), where they led the NFL in scoring again in 1928. In those two years, Friedman and his rag-tag squads squared off with the defensive-minded Giants four times without a loss; the best New York managed was two ties.

One of the defeats was thoroughly embarrassing, as Friedman torched the Giants with his legs and arm in a 28-0 blowout at the Polo Grounds. Mara resolved this problem with his purchase of the entire Wolverines franchise in early 1929. To ensure Friedman would agree to play for the Giants, Detroit coach LeRoy Andrews was installed as the head man of the Giants squad.

1929 LeRoy Andrews Coach # 4

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1929 professional football season. The 1929 New York Giants football team competed in their fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by LeRoy Andrews in his first of two seasons as head coach of the Giants. As noted, this was the franchise's 5th season in the NFL. It was a great season as the Detroit acquisition paid off. The team finished in 2nd place with a 13-1-1 record after almost winning the title.



<<< Coach Andrews. The Giants began the season at Orange on Sep 29, with a scoreless tie T (0-0) v the Tornados. At Providence the next week, the Giants shut out the Steam Roller on Oct 6 W (7-0). Then on Oct 13, at Staten Island, the Giants beat the Stapletons W (19-9). On Oct 20, the Giants crushed the Frankford Yellow Jackets W (32-0). At the Polo Grounds home stadium, on Oct 27, the Giants shut out the Providence Steam Roller W (19-0)

Games of the 1929 Season

At Chicago on Nov 3, the Giants defeated the Bears W (26-14). Then, on Nov 5 at Buffalo, the Giants pounded the Bisons W (45-6). On Nov 10, at home, the Giants blanked the Orange Tornados W (22-0). At the Polo Grounds on Nov 17, the

Giants pounded the Chicago Bears in a shutout W (34-0). Then, on Nov 24, at home, the NY Giants were beaten by the Green Bay Packers L (6-20) for their first loss of the season.

The Giants defeated the Staten Island Stapletons on Nov 28 W (21-7). Then on Dec, at home, the Giants edged out the Chicago Cardinals W (24-21). At Frankford , the Giants defeated the Yellow Jackets on Dec 7, W (12-0). The next day on Dec 8, at the Polo Grounds, the Giants pounded the Frankford Yellow Jackets W 31-0. In the season finale, at Chicago, on Dec 15, the Giants beat the Bears W (14-9)

The tribute as a player to Benny Friedman is included below so the reader can appreciate the scant difference between players of these times and the coaches of tomorrow. Benny Friedman played an invaluable part on NY Giants coaching history.



1929-1931 Top Giants Players Benny Friedman

Benny Friedman participated as coach with Steve Owen when he coached in 1930. Both coached the team. This book does not highlight Giants players but instead the coaches. We placed the brief biography of Benny Friedman, who was a player on the LeRoy Andrew team in this chapter because this chapter is about Coach Andrews.

Benny Friedman is not a name you'll hear thrown around with some of the best quarterbacks of all time, but he definitely deserves a spot on this list despite only playing three seasons with the Giants.

In his incredible 1928 season, he led the league in passing touchdowns, rushing touchdowns, and extra-point kicks. It impressed Giants owner Tim Mara so

much that he bought the Detroit Wolverines so he could secure Friedman's services.

As the Hall of Fame website notes, it is believed his career completion percentage was more than 50 percent, which is unbelievable considering 35 percent was good at the time. In his first season with the Giants, he became the first passer to toss 20 touchdowns. He was elected as first team All Pro in his first four seasons in the NFL.

In 1930, Coach Andrews did not complete the season and so, in the next chapters we highlight Benny Friedman and Steve Owen, the two former Giants players at the time who helped coach Andrews team as a duo to complete the 1930 season.

1930 LeRoy Andrews Coach # 4

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1930 professional football season. The 1930 New York Giants football team competed in their sixth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by LeRoy Andrews in his second and last of two seasons as head coach of the Giants. Benny Friedman and Steve Owen together coached the last two games of the season.

As noted, this was the franchise's 6th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a great season as the Detroit acquisition continued to pay off. The team finished in 2nd place with a 13-4-1 record after again almost winning the title.

The season began with a convincing win away on Sep 17, 1930 against the Newark Tornadoes W (32-0). On Sep 28, at Providence, the Giants beat the Steam Roller W (27-7). Then at Green Bay, the Giants lost a close game to the Packers on Oct 5, 1930 L (14-7). At Chicago, on Oct 12, the Giants shut out the Bears W (12-0). Still in Chicago, on Oct 16, the Giants beat the Cardinals W (25-12). Then playing against the forerunners to the Philadelphia Eagles, on Oct 19, the Giants smothered the Frankford Yellow Jackets W (53-0).

On Oct 26, the Giants defeated the Providence Steam Roller W (25-0). At home, at the Polo Grounds on Oct 30, the Giants clipped the

Newark Tornadoes W (34–7). The Giants edged out the Staten Island Stapletons on Nov 2, W (9–7). Then, on Nov 5, at Portsmouth, the Giants defeated the Spartans W (19–6). On Nov 9 at Chicago, the Giants beat the Cardinals W (13–7). At home on Nov 16, the Giants shut out the Chicago Bears L (0-12)

Here are the final games of the season. They are repeated in the next chapter as Benny Friedman was co-coach: On Nov 23, at home, the Giants beat the Green Bay Packers W (13–6). Then, on Nov 27 at Staten Island, the Stapletons edged out the Giants L (6-7) . At home on Nov 30, the Brooklyn Football Dodgers nosed out the Giants L (6-7). Then, on Dec 6, at Frankford, PA, the Giants defeated the Yellow Jackets W (14–6). At Brooklyn on Dec 7, the Giants beat the Football Dodgers W (13–0).

Chapter 6 Benny Friedman Era 1930

5. Benny Friedman &	1930	2nd	2-0 – both coaches
6. Steve Owen	1930	2nd	2-0—both coaches

1930 Benny Friedman Coach # 5



<< Coach Benny Friedman.

Benny Friedman had a 2-0 record with the giants, not including the ND game.

On Nov 23, at home, the Giants beat the Green Bay Packers W (13–6). Then, on Nov 27 at Staten Island, the Stapletons edged out the Giants L (6-7). At home on Nov 30, the Brooklyn Football Dodgers nosed out the Giants L (6-7). Then, on Dec 6, at Frankford,

PA, the Giants defeated the Yellow Jackets W (14–6). At Brooklyn on Dec 7, the Giants beat the Football Dodgers W (13–0). Benny coached with Steve Owen in these last two games.

Three coaches were part of the Giants coaching makeup in 1930. In addition to coach Le Roy Andrews, who coached 15 games in 1930, Benny Friedman and Steve Owen together coached the last two games. Benny Friedman's picture is shown on the left above. Steve Owen is the featured coach in the next two chapters. Here is a little info on Steve:

He's known in this book as the Giants first long-term great coach. Stephen Joseph Owen was born on April 21, 1898 and he passed away a young man on May 17, 1964. Owen was an American football player and coach. He earned a place in the Pro Football Hall of Fame as head coach of the National Football League's New York Giants from 1930 to 1953. Owen's skill at designing defenses, his fundamentals-centered approach to the game and his innovative "A formation," a variation on the single-wing, also helped his offenses thrive and were key to his success. His personal style was memorable

for the odd congruence of gravelly voice and easy disposition to go with his perpetual tobacco chewing.



Benny Friedman with ball, New York Giants against Notre Dame All Stars (December 14)

Notre Dame Couldn't Beat Six-Year Old Giants

College football had a forty or more year start on pro football. By the end of the 1920s, Notre Dame was regarded as one of the best teams in college football with Knute Rockne as their famed coach.

At the same time, the New York Giants were recognized as a top squad in the very young National Football League.

On Dec. 14, 1930, Irish head coach Knute Rockne, who once was a pro football player himself, led a team of Notre Dame All-Stars against the New York Giants at the Polo Grounds in an event, the purpose of which was to raise money for the Committee on Unemployed. The country was in the middle of the Great Depression.

Over 55,000 fans were tickled to gather to watch this postseason exhibition after the Giants had completed a fine season. For college football fans, especially Notre Dame fans, they saw their Irish lose this game L (22-0) to the Giants. Despite the “tears,” more than \$110,000 was raised for the city and since it was during the Great Depression, it was most appreciated.

Tragically, it turned out to be the final game that Rockne ever coached, as he died in a plane crash during the following spring. In this ‘Strong and True’ moment, look back on one of the most unique games in Notre Dame and New York Giants football history. The accompanying excerpt is from an Associated Press article published in The Yonkers Herald. We hope it adds to your book experience. Benny Friedman and Steve Owen coached this game as coach Andrews had moved on. Here is a blurb advertising the game:

“The difference between professional and intercollegiate football, if any, should be strikingly demonstrated tomorrow when Knute Rockne’s Notre Dame All Stars clash with the New York Giants of the National Professional Football League. The game will be played at the Polo Grounds before a crowd of 40,000 or more.

Rockne has gathered together an imposing array of talent, including three stars of his 1930 machine, Carideo, Brill and O’Connor. Then there will be Law, Moynihan, Cannon, Twomey, Voedisch, Crowley, Hunsinger and a host of other heroes of other great Notre Dame elevens.

To oppose this group of All Stars in name and fact, the Giants will pit one of the finest pro outfits in the country. Benny Friedman, old Michigan quarterback, is the mainspring of the Giants attack. His passing, as sensational as it ever was, has been a major factor in the Giants’ successes this season. Another agile pro performer will be Red Cagle, the flashing red head of Army fame.



Among the players on the Notre Dame All-Stars were the Four Horsemen – Harry Stuhldreher, Don Miller, Jim Crowley, and Elmer Layden.

THE YONKERS HERALD

YONKERS HERALD'S SPORTING NEWS

Notre Dame Leader And Players In Benefit Grid Game Tomorrow



KNUTE K. ROCKNE
Who Coached The Irish All Stars



FRANK CARIDEO
Of Mount Vernon, To Play At
Regular Post, Quartersback



JOHN R. LAW
Of Yonkers, 1929 Captain, At Guard

The Associated Press
New York, Dec. 15.—The difference between professional and college football is being made, it was pointed out today, when Knute Rockne's Irish Stars leave for the New York State of the National Football Football League. The game will be played at the Polo Grounds before a crowd of 25,000.

Rockne has gathered together an unusual array of Irish, including three stars of the 1929 season—O'Donnell, Hill and O'Connor. These stars will be Len Sheehy, Dick Long, Vincent, Vincent, Vincent, Vincent and a host of other stars of other great Irish teams coming.

In 1929 this group of all stars in Ireland and the Glens will be out of the Irish job which is the center of the Irish game. The game is a regular feature in the Irish game. The game is a regular feature in the Irish game. The game is a regular feature in the Irish game.

Double and Trip of Army Team
The game is being played for the benefit of the unemployed.

The game is expected to be a money game which will attract a large crowd at the Polo Grounds. It will attract a large crowd of admirers of football who have seen the game.

The game will be played at 1:30 and start with the Irish Stars. The game will be played at 1:30 and start with the Irish Stars. The game will be played at 1:30 and start with the Irish Stars.

Knute Rockne Will Give Dinner
After the game the Notre Dame Club of New York will give a dinner to the Polo Grounds of the Irish Stars. The game will be played at 1:30 and start with the Irish Stars.

The game will be played at 1:30 and start with the Irish Stars. The game will be played at 1:30 and start with the Irish Stars. The game will be played at 1:30 and start with the Irish Stars.

The Mayor's committee has announced that on noon Sunday it will give \$100,000 to the Irish Stars.

The game will be played at 1:30 and start with the Irish Stars. The game will be played at 1:30 and start with the Irish Stars. The game will be played at 1:30 and start with the Irish Stars.

BY CHRISTIAN "RED" CAGLE
New York, Dec. 15.—Knut Rockne and 25 of his Notre Dame football stars arrived in town today.

The game will be played at 1:30 and start with the Irish Stars. The game will be played at 1:30 and start with the Irish Stars. The game will be played at 1:30 and start with the Irish Stars.

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**YOU CAN HELP
SMASH THAT LINE!**



**NOTRE DAME
All Stars**

vs.

N. Y. GIANTS

POLO GROUNDS

DEC. 14, 1930 - 1³⁰ P.M.

BENEFIT N.Y. UNEMPLOYED

MAYOR'S OFFICIAL RELIEF COMMITTEE ON
UNEMPLOYED AND NEEDY 346 B'DWAY

OFFICIAL
25 CENTS

ALL STARS BEATEN BY GIANTS, 22 TO 0

50,000 See Heroes of Notre
Dame Teams of Past Lose
at the Polo Grounds.

RECEIPTS TOTAL \$112,000

Rockne's Four Horsemen With
Carideo, O'Connor and Elder
in Action for Charity.

Notre Dame Media Relations

FRIEDMAN GOES OVER TWICE

Campbell Scores on 22-Yard Pass
From Moran—Former Gov. Smith
and Mayor Walker at Game.

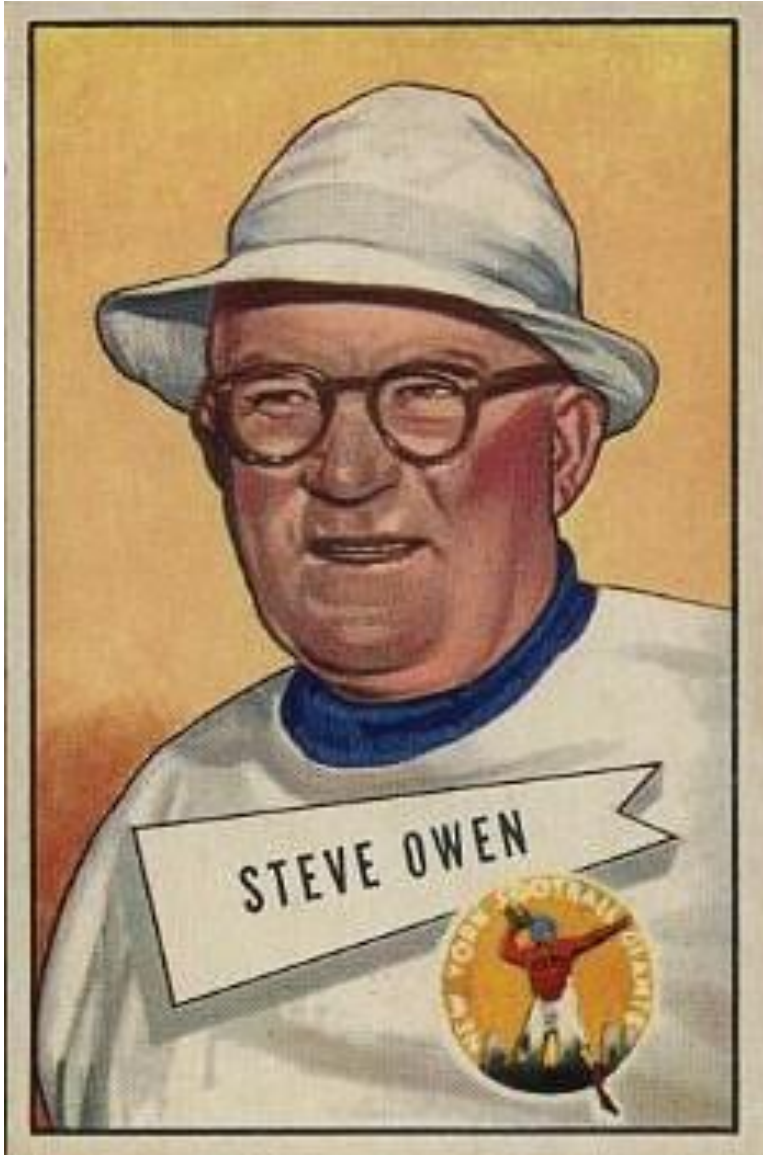
Rockne cared more for his players than victory though his many quotes might prove otherwise. The Fighting Irish, tough as they were, were no match for the Giants. After the game, Rockne made sure all his "boys" were still doing well. He said to his players, "That was the greatest football machine I ever saw. I am glad none of you got hurt."

This book is about the fabled New York Giants. Along with me, my two brothers, Ed, and Joe, as well as my dad Ed, were always Giants fans. The Giants were tough and the Giants were good!

Chapter 7 Coach Steve Owen 1930-1940

Coach # 5 Benny Friedman 1930-1931 Two games in 1930 2-0

Coach # 6 Steve Owen 1930-1953 Two games in 1930 2-0



Coach
Benny Friedman

Year
1930

Steve Owen 1930

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>W L T</u>
Steve Owen	1931	5th	7 6 1
Steve Owen	1932	5th	4 6 2
Steve Owen	1933	1st	11 3 0
Steve Owen	1934	1 st	8 5 0
Steve Owen	1935	1st	9 3 0
Steve Owen	1936	3rd	5 6 1
Steve Owen	1937	2nd	6 3 2
Steve Owen	1938	1st	8 2 1
Steve Owen	1939	1st	9 1 1
Steve Owen	1940	3rd	6 4 1
Steve Owen	1941	1st	8 3 0
Steve Owen	1942	3rd	5 5 1
Steve Owen	1943	2nd	6 3 1
Steve Owen	1944	1 st	8 1 1
Steve Owen	1945	T-3rd	3 6 1
Steve Owen	1946	1 st	7 3 1
Steve Owen	1947	5th	2 8 2
Steve Owen	1948	T-3rd	4 8 0
Steve Owen	1949	3rd	6 6 0
Steve Owen	1950	2nd	10 2 0
Steve Owen	1951	2nd	9 2 1
Steve Owen	1952	T-2nd	7 5 0
Steve Owen	1953	5th	3 9 0

1931-1953 Steve Owen final record (153-100-17)

Your author, Brian Kelly was born in 1948 even before my grand-mom and mom tricked my dad into acquiring a 1957 Admiral B/W TV in 1956 from Russel Daubert's miniature grocery store on Blackman Street in Wilkes-Barre Pa. Russel got a small Admiral Franchise and my grand-mom and mom were looking for a TV. I am not sure if color TVs were even out in the public at the time.

My dad probably knew of Steve Owen but he never talked to me about him as I was five years old when Owen left the Giants. My dad loved both the Giants and the Eagles and I am convinced he would have liked Steve Owen since as I read about him and write about him now, I am impressed.

Steve Owen: The Coach Who Built the Giants Dynasty

The bulk of the information about the coaching legend, Steve Owen has come from a great Internet piece posted by a great writer named Eric Kennedy. Thank you Eric for giving us all this perspective on Steve Owen.

Below the URL, you will find the picture of Steve Owen that Eric Kennedy felt was most appropriate to describe this great coach and unique man. Thank you Eric for a great post.



<https://www.bigblueinteractive.com/2013/06/24/steve-owen-the-rock-the-giants-were-built-on/>

Posted by Eric Kennedy

Steve Owen: The Rock The New York Giants Were Built On

This is a great tribute from bigblueinteractive.com when Steve Owen passed way.

When Steve Owen, who coached the New York Giants from 1931 through 1953, died of a cerebral hemorrhage at his home in Oneida, New York, I debated for a day whether to make the trip south for the funeral. For a long time I had felt that I owed Owen such homage, and I'd never again be able to pay it... I had wanted to make the pilgrimage because it was Owen, as much as any other, who had brought me round to the Giants and made me a fan. Unable to conceive what my life would have been without football to cushion the knocks; I was sure I owed him sorrow. – Frederick Exley, A Fan's Notes

Other than Wellington Mara, no other individual in the history of the New York Football Giants has had a bigger impact on the franchise than Stephen Joseph Owen. Yet sadly, Steve Owen is largely unknown and rarely remembered by fans.

Steve Owen was a four-time All-NFL, two-way tackle who played for the Giants from 1926 to 1931. Continuing as a player-coach, Owen became co-head coach with Benny Friedman for the final two games of the 1930 season. In 1931, he assumed sole head-coaching duties of the Giants for the next 23 years until 1953. In 1954 and 1966, Owen served as a scout with the Giants.

Thus for 30 years, during the crucial formative years of the franchise, Owen was the most pivotal figure within the organization not named Mara. As a player, he captained the 1927 team that won the team's first NFL title and held opposing teams to a single-season, record-low total of 20 points. Then an entire generation of Giants' fans grew up knowing no other head coach than Steve Owen.

The first “golden age” of Giants’ football was not from 1956-63, but from 1933-46 when, during that 14-season time span under Owen, the Giants played in eight NFL Championship games, winning two. “Steve Owen was really the rock that we built on,” said Wellington Mara. “He was like my second father...I admired him, was greatly attached to him, and respected him. He kind of brought me up in the football business.”

A Wrassler from the Indian Territory

Steve Owen was born on the same day – April 21, 1898 – that President William McKinley asked Congress to declare war on Spain. Owen was born in Cleo Springs in the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), where his father had claimed land when the Cherokee Strip was opened to settlers. Owen’s father farmed the land while his mother became the area’s first schoolmarm.

Owen’s high school did not have a football team. “Outside of wrasslin’, we didn’t have any time for sports,” said Owen. “We were too busy with chores and schoolin’ and watchin’ the marshals chase outlaws across the Cimarron River.”

By the time he was 16, Owen already weighed 220 pounds. Apparently, his father was so proud of his strength that he would wake up Steve in the middle of the night to wrestle some stranger he had brought home. “I wasn’t allowed to go back to bed until I whipped the fellow Pop brought home,” said Owen.

In the summer as a high school teenager, Owen would travel to Texas to work the oil fields, making \$3 a day for 12 hours of work. Owen wanted to return to Texas after graduating. However, Owen’s mom convinced him to attend Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma where Owen enlisted in the Student Army Training Corps with America’s entry into the First World War. In college, Owen wrestled professionally under the alias “Jack O’Brien” in order to protect his amateur standing.

It was also at college where Owen was introduced to football. His college coach told him, “Son, you now have the secret. It’s a rough game and you’ll get hurt if you let the other fellow hit you harder

than you hit him. That's why football is a good game. It won't let a man play easy. You'll learn the rules fast enough. Just remember this: respect every other boy on this squad and work with him. Never lose respect for your opponent or he'll hit you harder than you hit him."

A Champion as a Giants Player

In 1924, Owen signed with the Kansas City Blues for \$50 per game. He also played for the Cleveland Bulldogs and Kansas City Cowboys in 1925. The Giants were so impressed with Owen that they bought Owen from the Cowboys in 1926 for \$500.

"I had seen a lot of fat hogs go for more than they paid for me," said Owen, "but in those days a fat hog was a lot more valuable than a fat tackle. I was going to New York even if I had to walk there."



Steve Owen

Owen rapidly became one of the best players on the Giants. He played for the Giants from 1926-1931, plus a one-game return in 1933. "Stout Steve" captained the 1927 Championship team that went 11-1-1. He anchored a defense that incredibly held opposing

offenses to 20 points all season. The Giants shutout 10 teams that year and out-scored their opponents 197-20. Owen was named All-NFL four times during an era when tough men played 60 minutes on both offense and defense. Depending on the source, Owen ranged anywhere from 5'10" to 6'2" and 215 pounds to 260 pounds. (Most sources say 5'10" and around 245 pounds). "Stout Steve" Owen was known as a brutal tackler.

"If a boy isn't willing to get off the ground and hit back a little harder than he was hit, no coach can help him," said Owen.

"It was a one-platoon game then," said Wellington Mara. "As Steve Owen used to say, men were men in those days."

"Football was a different game then," said Owen. "The ball was bigger and harder to pass, you couldn't pass from closer than five yards behind the line of scrimmage, and, in 1927, they moved the goal posts back ten yards from the goal line. But the big difference was the way we played the game. We were pretty much a smash-and-shove gang. We were bone crushers, not fancy Dans."

A Champion as a Giants Coach

Owen and QB Benny Friedman took over head coaching duties from LeRoy Andrews for the last two games of the 1930 season. In 1931, Owen became the Giants' sole head coach, despite sometimes still putting on the uniform.

"Steve Owen was the Giants' head coach when I joined the team in 1931," said Hall of Fame Giants' center/linebacker Mel Hein. "It was his first full year as head coach. Actually, Steve was player-coach that year, but he only suited up for about three games. He was about 33 or 34 then. Steve was a very good coach, though, and all the players respected him."

As a head coach, Owen never signed a contract with the Mara family. At the end of each season, from 1931 to 1953, he coached on a simple handshake agreement.

"Life and football were similar to Owen," said journalist and author Gerald Eskenazi. "Neither was complicated. Appearances were not

deceiving. He judged a man by his actions, and it was as simple as that.”

Owen was the first NFL coach to emphasize defense, and thus, Owen really is the grandfather of the franchise’s defensive tradition. Upsetting fans, Owen would often go for the sure field goal rather than gamble on the touchdown. “Steve was the first to stress the importance of defense and the advantage of settling for field goals instead of touchdowns,” said the Chicago Bears’ legendary George Halas in 1953. “Every team strives today to do what Owen was doing twenty years ago.”

Owen believed in solid, physical, fundamental football. He made sure his players knew how to block and tackle. Owen was not splashy and his run-oriented offenses were criticized as being too conservative.

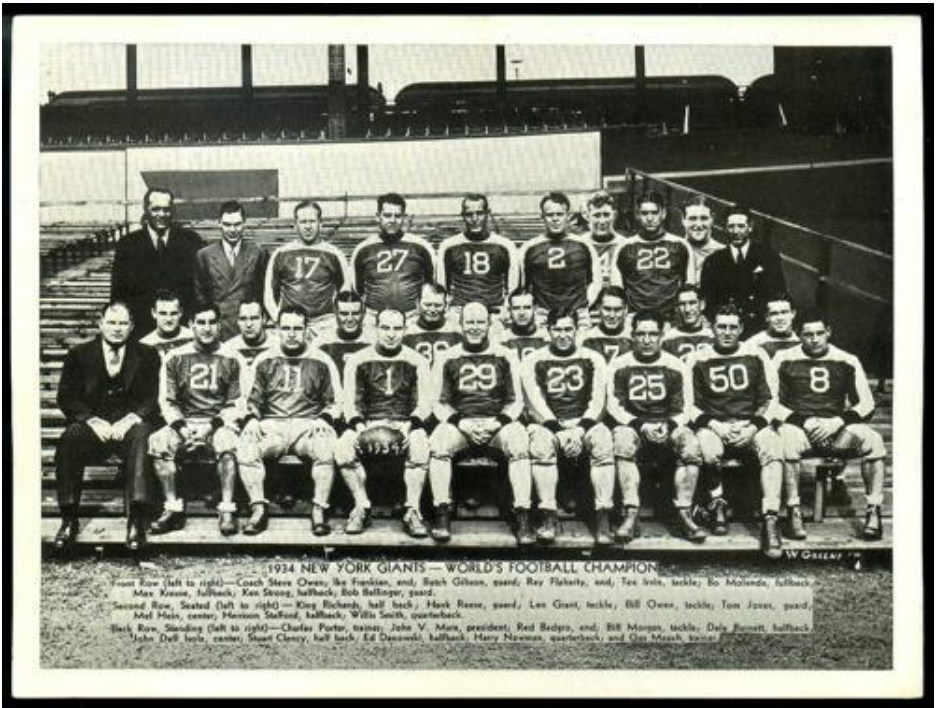
“If it’s new,” wrote a sportswriter, “Close-to-the-Vest Owen won’t try it.”

“Football is a game played down in the dirt and it always will be,” said Owen. “There’s no use getting fancy about it.”

The NFL did not start playing championship games until 1933. Owen’s first two seasons as head coach were underwhelming as New York finished 7-6-1 in 1931 (fifth in the NFL) and 4-6-2 in 1932 (fifth in the NFL).

Everything changed in 1933. The NFL inaugurated the divisional structure combined with the NFL Championship Game. Under Owen, the Giants became perennial contenders and would play in eight of NFL’s first 14 championship games.

In 1933 and 1934, the Giants finished first in the NFL’s new Eastern Division with 11-3 and 8-5 records, respectively. The Giants lost the 1933 Championship to the Chicago Bears in a nail biter 23-21. The following season, New York enacted their revenge on the undefeated 13-0 Chicago Bears by winning 30-13 in the famous “sneakers” 1934 Championship Game. The Giants won the Eastern Division again in 1935 with a 9-3 record, but lost the 1935 Championship Game to the Detroit Lions 26-7.



1934 New York Giants

After a two-year hiatus from the playoffs, the Giants won the Eastern Division in 1938 (8-2-1) and 1939 (9-1-1). The Giants beat the Packers 23-17 in a thrilling Championship Game in New York in 1938, but lost the 1939 Championship Game in Milwaukee to the Packers 27-0.

In the next seven seasons, the Giants would win the Eastern Division three more times and tie for the division lead in another season. But the Giants would lose all four post-season games, including the three Championship Games and the division tie-breaker. The Bears beat the Giants in the Championship Game in 1941 (39-7) and 1946 (24-14), and the Packers beat the Giants in the 1944 Championship Game (14-7). The Giants also lost the divisional tie-breaker 28-0 to the Redskins in 1943. From 1942-45, many of the Giants' best players had gone off to fight the Germans and Japanese.

Appearing in eight NFL Championships in 14 years was a remarkable run. However, Owen's luster began to fade after the 1946 season. The Giants fell to 2-8-2 in 1947, 4-8 in 1948, and 6-6 in 1949.

“I still didn’t know much about football,” said Giants’ owner Tim Mara, “but I knew from what my sons told me that what was happening to us wasn’t the coach’s fault. We just weren’t giving Owen the players to win, and that was our fault, not his.”



Steve Owen (Middle) at 1941 Pro Bowl

Despite the introduction of the powerhouse Cleveland Browns into the Giants’ division, Owen’s Giants rebounded in 1950 (10-2, first-place divisional tie), 1951 (9-2-1, second place), and 1952 (7-5, second place). Nevertheless, when the Giants fell to 3-9 in 1953, the writing was on the wall for Owen and the Giants.

It had been seven years since the Giants played in a Championship Game and 15 years without a post-season victory. The game was entering the modern era, with more attention to detail and complex new offensive innovations. It was clear the NFL was changing but Owen wasn’t. It was time to go.

In the waning moments of his last game as head coach of the Giants – a 27-16 loss to the Detroit Lions in December 1953 – television cameras showed Owen standing alone on the sidelines in tears.

Officially, Owen “resigned” but he was forced to do so. Wellington Mara said the decision to let Owen go was extremely difficult. “It was like telling your father you’re putting him out of your home,” said Mara.

“You’ve got a place with the Giants as long as you live, Steve,” said Jack Mara to Owen. “I hope you know that.”

Owen served as a scout with the Giants briefly, but then he moved on. “He was hurt and wanted no part of that,” said Wellington Mara.

The Innovator

Owen was criticized for being unimaginative. But not only is he recognized as the first NFL head coach to focus on defense, Owen is credited with several important innovations.

In the old NFL, player substitution was restricted. If a player left the field, he couldn’t return until the next quarter. There were no separate offensive, defensive, and special teams’ units. Most teams played their 11 two-way starters until they dropped. By the fourth quarter, the best players were usually hurt or out of gas. In 1937, Owen was the first head coach to develop a two-platoon system by maintaining two relatively equal squads and substituting 10 starters at the end of the first and third quarters. (Because he was so valuable, center/linebacker Mel Hein continued to play a full 60 minutes).



Steve Owen, Ken Strong, and Ward Cuff in 1939

“To start with, (the two-platoon system) lessens the wear and tear on the individual player,” said Owen. “He doesn’t play enough to get tired and therefore is better able to absorb the bumps that go with the play. But more important I think is the effect on team morale. I find that a rivalry has risen between my A and B squads. Each one wants to outdo the other and that’s incentive to keep ’em driving. So long as I can keep my two squads intact, I’m convinced the Giants will continue to win.”

Owen also devised the A-formation in 1937, which at the time was considered a radical offensive concept. After showing one offensive set, the Giants would then shift into the single wing, double wing, punt formation, or the A-formation. In the A-formation, the Giants would unbalance their line to one side and overbalance the backfield to the other side.

“He split his linemen and placed four on the right side of the center and just an end and tackle on the left,” said Giants’ fullback/safety Hank Soar. “He put the wingback behind the weak side end, the blocker behind the weak side tackle, the tailback four yards behind

the center with the quarterback a yard in front of him and to his right.”

The A-formation was difficult to defend because the center could snap the football to one of three players – the quarterback, fullback, or blocking back. And either the quarterback or fullback could throw the football. The Giants were the only team to use the A-formation because it required having a great center, and the Giants were fortunate enough to have the best in the game, Mel Hein.



Steve Owen at the Blackboard in 1939

Owen was at heart a defensive coach and he was not afraid to innovate on defense. Teams traditionally used seven-man defensive lines, but Owen experimented with six- and five-man fronts. In 1937, he moved the Giants to a 5-3-3 defense.

“Even as a player Steve was conscious of the importance of a good defense,” said Soar. “He tried to convince his coach to use such radical departures from the standard defenses as five and six-man

lines. When he became coach of the Giants he put his ideas into action. We had stunting linemen, rushing linebackers although we did not call it the blitz, and as the safety man I often performed what is now called the safety blitz. We had a very good pass defense and fellows like (Sammy) Baugh, (Cecil) Isbell, and (Don) Hutson seldom had good days against us.”

In 1950, Owen is also credited with creating the umbrella defense, which was largely designed to stop the dynamic passing attack of QB Otto Graham and the Cleveland Browns. The umbrella employed a 6-1-4 formation that would have the ends drop into coverage, placing the defensive emphasis on coverage rather than the pass rush. It was a novel concept at the time and it worked like a charm against the super-talented Browns for a few years.

In fact, Owen’s Giants won four of their six regular-season meetings against the Browns from 1950-52. The 10-2 Giants were the only team to beat the Browns (twice) in 1950, including shutting Cleveland out for the first time ever, but New York lost the divisional playoff to Cleveland 8-3. This was the start of the great Giants-Browns rivalry of the 1950’s as New York proved to be Cleveland’s greatest nemesis.

Tom Landry was a defensive back in Owen’s umbrella defense, along with Hall of Fame defensive back Emlen Tunnell. A few years later, as Giants’ defensive coordinator, Landry would tweak Owen’s umbrella defense, creating the modern 4-3 defense.

Owen Comes Home

After Owen “resigned,” he remained with the Giants briefly as a scout in 1954. He went on to do some coaching with South Carolina, Baylor, and the Eagles. Owen then served as head coach for the CFL’s Toronto Argonauts (1959), Calgary Stampeders (1960), and Saskatchewan Roughriders (1961-62). Owen was named CFL Coach of the Year in 1962.

Owen suffered a heart attack late in 1962 and he resigned from the Roughriders in January 1963. Unable to stay away from football, Owen became the head coach of the United Football League’s

Syracuse Stormers in March 1963. But the Stormers finished the season winless at 0-12.

After coaching the Stormers, Owen came home. “Do you think you could find a job for a broken-down old coach?” Owen asked Jack Mara. “I know we can,” said Mara. “We can always make room for another scout.”

Steve Owen died on May 17, 1964 at the age of 66 after suffering a terminal cerebral hemorrhage. He was survived by his second wife Miriam who passed away in 2001 at the age of 90. Both are buried in St. Patrick’s Cemetery in Oneida, New York. (Owen’s first wife Florence passed away in 1933 in Boston, during training camp).



Steve Owen and Miriam Sweeney in 1935

At the time of his death, Arthur Daley of The New York Times wrote, “It was only fitting that stout Steve should have been a member of the Giant organization when he died yesterday...It is quite possible that no professional coach ever inspired more love, devotion, and admiration among his players than did Steve. The only counterpart was Knute Rockne at Notre Dame. A might stout fella was Owen. The Giants and all professional football owe him much for his contributions.”

Owen was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame two years later in 1966. The Hall later named him to the “All-NFL Team of the 1920’s.”

As a player, Steve Owen anchored and captained the Giants’ 1927 Championship team. As head coach for nearly a quarter century, Owen’s Giants accrued a 153-100-17 regular-season record. No other Giants’ head coach comes close to matching Owen’s win total. His Giants won eight division titles and two NFL Championships. He began New York’s storied defensive tradition, and created the two-platoon system, the A-formation, and the umbrella defense. As a Hall of Fame player and a coach, Steve Owen was a Giant among men.

1930 Benny Friedman Coach # 5

1930 Steve Owen Coach # 6

1931 Steve Owen Coach # 6

Lots of people helped Steve Owen be who he became. Benny Friedman was one. He was a great QB but he also helped Steve coach the team on the sidelines as needed.

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL’s 1931 professional football season. The 1931 New York Giants football team competed in their seventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Steve Owen in his second season and first full season of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants. Benny Friedman and Steve Owen had teamed up to coach together in the last two games of the prior season.

As noted, this was the franchise's 7th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a winning season but not as superior as the prior two years. The team finished in 5th place with a 7-6-1 record.

The season began with a close win away on Sep 27, 1931 against the Providence Steam Roller W (14-6). On Sep 30, at Portsmouth, the Giants lost to the Spartans L 6-14. Then at Green Bay, the Giants lost to the Packers on Oct 4, 1930 L (7-27). At Chicago, on Oct 11, the Giants shut out the Bears W (6-0). At Staten Island, on Oct 18, the Giants beat the Stapletons W (7-10).

At home on Oct 25, the Giants whopped the Brooklyn Dodgers in a shutout W (27-0). On Nov 1, the Giants shut out the Portsmouth Spartans W (14-0). Then in the Polo Grounds, on Nov 8, the Giants beat the Frankford Yellow Jackets W (13-0). At home again, on Nov 15, the Giants were upset by the Chicago Bears L(6-12). Then, on Nov 22, the Green Bay Packers beat the Giants at the Polo Grounds in NY L (10-14) .

At Staten Island on Nov 26, the Stapletons nipped the Giants L (6-9). On Nov 29 at home, the Giants tied the Providence Steam Roller T (0-0). On Dec 6 at Brooklyn, the Giants came out of its slump to beat the Dodgers W (19-6). Then, in the season finale on Dec 13, at Chicago, the Giants triumphed over the Bears. W (25-6)

1932 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1932 professional football season. The 1932 New York Giants football team competed in their eighth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Steve Owen in his third season of twenty-four as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 8th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a losing season but the team was about to turn the corner. The team finished in 5th place with a 4-6-2 record.

The season began with a close loss away on Sep 25, 1932 against the Portsmouth Spartans L (0-7)). On Oct 2, at Green Bay, the Giants lost to the Packers L (0-13) Then at Boston, the Braves beat the Giants on Oct 9, L (6-14) At Brooklyn, on Oct 16, the Giants beat the Dodgers W (20-12) At home on Oct 23, the Giants tied the Braves T (0-0). Then, the Giants finished the first half of the season at 1-4-1 at home with a loss against the Portsmouth Spartans L (6-0)

Playing at home in the Polo Grounds, the Giants had a renewed sense of determination on Nov 6, but they lost nonetheless against the Chicago Bears L (28-8). One week later, they got their winning ways back with a nice win on Nov 13, against the Staten Island Stapletons W (27-7). They then beat Green Bay's Packers at home On Nov 20, W (6-0). Then at Staten Island on Nov 24, the Giants tied the Stapletons T (13-13). On Nov 27 at Brooklyn, the Giants beat the Dodgers W (13-7). The Giants lost its final season game on Dec 4 against the Chicago Bears L (0-6) giving the team a losing record for the year.

1933 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1933 professional football season. The 1933 New York Giants football team competed in their ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Steve Owen in his fourth season of twenty-four as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 9th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a losing season but the team was about to turn the corner. The team finished in 1st place in the Division with a 11-3-0 record. They lost the championship game against the Chicago Bears

The season began with a nice win against the Pirates away at Pittsburgh on Sep 20, 1933 W (23-2) On Sep 24, at Portsmouth, the Spartans defeated the Giants L (7-17). On Oct 1 at Green Bay, the Giants beat the Packers W (10-7) Then at Boston on Oct 8, the Redskins edged the Giants L (20-21) The Eagles entered the NFL in

1933 by upgrading the Frankford Yellow Jackets team to become the Eagles. Philadelphia then played the Giants on Oct 15 in the Polo Grounds and NY walloped the Eagles W (56-0). On Oct 22, at home, the Giants then beat the Brooklyn Dodgers W (21-7).

At Chicago on Oct 29, the Bears edged out the Giants L (10-14). On Nov 5 at home, the Giants defeated the Portsmouth Spartans W (13-10) At home on Nov 12, NY defeated the Boston Redskins W (7-0). Back at the Polo Grounds again on Nov 19, the Giants nosed out the Chicago Bears by a field goal W (3-0). On Nov 26 at home in the Polo Grounds, the Giants beat the Green Bay Packers W (17-6). Then, on Nov 30 at Brooklyn, the Giants defeated the Dodgers W (10-0). On Dec 3, the Giants defeated the Pittsburgh Pirates at the Polo Grounds W (27-3). In the regular season finale at the Polo Grounds, the Philadelphia Eagles put up a good fight but the Giants defeated them on Dec 10 W (20-14).

Giants Play for NFL Championship

The Eagles won in the last regular season game and they cinched first place in the Division for the Giants propelling them into the League Championship Game against the Chicago Bears at Chicago. In the regular season, the teams had split in their matches so it was anybody's guess. In a hard-fought nail biter game, Chicago prevailed and were crowned champions of the NFL in the Championship game played on Dec 17, 1933 L (21-23).

1934 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1934 professional football season. The 1934 New York Giants football team competed in their tenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Steve Owen in his fifth season of twenty-four as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 10th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a great season which produced a Division Championship and a second NFL League Championship for the Giants.

The team finished in 1st place in the Division with an 8-5-0 record. They then spoiled the Chicago Bears unbeaten season by pushing them around in the NFL Championship Game. Of course, Chicago did not see it that way.

As noted, the 1934 New York Giants season was the franchise's 10th season in the National Football League. It seems like yesterday that we began to read this book but this season recounts the tenth episode for NFL football for the Giants.

This year, the Giants were thrilled to have denied the Bears a perfect season as the team went on to win what would become known as the "Sneakers Game". More on this after we replay the season for you.

The season began with a nice game but a loss nonetheless at the Detroit Lions on Sep 23, 1934, in which the Giants lost despite a great effort L (0-9). Still not able to climb out of this season's hole, at Green Bay, the Giants were beaten for the second game in a row L (6-20). On Oct 3, 1934 at Pittsburgh, the Giants got win # 1 when they beat the Pirates W (14-12). On Oct 7, the Giants kept the streak alive at 2 wins at Boston's Redskins W (16-13). At home in the Polo Grounds on Oct 14, the Giants shut out the Brooklyn Dodgers W (14-0). Then, on Oct 21, NY whopped the Pittsburgh Pirates W (17-7). Still undefeated against the new nemesis Eagles, the Giants shut out Philadelphia on Oct 28 W (17-0).

At Chicago on Nov 4, the Giants were defeated by the Bears L (27-70). Then, on Nov 11 at home, NY prevailed against the Green Bay Packers W (17-3). Still at home in the Polo Grounds the following week, on Nov 18, the Chicago Bears nosed out the Giants L (9-10). The Giants recovered against the Boston Redskins at home on Nov 25, by a single field goal W (3-0).

At Brooklyn on Nov 29, the NY Giants pounded the Dodgers to a shutout victory W (27-0). Then, despite a fine season, on Dec 2, the Giants destiny seemed to be to finally lose to the Philadelphia Eagles L (0-6) in just the second year for the Eagles in the league. It was the beginning of a give and take between these two rivals that continues to this day.

1935 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1935 professional football season. The 1935 New York Giants football team competed in their eleventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Steve Owen in his sixth season of twenty-four as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 11th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was another great season which produced a Division Championship and a try for a third NFL League Championship for the Giants. They did not win all the marbles as they were beaten at Detroit by the Detroit Lions on Dec 15, 1935 L (7-26) Though the team finished in 1st place in the Division with a 9-3-0 record. They were then whooped by Detroit in the championship game.

As noted, the 1935 New York Giants season was the franchise's 11th season in the National Football League. It seems like yesterday that we began to read this book but this season recounts the eleventh episode for NFL football for the Giants. This year, there would be no league championship.

The season began with a powerful display of offense by the NY Football Giants against the Pittsburgh Pirates on Sep 22, 1935. On Sep 29, at Green Bay, the Packers beat the Giants L (7-16). Then, the Giants were ready to win and did on Oct 6 v the Boston Redskins W (20-12). At home, on Oct 13, , the Giants edged out the Brooklyn Dodgers W (10-7). On Oct 20, at home, the Giants, off to another remarkable season, beat the Boston Redskins W (17-6). Hosting a Chicago team on Oct 27, 1935 at the Polo Grounds, the Giants lost a nail-biter to the CardinalsL (13-14) ,

At the Polo Grounds, the Giants were whooped on Nov 3, 1935 as the Chicago Bears got the victory. Removing the dust and cleaning out the game wounds, the Giants made the trek to Chicago to replay the Nov 3 game on Nov 17 and this time, they did not give an inch. They kicked a field goal to break the scoreless tie against the Chicago Bears and the NY Giants went home with the victory W (3-0)

On Nov 24, the Giants got it together to beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (10–0). At Brooklyn, on Nov 28, the Giants shut out the Dodgers W 21–0. Off to play the Eagles away, the Giants no longer took the Birds for granted and they edged the out on Dec 1, 1935 at Philadelphia Eagles for the big win W (21–14). Wrapping up the season, on Dec 8, the NY Giants got the best of the Pittsburgh Pirates W (13–0). That was the 1935 season with Steve Owen as the Giants' coach.

1936 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1936 professional football season. The 1936 New York Giants football team competed in their twelfth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Steve Owen in his seventh of twenty-four as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 12th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a losing season for the Giants in which there were no Division Championships or even attempts for an NFL League Championship. At 5-6-1, New York did not come close to winning all the marbles and in fact would have been happy with just a marble or two.

The season began with a losing effort at Philadelphia as the Eagles beat the Giants on Sep 13, 1935 L (7-10). On Sep 27, at Pittsburgh, the Pirates beat the Giants L (7-10). On Oct 4, the Giants shutout the Boston Redskins W (7-0). On Oct 11, at home, the Giants, tied the Brooklyn Dodgers T (10-10). Hosting a Chicago team on Oct 18, at the Polo Grounds, the Giants beat the Cardinals W (14-6). On Oct 25, at home, the Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (21–17).

On Nov 1, NY beat the Detroit Lions W (14–7). Then, on Nov 8, at Chicago, the Bears pounded the Giants L (7-25). At Detroit on Nov 15, the Lions blanked the Giants L (38–0). At home in the Polo Grounds on Nov 22, the Green Bay Packers got the best of the Giants L (14-26). At Brooklyn on Nov 26, , the Giants prevailed against the Dodgers W (14–0). In the season finale on Dec 6, the Giants lost to the Boston Redskins L (0-14).

1937 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1937 professional football season. The 1937 New York Giants football team competed in their thirteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. They were led by Steve Owen in his eighth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 13th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a winning season for the Giants in which there was no Division Championship for the Giants and surely no NFL League Championship. At 6-3-2, New York came in 2nd place in the Division, which was a respectable year for sure.

After the disappointing 1936 NFL title game, George Preston Marshall had the team moved to his home area in Washington, D.C. on February 13, 1937. He retained the name "Redskins" although it was now out of context. The team then shared Griffith Stadium with the Washington Senators baseball team. The season began with a losing effort L (3-13) on Sep 16, 1937, at Washington, the new home town for the Redskins.

On Sep 27, at Pittsburgh, the Giants beat the Pirates W (10-7). On Oct 3, at Philadelphia, the Giants beat the Eagles W (16-7). Two Weeks later at home, the Giants shut out the Eagles W (21-0). In another W (21-0) win, on Oct 24, at home, the Giants prevailed against the Brooklyn Dodgers W (21-0). Then, on Oct 31, at home, the NY Giants tied the Chicago Bears T (3-3).

On Nov 7 at home, the Giants shut out the Pittsburgh Pirates W (17-0). Then, on Nov 14, 1937 at New York. The Giants were beaten by the Detroit Lions L (0-17). On Nov 21 at home, the Giants beat the Green Bay Packers W (10-0). At Brooklyn on Nov 25, the Giants tied the Dodgers T (13-13). On Dec 5, in the season finale, at home, the Washington Redskins pounded the NY Giants L (14-49).

1938 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1938 professional football season. The 1938 New York Giants football team competed in their fourteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his ninth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 14th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a winning season for the Giants in which they won the Division Championship and the NFL League Championship. At 8-2-1, New York came in 1st place in the Division, and they won all the marbles for the year- a great year for sure. This was Owen's second NFL championship and New York's third.

The Giants kicked off the season on September 11, 1938 at Pittsburgh, defeating the Pirates W (27-14). They had a bye in week 2 and then on Sep 25, they received their first defeat at the hands of the Eagles in Philadelphia L (10-14). They lost their second game in a row and last loss of the season on Oct 3 at home against the Pittsburgh Pirates L (10-13). At Washington on Oct 9, the Giants beat the Redskins W (10-7). Then, on Oct 16 at home, the Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (17-7). On Oct 23 at home, the NY Giants beat the Brooklyn Dodgers W (28-14). On Oct 30, the Giants drew a bye week.

On Nov 6, the Giants defeated the Chicago Cardinals W (6-0). Then, at home again on Nov 13, the NY Giants shutout the Cleveland Rams W (28-0). On Nov 20 at home against the Green Bay Packers, the Giants prevailed W (15-3). At Brooklyn on Nov 24, the Giants tied the Dodgers T 7-7. The Giants put a wallop on the Washington Redskins on Dec 4 W (36-0) to complete the regular season

1938 NFL Championship Game

Giants 23 Packers 17

On December 11, at the Polo Grounds in NY City, the Giants held the lead in each quarter of the Championship game and defeated the Green Bay Packers W (23-17) before 48,120 fans.

1939 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1939 professional football season. The 1939 New York Giants football team competed in their fifteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his tenth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 15th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a winning season for the Giants in which they won the Division Championship and the NFL League Championship. At 9-1-1, New York came in 1st place in the Division, but they lost the NFL Championship Game to the Green Bay Packers L (0-27).

The Giants kicked off the season on September 24, 1938 at Philadelphia with a nice W (13-3) win against the Eagles. On Oct 1 at Washington, Giants tied the Redskins T (0-0)). Then, on Oct 8 at Pittsburgh, the Giants beat the Pirates W (14-7). On Oct 15 at home, the NY Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (27-10). On Oct 23, at home, the Giants defeated the Chicago Bears W (16-13) in a close match. On Oct 29 at Brooklyn, the NY Giants nosed out the Dodgers W (7-6).

On Nov 5 at Detroit, the NY Giants lost their only game of the season in a close match against the Lions L (18-14). On Nov 12 at home, the Giants beat the Chicago Cardinals W (17-7). Then, on Nov 19 at home, the NY Football Giants beat the Pittsburgh Pirates W (23-7). At home on Nov 26, the Giants beat the Brooklyn Dodgers W (28-7). In the regular season finale on Dec 3, the Giants edged out the Washington Redskins W (9-7). The teams were tied

for first before the game and thus, this win gave New York another Divisional Championship.

1939 NFL Championship Game

Packers 27 Giants 0

On December 11, at *Wisconsin State Fair Park West Allis, Wisconsin*, the Green Bay Packers played great football and shut out the New York Giants W (27-0) before 32,279 fans.



There is a complete game recap at packerhistory.net. As one might expect, since this rather complete recap was produced by the Green Bay Paper-- The Press Gazette in 1939 and then reproduced by packerhistory.net, Giants fans will surely notice that the coverage is a bit favorable to the Packers. Yet, the reality of the game was that the Giants made a poor showing for themselves. There is no denying that.

1940 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1940 professional football season. The 1940 New York Giants football team competed in their sixteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played

in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his eleventh of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 16th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a winning season for the Giants. At 6-4-1, New York came in 3rd place in the Division.

The Giants kicked off the season on September 15, 1938 at Pittsburgh with a hard-fought tie T (10-10) against the Pirates. On Sept 22 at Washington, the Redskins beat the Giants L (7-21). Then, on Sept 28 at Philadelphia, the Giants beat the Eagles W (20-14). On Oct 13 at home, the NY Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (17-7). On Oct 20, at home, the Giants defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers W (12-0). On Oct 27 at home, the NY Giants were defeated by the Chicago Bears W (21-37).

On Nov 3 at Brooklyn, the Giants edged out the Dodgers W (10-7). At home on Nov 10, the Cleveland Rams shut out the Giants L (0-13). Then, on Nov 17 at home, the Giants defeated the Green Bay Packers W (7-3). On Nov 24, NY beat the Washington Redskins W (21-7). In the season finale, on Dec 1, at home, the Brooklyn Dodgers prevailed over the NY Giants L (14-6).

Chapter 8 Coach Steve Owen 1941-1953



Steve Owen one of best coaches of all-time with Giants player on sidelines

Steve Owen	1941	1st	8 3 0
Steve Owen	1942	3rd	5 5 1
Steve Owen	1943	2nd	6 3 1
Steve Owen	1944	1 st	8 1 1
Steve Owen	1945	T-3rd	3 6 1
Steve Owen	1946	1 st	7 3 1
Steve Owen	1947	5th	2 8 2
Steve Owen	1948	T-3rd	4 8 0
Steve Owen	1949	3rd	6 6 0
Steve Owen	1950	2nd	10 2 0
Steve Owen	1951	2nd	9 2 1
Steve Owen	1952	T-2nd	7 5 0
Steve Owen	1953	5th	3 9 0

1931-1953 Steve Owen final record (153-100-17)

This Chapter Highlights 1941 through 1953

1941 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1941 professional football season. The 1941 New York

Giants football team competed in their seventeenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his twelfth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 17th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a winning season for the Giants. At 8-3-0, New York came in 1st place in the Division but lost the NFL Championship to the Bears L (9-37).

The Giants kicked off the season on September 15, 1938 at Pittsburgh with a hard-fought tie T (10-10) against the Pirates. On Sept 22 at Washington, the Redskins beat the Giants L (7-21). Then, on Sept 28 at Philadelphia, the Giants beat the Eagles W (20-14). On Oct 13 at home, the NY Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (17-7). On Oct 20, at home, the Giants defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers W (12-0). On Oct 27 at home, the NY Giants were defeated by the Chicago Bears W (21-37).

Week 1 was a pre-season bye. The Giants shut out the Philadelphia Eagles W (24-0) on Sep 13. Then, on Sep 28, at Washington, the Giants beat the Redskins W 17-10. At Pittsburgh. On Oct 5, the Giants walloped the Steelers W (37-10). At home on Oct 12, the Giants shut out the Philadelphia Eagles W (16-0). Then on Oct 19, at home, the Giants beat the Pittsburgh Steelers W (28-7). On Oct 26 at Brooklyn, the Dodgers edged out the Giants L (16-13).

At Chicago on Nov 2, the Cardinals beat the Giants in a close match L (7-10). On Nov 9, the NY Giants defeated the Detroit Lions W (20-13). Then, at home on Nov 16, the Giants rammed the Cleveland Rams W (49-14). They followed this big win with another at home on Nov 23 against the Washington Redskins W (20-13). Wrapping up the season on Dec 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor Day, the Brooklyn Dodgers got the best of the Giants L (7-21).

1941 NFL Championship Game

Something seemed to happen to Owen teams between winning all or most of their games and capturing the Division Title and then getting beaten in the NFL Championship Game. This was another of those

years. The game was played on Dec 21, 1941 after the mandatory bye week after Dec 7, 1941--(Pearl Harbor Sneak Attack on Hawaii beginning WW II). The New York Giants were defeated soundly by the Chicago Bears L (9-37) The game was played at Wrigley Field in Chicago. The attendance of 13,341 was muted substantially by the country being at war as of December 7.

Neither the Bears nor the Giants were strangers to Championship games as both were making their fifth appearances in the title game, and each had two victories. It was the third time the two teams matched up in the big game; the home teams had won both. The Bears won in 1933 and the Giants won in 1934. The Bears were favored in 1941 by two touchdowns and 35,000 were expected to attend. The game time temperature was an unseasonably warm 47 °F (8 °C) so nobody had weather as an excuse.

The hometown Bears kicked three field goals in the first half to lead 9–6 at the intermission. 2] The Giants took the opening drive of the second half down to the five, but settled for a short field goal to tie the score. Chicago dominated the rest of the second half after being left off the hook on the go-ahead TD, and they scored four more touchdowns and won by an overwhelming 37–9.]

The Bears thus became the first team in the NFL championship game era (since 1933) to win consecutive titles. It was the franchise's fifth league title (1927, 1932, 1933, 1940, 1941). The Giants left the game empty handed again.

1942 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1942 professional football season. The 1942 New York Giants football team competed in their eighteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his thirteenth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 18th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a 50-50 season for the Giants. At 5-5-1, New York came in 3rd place in the Division. The Giants started the season the right way on Sep 27, 1942 at Washington, defeating the Redskins W (14-7). At Pittsburgh on Oct 4, the Steelers beat the Giants L (10-13). Then, at home, on Oct 11, the Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (35-17). Next on Oct 18, at Chicago, the Bears beat New York, L (7-26) On Oct 25, at Brooklyn, the Dodgers beat the Giants L (7-17). On Nov 1, at home, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Giants L (9-17).

At Philadelphia on Nov 8, the Giants shut out the Eagles W (14-0). Then at home on Nov 15, the Washington Redskins beat the Giants L 7-14). On Nov 22 at home, the Green Bay Packers and the Giants played to a tie T (21-21). At home on Nov 29, the NY Giants beat the Chicago Cardinals W (21-7). In the final game of a medsa medsa season, the Giants pulled their record up to .500 on Dec 6, 1942 with a low-scoring shutout win against the Brooklyn Dodgers W (10-0).

1942 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1943 professional football season. The 1943 New York Giants football team competed in their nineteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his fourteenth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 19th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a 50-50 season for the Giants. At 6-3-1, New York finished tied for first in the Division but lost the playoffs and thus did not get to compete for the NFL Championship—the moral equivalent of the Super Bowl of today. And, so the team is listed as having tied for second place.

The Steagles

Pittsburgh and Philadelphia did not have the great backing of the Mara family and so they were scrounging to make ends meet for a good part of their early existence. The war affected teams working on

a thin financial margin in a negative way. Pittsburgh and Philadelphia were two such teams so they decided to stay in business and combine their teams until the US won the war and they could get back to business as usual.

And so, the owners who knew each other well decided to merge and even though they had power issues and coaching issues, both teams continued to exist after their temporary merger. They called themselves the Steagles. This team was thus created by the temporary merger of two National Football League (NFL) teams, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Philadelphia Eagles, during the 1943 season. The teams were forced to merge because both had lost many players to military service during World War II. The NFL was young and decided to be very accommodating to help the US military and the league.

The Giants started the season on Oct 9, 1942 at the Steagles. Sometimes they played in Philadelphia and sometimes they played in Pittsburgh. Then, on Oct 17 at Brooklyn, the Giants beat the Dodgers W (20-0). On Oct 24, at home, the Giants were able to beat the Steagles W (42-14). At home on Oct 31, the Green Bay Packers beat the Giants L (35-21). At Detroit on Nov 7, 1943, the Giants tied the Lions T (0-0).

At home on Nov 14, the Giants were pummeled by the Chicago Bears L (7-56). New York took its revenge against the Cardinals, another Chicago team on Nov 21, 1943 with a nice win W (24-13). At home on Nov 28, the Giants beat the Brooklyn Dodgers W (24-7). Then, on Dec 5, NY beat the Washington Redskins W (14-10) Again the following week against Washington, the Giants on Dec 12, 1943 in the season finale, beat the Redskins W (31-7). And so, ended the 1943 season.

1943 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1944 professional football season. The 1944 New York Giants football team competed in their twentieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played

in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his fifteenth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 20th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds.

It was a winning season for the Giants. At 8-1-1, New York finished in first place in the Division but lost the NFL Championship 14-7 to the Green Bay Packers.

The 1944 Giants have been referred to by many pundits as the "Stingiest Defense in NFL history. It is a fact that the team only surrendered 75 points in ten games for the whole year. With the war, the manpower shortage for sports ventures was very real and it created a bunch of issues on both sides of the ball for NFL teams.

The Giants played by the same rules as everybody else with a smaller talent pool. Nonetheless, with Steve Owen at the helm, the 1944 Giants were a truly awesome unit that excelled all others on defense. To put this in perspective, the average NFL team scored 18 points per game in 1944 compared to the scant 7.5 PPG average surrendered by the Giants.

The Giants were not all D, however. QB Arnie Herber threw four interceptions in New York's 14-7 NFL title game loss to Herber's former team, the Packers. The 1944 Giants were a mere No. 5 in scoring offense in the 10-team NFL. And, so they did everything but win the league championship.

At age 34, Arnie Herber came back to the short of players NFL in 1944 to play for the New York Giants. Herber threw sparingly but efficiently, for 651 yards and six touchdowns. As usual for Herber-led teams from his days with the Packers, the Giants won their conference and went to the NFL title game. Herber's old squad, the Packers, still featuring ace receiver Don Hutson, beat the Giants 14-7. Herber played one more season for the Giants and bowed out of football after the 1945 season

Games of the 1944 Season

The Giants got things going in the season opener on Oct 8 at Boston as they beat the Yanks W (22-10). Then, on Oct 15, at Brooklyn, the

Giants beat the Tigers W (14–7). Then on Oct 22, the Giants beat Card-Pitt W (23–0)

Who / What was Card-Pitt?

Card-Pitt was a merged team created by the temporary joining of two National Football League (NFL) clubs, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Chicago Cardinals, during the 1944 season. It gave the teams enough players to compete but reduced the total # of NFL teams. This was the second such merger for the Steelers, who as we discussed had combined with the Philadelphia Eagles in 1943 to form the "Steagles".

The Eagles were back together as a full-team in 1944 and so on Oct 29, at home, the Giants lost to the Philadelphia Eagles L (17-24). This was the Giants only loss of the regular season. On Nov 5, at home, the Giants defeated the Boston Yanks W (31–0). On Nov 12, at Philadelphia, the Eagles and Giants played to a draw T (21-21).

On Nov 19 at home, New York dominated the Green Bay Packers W (24–0. Please note that in the League championship the Packers regained their mettle and defeated the Giants. On Nov 26, the Giants beat the Brooklyn Tigers W (7–0). Then, on Dec 3 at home, the Giants edged out the Washington Redskins W (16–13). At Washington the following week on Dec 10, the Giants pounded the Redskins and took away the Eastern Division Championship W (31-0).

NFL Championship Game

On December 17, 1944, before the war had ended, before 46,015, at the Polo Grounds in New York, the Green Bay Packers defeated the New York Giants in a close match L (7-14)

We provide parts of the Championship game recap from the MILWAUKEE JOURNAL. Enjoy!

(NEW YORK) - The football championship of the world remained in the West today when Green Bay's Packers matched the bruising

might of the game's greatest defense and conquered the New York Giants, 14 to 7. A sun bathed crowd of 46,016 saw the Packers win their sixth world's championship and their third since the inception of the playoff series in 1932 with two touchdowns in the second period, then stave off a fighting Giant eleven in the second half. The Giants' only score came on the first play of the fourth period on a 1-yard plunge by Ward Cuff.

The Packers today were a team to be proud of. They accepted the challenge with relish and proceeded from the opening kickoff to outfight and out charge the Giants. Joe Laws, almost as old as the Polo grounds, sparked an attack that featured Ted Fritsch, Paul Berezney, Charlie Brock and Larry Craig. And, of course, there was Don Hutson, who gets an assist on the game winning score. His deft faking pulled the experienced Mel Hein, Ward Cuff and rookie Howie Livingston out of position to permit the touchdown pass to Fritsch. On this day the Packers were high and vicious.

They were playing for a championship and all that went with it. In money the victory meant \$41,896.64 for them from the record players' poll of \$81,466.51. The Giants' share was \$27,931.91. In addition, the Packers' reward includes the right to appear in the Chicago All-Star game next August, a contest in which they have made two appearances and have a .500 record. The story of the game is wrapped up in the statistics.

Against the finest defensive team in football, one which went through a 10-game major league schedule on a yield of 75 points, including five shutouts, they piled up 162 yards rushing and only 73 passing. Nine of their 11 first downs were through New York's vaunted line. Only 11 times did the Packers go to the air and they completed only three of these attempts.

The rest of the time it was Laws, Comp, Fritsch, and (Paul) Duhart bolting through the holes where Packer linemen were bodily tossing Giants out of their way and scampering over the lunging figures of puzzled Giant secondary men. It was sweet revenge for the 24 to 0 thing perpetrated on the Western Division champions here some four weeks ago – and it was revenge with a sting.

GREEN BAY	0	14	0	0	14
NEW YORK	0	0	0	7	7

2nd - GB - Fritsch, 1-yard run (Hutson kick) GREEN BAY 7-0

2nd - GB - Fritsch, 28-yard pass from Comp (Hutson kick) GREEN BAY 14-0

4th - NY - Ward Cuff, 1-yard run (Ken Strong kick) GREEN BAY 14-7

1945 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1945 professional football season. The 1945 New York Giants football team competed in their twenty-first season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his sixteenth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 21st season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was the first losing season since 1936 for the Giants. Nobody likes a losing season. At 3-6-1, New York finished in third place in the Eastern Division and did not qualify for post-season play.

The Giants began the season well on October 7, 1945 at Pittsburgh with a nice victory over the Pirates W (34-6). On Oct 14, at Boston, the Giants tied the Yanks T (13-13). Then at home on Oct 21, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Giants L (7-21). At home again on Oct 28, the Washington Redskins beat the Giants L (14-24). On Nov 4 at home, the Cleveland Rams beat the Giants L (17-21) in a close match.

On Veterans Day, Nov 11, 1945 at Philadelphia, the Eagles dominated the Giants L (17-38). On Nov 18, at home, the Giants whooped the Detroit Lions W (35-14). On Nov 25 at home, the Green Bay Packers beat the New York Giants L (14-23). At home on Dec 2, the Giants defeated the Philadelphia Eagles W (28-21). Then, in the season finale at Washington, on Dec 9, the Redskins shut out the Giants , L (0-17)

1946 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1946 professional football season. The 1946 New York Giants football team competed in their twenty-second season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his seventeenth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 22nd season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. The Giants regained its winning ways. At 7-3-1, New York finished in first place in the Eastern Division and lost the NFL Championship to L (14-24) to the Chicago Bears. did not qualify for post-season play.

The Giants began the season well on October 7, 1945 at Pittsburgh with a nice victory over the Pirates W (34-6). On Oct 14, at Boston, the Giants tied the Yanks T (13-13). Then at home on Oct 21, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Giants L (7-21). At home again on Oct 28, the Washington Redskins beat the Giants L (14-24). On Nov 4 at home, the Cleveland Rams beat the Giants L (17-21) in a close match.

The season began at Boston on Oct 1, 1946 as the Giants defeated the Yanks W (17-0). At Pittsburgh on Oct 6, the Giants edged out the Steelers W (17-14). At Washington on Oct 13, the Redskins got the best of the Giants L (14-24). At home on Oct 20, the Giants defeated the Chicago Cardinals W (28-24). On Oct 27, at home, the Giants beat the Chicago Bears W (14-0). Then, on Nov 3 at Philadelphia, the Eagles beat the Giants L (14-24).

At home on Nov 10, the Giants smashed the Philadelphia Eagles W (45-17). At home in the Polo Grounds on Nov 17, the Giants tied the Boston Yanks T (28-28). Then, on Nov 24, at home, the Giants nosed out the Pittsburgh Steelers W (7-0). At home again on Dec 1, the Giants defeated the LA Rams L (21-31). Then, in the season finale at home, on Dec 8, the New York Giants shellacked the Washington Redskins in shutout W (31-0).

1946 NFL Championship Game

The New York Giants met the Chicago Bears in another NFL Championship Game on December 15, 1946 at the Polo Grounds in New York. The Bears were ten-point favorites and they won by ten points L (14-24).

The 1946 National Football League Championship Game was the 14th annual championship game of the National Football League (NFL). As noted, it was played December 15 at the Polo Grounds in New York City, with a record-breaking attendance of 58,346.

The game paired the New York Giants (7-3-1), champions of the Eastern Division, against the Western Division champion Chicago Bears (8-2-1). The Giants had won the regular season game v Chicago 14-0 at the Polo Grounds seven weeks earlier on October 27. Nonetheless, the Bears were seven to ten-point favorites.

This was the fifth and final NFL Championship game played at the Polo Grounds and the fourth of six meetings between the Bears and Giants in the title game. The fans seemed to expect the Bears or the Packers or the Giants to be playing in the NFL Championship each year like as if it were in the rule book.

The game was tied after three quarters. Chicago got its victory 24-14 for their seventh NFL title, their fifth win in eight NFL championship game appearances. The attendance record stood for another nine years, until the 1955 title game in Los Angeles at the huge LA Coliseum.

1947 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1947 professional football season. The 1947 New York Giants football team competed in their twenty-third season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his eighteenth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 23rd season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. The Giants went back to a losing season. At 2-8-2, New York finished one of its worst losing seasons. It goes without saying that the team did not qualify for post-season play.

The Giants began the season well on Sept 29, 1947 at Boston with a tie against the Boston Yanks T (7-7). On Oct 5, at Philadelphia, the Eagles skunked the Giants L (0-23). Then at Washington on Oct 12, the Redskins defeated the Giants L (20-28). At home on Oct 19, the Boston Yanks beat the Giants L (0-14). On Oct 26, at home, the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Giants L (21-38). Then, on Nov 2, at Detroit, the slugged out the Giants L 7-35).

At home on Nov 9, the Philadelphia Eagles crunched the Giants L 24-41). At Pittsburgh, on Nov 16, the Steelers squashed the Giants L (7-24. At home on Nov 23, the Giants tied the Green Bay Packers T (24-24). Then, on Nov 30 at home, the Giants edged out the Chicago Cardinals W (35-31). On Dec 7, at home, the Giants beat the Washington Redskins W (35-10). In the season finale in Los Angeles, California on Dec 14, the Rams whacked the Giants L (10-34).

1948 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1948 professional football season. The 1948 New York Giants football team competed in their twenty-fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his nineteenth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 24th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. The Giants had another losing season. At 4-8-0, New York finished in third place. The team did not qualify for post-season play.

The Giants began the season on a positive note on Sept 23, 1948 at Boston with a win against the Boston Yanks W (27-7). On Oct 3, at Washington, the Redskins whooped the Giants L (10-41). Then at

Philadelphia on Oct 10, the Eagles walloped the Giants L (0-45) in a shutout victory. At home on Oct 17, the Chicago Cardinals squashed the Giants L (35-63). On Oct 24, at Pittsburgh, the Giants beat the Steelers W (34-27) in a close match. Then, on Oct 31, at Chicago, the Bears edged out the Giants L (22-27).

At home in the Polo Grounds on Nov 7, 1948 the Philadelphia Eagles pounded the Giants L (14-35). At home on Nov 14, the Los Angeles Rams scorched the Giants L 37-52. Then, on Nov 21 at Green Bay, the Giants hammered the Packers W (49-3). On Nov 28, at home, the Giants defeated the Boston Yanks W (28-14). At Pittsburgh on Dec 5, the Steelers defeated the Eagle L (28-38). Then, on Dec 12, 1948 wrapping up a poor season, the Washington Redskins edged out the Giants L (21-28) to make the team want to begin the next season the next day.

1949 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1949 professional football season. The 1949 New York Giants football team competed in their twenty-fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Great Head Coach Steve Owen in his twentieth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 25th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in the Polo Grounds. The Giants had a fifty-fifty season. At 6-6-0, New York finished in third place. Again, for the third year in a row, the team did not qualify for post-season play. The fans began to get restless with Steve Owen, thinking that perhaps he had not kept up with football innovations

The Giants began the season on a poor note on Sept 25, 1949 at Pittsburgh with a loss against the Steelers L (7-28). On Sep 30 at New York, the Giants whooped the Bulldogs W (38-14). Then at Washington on Oct 9, the Giants walloped the Redskins W (45-35). At home on Oct 16, the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Giants L (17-21) On Oct 23, at home, the Giants beat the Chicago Bears W (35-28) in

a close match. Then, on Oct 30, at Chicago, the Giants defeated the Cardinals W (41-38).

On Nov 6, 1949, the New York Bulldogs beat the New York Giants L (24-31). Then at Green Bay, on Nov 13, the Giants pounded the Packers W (30-10) On Nov 20, 1949, the Detroit Lions slammed the Giants L (21-45) At home on Nov 27, 1949, the Giants got the best of the Washington Redskins W (23-7). In the season finale two games against the Philadelphia Eagles, the Giants lost both games,. The first on Dec 4, the Eagles won L (3-24) The second on Dec 11, 1949, the Eagles triumphed L (3-17). And so, another mediocre Giants season (three in a row) went into the record books.

1950 Steve Owen Coach # 6

This year there was some NFL expansion due to the merger with the All-America Football Conference(AAFC). This expanded the NFL to 13 teams. Additionally, the advent of television expanded the viewership. The Los Angeles Rams was the first NFL team to have all of its home and away games televised. The Washington Redskins quickly became the next team to put their games on TV. Other teams arranged to have selected games televised. It was a great new opportunity for the expanded NFL



Intercity rivalry, NY Giants v NY Yanks in 1950 at Polo Grounds. Photo by AP

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1950 professional football season. The 1950 New York Giants football team competed in their twenty-sixth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the American Conference. The team was led by Giants Great Head Coach Steve Owen in his twenty-first of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 26th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in the Polo Grounds. The Giants had a great winning season. At 10-2-0, New York finished tied for first place in the American Conference as Steve Owen's Giants put forth a great team effort this year. The Giants lost the American Conference Championship game to the Browns 8-3 and thus were eliminated from contention for the NFL Championship.

The Giants began the season on a winning note on Sept 17, 1950 at Pittsburgh in Forbes Field W (18-7) before 24,699. The team had a bye in the second week. On Oct 1, at Cleveland Stadium, the Giants beat the Browns W (6-0) before 37,647. At Washington on Oct 8, the Giants defeated the Redskins W (21-7). At home on Oct 15,, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Giants L (6-17) before 21,725. On Oct 22 at home, the Giants beat the Cleveland Browns W (17-13) before 41, 734. At Chicago's Comiskey Park, before 23,964, the Cardinals beat the Giants L (3-17) .

On Nov 5 at home in the Polo Grounds, the Giants beat the Washington Redskins W (24-21) before 23,909. At home against Chicago, the Giants smothered the Cardinals W (51-21) before 22,380. On Nov 19, at Baltimore's Municipal Stadium, the Giants beat the Colts W (55-20). On Nov 26 at home, the Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (7-3) before 24,093. On Dec 3, at home, the Giants pounded the New York Yanks W (51-7) before 41,630. At Philadelphia's Shibe Park, on Dec 10, the Giants edged out the Eagles W (9-7) before 26,440.

Conference Playoff Games & the Championship

In the post season divisional game due to the tie between Cleveland's Browns (10-2) and the New York Giants (10-2), the teams met and the game was won by Cleveland L (3-8) at Cleveland Stadium before 33,058. Cleveland then beat Los Angeles 30-28 to win the NFL Championship.

This was the Browns first year in the NFL after four years in the rival All-America Football Conference. In this season, the Browns and Giants battled for the lead in the American Conference for most of the regular season. Cleveland was 10-2 and so was the Giants. Cleveland lost its only two games against the Giants. The Giants, meanwhile, lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers and Chicago Cardinals. In the other conference called the National Conference, the Bears and Rams were also near the top of the standings in the second half of the 12-game season, and both ended with 9-3 records.

The Browns and Giants and the Rams and Bears played their playoff games on December 17. In Cleveland against the Giants, the Browns won a low-scoring game in freezing conditions on two field goals by placekicker Lou Groza and a late-game safety. The Giants thus did not get to play for the NFL Championship.

The Rams beat the Bears in the 92-degree heat of Los Angeles. LA QB Bob Waterfield threw three touchdowns. This set up a championship between the Browns and Rams. The Browns won the game 30-28 on a Lou "the toe" Groza field goal with 28 seconds to play.

1951 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1951 professional football season. The 1951 New York Giants football team competed in their twenty-seventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the American Conference. The team was led by Giants Great Head Coach Steve Owen in his twenty-second of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 27th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in the Polo Grounds. The Giants had a great winning season. At 9-2-1, New York finished in second place in the American Conference as Steve Owen's Giants put forth another great team effort this year. The Giants lost the American Conference Championship because they had lost both regular season games to the Cleveland Browns. and thus, were eliminated from contention for the NFL Championship.

The Giants began the season with a T (13-13) tie on Oct 1, 1951 at the Pittsburgh Steelers Forbes Field before 27,984. The team then played at Washington and beat the Redskins W (35-14) before 23,800. On Oct 14, at home, the Giants beat the Chicago Cardinals W (28-17) before 28,095. At home on Oct 21, the Giants edged out the Philadelphia Eagles W (26-24) before 28,656. At Cleveland Stadium, the Giants lost to the Browns in a close match L (13-14) before 56,947. On Nov 4, at home, the Giants beat the New York Yanks W (37-31) before 25,682.

At Washington on Nov 11, the Giants defeated the Redskins W (28-14) before 25,682. Then, at home on Nov 18, the Cleveland Browns shut out the Giants L (0-10) before 52,215. On Nov 25, at Chicago, the Giants beat the Cardinals W (10-0) before 11,892. At home in the Polo Grounds on Dec 2, the Giants shut out the Pittsburgh Steelers W (14-0) before 19,196. At Philadelphia on Dec 9, the Giants defeated the Eagles W (23-7) before 19,322. On Dec 16, 1951 in the season finale, at the New York Yanks, the Giants were victorious W (27-17) before a small contingent of fans numbering 6,658.

1952 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1952 professional football season. The 1952 New York Giants football team competed in their twenty-eighth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the American Conference. The team was led by Giants Great Head Coach Steve Owen in his twenty-third of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 28th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in the Polo Grounds. The Giants had a great winning season. At 7-5-0, New York finished in second place in the American Conference as Steve Owen's Giants put forth another great team effort this year. The Giants lost the American Conference Championship because they had lost four close games plus they were decimated by Pittsburgh in a blowout game L (7-63). Their poor but winning record was the root cause of their being eliminated from contention for the NFL Championship.

The Giants began the season winning with a W (24-6) on Sep 28, 1952, at Dallas. The Giants were victorious in their season opener at Dallas over the Texans. On Oct 4, at Philadelphia, the Giants beat the Eagles W (31-7) before 18,648. The team then played on Oct 12, at Cleveland and beat the Browns W (17-9) before 51,858. On Oct 19, at home, the Giants were beaten by the Chicago Cardinals L (23-24) before 41,182.

Then, at home on Oct 26, the Philadelphia Eagles edged out the Giants L (10-14) before 21,458. At Chicago, on Nov 2, the Giants pounded the Cardinals W (28-6) before 27,195. On Nov 9, at home, the Giants ripped the San Francisco 49ers W (23-14) before 54,230. On Nov 16, at home, the Green Bay Packers defeated the Giants L (3-17) before 26,723.

At Washington on Nov 23, the Giants edged out the Redskins W (14-10) before 21,125. Then, at Pittsburgh on Nov 30, the Steelers trounced the Giants L (7-63) before 15,140. At home on Dec 7, the Washington Redskins defeated the Giants L (17-27) before 21,237. Wrapping up the 1952 season, in a close match, on Dec 14, the Giants edged out the Cleveland Browns W (37-34) before 41,610.

1953 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1953 professional football season. The 1953 New York Giants football team competed in their twenty-ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the American Conference. The team was led by Giants Great

Head Coach Steve Owen in his twenty-fourth and last season of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants. This was coach Owen's last season.

As noted, this was the franchise's 29th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in the Polo Grounds. The Giants had a poor losing season. At 3-9-0, New York finished in fifth place in the American Conference as the fans were beginning to think that Steve Owen's accent on D was causing the Giants to lose in offensive battles against opponents. Nobody could explain why this was such a poor season. Yet, it was. Their poor record was the only cause of their being eliminated from contention for the NFL Championship. In this particular year, once the season got going, nobody saw the Giants as a contender for the top spot.

The Giants began the season poorly—the same way they played the whole year. They lost at the Los Angeles Rams on Sep 27 L (7-21) before 49,579. At Pittsburgh the following week on Oct 3, the Giants fell again L (14-24) to the Steelers before 31,500 at Forbes Field. On Oct 11, at Washington, , the Redskins beat the Giants L (9--13) before 26, 241. At home, on Oct 18, the Giants found a win against the Chicago Cardinals W (21-7) before 30,301. Then, on Oct 25, the Cleveland Browns squeezed out a shutout against the Giants L (0-7) before 30,773. At Chicago, on Nov 1, 1953, the Giants defeated the Cardinals W (23-20) before 17,499

At Philadelphia on Nov 8, 1953, the Giants took it on the chin in a big way against their nemesis Eagles L (7-30) before 24,331. At home on Nov 15, 1953, the Pittsburgh Steelers edged out the Giants L (10-14) before 20,411. Then, on Nov 22, at home, the Washington Redskins got the best of the NY Giants L (21-24) before 16,887. At home on Nov 29, , the Giants whacked the Eagles W (37-28) before 20,294. Then, on Dec 6, at Cleveland, the Browns bullied the Giants for the whole game and the Giants could not escape a big loss L (14-62) before 40,235. On December 13, 1953, in the season finale of a bad season, the Giants played another bad game, losing to the Detroit Lions L (16-27) before 28,390.

Chapter 9 Coach Jim Lee Howell 1954-1960

Coach #7 Jim Lee Howell



Giants Coach Jim Lee Howell, Center

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>W L T</u>
Jim Lee Howell	1954	3rd	7 5 0
Jim Lee Howell	1955	3rd 6	5 1
Jim Lee Howell	1956	1st	8 3 1
Jim Lee Howell	1957	2nd	7 5 0
Jim Lee Howell	1958	1 st	9 3 0
Jim Lee Howell	1959	1 st	10 2 0
Jim Lee Howell	1960	3rd	6 4 2

- Sam Huff (Pro Bowl MVP)

1954-1960 Jim Lee Howell final record (53-27-4)

Tribute to Jim Lee Howell

Seven years ago, in 2012, Tom Brant wrote a tribute to Giants famed Coach Jim Lee Howell. He called his short acclamation “Giants

Ring of Honor: Jim Lee Howell.” By Tom Brant 7 years ago Follow @tom_brant

This comment preceded the short recognition article.

COMMENT

During the off-season, the staff here at GMenHq will be featuring a member of the Giants Ring of Honor on each Monday and Friday. Today's feature is on: Jim Lee Howell

Jim Howell may be one of the lesser known members of the New York Giants Ring of Honor. Howell was drafted by the Giants in 1937 and played with the team as a Wide Receiver and defensive back until his retirement in 1947. He played in 74 games starting 50 of them for the Giants. He had 61 catches for 921 yards and 7 touchdowns. He also recorded one interception during his playing tenure.

After his retirement from the Giants as player in 1947, Howell was named head football coach of Wagner University. He was named the Head Football Coach of the Giants in 1954, taking over for former Giants coach and the popular Steve Owen. He helped the Giants to the 1956 Championship and recorded an overall coaching record 53 wins and 27 losses along with 4 ties. One of Howell biggest success as a Head Coach was having Tom Landry and Vince Lombardi as his coordinators.

After the 1960 season, Howell moved to the front office of the Giants and served in various roles including player development. He finally retired from the Giants organization in 1981. Sadly, he passed away in 1995 in his home state of Arkansas.

Here is a short biography of Coach Howell

https://americanfootball.fandom.com/wiki/Jim_Lee_Howell

James Lee Howell was born on September 27, 1914 and he passed away on January 4, 1995). He was both a football player and coach for the National Football League's New York Giants. Howell was born in Arkansas and played college football and basketball at the University of Arkansas. He was drafted by the Giants in the 1937

NFL Draft and played wide receiver and defensive back from 1937 to 1947. After his playing career, he was head coach for Wagner College football.



Coach Jim Lee Howell

Howell took over the team as head coach in 1954 from a popular fan, media and player favorite Steve Owen. Howell quickly hired Vince Lombardi as his offensive coordinator and shortly after converted Tom Landry from player to defensive coordinator. From 1954 to 1960, the Giants played in three NFL Championship Games, defeating George Halas's Chicago Bears in 1956 by the score of 47-7.

During Howell's seven seasons as head coach, he earned a very respectable career 53-27-4 record, with a .630 winning percentage. He drafted and coached a roster of stars including six future Pro Football Hall of Famers, Sam Huff, Andy Robustelli, Rosey Brown, Emlen Tunnell, Frank Gifford and Don Maynard. Although his conservative, defensive style was unpopular with the fans and NY media, the Giants' success on the field was more satisfying. Several other players from this era went on to become head coaches and broadcasters.

Howell played and coached in an era when football went from a relatively simple game to one of great complexity with schemes, formations and playbooks designed to deceive as much as over power. With future Hall of Fame coordinators Lombardi and

Landry, Howell's job was frequently to play the diplomat within his own team. Rivalries and feuds were legendary.

Howell stayed with the team as Director of Player Personnel until his retirement in 1981. He returned to Arkansas and served in the state legislature.

1954 Jim Lee Howell Coach # 7

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1954 professional football season. The 1954 New York Giants football team competed in their thirtieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Great Head Coach Jim Lee Howell in his first of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 30th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in the Polo Grounds. The Giants had a winning season. At 7-5-0, New York finished in third place in the Eastern Division. Jim Howell began a seven-year tour of duty with the Giants that would render three Division Championships and one NFL Championships.

Games of the 1954 Season

The Giants began the season well. At Chicago on Sep 26, 1954, they smashed the Cardinals before 16,780. On Oct 2 at Baltimore, they lost to the Colts L (14-20) before 27,088. At Washington the following weekend on Oct 10, the Giants pounded the Redskins W (51-21) before 21,217. At home on Oct 17, the Giants beat the Chicago Cardinals W (31-17) before 31,256. Then, on Oct 24, at home, the Giants beat the Washington Redskins W (24-7). Before 22,597. At Cleveland on Oct 31, the Browns defeated the Giants L (14-24) before 30,338.

At Pittsburgh on Nov 7, the Giants beat the Steelers W (30-6) before 325,158 at Forbes Field. On Nov 14 at home in the Polo Grounds, the Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (27-14) before 46,565. On Nov 21, at home, the Los Angeles Rams nosed out the Giants L (7-16) before 27,077. Then, on Nov 28, at home, the Cleveland Browns

edged out the Giants L (7-16) before 45,936. At home on Dec 5, 1953, the Giants defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers W (24-3) before 16,856. At Philadelphia on Dec 12, in the season finale, the Eagles defeated the Giants L (14-29) before 28,449

1955 Jim Lee Howell Coach # 7

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1955 professional football season. The 1955 New York Giants football team competed in their thirty-first season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Great Head Coach Jim Lee Howell in his second of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

The Giants began the season in 1955 poorly. At Philadelphia on Sep 24, 1955, they took one on the chin from the Eagles before 29,597 L (17-27). On Oct 2 at Chicago, they lost to the Cardinals L (17-28) before 9,555. At Pittsburgh the following weekend on Oct 9, the Giants were beaten by the Steelers L (23-30). At home on Oct 16, the Giants beat the Chicago Cardinals W (10-0) before 7,000. Then, on Oct 23, at home, the Giants were edged out by the Pittsburgh Steelers L (17-19) before 27,365. On Oct 30, at home, the Giants pounded the Washington Redskins W (37-7) before 17, 402.

At Cleveland on Nov 6, 1955, the Browns defeated the Giants L (14-24) before 46,524. At home on Nov 13, the Giants defeated the Baltimore Colts W (17-7) before 33,982. Then, on Nov 20 at home, the Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (31-7) before 22,075. On Nov 27, at home, the NY Giants tied the Cleveland Browns T (35-35) before 45,699. Then, on Dec 4, at Washington, the Giants edged out the Redskins W 27-20 before 28,556.

On December 11, 1955 in the Season Finale at Detroit, the Giants defeated the Lions W (24-19) before 45,929 finishing up the second winning season in his first two for coach Jim Howell. In the next year, Howell would have his O and D teams ready for his methods and he would have filled in the spots that were needed to make the team stronger than the 3-9 Steve Owen team which he inherited.

1956 Jim Lee Howell Coach # 7

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1956 professional football season. The 1956 New York Giants football team competed in their thirty-second season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Great Head Coach Jim Lee Howell in his third of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 32nd season in the NFL. Home games were now played in "THE" Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a winning season. At 8-3-1, New York finished in first place in the Eastern Division. Jim Howell was in the third year of a seven-year tour of duty with the Giants that would render three Division Championships and one NFL Championship. This year he would get both the Division Championship and the NFL Championship.

The Giants began the season in 1956 with a nice win. At San Francisco, on Sep 30, 1955, they whooped the 49ers W (48-21) before 40,960. On Oct 7 at Chicago, they lost to the Cardinals L (27-35) before 21,799. At Cleveland the following weekend on Oct 14, the Giants beat the Browns W (21-9) before a packed house of 60,042. Then, on Oct 21, at home, the Giants pounded the Steelers s W (38-10) before 48,108. On Oct 28, at home, the Giants whipped the Philadelphia Eagles W (20-3) before 40,960. On Nov 4, at Pittsburgh, Giants edged out the Steelers W (17-14) before 31,240.

At home on Veterans Day November 11, the Giants defeated the Chicago Cardinals W (23-10) before 62,410. This brought the Giants record to 6-1. On Nov 18 at Washington, the Redskins pounded the Giants L (7-33) before 26,261. Then, the Giants played to a tie-on Nov 25 against the Chicago Bears T (17-17) before 55,191. At home, on Dec 2, the Giants whooped the Washington Redskins W (28-14) before 26,261. On Dec 9, at home, the Cleveland Browns got the best of the Giants L (7-24) before 27,707. On the season finale, on Dec 15 at Philadelphia, the Giants bested the Eagles W (21-7) before 16,562.

The Giants won the Eastern Division and then beat the Bears 47-7 in the NFL Championship which in 1956 was the best you could get without a Super Bowl.

1957 Jim Lee Howell Coach # 7

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1957 professional football season. The 1957 New York Giants football team competed in their thirty-third season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Great Head Coach Jim Lee Howell in his fourth of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 33rd season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a winning season. At 7-5-1, New York finished in second place in the Eastern Division. Jim Howell was in the fourth year of a seven-year tour of duty with the Giants that would render three Division Championships and one NFL Championships. This year he would not get either.

The Giants began the season in 1957 with a loss. At Cleveland, on Sep 29, 1957 the Browns beat the Giants L (3-6) before 58,095. On Oct 5 at Philadelphia, the Giants beat the Eagles W (24-2)) before 24,342. At Washington, the following weekend on Oct 13, the Giants beat the Redskins W (24-20) before 39,086. On Oct 20, the Giants put a hurt on the Pittsburgh Steelers W (35-0) before 52,589. Then, on Oct 27, at home, the Giants were defeated by the Washington Redskins L (14-31) before 40,416. At Green Bay on Nov 3, the Giants beat the Packers W (31-17) before 32,070.

On Nov 10, at home, the Giants whipped the Chicago Cardinals W (27-14) before 46,402. At home on Nov 17, the Giants shut out the Philadelphia Eagles W (13-0) before 42,845. At Chicago on Nov 24, the Giants beat the Cardinals W (28-21) before 19,200. Then, on Dec 1, at home, the San Francisco 49ers beat the Giants L (17-27) before 54,121. At Pittsburgh on Dec 7, 1957, the Steelers beat the Giants L (10-21) before 19,772. Then, at home in the season finale on Dec 15, the Cleveland Browns beat the Giants L (28-34) before 54,294.

1958 Jim Lee Howell Coach # 7II

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1958 professional football season. The 1958 New York Giants football team competed in their thirty-fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Great Head Coach Jim Lee Howell in his fifth of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 34th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a winning season. At 9-3-0, New York finished in first place in the Eastern Division. Jim Howell was in the fifth year of a seven-year tour of duty with the Giants that would render three Division Championships and one NFL Championships. This year he would win the Division but lose the NFL Championship L (17-23) to the Colts. 2.

The Giants got off to a great start this season at Chicago by pounding the Cardinals W (37-7) before 21,923. On October 5, at Philadelphia, the Eagles edged out the Giants L (24-27) before 23,178. At Washington on Oct 12, the Giants beat the Redskins W (21-14) before 30,348. Then, at home on Oct 19, the Chicago Cardinals beat the Giants L (6-23) before 52,684. On Oct 26, at home in Yankee Stadium, the Giants beat the Pittsburgh Steelers W (17-6) before 25,007. At Cleveland on Nov 2, the Giants defeated the Browns W (21-17) before 78,404.

At home, on Nov 9, the Giants defeated the Baltimore Colts W (24-21) before 71,164. At Pittsburgh, on Nov 16, the Steelers beat the Giants L (10-31) before 30,030. At home, on Nov 23, the Giants shut out the Washington Redskins W (30-0) before 46,752. On Nov 30, at home, the Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (24-10) before 35,438. At Detroit on Dec 7, the Giants Nosed out the Lions W (19-17) before 50,115. In the final 1958 season game, on Dec 14, at home, the Giants edged out the Cleveland Browns W (13-10) before 63,192.

1958 NFL Championship Game

Professional football was becoming more and more popular in the 1950s and it reached a peak during the latter part of the decade. But, surprisingly to some, it kept getting more and more popular long after no stadium seats were available. Television added to the lure.

Some say that much of the popularity can be traced to this single game – the 1958 NFL Championship Game between the Baltimore Colts and New York Giants.

Long after the Giants stopped playing ball at the Polo Grounds, this game was played at Yankee Stadium in New York. It attracted a major national television audience and became known in football lore as “The Greatest Game Ever Played.”

More importantly, the game captured the collective attention of the nation and as a result, pro football exploded across the country in the following years. By the mid-1960s, professional football became the nation’s favorite sport to watch and has remained on top ever since.

The drama was high on December 28, 1958 as the NFL’s title game moved into its final minutes of regulation. While an enamored crowd watched, the television audience lost contact when someone inadvertently nudged a cable and knocked NBC off the air for several minutes. It was as bad as the Heidi Fiasco.

Hall of Famer Gino Marchetti watched from the sideline as he nursed a broken leg suffered earlier in the game.

Historians note that the game actually contained its fair share of sloppiness – six lost fumbles, missed field goals, interceptions, and conservative play-calling – which would detract from its moniker claiming to be the greatest game ever.

But, there’s no denying that the excitement of the back-and-forth battle reached epic proportions as quarterback Johnny Unitas led the Colts’ offense onto the field late in the game. With the clock ticking,

the Colts began from their own 14-yard line. After two incomplete passes, Unitas connected with halfback Lenny Moore on an 11-yard play to start moving the offense up the field.



Gino Marchetti with broken leg waiting for stretcher in Championship Game

Johnny U. missed on a long pass to L.G. “Long Gone” Dupre, before turning to his favorite target. On second-and-ten, he found Raymond Berry for a 25-yard gain to midfield. Then, Unitas looked down the left sideline and connected with Berry for another 15 yards. One more Unitas-to-Berry hook-up, which was good for 22 yards, put the Colts at the Giants’ 13-yard line. With seven seconds to play in regulation, kicker Steve Myhra trotted onto the field and booted the 20-yard field goal to send the game into overtime. It marked the first time in league history that a championship game would be decided in sudden death.

The Giants won the coin toss but were forced to punt after they went three-and-out. Seizing the opportunity, Baltimore's offense methodically controlled the ball and moved 80 yards on 13 plays. History was made when fullback Alan Ameche punched through the line on a one-yard, game-winning touchdown after 8 minutes and 15 seconds of overtime to give the Colts a 23-17 win and the NFL title!

HALL OF FAMERS

This game featured 17 future members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Baltimore Colts

Raymond Berry, Art Donovan , Weeb Ewbank (coach) Gino Marchetti, Lenny Moore, Jim Parker, Johnny Unitas

New York Giants

Roosevelt Brown, Frank Gifford, Sam Huff, Tom Landry (asst. coach), Vince Lombardi (asst. coach), Tim Mara (Owner), Wellington Mara (Vice President and Secretary), Don Maynard, Andy Robustelli, Emlen Tunnell, and of course Charley Conerly who *woulda shoulda coulda*; but did not.

1959 Jim Lee Howell Coach # 7

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1959 professional football season. The 1959 New York Giants football team competed in their thirty-fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Great Head Coach Jim Lee Howell in his sixth of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 35th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a winning season. At 10-2-0, New York finished in first place in the Eastern Division. Jim Howell was in the sixth year of a seven-year tour of duty with the Giants that would render three Division

Championships and one NFL Championships. This year the team would win the Division but lose the NFL Championship.

The Giants' defense was almost perfect as it became the second defense in the history of the NFL to lead the league in fewest rushing yards, fewest passing yards and fewest total yards. The 1959 Giants had a powerful offense also with 284 points. This was more than in any of the previous four seasons in which Vince Lombardi was their offensive coordinator.

With Charley Conerly (8 games) and Don Heinrich (4 games) alternating at the QB slot, the Giants got off to a great start this season at Chicago by pounding the Cardinals W (37-7) before 21,923. On Oct 4 at Philadelphia, the Eagles shellacked the Giants L (21-49) before 27,023. At Cleveland, on Oct 11, the Giants beat the Browns, W (10-6) before 65,534. At home in Yankee Stadium on Oct 18, the Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (24-7) before 68,783. At Pittsburgh on Nov 25, the Giants defeated the Steelers W (21-16) before 33,596. At home on Nov 1, 1959, the Giants whipped the Green Bay Packers W (20-3) before 68,837. Notice how as the league has become more mature, the attendance numbers were increasing.

On Nov 8, at home, the Giants beat the Chicago Cardinals W 9-3 before 56,779. At home on Nov 15, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Giants L (9-14) before 66,786. At Chicago (played in Bloomington Minnesota) on Nov 22, the Giants defeated the Cardinals W (30-20) before 26,625. At Yankee Stadium, on Nov 29, the Giants beat the Washington Redskins W (45-14) before 60,982. Then, on Dec 6, the Giants walloped the Cleveland Browns W (48-7) before 68,436. In the final regular season game of the 1959 season, at Washington on Dec 13, the Giants whipped the Redskins W (24-10) before 26,198.

1959 NFL Championship Game Giants v Colts

With max attendance at 57, 545 in Baltimore Memorial Stadium, the 1959 NFL Championship Game was sold out the day after the Colts won the Western Division championship. The Giants of course won the Eastern Division.

Thus, this championship game would pit the league's top defense against the best attack.

There was as much happening before the game as at the game. Everybody had something to say or bet on the game. You could get odds either way from the bookmakers: Colts by 3 1/2 in Baltimore, Giants by 3 1/2 in the Big Apple. New York sources said the game was the biggest betting proposition since the Dempsey-Tunney fight of 1927.

Both teams, which did not meet during the regular season, were known for their poise. They kept playing no matter what happened - good or bad. The consensus was that Baltimore had more speed, but New York possessed more depth.

The Colts ran a more "daring" offense. Unitas took more chances than most QBs. However, Conerly was considered the better ball-handler, faker, and long passer. The Giants felt more confident heading into the game than they did in '58. That year, they had to win a playoff game with Cleveland to gain a berth in the title game, which they entered worn down physically and psychologically. The offense practiced hand signals for use when the Baltimore crowd roared.

Baltimore CB Johnny Sample recalled that the Colts defense felt that Gifford was the key to the Giants' offense. The blue and white defenders considered Frank a "pretty boy" and knew he was training to become a broadcaster after his career ended. Stopping him became a personal crusade for me, Sample said. If I reduced his effectiveness in the game, it would certainly improve the Colts' chances for a win.

The Giants did as much if not more talking than the Colts.

Sam Huff: "If we can score 21 points, we'll win. They won't score more than that against us."

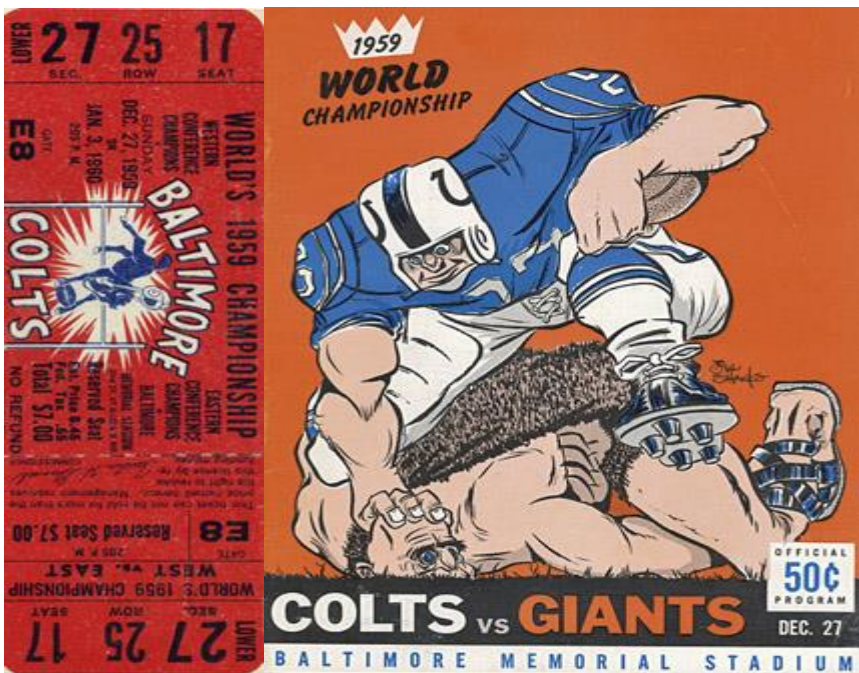
Dick Modzelewski: "We'll win because we have more confidence this year".

Allie Sherman: “They are as good a defensive team as we have played all year, but we have the personnel to score on them.”

Tom Landry: “No question about it. Our chief problem is to contain Units.”

Dick Lynch, a new CB: “The only way to stop hotshots like Berry is to really blast them.”

Even the Giants' wives felt more confidence. Perian Conerly wrote this in an article for the New York Times: “Personally, I detect a bit more enthusiasm, confidence and - if I may be old-fashioned - desire in the attitude of the team as a whole than was apparent before last year's championship game. Last season, we were fighting with our backs to the wall from the seventh game on.”



CBS broadcast the game in 44 states while NBC handled the coast-to-coast radio broadcast with Van Patrick and Byron Saam at the mike and also transmitted the game around the world via Armed Forces Radio. Vice-President Richard Nixon made the short trip from Washington to attend the game. The weather provided a late Christmas present on Sunday, December 27: 51 degrees, light wind.

A tarpaulin covered the field all week. When it was taken off Sunday morning, the playing area was in good shape except for a slippery spot in front of the Colts' bench. However, the efficacy of the tarp was confirmed by the fact that the edges of the field beyond the tarp were muddy due to rains during the week.

The sun broke through to complete the ideal conditions. During pregame warmups, Baltimore's brash second-year CB Johnny Sample yelled over to Frank Gifford, who wrote columns for a New York newspaper. Hey, Gifford, when are you going to write an article about me? Frank answered, Kid, I don't even know your name. The game would change that.

NY head coach Jim Lee Howell just before the kickoff: "It looks like a fast track. I hope our fellows won't be too tight. They might be because of so many fixed responsibilities today. Darrel Dess is responsible for Big Daddy Lipscomb, Frank Youso for Marchetti, Crow for Moore, Dick Lynch for Berry, and Huff for Ameche. The Colt band played the National Anthem to climax its pregame show."

Here are some game highlights:



Marchetti rushes Conerly.



Unitas looks for a receiver.



Summerall kicks FG.

HALFTIME SCORE: Colts 7 Giants 6

Quarter 3



Lynch brings down Moore with help from Huff.

. Colts 14 Giants 9 (12:18)



Unitas jumps into the EZ.

Sample who had almost lost his job early on in the season kept picking off passes, making himself a game hero. Morrison ran the ensuing kickoff back to the 26. With the Colts expecting a pass, Gifford ran around RE and followed his blockers all the way to NY 49. Then Conerly tried a dipsy-do, faking to Gifford, then turning and throwing backwards to Frank in the right flat. The HB threw down the middle for Schnelker, but Sample struck again, returning the ball 27y to the NY 28.

Needing only to run some clock, Unitas handed to Pricer for 2y. Then he threw a slant to Berry who was hit by Lynch as he caught the ball on the 17. An incompletion on 3rd down brought in Mhyra, who booted a 25y FG to make it 24 straight points for the home team. Colts 31 Giants 9.

Coach Ewbank revealed after the game that he wanted a fake FG. I yelled to (holder)Ray Brown to throw to Gino Marchetti. I wasn't trying to pour it on. I just wanted to see Marchetti score a touchdown. But Brown didn't hear me when I yelled to him. So, we got the field goal instead.

Timeout with 0:43 remaining. King threw a HB pass incomplete as Schnelker fell down. Conerly then threw long down the right side to Schnelker running into the EZ to make the final score more closely resemble the difference between the teams. Colts 31 Giants 16



After the Colts Victory

With fans crowding the sidelines, Baltimore ran out the clock. Some fans tried dismantling the steel goal posts set in concrete and partially succeeded.

Unitas won the MVP award for the second straight year but this time didn't keep the Corvette.

End of NFL Championship Recap

1960 Jim Lee Howell Coach # 7

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1960 professional football season. The 1960 New York Giants football team competed in their thirty-sixth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Great Head Coach Jim Lee Howell in his seventh and last of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 36th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a winning season. At 6-4-2, New York finished in third place in the Eastern Division. Jim Howell was in his final year of a seven-year tour of duty with the Giants that overall rendered mostly winning seasons; three Division Championships and one NFL Championship. A bye week this year was necessary, as the league expanded to an odd-number (13) of teams (Dallas); one team was idle each week.

Pro football was changing with the addition of the AFL. The Mara family was opposed to the AFL adding a team in New York, but received an indemnity fee of ten million dollars to compensate for potential gate revenue loss for the addition of the New York Jets to the AFL.

For the Giants, defensive coordinator Tom Landry got his head coaching job with expansion Dallas Cowboys and the giants had to fill his defensive coordinator position. Three veterans began to served dual roles as player-coaches. Names that I can recall like yesterday—Harland Svare became the defensive coordinator, Andy Robustelli became defensive line coach, while Jimmy Patton became defensive backs coach.

The Giants began the 1960 season with a win by edging out at San Francisco W (21-19) before 44,598 after having won the Eastern Division in 1959. got off to a great start this season at Chicago by pounding the Cardinals W (37-7) before 21,923. On Oct 2 at St. Louis, the Giants beat the newly relocated Cardinals (moved from Chicago) W (35-14) before 26,089. On Oct 9 at Pittsburgh, the Giants beat the Steelers W (19-17) before 40,323

Then, on Oct 16 at home, the Giants tied the Washington Redskins T (24-24) before 60,625. On Oct23, Bye. On Oct 30, at home, the Giants lost to the St. Louis Cardinals L (13-20) before 58,516. Then, on Nov 6 at home, the Giants beat the Cleveland Browns W (17-13) before 82,872.

On Nov 13 at home, the Giants defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers W (27-24) before 63,321. At home on Nov 20, the Giants defeated the Philadelphia Eagles L (10-17) before 63,571.

Frank Gifford Knocked Out

Late in this game, which was the eighth game of the season at Yankee Stadium, linebacker Chuck Bednarik, one of the toughest linebackers ever who also played offense for the Eagles knocked out halfback Frank Gifford of the Giants. Gifford was unconscious and was taken to St. Elizabeth's Hospital. The hit put him out of football for over eighteen months. This game-sealing play involving the two hall of famers is considered one of the most famous tackles in NFL history. I knew about it when it happened and the football world was shocked and praying for Frank Gifford's recovery.

On Nov 27 at Philadelphia, the Eagles defeated the Giants L (23–31) before 60,547. On Dec 4, the Giants tied the Dallas Cowboys T (31–31) before 55,033. At Washington, on Dec 11, the Giants Beat the Washington Redskins W (17–3) before 14,077. At home in Yankee Stadium on Dec 18, the Cleveland Browns overpowered the Giants L (34–48) before 56,517

As you know, the Giants were 6–4–2 this year, and the team finished in third place in the Eastern Conference. As a result, the Giants missed out on the post-season: the NFL Championship Game was won by host Philadelphia. The participants of the third-place bowl game were the second-place teams of the NFL's Eastern and Western conferences. The third-place game in Miami, the first of the ten Playoff Bowls played in 1961 after the 1960 NFL Championship was won by Detroit at the Orange Bowl in early January. FYI, The Playoff Bowl (officially known as the Bert Bell Benefit Bowl) was a post-season game for third place in the National Football League (NFL), played ten times following the 1960 through 1969 seasons, all at the Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida.

Chapter 10 Coach Allie Sherman 1961 to 1968

Coach #8 Allie Sherman

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>W L T</u>
Allie Sherman	1961	1 st	10-3-1
Allie Sherman	1962	1 st	12 2 0
Allie Sherman	1963	1st	11 3 0
Allie Sherman	1964	7th	2 10 2
Allie Sherman	1965	T-2nd	7 7 0
Allie Sherman	1966	8th	1 12 1
Allie Sherman	1967	2nd	7 7 0
Allie Sherman	1968	2nd	7 7 0

1961-1968 Allie Sherman final record (57-51-4)



Allie Sherman was the eighth football coach in the National Football League (NFL) for the New York Giants from 1961 until 1968. He finished his career with the Giants as their head coach. Over his eight years of coaching, his Giant teams compiled a cumulative record of 57-51-4. During his entire coaching career, he was the head coach of the New York Giants. His tenure was from 1961 until the

1968 season. As noted, the Giants went 57-51-4 during his time at the helm. Sherman was a fine coach who won the NFL's Coach of the Year award two times throughout his career, most recently in 1962 after he had guided the Giants to a 12-2-0 record and a berth in the post-season playoffs. During the 1963 season as the head coach of the New York Giants, he coached Y.A. Tittle to the Most Valuable Player honor.

Who is Coach Allie Sherman?

Sherman was a smart strategist who blended his football intellect with an uncommon intensity in coaching the Giants to the N.F.L.'s Eastern Conference championship in 1961, 1962 and 1963. He never grabbed one of the prizes as his teams were beaten in the league's championship game each year, twice by the Green Bay Packers and then by the Chicago Bears. However, Sherman achieved stature in a profession for which he hardly seemed destined.

The coach was born in Brooklyn on Feb. 10, 1923, the son of Jewish immigrants from Russia. When he went out for the football team at Boys High School, he weighed only 120 pounds. The coach suggested he try handball instead, and so he became the school's No. 2 handball player. Eventually he came back to football.

In fact, by 1939 he was playing tailback in the single wing at Brooklyn College as a 16-year-old freshman. In the summer before his junior year, his coach, Lou Oshins, decided to switch to the T-formation. Oshins sent Sherman the book "The Modern T Formation with Man in Motion," written by the Chicago Bears coach George Halas, with Clark Shaughnessy and Ralph Jones, all of whom had worked to revive the T after it had long fallen into disuse.

The Bears' Sid Luckman, another Brooklyn-born quarterback, had thrived with it. Sherman read it and became the Kingsmen's quarterback in his final two collegiate seasons.

Sharp as a tack, after graduating cum laude with a major in psychology, Sherman was signed by the Eagles' coach, Greasy Neale, one of football's greatest coaches. Neale wanted him to help install a T-formation. How's that for kudos?

“Never have I seen a player with a greater understanding of the game,” Neale, who kept Sherman as a second-string quarterback from 1943 to 1947, once said. “He was so dedicated he insisted on rooming with a lineman. He wanted to absorb the way a lineman thought. We’d look at films for hours, and when I’d had enough, he’d take the movies to his room and watch them for the rest of the night.”

When Allie Sherman passed away on Jan 1, 2015, there were many eulogies from pundits and sportscasters and peers in the NFL. They recalled that as a player for example, Sherman, possessed a dubious football pedigree as a left-handed quarterback at Brooklyn College. Yet, he went on to take the New York Giants to National Football League title games in his first three seasons as their coach. When this New Yorker passed away at his home in Manhattan., He was 91. His death was announced by his family.

Sherman’s early years as the Giants’ coach have long been remembered as a revered time in the franchise’s history. He had some of the greatest players such as quarterbacks Charley Conerly and Y. A. Tittle, backs Alex Webster, Kyle Rote and Frank Gifford and wide receiver Del Shofner. To back up all that offense, Sherman also had Sam Huff as well as a formidable defensive lineup that also included Andy Robustelli and Roosevelt Grier.

Sherman was undersized for football at 5 feet 10 inches and 160 pounds, and he was unable to throw a long ball. Yet, he pretended they were assets nonetheless as he lasted five seasons as a pro quarterback with the Philadelphia Eagles in the mid-1940s. “I was the best left-handed ball holder on conversion kicks in the history of the N.F.L.,” he once said. He had to pick wisely to make sure there was truth in his comments.

He was a perennial backup, but the Eagles prized him for his keen football knowledge, particularly his mastery of the T-formation, which opened the way to a passing game in contrast with the old run-oriented single wing. Allie Sherman is remembered as one of the best.

Eventually Sherman found his way as a player to the Giants. Sherman was hired by the Giants' great coach, Steve Owen, in 1949 to convert Conerly, a former tailback at Mississippi, to the T-formation. If anybody could do it, it was Sherman.

After serving as the Giants' backfield coach and then head coach of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in Canada, Sherman was named the Giants' offensive coach in 1959, replacing Vince Lombardi, who had become the Packers' coach and general manager. When Jim Lee Howell retired as the Giants' head coach after the 1960 season, Sherman was available and he came in and succeeded him.

Howell's team was aging. Sometimes inheritances that were once great are past their prime and so the Giants were not considered contenders with what was left on the field for Sherman. Sherman himself almost did not make it to the field as he was the Giants' second choice for the job. He got hired only after the owner, Wellington Mara, could not pry Vince Lombardi from the Packers. But Sherman was an instant success as the Giants bolstered their offense with trades eventually, they brought in YA Tittle, Shofner and tight end Joe Walton.

Sherman's teams lost only eight regular-season games on the way to Eastern Conference titles from 1961 to 1963. Sherman was voted the N.F.L. coach of the year in his first two seasons in balloting by sportswriters and broadcasters.

1961 Allie Sherman Coach # 8

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1961 professional football season. The 1961 New York Giants football team competed in their thirty-seventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Allie Sherman in his first of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 37th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a winning season. At 10-3-1, New York finished in first place in the

Eastern Division. Allie Sherman was in his first year of an eight-year tour of duty with the Giants that produced three division championships and three shots at the NFL Championship game.

There were a lot of drama's in the NFL during the off-season after Howell stepped down from his coaching duties for the Giants. The biggest speculation was whether Vince Lombardi would return to New York as head coach of the Giants. As noted, Jim Lee Howell had announced before the 1960 season began that it would be his last year as Giant's coach. His plan was to retire at the end of that campaign as New York's head coach.

Under Howell's last year, the Giants had relinquished the NFL East title the previous season. This year, the Giants under Sherman reclaimed the title with a 10-3-1 record. They lost to the one-time Giants assistant coach, Vince Lombardi-who coached the Green Bay Packers in the NFL Championship Game in Wisconsin.

Games of the 1961 Season

The Giants began the 1961 season on Sept 17, 1961, with a loss against the St. Louis Cardinals W (21-10) before 58,059. On Sept 24, at Pittsburgh, the Giants defeated the Steelers W (17-14) before 35,587. On Oct 1 at Washington, the Giants beat the Redskins W (24-21) before 36,767. On Oct 8, at St. Louis, the Giants beat the Cardinals W (24-9) before 23,713. Then, on Oct 15, at Dallas, the Giants slammed the Cowboys W (31-10) before 41,500.

At home on Oct 22, the Giants beat the Los Angeles Rams at Yankee Stadium W (24-14) before 63,053. At home again on Oct 29, Tom Landry's Dallas Cowboys nosed out the Giants L (16-17) before 60,254. At home on Nov 5, the Giants smashed the Washington Redskins in a shutout W (53-0) before 56,077. On Nov 12, at home, the Giants defeated the Philadelphia Eagles W (38-21) before 62,800. At Yankee Stadium in a home match on Nov 19, against the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Giants prevailed W (42-21) before 62,592.

At Cleveland on Nov 26, the New York Giants beat the Browns W (37–21) before a packed house of 80,455. Then, on Dec 3, at Green Bay, the Vince Lombardi's Packers edged out the Giants L (17–20) before 47,012. At Philadelphia on Dec 10, the Giants edged out the Eagles W (28–24) before 60,671. Then, in the season finale on Dec 17, the Giants tied the Cleveland Browns T (7–7) before 61,804.

1961 NFL Championship Game

The Giant's offense was back and reinvigorated with the acquisition of QB Y. A. Tittle off the 49ers' bench. At age 35, he was sharp as ever, completing 57.2% of his passes for 2,272y and 17 TDs.

The Giants and Packers had met in the regular season in Milwaukee on December 3. The Packers Offensive line surprised the Giants' strong defense with some unusual blocking stunts to spring helping Jim Taylor run for 186 yards in the Green Bay 20-17 victory.

The 1961 NFL Championship Game Giants v Packers

The Highlights of the Championship Game

The Packers started slow but operated on all cylinders in the second quarter. The Giants won the toss and elected to receive. Y A Tittle threw into the flat to FB Alex Webster to the 37. Kicking with the wind, Chandler booted to Willie Wood at the 23. After an exchange, After Webster met a stone wall on 2nd down, Y.A. threw down the middle to Rote, who, looking back into the sun, dropped the ball at the 15. So, Chandler punted into the EZ.



Alex Webster finds the going tough.

The Giants didn't know it, but the Packers were about to take control of the game but not immediately. At the end of the first quarter, it was the Packers 0 Giants 0.

Hornung scored the first TD in the second quarter. He took the handoff on a crossback over RT this time into the EZ to culminate an 80yard march to get the 2nd quarter going. Giants 0 Packers 7.

Wells returned the kick from the 17 to the 25. Tittle tried to hit Rote again but, rushed by Bill Forrester, overthrew the receiver. Webster took a draw play handoff to the 30. Tittle's next throw proved disastrous. Deflected by DT Henry Jordan, the ball went into the hands of MLB Ray Nitschke, who was downed on the 34. Hornung took a handoff to the right, stopped, and threw downfield to the left to McGee, but Lynch defended the pass beautifully.

With Andy Robustelli at his feet, Hornung threw incomplete to his buddy Max McGee. Now it was Starr's turn to try to get the ball to Max, but the ball sailed too high in the EZ. On 3rd-and-10, Bart Starr threw a look-in to TE Ron Kramer, who bulled to the 18. Taylor found slow-going in the middle as two carries gained 5y. Then Starr

threw a beautiful bullet into the outstretched hands of Dowler streaking across from his RE position on his way to the EZ. Lindsey Nelson pointed out that Green Bay could thank the U.S. Army for the TD as Nitschke made the INT to start the march and Dowler scored it - both on leave from Fort Lewis (WA). Packers then led 14 Giants 0 (10:41)



With Andy Robustelli at his feet, Hornung throws incomplete to his buddy Max McGee.



Jim Taylor on the prowl

The Packers kept it going. A delay handoff to Hornung pushed 4 yards closer to pay dirt. Then the Golden Boy dove over RT to the 15 for GB's seventh first down (to two for the Giants). After a short run, Starr stepped back with the snap and flipped the ball to Kramer over the middle into the EZ. Packers 21 Giants 0

The Giants were discouraged with a lopsided halftime stat showed the New Yorkers with only four first downs and 35 yards rushing while the Packers registered 13 first downs, 101 yards rushing, and 106 passing.

In the third quarter, Pat Summerall kicked off to up man Nitschke, who returned to the 36. Patton returned to the secondary. Starr tried the crossbuck over LT that had been so successful the first half, but the Giants stopped Hornung after just a short gain.

Packers got the ball back after some Tittle passes. After GB got the ball, Hornung then split the uprights from the 19 to give him 19 points for the day, a championship game record. Packers 37 Giants 0 (8:12)

In 4Q, after the two-minute warning, Dowler came back in and boomed a punt that was downed at the 9. With no chance to avoid a shutout, the Giants ran out the clock. Gaiters gained 2. Tittle didn't

connect with Shofner on a down and out. For the first time, Y. A. went into a shotgun formation he brought from San Francisco but badly overthrew Pete Hall. Adderley made a diving INT at the 30, got up, and jitterbugged to the 16.

Herb Adderley returned an INT in the last minutes of the game. With the crowd roaring from more points, Roach sneaked, then let the time run out as the two teams headed for the tunnel in the south end zone before the gun sounded. Sherman ran across the field and congratulated Lombardi. FINAL: GREEN BAY 37 NEW YORK 0

When the gun sounded, Hawg Hanner and Dan Currie hoisted Lombardi onto their shoulders and, with a gang of exultant Packers, ran to the clubhouse. • The fans flooded the field and wrestled down the goal posts. The Packers Band marched onto the field and played "Auld Lang Syne" to bring in the New Year.

Sherman offered these thoughts: "We have been whipped before, and we'll get whipped again. But don't let this one get you down. We will be back again. We have had a great season, and I am proud to have been your coach. Now square those shoulders and walk tall. Good-bye and thank you."

1962 Allie Sherman Coach # 8

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1962 professional football season. The 1962 New York Giants football team competed in their thirty-eighth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Allie Sherman in his second of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 38th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a nice winning season. At 12-2-0, New York finished in first place in the Eastern Division. Allie Sherman was in his second year of an eight-year tour of duty with the Giants that would bring three division championships and three shots at the NFL Championship game.

The Giants pounded just about everybody in 1962 as YA Tittle was in his glory years and Allie Sherman could make no mistakes until the championship game. The Giants defeated Pittsburgh by three whole games to capture the Eastern Championship over the Pirates. Other than the Giants, the games were close. The Giants at 12-2 looked like nobody could beat them. Considering Cleveland took the first game, the Giants went 12-1 with one loss by three points to Pittsburgh in mid-season. They were a phenomenal team for the second year on a row.

The Giants began the season with a loss at Cleveland on Sept 16, 1962 being defeated by the Browns, L (7-17) before 81,115. At Philadelphia on September 23, the Giants drubbed the Eagles W (29-13) before 60,671. At Pittsburgh on Sept 30 in a close match. The Giants defeated the Steelers W (31-27) before 40,916. At St. Louis on Oct 7, the Giants defeated the Cardinals W (31-14) before 20,327. The Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the NY Giants on Oct 14, L (17-20) before 62,808.

On Oct 21, at home, the Giants edged the Detroit Lions W (17-14) before 62,856. At home again on Oct 28, the Giants pounded the Washington Redskins W (49-34) before 62,844. Then, on Nov 4, at home v St. Louis, the Giants edged out the Cardinals W (31-28) before 62,775. Then, on Nov 11, at Dallas, the NY Giants whipped the Dallas Cowboys W (41-10) before 45,668. At Yankee Stadium on Nov 18, against Philadelphia, the Giants beat the Eagles W (19-14) before 62,705

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Then, on Nov 25, at Washington, New York whipped the Redskins W (42-24) before 49,219. On Dec 2, at Chicago, the Giants edged out by two points the Bears W (26-24) before 49,043. Then, on Dec 9, the Giants licked the Cleveland Browns W (17-13) in another close game before 62,794. Wrapping up the season against Dallas on Dec 16, the Giants squashed the Cowboys W 41-31 before 62,694. That was a season finale leading the Giants to a 12-win season—not too shabby!

NFL Championship Game 1962 NY v GB

As we discussed already, Y.A. Tittle's last 1961 season game for the Giants QB, was nothing less than a banner year. Tittle had thrown for 21/42, for 341 Yds, for 6 touchdowns and to prove he was human Y.A. threw two interceptions. The next game was the NFL Championship but the Giants outperformed so many in the Eastern Division, it looked like nobody could touch them. Their yearly nemesis, the Green Bay Packers coached by the inimitable Vince Lombardi were playing their hearts out waiting for another shot at whooping the Giants in the NFL Championship game

The game was won by the Packers by the score of L (7—16) before 46,892

At the end of the Eastern Season, the New York Giants were 12-2 and the Pittsburgh Steelers were 9-5. Neither the great Giants Eastern Record or the great Packers Western record could make the NFL Championship game any better. It was a great game but not for the Giants.

The 1962 National Football League Championship Game was the 30th NFL title game, played on December 30 at Yankee Stadium in New York City. It matched the New York Giants (12–2) of the Eastern Conference and Green Bay Packers (13–1) of the Western Conference, the defending league champions.

The Packers were led by former Giants assistant coach Vince Lombardi, in his fourth year, and the Giants by Allie Sherman, in his second season. Green Bay was favored by 6½ points. The attendance for the game was 64,892, and the weather during the game was so cold that television crews used bonfires to thaw out their cameras, and one cameraman even suffered frostbite. The conditions also made throwing the ball difficult.

Green Bay won of course in 1962 again against the Giants just like the previous year L (7–16). It did not just happen. Many credit the performances of game Most Valuable Player linebacker Ray Nitschke, and fullback Jim Taylor. Right guard Jerry Kramer, filling in as placekicker for the injured Paul Hornung, was able to score ten points with three field goals and an extra point.

The 1962 game was a rematch of the 1961 game, won by Green Bay at home, 37–0. It was the Packers' third straight appearance in the championship game, and the Giants' fourth in five seasons, and fifth in the last seven.

1963 Allie Sherman Coach # 8

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1963 professional football season. The 1963 New York Giants football team competed in their thirty-ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Allie Sherman in his third of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 39th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a nice winning season. At 11-3-0, New York finished in first place in the Eastern Division. Allie Sherman was in his third year of an eight-year tour of duty with the Giants that would bring three division championships and three shots at the NFL Championship game.

In the Giants 39th season, the Giants won their third consecutive NFL Eastern Conference title with an 11–3 record. It was the Giants' sixth Division win in eight years, but again the team lost the NFL championship game. This loss was closer than ever—a 14-10 edge-out by the Chicago Bears, at Wrigley Field. This would begin a long drought of Giants' final post-season appearance until 1981.

This year, Giants quarterback Y. A. Tittle was again a superstar. He produced one of the greatest passing seasons in NFL history. Tittle had most certainly had a breakout season the previous year, but according to Cold Hard Football Facts, "he was even better in 1963, breaking his own record set the year before with 36 TD passes while also leading the league in completion percentage, yards per attempt and passer rating. Tittle's G-Men scored a league-leading 32.0 points-per-game and he lifted his team to an epic title-game. He was at his best in all showings including the showdown with the Bears. The

scuttle on the bears is that they possessed what was easily the league's best defense in 1963 (--10.3 points-per-game).

Games of the 1963 Season

The Giants began the season with a win at Baltimore on Sept 15, against the Colts W (37–28) before 60,029. At Pittsburgh on September 22, the Giants were shut out by the Steelers L (0–31) before 46,068 . At Philadelphia on Sept 29, the Giants defeated the Eagles (37–14) before 60,671. At Washington on Oct 6, the Giants defeated the Redskins W (24–14) before 49,419. The Cleveland Browns defeated the NY Giants at home on Oct 14, L (24–35) before 62,956.

On Oct 20 at home, the Giants defeated the Dallas Cowboys W (37–21) before 62,889, At Cleveland on Oct 27 the Giants pounded the Browns W (33–6) before 84,213. Then, on Nov 3 at St. Louis, the Giants beat the Cardinals W (38–21) before 29,482. At home, on Nov 10, the Giants pummeled the Philadelphia Eagles W (42–14) before 62,936. Then, at home at Yankee Stadium on Nov 17, the Giants defeated the San Francisco 49ers W (48–14) before 62,982.

On Nov 24, at home, the Giants were beaten by the St. Louis Cardinals L (17–24) before 62,992. Then, at Dallas on Dec 1, the Giants edged out the Cowboys W (34–27) before 29,653. Then, on Dec 8 at home, the Giants beat the Washington Redskins W (44–14) before 62,992. In the season finale, at home, on Dec 15, the Giants beat the Pittsburgh Steelers W (33–17) before 63,240

NFL Championship Game Giants v Bears

On December 29 1963, the Giants and Chicago met in the 1963 NFL Championship Game at Wrigley Field before 45,801 on Dec 29, 1963. The Bears got the best of the Giants L (10-14) in a defensive struggle.

When game time came, the 1963 Chicago Bears were led by their dominating defense. The Bears defense would go on to lead the

league in 10 out of 19 defensive categories. Five Bears on the defensive side of the ball would be nominated to the All-Pro team. The Bears also had an offensive threat in number 89, Mike Ditka. Ditka would be named to five consecutive All-Pro teams starting with his first year in the league in 1961.

Opposing the Bears in the championship game would be a veteran group from the New York Football Giants, led by Y.A. Tittle and Frank Gifford. Instead of hopping a plane to South Beach for the Super Bowl, the Bears were relegated to catching the team bus and riding a short distance to Clark and Addison. Wrigley Field would host the championship game on December 29, 1963. 45,800 fans would pack the Friendly Confines to cheer on their Bears. They'd need to cheer fervently to keep warm. Kickoff temperature was 9 degrees.

The Bears trailed 7-0 early, but a long interception return from linebacker Larry Morris would set up Bill Wade's 2-yard quarterback sneak for a touchdown. The Bears would go into halftime down 10-7.

Following an Ed O'Bradovich interception, Wade would again be set up for a QB sneak for the score. Following the extra point, the Bears would have a 10-14 lead and the game. The score would stand as the defense intercepted Tittle's Hail Mary in the closing seconds of the game.

The Chicago Bears would each receive \$5,899 for their efforts. The highest payday yet for an NFL championship game. Coach George Halas would also be handsomely awarded. The Associated Press, United Press and Sporting News all named Halas NFL Coach of the Year.

This would be the last title for New York until the 1980's. Don't worry. We'll get there. We did become accustomed to the New York Giants winning divisions and then losing championships. Well, we would have solved the problem a little differently by winning some more championships. We'll get there for sure before you know it.

964 Allie Sherman Coach # 8

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1964 professional football season. The 1964 New York Giants football team competed in their fortieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants' Head Coach Allie Sherman in his fourth of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 40th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a terrible losing season with just two wins and two ties as well as a season record of 2-10-2, New York finished in seventh place in the Eastern Division. Allie Sherman was in his fourth year of an eight-year tour of duty with the Giants that would bring three division championships and three shots at the NFL Championship game.

Games of the 1964 Season

The Giants began the season with a loss at Philadelphia on Sept 13, 1964 against the Eagles L (7–38) before 60,671. At Pittsburgh on September 20, the Giants were edged out by the Steelers L (24–27) before 33,053. At Washington on Sept 25, the Giants defeated the Redskins before 62,996. At Detroit on Oct 4, the Giants were defeated by the Lions W (3–26) before 54,836. At Dallas, the Cowboys tied the Giants T (13-13) before 33,324.

At home on Oct 18, the Giants defeated the Philadelphia Eagles L (17–23) before 62,978. At Cleveland on Oct 25, the Browns beat the Giants L (20–42) before 81,050. On Nov 1, 1964, at Yankee Stadium, the Allie Sherman's Giants got their second and last win of the year from the St. Louis Cardinals W (34–17) before 63,072. At home on Nov 8, the Dallas Cowboys slugged the New York Giants L (21–31) before 63,061. Then, at St. Louis, on Nov 15, the Cardinals tied the Giants T (10–10) before 29,608.

On Nov 22 at home, the Pittsburgh Steelers lambasted the Giants L (17–44) before 62,691. At Washington on Nov 29, the Redskins beat the Giants L (21–36) before 49,219. At home in Yankee Stadium on Dec 6, the Minnesota Vikings defeated the Giants L (21–30) before 62,802. Then, in the final game of the season, on Dec 12, at Yankee

Stadium, the Cleveland Browns buried the Giants L (20–52) before 63,007.

1965 Allie Sherman Coach # 8

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1965 professional football season. The 1965 New York Giants football team competed in their forty-first season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Allie Sherman in his fifth of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 41th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a terrible losing season with just seven wins and seven losses, and a season record of 7-7-0. New York finished in a tie for second place in the Eastern Division. Allie Sherman was in his fifth year of an eight-year tour of duty with the Giants that would bring three division championships and three shots at the NFL Championship game.

The 7–7 record, which placed the Giants in a tie for second in the Eastern Conference with the Dallas Cowboys, four games behind the Cleveland Browns. The Cowboys won both meetings with the Giants and gained the berth as the conference runner-up in the third place Playoff Bowl in Miami.

Games of the 1965 Season

The Giants began the season with a loss at Dallas on Sept 19, 1965 against the Cowboys L (2–31) before 59,366. At Philadelphia on Sep 26, the Giants edged out the Eagles L (16–14) before 57,154. At Pittsburgh on Oct 3, the Giants defeated the Steelers W (23-13) before 31,871. At Minnesota on Oct 9, the Giants were defeated by the Vikings W (14–40) 44,283. At home in Yankee Stadium on Oct 17, the Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (35-27) before 62,815

On Oct 24 at home, the Cleveland Browns defeated the NY Giants L (14–38) before 62,864. On Oct 31, the Giants defeated the St. Louis Cardinals W (14–10) before 62,807. Then, on Nov 7 at Yankee Stadium in NY, the Washington Redskins beat the Giants L (7–23) before 62,788. At Cleveland on Nov 14, the Browns beat the Giants L (21–34) before 82,426. At St. Louis on Nov 21, the Giants beat the Cardinals W (28–15) before 31,704.

Then, on November 28 at home in Yankee Stadium, the Giants beat the Chicago Bears L (14–35) before 62,933. On Dec 5 at home, the Giants defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers W (35–10) before 62,735. Then, on Dec 12 at Washington, the Giants beat the Redskins W (27–10) before 50,373. At home in Yankee Stadium in the season finale, the Giants beat the Dallas Cowboys on Dec 19 L (20–38) before 62,871

1966 Allie Sherman Coach # 8

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1966 professional football season. The 1966 New York Giants football team competed in their forty-second season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Allie Sherman in his sixth of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 42nd season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a terrible losing season with just seven wins and seven losses, and a season record of 1-12-1. New York finished in eighth place in the Eastern Division. Allie Sherman was in his seventh year of an eight-year tour of duty with the Giants that would bring three division championships and three shots at the NFL Championship game.

The 1-12-1 record, placed the Giants in eighth place of the Eastern Conference with the Dallas Cowboys, four games behind the Cleveland Browns. The Cowboys won both meetings with the Giants and gained the berth as the conference runner-up in the third place Playoff Bowl in Miami.

The 1966 New York Giants season was the franchise's 42nd season in the National Football League (NFL). The season saw the Giants

looking to improve on their 7–7 record from 1965. However, they finished in last place in the Eastern Conference with a 1–12–1 record, the worst in franchise history. The 12 losses set a single-season team record that was matched four times before being broken in 2017.

The 1966 Giants gave up the most points in NFL history for a 14-game season. They allowed 501 points in 14 games, or an average of 35.8 points per game. They broke the total league record for the most points given up in a season. The next most points allowed by a Giants team was 427 in the 2009 season, which was 16 games. The 1966 Giants really stunk out the house. The Giants allowed opponents to score more than 30 points in eight of the 14 games, and gave up over 50 points three times. They are the only team in history to give up 500 points in a 14-game season.

On Nov 27, 1966, the Giants were the losers in the highest-scoring game in NFL history, losing to the Washington Redskins, 72–41. On the minus side, it was the first of three straight games in which the Giants gave up more than 45 points. They gave 49 points against the Cleveland Browns and they gave 47 versus the Pittsburgh Steelers. We show the season games next. Put a clothespin on your nose.

Games of the 1966 Season

The Giants began the season with a tie at Pittsburgh T (34-34) on September 11, 1966 before 37,603. At Dallas on Sep 18, the Giants were decimated by the Cowboys with no waste products left before 60,010. At Philadelphia, on Sep 25, the Eagles defeated the Giants L (17-135) before 60,177. 3) before 31,871. At home in Yankee Stadium the Cleveland Browns pounded the Giants on Oct 2, before 62,916. Then, at St. Louis on Oct 9, the Giants were defeated by the Cardinals W (19–24) 43,893. At home in Yankee Stadium on Oct 16, the Giants beat the Washington Redskins W (13-10) before 62,865.. On Oct 23, at home, the Philadelphia Eagles whipped the Giants whipped the NY Giants L (3-31) Oct 30 Bye then midseason.

At Yankee Stadium at home for the Giants, the team was nudged out in this next game on Nov 6 St. by the St. Louis Cardinals L (17–20) before 62,967. On Nov 13, at Los Angeles, the Rams pounded the

Giants L (14–55) before 34,746. Then, on Nov 20 the Atlanta Falcons defeated the Giants L (16–27) before 62,746.

At Washington on Nov 27, the Redskins blasted the Giants L (41–72) before 50,439. Then, at Cleveland on Dec 4, the Browns edged out the Giants L (40–49) before 61,651. Then at home, on Dec 11, the Pittsburgh Steelers smashed the NY Giants L (28–47) before 62,658. Getting the season done in 1956, on Dec 18 the Dallas Cowboys defeated the NY Giants L (7–17) before 62,735

1967 Allie Sherman Coach # 8

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1967 professional football season. The 1967 New York Giants football team competed in their forty-third season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Century Division. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Allie Sherman in his seventh of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 43rd season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a breakeven season with just seven wins and seven losses. At 7-7-0, New York finished in a clean second place in the Eastern Division. Allie Sherman was in his seventh year of an eight-year tour of duty with the Giants that would bring three division championships and three shots at the NFL Championship game.

The Season opener was on September 17, 1967 at St. Louis. The Giants defeated the Cardinals W (37–20) before 40,801. On Sep 24, at Dallas, the Cowboys beat the Giants L (24-38) before 66,209. Then, at Washington, on Oct 1, the Redskins edged out the Giants before 50,266. At home at Yankee Stadium on Oct 8, the Giants defeated the New Orleans Saints W (27–21) before 62,670. Then, on Oct 15 at Pittsburgh, the Giants nosed out the Steelers W (27–24) before 39,782.

Then, on Oct 22, at home, the Green Bay Packers defeated the Giants L (21-48) before 62,585. On Oct 29 New York defeated the Cleveland Browns W (38–34) before 62,903. At Minnesota on Nov 5, the Vikings edged out the Giants L (24-27) before 44,960. At Chicago

on Nov 12, 1967, the Bears pounded the Giants L (7-34) before 46,223. At home in Yankee Stadium, on Nov 19, the Giants Beat the Pittsburgh Steelers W (28-20) before 62,982.

Then, on Nov 26, at home, the Giants pounded the Philadelphia Eagles W (44-7) before 63,027. At Cleveland on Dec 3, the Browns defeated the Giants L (14-24) before 78,594. On Dec 10, at home, the Detroit Lions whipped the Giants L (7-30) before 63,011. Then, in the season finale on Dec 17, 1967, the Giants whooped the St. Louis Cardinals W (37-14) before 62,955.

1968 Allie Sherman Coach # 8

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1968 professional football season. The 1968 New York Giants football team competed in their forty-fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Capitol Division. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Allie Sherman in his eighth and final year of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 44th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a breakeven season with just seven wins and seven losses. At 7-7-0, New York finished in a clean second place in the Capitol Division. Allie Sherman was in his eighth and final year of an eight-year tour of duty with the Giants that would in total bring three division championships and three shots at the NFL Championship game.

For the 1968 season, the Giants in essence traded divisions with the New Orleans Saints, with the Giants moving from the Century Division to the Capitol Division. The Giants finished with a 7-7 record, which placed them second in the Capitol Division, five games behind the Dallas Cowboys.

The first four wins for the Giants at the beginning of the 1968 season are as follows:

- At Pittsburgh on September 15, W (34–20)
- At Philadelphia on September 22, W (34–25)
- At home v Redskins September 29, 1968 W (48–21)
- At home v Saints October 6, 1968 W (38–21)

On Oct 5, at Atlanta, the Falcons beat the Giants L (21–24) before 49,962. Then, at home on Oct 20, the San Francisco 49ers beat the Giants L (10–26) before 62,958. At Washington on Oct 27, the Giants defeated the Redskins W (13–10) before 50,839. Then, on Nov 3, at home in Yankee Stadium, the Baltimore Colts shutout the Giants L (0–26) before 62,973. Then at Dallas on Nov 10, the Giants defeated the Cowboys W (27–21) before 72,163.

On Nov 17, at home, the Giants nosed out the Philadelphia Eagles W (7–6) before 62,896. At Los Angeles on Nov 24, the Rams edged out the Giants L (21–24) before 68,534. At Cleveland on Dec 1, the Browns squashed the Giants L (10–45) before 83,193. At home on Dec 8, the St. Louis Cardinals neat the Giants in a close match L (21–28) before 62,709. Then, at home in Yankee Stadium. On Dec 15, the Dallas Cowboys bettered the Giants in the Season Finale L (10–28) before 62,617.

Chapter 11 Coach Alex Webster 1969-1973

Coach #9 Coach Alex Webster



Head Coach Webster (right) talking it over with Tarkenton (5yrs w/Giants)

Alex Webster	1969	2nd	6 8 0
Alex Webster	1970	2nd	9 5 0
Alex Webster	1971	5th	4 10 0
Alex Webster	1972	3rd	8 6 0
Alex Webster	1973	5th	2 11 1

1969-1973 Alex Webster final record (29-40-1)

Tell me about Alex Webster!



Alex Webster agreed to be the Head Coach of the NY Giants when The Jets beat the Giants in September 1969 and that was enough of Allie Sherman for the Mara's. As a player, Webster was a powerful running back who helped propel the Giants to six division titles and a National Football League

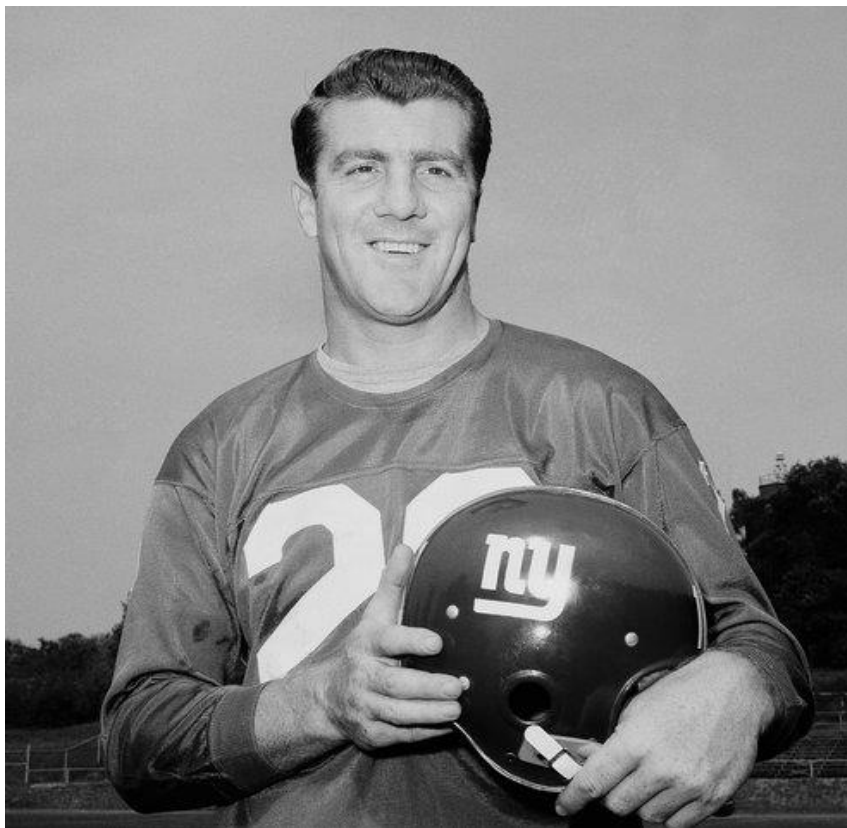
championship in the late 1950s and early '60s. In this employment, he would become the Giants coach for the next five seasons.

He was a “burly” presence for his era, at 6 feet 3 inches and about 230 pounds, Webster, known as Big Red, gained key yardage in the Giants’ high-powered offense. When he retired after the 1964 season, he held the Giants’ major career rushing records, having run the ball 1,196 times for 4,638 yards and 39 touchdowns in his 10 seasons.

He now ranks in the Giants’ top five in those three categories. He was also adept at catching screen passes and had 17 touchdown receptions.

“He was so strong at 230-plus pounds that it was impossible to arm-tackle him,” Frank Gifford recalled in his memoir “The Whole Ten Yards,” written with Harry Waters.

“People either bounced off him or he ran over them. Every time he got the ball, he turned into a grinding machine.”



Alex Webster

Webster was the Giants' backfield coach in 1967 and '68 under Allie Sherman, then replaced him as the coach after the Giants lost all five preseason games in 1969. He was named by United Press International as the National Football Conference coach of the year in 1970, when the Giants surprised the league by going 9-5.

Webster was popular with the players he coached, but the team lacked a modern management structure. Wellington Mara, the franchise's patriarch, was making most of the personnel decisions without a general manager or an independent player personnel director.

Webster announced his resignation before the final game of the 1973 season, when the Giants were 2-11-1, playing most of their home games at Yale Bowl while Yankee Stadium was being renovated. His Giants teams were 29-40-1 and never made the playoffs. So, folks, we

won't be reading about the Giants at peak as we cover these five years with Alex Webster as coach but we will learn for sure how to appreciate a good victory and there will be a number of those along the way.



Alex Webster, coach of the Giants, with the team's owner, Wellington Mara, in 1971.
Credit Ernie Sisto /The New York Times

Webster was inducted into the Giants' Ring of Honor during a halftime ceremony at a game against the Packers. "He was always amazing to me," Gifford told *The Palm Beach Post* in 2008. "He was always in the worst shape of anyone who ever played, probably. He smoke and drank, not to excess, and then he'd come out and play a whole game and run over people. He was one tough dude."

1969 Alex Webster Coach # 9

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1969 professional football season. The 1969 New York Giants football team competed in their forty-fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were back again to the Century Division. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Alex Webster in his first of five seasons as head coach of the Giants. Webster coached QB Fran Tarkenton in his third season with NY. Here's QB Tarkenton on Tarkenton:

"I scramble because I'm good at it, because I can twist and dodge those big pass rushers better than most guys and we get a lot of touchdowns that way."

After Webster's third year, they traded Fran Tarkenton to Minnesota and he kept knocking them dead while the Giants still had to wait for Bill Parcells in 1983.

As noted, this was the franchise's 45th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a sub 500 season with just six wins and eight losses.. At 6-8-0, New York finished in second place in the Century Division. Alex Webster began his first year of a five-year tour of duty with the Giants.

For the 1969 season, the Giants in essence had traded back divisions by moving back from the Capitol Division to the Century Division. The team record was 6–8 record, which placed them second in the Century Division , 4½ games behind the Cleveland Browns.

Before the season, the Giants opted for Fred Dryer in the first round of the 1969 NFL/AFL Draft. They used their 13th pick, and then later traded with the Atlanta Falcons for running back Junior Coffey in late October.

New York did not have a great beginning. The team lost every one of its preseason games, including a 37–14 drubbing by the New York Jets at the Yale Bowl in New Haven. This was the final straw for head coach Allie Sherman in September, a week before the regular season began. The Mara's hated getting beaten by the Jets. Offensive backfield coach Alex Webster was immediately promoted to head coach. He stayed five years.

The Giants opened the season with a win against the Minnesota Vikings before 62,900 on September 21, 1969 in a nail-biter match W (24-23), the eventual league champion. As you will see, they had a nice 3–1 record after four games. However, they went on a seven-

game losing streak, then won the final three games in December to close out the season.

On Sep 28 at Detroit, the Lions pounded the Giants in a shutout L (0–24) before 54,358. On Oct 5, at home the Giants eked out a close win against the Chicago Bears W (28–24) before 62,583. Then, at home on Oct 12, the Giants edged out a win against the Pittsburgh Steelers W (10–7). Before 62,987. At Washington, on Oct 19, the Redskins prevailed v the Giants L (14–20) before 50,352. At Dallas, on Oct 27, the Cowboys overpowered the Giants L (3–25) before 58,964.

Then, at home in Yankee Stadium, on Nov 2, the Philadelphia Eagles outscored the Giants L (20–23) before 62,912. On Nov 9 at St. Louis, the Cardinals overwhelmed the Giants L (17–42) before 49,194. On Nov 16 at home, the New Orleans Saints nosed out the Giants L (24–25) before 62,927. Then, on Nov 23 at Cleveland, the Browns blasted the Giants L (17–28) before 80,595.

Wrapping up the season in late November at Green Bay, the Packers outplayed the Giants L (10–20) before 48,156. On Dec 7, at home, the Giants walloped the St. Louis Cardinals W (49–6) before 62,973. At Pittsburgh on Dec 14, the Giants edged out the Steelers W (21–17) before 21,067. Note that the attendance gets lower as the teams do not do as well. On Dec 21, closing in on Christmas, the Giants whooped the Cleveland Browns at home W (27–14) before 62,966.

1970 Alex Webster Coach # 9

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1970 professional football season. The 1970 New York Giants football team competed in their forty-sixth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were now in the NFC East after the AFL-NFL merger. They had previously been in the Century Division. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Alex Webster in his second of five seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 46th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a fine winning season with nine wins and eight losses.. At 9-5, New York finished in second place in the NFC East Alex Webster successfully began his second year of a five-year tour of duty with the Giants

The AFL-NFL merger was what everybody was concerned about this year. This was the first season for the Giants after the biggest merger ever in pro-football. Ten American Football League teams joined the National Football League. I loved AFL football so I was not one of the fans of the merger. I liked liking my Giants and then I also liked my team du jour from the AFL.

The Giants had another chance at the playoffs this year but the New Yorkers lost their season finale against the Los Angeles Rams by a big margin of 31-3. The settle was for second in the NFC East, a game behind the Dallas Cowboys. They were also only one game out of a wild-card playoff spot, won by the Detroit Lions. Bad luck was as bad as losing all those NFL championships over the year after getting into the title game. Yet, many non-Giants fans would tell you that the Giants had already won enough. Not so.

Somehow the Giants had a bad habit of losing to the bad guys, for example, the most damaging losses to the Giants' playoff hopes than the loss to the Rams were two devastating losses to two of the NFL's bottom feeders. The first was a 14-10 loss at New Orleans in week three; the second was a 23-20 setback at Philadelphia on Monday Night Football in week 10. This was the New Yorkers' only setback in a 10-week stretch following the loss to the Saints.

The Philadelphia game at Franklin Field was more memorable for the antics in the broadcast booth, where Howard Cosell did the unspeakable—he vomited on Don Meredith's cowboy boots. Cosell took a taxi back to the hotel at halftime, leaving Meredith to finish the game with Keith Jackson. The spirits had apparently captured Cosell along with many others in the ball park.

The Saints finished with the NFL's second-worst record at 2-11-1 (the Giants beat the NFL's worst team of 1970, the 2-12 Boston

Patriots); the Eagles were barely better at 3–10–1. The Giants also lost at home to the 6-8 Chicago Bears. Nobody was smiling.

This fine season would be the closest the Giants came to qualifying for the playoffs in the 1970s after an illustrious past with the greatest coaches. The franchise enjoyed only one other winning season in the decade, going 8–6 in 1972. We'll cover that soon. Big Blue did not return to the playoffs until 1981, ending a drought which dated back to the 1963 NFL Championship. Success came with a man named Paladin—oops, Parcells. I knew there was a “P” there someplace.

On September 19, 1970, the season kicked off with a match of the Giants v the Chicago Bears . The Bears prevailed L (16–24) at home in Yankee Stadium before 62,936. At Dallas on Sep 27, in the Cotton Bowl, the Giants were defeated by the Cowboys L (10–28). Then on Oct 4, at New Orleans, the Saints edged out the Giants L (10–14) in Tulane Stadium before 69,126. On Oct 11, the Giants defeated the Philadelphia Eagles W (30–23) in Yankee Stadium before 62,820. At Boston, formerly of the AFL, the Giants won W (16–0) at Harvard Stadium over the Patriots before 39,091. Then, at home in Yankee Stadium , on Oct 25, the St. Louis Cardinals whooped the Giants W (35–17) before 62,984.

On Nov 1, at the New York Jets, the Giants won W (22–10) at Shea Stadium before 63,903. At home in Yankee Stadium, the Giants defeated the Dallas Cowboys on Nov 8 W (23–20) before 62,938. At home in Yankee Stadium again on Nov 15, , the Giants edged out the Redskins W (35–33) before 62,915. At the Philadelphia Franklin Field, the Eagles squeaked by the Giants on Nov 23 L (20–23) before 59,117. At Washington on Nov 29, the Giants snuck by the Redskins W (27–24) in Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium before 50,415.

At home in Yankee Stadium on Dec 6, the Buffalo Bills beat the Giants W (20–6) before 62,870. At St. Louis, on Dec 13, the Giants got the best of the Cardinals W (34–17) at Busch Memorial Stadium before 50,845. Then in the game that cost the Giants the Division in the season finale, at Yankee Stadium, on Dec 20, the Los Angeles Rams did not let up until they pounded the Giants L (3–31) before 62,870. The season could have been a lot more.

1971 Alex Webster Coach # 9

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1971 professional football season. The 1971 New York Giants football team competed in their forty-seventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Alex Webster in his third of five seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 47th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a losing season with just four wins and ten losses.. At 4-10, New York finished in fifth / last place in the NFC East. Alex Webster successfully began his third year of a five-year tour of duty with the Giants

The 1971 New York Giants season was the franchise's 47th season in the National Football League (NFL). The Giants had a 4–10 record for the season and finished in last place in the National Football Conference East Division.

Games of the 1971 season

The Giants got this poor season going positively by nipping the Green Bay Packers on September 19, 1971 at home W (42–40) before 56,263. At home the following week on Sep 26, the Washington Redskins helped the Giants to begin their losing ways by whipping NY L (3–30) before 62,795. At St. Louis on Oct 3, the Giants nosed out the Cardinals W (21–20) before 49,571. Then, at Dallas on Oct 11, 1971, the Cowboys defeated the Giants L (13–20) before 68,378. At home in Yankee Stadium on Oct 17, the Baltimore Colts smashed the Giants L (31–7) before 62,860.

At Philadelphia on Oct 24, the Eagles whipped the Giants L (7–23) before 65,358. Then, at home on Oct 31, the Minnesota Vikings beat the New York Giants L (10–17) before 62,829. At home the next week again, on Nov 7, the Giants defeated the San Diego Chargers W (35–17) before 62,905. Then, on Nov 14, at Atlanta, the Giants won in a close match against the Falcons W (21–17) before 58,850.

That was the last win for the season. On Nov 21 at Pittsburgh. The Steelers edged out the Giants L (13–17) before 50,008.

At home on Nov 28, the St. Louis Cardinals defeated the Giants L (7–24) before 62,878. At Washington on Dec 5, the Redskins got the best of the Giants L (7–23) before 53,401. Then, in Yankee Stadium on Dec 12, the Dallas Cowboys pounded New York L (14–42) before 62,815. In the season finale on Dec 19, 1971 at home, the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Giants L (28–41) before 62,774

1972 Alex Webster Coach # 9

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1972 professional football season. The 1972 New York Giants football team competed in their forty-eighth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Alex Webster in his fourth of five seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 48th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a winning season with eight wins and four losses.. At 8-6, New York finished in third place in the NFC East, three games behind the Washington Redskins. Alex Webster successfully began his fourth year of a five-year tour of duty with the Giants

The Giants still made motions that they were the Giants of old but they had lost most of their zip and they had lost their administrative smarts, giving away Fran Tarkenton for a song. They were blessed with two first-round selections in the 1972 NFL Draft, and chose Eldridge Small and Larry Jacobson with the 17th and 24th overall picks, respectively.

Before the season, New York made the mistake of the decade by trading their starting quarterback, Fran Tarkenton, to the Minnesota Vikings for a package of players and draft picks that included quarterback Norm Snead. Though Snead led the league in pass completion average in 1972, he did not move the Giants into championship caliber.

Halfback Ron Johnson scored nine touchdowns on running plays to top the NFL, and his 1,182 rushing yards broke the Giants' single-season record. This was the last winning season for the Giants until 1981. FYI, meanwhile Fran Tarkenton was setting records for the Vikings.

Games of the 1972 season

In the season opener on September 17, 1972 at Detroit, the Lions overwhelmed the Giants L (16–30) before 54,418. At home on Sep 24, the Dallas Cowboys defeated the NY Giants L (14–23) before 62,725. Then, at Philadelphia on Oct 2, the Giants pounded the Eagles W (27–12) before 65,720. At home on Oct 8, the Giants whipped the New Orleans Saints W (45–21) before 62,507. Then, on Oct 15, at San Francisco, the Giants beat the 49ers W 23–17 58,606.

On Oct 22 at home, the Giants beat the St. Louis Cardinals W (27–21) before 62,756. On Oct 29 at home, the Washington Redskins defeated the Giants L (16–23) before 62,878. On Nov 5 at home, the Giants beat the Denver Broncos W (29–17) before 62,689. On Nov 12, at Washington, the Redskins beat the Giants L (13–27) before 53,039. Then, on Nov 19 at St. Louis, the Giants defeated the Cardinals W (7–13) before 48,014

On Nov 26, the Giants pounded the brains out of the Philadelphia Eagles W (62–10) before 62,586. This was the greatest margin of win for NY and the greatest margin of defeat for the Philly's. On Dec 3, at Cincinnati, the Bengals beat the Giants L (10–13) before 59,523. At home on Dec 10, the Miami Dolphins beat the NY Giants L (13–23) before 62,728. In the 1972 season finale at Dallas on Dec 17, the Giants smashed the Cowboys W (23–3) before 64,602.

1973 Alex Webster Coach # 9

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1973 professional football season. The 1973 New York Giants football team competed in their forty-ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were

still in the NFC East. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Alex Webster in his fifth and last of five seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 49th season in the NFL. Home games were initially played in Yankee Stadium. After the first two home games, the Giants moved home games to the Yale Bowl. The Giants had a terrible season with just two wins, two losses and a tie. At 2-11-1, New York finished in fifth place in the NFC East, three games behind the Washington Redskins. Alex Webster successfully began his fourth year of a five-year tour of duty with the Giants

After the season, head coach Alex Webster was fired and replaced the following season by Bill Arnsparger. The Giants were looking for the magic pill. At least that part was good. Arnsparger had a great NFL reputation and things were looking up.

Games of the 1973 season

In Coach Alex Webster's final season opener on September 16, 1973, at home, the Giants defeated the Houston Oilers W (34-14) before 57,979. At home on Sep 23, the Giants tied the Philadelphia Eagles T (23-23) before 62,289. Then, on Sep 30, at Cleveland. The Browns beat the Giants L (10-12) before 76,065. Then, on Oct 7, at home, the Green Bay Packers beat the Giants L (14-16) before 70,050. The Washington Redskins drubbed the Giants on Oct 14, L (3-21) before 70,168.

At Dallas on Oct 21, the Cowboys outslugged the Giants L (28-45) before 58,741. At St. Louis, on Oct 28, the Cardinals beat the Giants L (27-35) before 47,589. Then, at Oakland on Nov 4, the Raiders pummeled the Giants in a blowout L (0-42) before 51,200. At home on Nov 11, the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Giants L (10-23) before 70,128. At home at the Yale Bowl on Nov 18, the Giants defeated the St. Louis Cardinals W (24-13) before 65,795.

On Nov 25, at Philadelphia, the Eagles defeated the Giants L (16-20) before 63,086. At Washington on Dec 2, the Redskins beat the Giants L (24-27) before 53,590. At Los Angeles on Dec 10, the Rams pounded the Giants L (6-40) before 73,328. Then, to finish the 1973 season, at home, on Dec 16, the Minnesota Vikings finished off the Giants L (7-31) before 70,041

Chapter 12 Coach Bill Arnsparger 1974-1976

Coach #10 Coach Bill Arnsparger

Bill Arnsparger	1974	5th	2 12 0
Bill Arnsparger	1975	4th	5 9 0 —
Arnsparger & McVay	1976	5th	3 11 0 —

1974-1976 Bill Arnsparger final record (10-21-0)

Coach Arnsparger



After the 2-11-1 season of Alex Webster's final year, the Giants were ready to turn things around but they did not yet have a fine-tuned plan on which to rely. So, they picked a coach who had been around for a long time with 24 years at the time

in various assistant positions in college and professional football. In his lifetime career, for example, besides his time with the Giants, his head coaching record was 26-8-2. He compiled a cumulative lifetime record for all the teams he coached in various capacities of 247-128-6.

This time included being a football coach in the National Football League (NFL) from 1964 until 2002, where he finished his career with the San Diego Chargers as their associate head coach-defense. Over his twenty-six years of coaching his teams as noted previously, helped him compile a cumulative record of 247-128-6. During his career as our NYG story gets to 1974, he was appointed the head coach of the New York Giants from 1974 until the 1976 season. The Giants went 7-21-0 during their two full seasons with Arnsparger as head coach.

Lasting only two years, it begs that question of why was he was hired if for just a short time. Was it just a short leap of faith that was given the new coach? After all, Alex Webster had brought the Giants to a very low-level departing with a 2-11-1 record in the season before Arnsparger.

When he was hired, Bill Arnsparger, was already a legend in the NFL in a positive way. He was well known for his major success. Before he was the former Giants head coach, he was the genius behind the No-Name defense that helped the 1972 Miami Dolphins complete the only undefeated season in NFL history. Now, we know the rest of the Bill Arnsparger story.

1974 Bill Arnsparger Coach # 10

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1974 professional football season. The 1974 New York Giants football team competed in their fiftieth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 10th Giants Head Coach Bill Arnsparger in his first of two seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 50th season in the NFL. Home games were played in the Yale Bowl in New Haven Connecticut. The Giants did not win any home games in 1974. The Giants had a terrible season with just two wins, two losses and no ties—their worst since 1966. At 2-12, New York finished in fifth place in the NFC East. The Giants played at Shea Stadium in Queens in 1975 and opened Giants Stadium in New Jersey in October 1976.

The Giants opened up their 1974 season on September 15, 1974 at home in the Yale Bowl and were defeated by the Washington Redskins L (10–13) before 49,849. Then, again at home on Sep 22, the New England Patriots defeated the Giants L (20–28) before 44,082. At Dallas on Sep 29, the Giants beat the Cowboys W (14–6) before 45,841, At home on Oct 6, the Atlanta Falcons beat the Giants L (7–14) before 42,379. At Philadelphia on Oct 13, the Eagles shellacked the Giants L (7–35) before 64,801.

On Oct 20, at Washington, the Redskins pounded the Giants L (3–24) before 53,879. On Oct 27, at home, the Dallas Cowboys beat the Giants L 7–21) before 57,381. Then, on Nov 3, at Kansas City, the Giants beat the Chiefs W (33–27) before 61,437. At home on Nov 10, the New York Jets beat the Giants L (20–26) before 64,327. Then, on Nov 17 at Detroit, the Lions nosed out the Giants L (19–20) before 40,431.

On Nov 24, at home, the St. Louis Cardinals nosed out the Giants L (21–23) before 40,615. On Dec 1, at Chicago, the Bears beat the Giants L (13–16) before 18,802. On Dec 8, at home, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Giants L (7–20) before 21,170. In the 1974 season finale on Dec 15, at St. Louis, the Cardinals were victorious L (14–26) before 47,414.

1975 Bill Arnsparger Coach # 10 9

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1975 professional football season. The 1975 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-first Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 10th Giants Head Coach Bill Arnsparger in his second of two seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 51st season in the NFL. Home games were played in Shea Stadium in Flushing NY. The Giants had another losing season with just five wins, nine losses and no ties. At 5-9, New York finished in fourth place in the NFC East. The Giants opened Giants Stadium in New Jersey in October 1976.

The Giants' 5–9 record was poor but nonetheless, it was a three-win improvement upon their performance at the Yale Bowl in 1974. They had a new logo designed for their helmets, replacing the old lower case “ny” to a stylized white and blue uppercase “NY.” Sometimes even cosmetic differences help.

In the season opener on Sunday, September 21, 1975 at Philadelphia, the Giants defeated the Eagles W (23–14) before 60,798. On Sunday, Sep 28, at Washington, the Redskins pounded the Giants

L (13–49) before 54,953. Then, on Oct 5 at St. Louis, the Cardinals beat the Giants L (14–26) before 44,919. Then on Oct 12, at home, the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Giants L (7–13) before 56,511. On Monday, Oct 20, at Buffalo, the Giants beat the Bills W (17–14) before 79,428.

On Saturday Oct 25, at home, the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Giants L (13–20) before 49,598. Then, on Saturday Nov 1, at home, the San Diego Chargers beat the Giants W (35–24) before 52,032. The remaining games were on Sundays. On Nov 9, at home, the Washington Redskins defeated the Giants L (13–21) before 57,242. On Nov 16, at home, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the NY Giants L (10–13) before 53,434. On Nov 23, at Green Bay, the Packers trounced the Giants L (14–40) before 50,150.

On Nov 30, at Dallas, the Cowboys beat the Giants L (3–14) before 53,329. Then on Dec 7, at home, the Baltimore Colts shut out the New York Giants L (0–21) before 49,863. On Dec 14, at home, the New Orleans Saints whipped the Giants W (14–28) before 40,150. In the season finale, on Dec 21, at San Francisco, the 49ers edged out the NY Giants W (26–23) before 34,354

1976 Bill Arnsparger Coach # 10; John McVay Interim

Bill A. was fired in week seven after which, John McVay took over the team as interim coach.

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1976 professional football season. The 1976 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-second Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 10th Giants Head Coach Bill Arnsparger in his second of two seasons as head coach of the Giants. At midpoint in this season Bill A. was replaced by Coach John McVay.

As noted, this was the franchise's 52nd season in the NFL. Home games were played in Shea Stadium in Flushing NY. The Giants had another losing season with just three wins, eleven losses and no ties. At 3-11, New York finished in fifth / last place in the NFC East. The Giants opened Giants Stadium in New Jersey in October 1976.

The season featured the opening of the new Giants Stadium at the New Jersey Meadowlands in East Rutherford on October 10. In the first game at the stadium, after playing four road games to open the season, the defending NFC champion Dallas Cowboys handed New York a 24–14 loss to open the new stadium.

The Giants then suffered defeats against the Minnesota Vikings and Pittsburgh Steelers, falling to 0–7 after week 7. Then, they fired third-year head coach Bill Arnsparger. He had not delivered though at one time the promises were good.

Arnsparger's Giants teams had lost 28 times in 35 games and a lot of them were not pretty. John McVay was named the team's interim coach, although at the time, it was reported that the director of operations Andy Robustelli commented that the appointment was "not strictly" on a temporary basis.

Without McVay, perhaps there would have been zero victories as Arnsparger had seemingly spent all his. New York lost its first two games under McVay, against the Philadelphia Eagles and Cowboys. The Giants' first win at Giants Stadium came on November 14, when they defeated the Washington Redskins 12–9. It was their first victory of the season after nine consecutive losses. The streamers were falling to celebrate the win.

In their final four games, they won 50% of the outings. Linebacker Brad Van Pelt became the first Giant to receive a Pro Bowl invitation since 1972. Following the season, McVay was not fired. Instead, he remained the Giants' head coach, signing a two-year contract.

For the 1976 season and now based in New Jersey, though still called the New York Giants debuted their even newer helmet design, changing from a stylized "NY" to the word "GIANTS", underlined in block letters. They wore this helmet through the 1999 season. Sometimes the peripherals make the difference.

Reading through all this, are you asking why, if the Giants really wanted to win, were they not bringing in experienced coaches to run the program to harvest wins. Seems like bringing in no-names did not

work even when they brought in a famous No-Name from Miami fame. The fans and I as a fan back then blamed top management for faulting the fans. It could have been a better Giants team back then with a few different managers at the top to hire a few different managers at the bottom. Isn't it obvious?

Games of the 1976 season

On September 12, 1976 at Washington in the season opener, the Redskins whooped the Giants by a slim margin L (17–19) before 54,245. Then, on Sep 19, at Philadelphia, the Eagles overwhelmed the Giants L (7–20) before 66,005. At Los Angeles on Sep 26, 1976 at Los Angeles the Rams were victorious L (10–24) before 60,698. Then, on Oct 3, at St. Louis, the Cardinals won the day v the Giants L (21–27) before 48,039. At home on Oct 10, the Dallas Cowboys overpowered the Giants L (14–24) before 76,042.

On Oct 17, 1976 at Minnesota, the Vikings outstretched the Giants L (7–24) before 46,508. Then, on Oct 24, the Pittsburgh Steelers pounded the Giants L (0–27) in a clean shutout before 69,783. On Oct 31 at home, the Philadelphia Eagles shut out the Giants L (0–10) before 68,690. At Dallas, on Nov 7, the Cowboys beat the Giants in a close, low-scoring match L (3–9) before 58,870. On Nov 14, the NY Giants whooped the Washington Redskins in a close match W (12–9) before 72,975

On Nov 21, at Denver, the Broncos nosed out the Giants L (13–14) before 63,151. At home, on Nov 28, the Giants defeated the Seattle Seahawks W (28–16) before 65,111. In the second-last game on Dec 5, the NY Giants beat the Detroit Lions W (24–10) before 66,069. Then, as the season was about to close, in the finale, on Dec 12, the St. Louis Cardinals edged out the Giants L (14–17) before 60,553

Chapter 13 Coach John McVay 1977-1978

Coach #11 Coach John McVay

John McVay	1977	5th	5 9 0
John McVay	1978	5th	6 10 0

1976-1978 John McVay final record (14-23-0)

Coach John McVay; New York Giants

Replaced Bill Arnsparger mid-season in 1976



Coach John Edward McVay was born on January 5, 1931. He rose through the ranks as a football coach from high school, through the college level, and his talents took him on to the National Football League (NFL). He was born in Bellaire, Ohio,. After high school, he went on to play college football at Miami University, starring as a center.

McVay later married and had three boys, John McVay, Jim McVay, and Tim McVay. The talent moved down the family chain. His grandson, Sean McVay, son of Tim, is currently the head coach of the Los Angeles Rams.

Our John McVay coached at several Ohio high schools, Michigan State University as an assistant coach and then head coach at the University of Dayton.

John McVay became the head coach of the World Football League's Memphis Southmen in 1974 in the WFL's first season. His record at Memphis was 24-7. The league folded in 1975. In 1976, he went to the NFL's Giants as an assistant coach. We pick up the McVay story this year after he replaced fellow Miami alumnus Bill Arnsparger as the head coach when Arnsparger was fired at mid-season. 1970's Giants were a tall task for any coach.

From 1976 to 1978, McVay struggled with a franchise that was difficult to transition. His first NFL season was not strong. In fact, it included a list of players with three rookie quarterbacks. Without major structural team changes at the time, Giants' coaches, when hired, were not expected by the pundits to succeed. His contract with the Giants was not renewed after the 1978 NFL season, most likely as the result of a famous loss to the Philadelphia Eagles on November 19, 1978. We'll be covering that shortly.

McVay was a football pro with plenty of smarts, experience, and savvy. He assumed an administrative position with the San Francisco 49ers in 1980 and collaborated with head coach Bill Walsh in one of the most successful dynasties in NFL history. If only the Giants were ready for John McVay when McVay was ready for the Giants. There would have been a great tango.

As vice president/director of football operations, John McVay presided over five Super Bowl-winning seasons. He was named NFL Executive of the Year in 1989. He became a fixture with the 49ers in their finest football period, retiring from San Francisco in 1996. But when the franchise was transferred from Eddie DeBartolo Jr. to his sister, Denise, the York family wanted a steady hand like McVay's in the front office during the transition. McVay agreed to come back in

1998 and stayed for another five more years. That's how talented he was.

1977 John McVay Coach # 11

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1977 professional football season. The 1977 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-third Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 11th Giants Head Coach John McVay in his first of two seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 53rd season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. The Giants had another losing season with just five wins, nine losses and no ties. At 5-9, New York finished in fourth / last place in the NFC East. They tied Philadelphia for last place. The Giants had opened Giants Stadium in New Jersey in October 1976 and it was ready for play in 1977.

The Giants selected defensive end Gary Jeter in the 1977 NFL Draft with the fifth overall pick. Before the season, the Giants signed quarterback Joe Pisarcik, who won the starting position to replace Craig Morton, whom they had traded to the Denver Broncos. New York won their opening game of the year against the Washington Redskins, prevailing 20-17 on a field goal by Joe Danelo in the final seconds. After losses in their next three games, victories over the San Francisco 49ers and Washington Redskins evened the Giants' record at 3-3. Afterwards, New York lost 6 of their last 8 games. With a season-ending 12-9 defeat by the Chicago Bears in overtime, the team finished the season at 5-9.

Offensively, New York's season total of 181 points was lower than all but four of the 27 other NFL teams. Joe Pisarcik started 11 of the Giants' 14 games in 1977 and threw for 1,346 yards, but had 14 passes intercepted and only four touchdowns. Bobby Hammond led the Giants in rushing with 154 carries for 577 yards. Doug Kotar and Larry Csonka also rushed for more than 450 yards each.

Jimmy Robinson led the Giants in receiving. He hauled in twenty-two passes for 422 yards and three touchdowns. Gary Shirk was the only other Giants player with multiple touchdown catches, while Johnny Perkins was second behind Robinson with 20 receptions. On defense, Bill Bryant played well at Cornerback for New York with three interceptions. Honors were not received by the Giants this year though for the second consecutive season, Giant's linebacker Brad Van Pelt did make the Pro Bowl.[7]

Games of the 1977 Season

The Giants began their season at home in Giants Stadium with a W (20-17) victory on September 18, 1977 over the Washington Redskins before 76,086. At Dallas on Sep 25, the Cowboys pounded the Giants L (21-41) before 64,215. At Atlanta, on Oct 2, the Falcons defeated the Giants L (3-17) before 46,374. Then, on Oct 9 at home in Giants' Stadium, the Philadelphia Eagles got the best of the Giants L (10-28) before 48,824. Then, at home on Oct 16, the Giants defeated the San Francisco 49ers W (20-17) before 70,366.

At Washington on Oct 23, the Giants beat the Redskins W (17-6) before 53,903. On Oct 31, at St. Louis, the Cardinals shutout the Giants L (0-28) before 50,323. Then, on Nov 6, the Dallas Cowboys overpowered the Giants L (10-24) before 74,532. At Tampa Bay on Nov 13, the Giants shut out the Buccaneers W (10-0) before 46,518. Then, at home on Nov 20, the Cleveland Browns defeated the NY Giants L (7-21) before 72,576.

At Cincinnati on Nov 27, the Bengals pounded the Giants L (13-30) before 32,705. At home on Dec 4, the Giants beat the St. Louis Cardinals W (27-7) before 71,826. On Dec 11, at Philadelphia, the Eagles edged out the Giants L (14-17) before 47,731. Then, in the season finale on Dec 18, the Chicago Bears beat the Giants L (12-9) before 50,152.

1978 John McVay Coach # 11

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1978 professional football season. The 1978 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-fourth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in

the NFC East. The team was led by the 11th Giants Head Coach John McVay in his second of two seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 54th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. The Giants had another losing season with just five wins, nine losses and no ties. At 6-10, New York finished in fifth / last place in the NFC East. They tied St. Louis for last place.

Game Highlights for 1978

This was the first ever season for a sixteen-game schedule. The Giants hoped to better their 5–9 record from 1977. They wanted their first winning record since 1972 and they hoped to make the playoffs for the first time since 1963. This season saw the Giants start hot. Newcomer Tampa Bay came by and were knocked off by the Giants in Tampa 19–13, despite being a 1-point underdog. After a close call loss to the rival Cowboys 34–24 the next week, the Giants got the best of Kansas City Chiefs 26–10 and the San Francisco 49ers 27–10. This gave them a 3–1 season start—best since 1969.

Soon, however, the Giants began to struggle. They lost to Atlanta 20–23 and the Cowboys again 3–24. Then, they won at home against the Buccaneers and Redskins before they went on a downfall, which saw them lose their next 6 games and 7 of their last 8. In week 12, the Giants played arch-rival Philadelphia, where they fumbled away the game on Joe Pisarcik's fumble and Herm Edwards fumble recovery for a touchdown. This won the game for Philadelphia, 19-17.

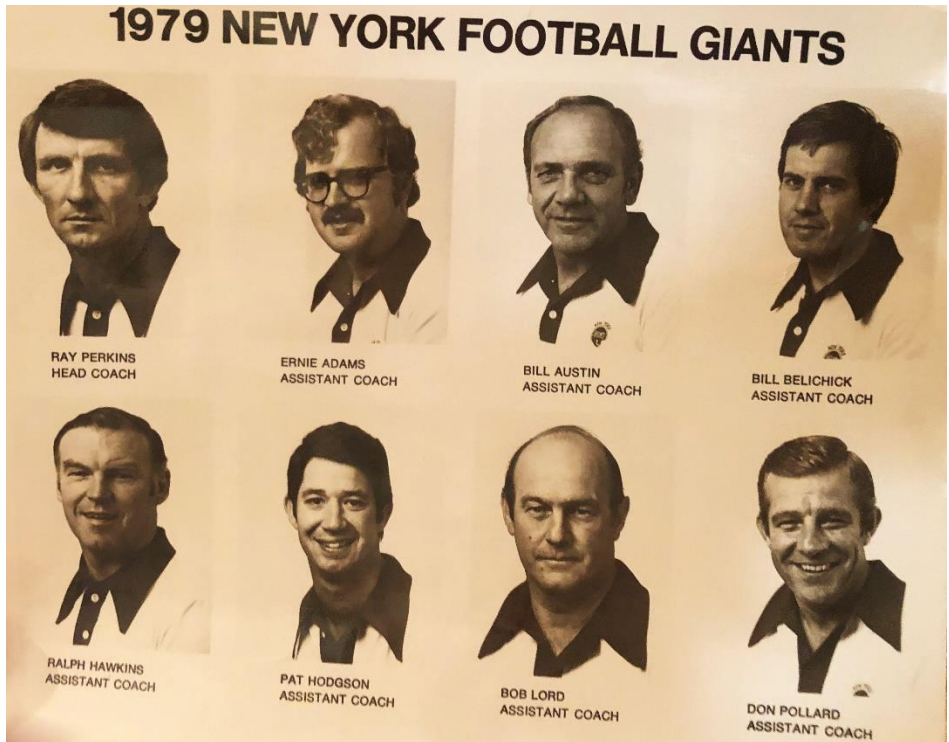
The play was dubbed the “Miracle at the Meadowlands.” The Giants never recovered from this game, getting pummeled on the road to the 3–9 Bills, 41–17, despite having a 10-point lead in the 4th quarter. In their final game, a rematch with Philadelphia, the Giants lost 20–3 to end the season 6–10.

Chapter 19 Coach Ray Perkins 1979-1982

Coach #12 Coach Ray Perkins 1979-1982

Ray Perkins	1979	4th	6 10 0
Ray Perkins	1980	5th	4 12 0
Ray Perkins	1981	3rd	9 7 0
Ray Perkins	1982	10th	4 5 0

1979-1982 Ray Perkins final record (23-34-0)



Giants Coach Ray Perkins

Coach Ray Perkins (top left in the picture above) is the consummate football coach. It seems he was always in the coaching business. He practiced his trade at the pro and college levels for nearly 40 years. Ray is best known among college football fans as the man to succeed Bear Bryant as head coach at the University of Alabama. Nobody could have pleased Alabama but Perkins came close. He coached at Alabama for four seasons from 1983-1986 and accumulated a record

of 32-15-1 during that time, including a 3-0 record in bowl games. Perkins eventually left Alabama following the 1986 season and signed a lucrative contract to take the head coaching job with the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1990.

Walter Ray Perkins

Always in the game of football, he was born December 6, 1941, just in time for the war.) A coach and former player, his most recent coaching bout was head football coach at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, Mississippi from 2011 to 2013. He played as a wide receiver for the University of Alabama and then as a pro with the Baltimore Colts. He later worked as a football coach for 28 years, including stints as the head coach for the New York Giants, The University of Alabama, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and Arkansas State University. Success was Perkins' middle name.



Born in Petal, Mississippi, at Alabama, he played from 1964–1966 for the legendary coach Bear Bryant and was a teammate of Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Namath. Alabama won the national championships in both 1964 and 1965, and Southeastern Conference championships in 1964, 1965, and 1966. During his

senior year, he was named team captain. He was also selected as an All-American in 1966.

Ray Perkins suited up in the NFL for the Baltimore Colts as a wide receiver from 1967–1971, under coach Don Shula. Perkins caught a 68-yard touchdown pass from Johnny Unitas in the 1970 AFC Championship Game to lead the Colts to a 27–17 victory over the Oakland Raiders and a berth in Super Bowl V. That was a while ago but Ray always had a long memory.

He began coaching in the NFL as an assistant for New England (1974–1977) and San Diego before becoming the head coach of the New York Giants from 1979 to 1982. Though he did not reap a lot of the benefits for the Giants he helped build the team that his successor, Bill Parcells would use to win two Super Bowls in 1986 and 1990.

Perkins hired future NFL head coaches Parcells, Bill Belichick and Romeo Crennel as young assistants. He was ready to turn the Giants around.

At Alabama, Ray Perkins held the distinction of being the only head coach to lead the Crimson Tide to a victory over the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame for nearly thirty years. There was controversy from unsatisfied boosters and alumni at Alabama, and a lucrative contract offer from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers led Perkins to leave Alabama for a second chance in the NFL after the 1986 Alabama season.

Perkins was the head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1987 to 1990. Some of his former college players got a chance to play for him in the NFL: QB Mike Shula, Kurt Jarvis, and linebacker Keith McCants. His career coaching record in the NFL was 42–75. He was fired midway through the 1990 season, and replaced by Richard Williamson. Williamson, like Perkins, was an Alabama alumnus. Perkins returned to college coaching at Arkansas State University in 1992. After just one year, Perkins became the offensive coordinator of the New England Patriots, serving under Bill Parcells from 1993 to 1996. He also spent 1997 with the Oakland Raiders as an offensive coordinator.

On December 20, 2011, he was introduced as the new head football coach at Jones County Junior College (JCJC) in Ellisville, Mississippi. Perkins resigned from JCJC on December 24, 2013. He has resided in Hattiesburg, Mississippi for years. In 2014, he was said to be taking a volunteer coaching role with Oak Grove HS. Perkins loves football.

1979 Ray Perkins Coach # 12

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1978 professional football season. The 1979 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-fifth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 12th Giants Head Coach Ray Perkins in his first of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 55th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. The Giants had another losing season with just six wins, ten losses and no ties. At 6-10, New York finished in fourth place in the NFC East. The Giants had the misfortune of being just one of three franchises, not including the Seattle Seahawks—an expansion team--that began play in 1976, which did not make the playoffs during any year of the 1970s. The others were the New York Jets and New Orleans Saints.

Game Highlights for 1979

This was the second season for a sixteen-game schedule. The Giants hoped to better their 6-10 record from 1978 but old habits die hard. They finished at 6-10 again in 1979..

The season began on September 2, 1979 at Philadelphia as the Eagles beat the Giants L (17–23) before 67,366. Then on Sep 9, the St. Louis Cardinals defeated the Giants L (14–27) before 71,370. At Washington on Sep 17, the Redskins shut out the NY Giants L (0–27) before 54,672. At home on Sep 23, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Giants L (13–17) before 74,265. At New Orleans on Sep 30, the Saints defeated the Giants L (14–24) before 51,543. At home in Giants Stadium on Oct 7, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers edged out the NY Giants W (17–14) before 72,841

On Oct 14, at home, the San Francisco 49ers were defeated by the New York Giants W (32–16) before 70,352. At Kansas City, on Oct 21, the Chiefs defeated the Giants W (21–17) before 44,362. At Los Angeles, on Oct 28, the Giants beat the Rams W (20–14) before 43,376. On Nov 4, at home, the Dallas Cowboys edged out the Giants L (14–16) before 76,490. On Nov 11. At home, the Atlanta Falcons were defeated by the NY Giants W (24–3) before 60,860. On Nov 18, at Tampa Bay , the Buccaneers pounded the Giants L (3–31) before 70,261.

At home on Nov 25, the Giants beat the Washington Redskins W (14–6) before 72,641. At Dallas on Dec 2, the Cowboys whipped the Giants L (7–28) before 63,787. On Dec 9, 1979 at St. Louis, the Cardinals defeated the Giants L (20–29) before 39,802. Then in the season finale on Dec 16, the Baltimore Colts crushed the New York Giants L (7–31) before 58,711

1980 Ray Perkins Coach # 12

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1980 professional football season. The 1980 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-sixth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 12th Giants Head Coach Ray Perkins in his second of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 56th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. The Giants had another losing season with just four wins, twelve losses and no ties. At 4-12, New York finished in fifth place in the NFC East.

Game Highlights for 1979

This was the second season for a sixteen-game schedule. The Giants hoped to better their 6-10 record from 1978 but old habits die hard. They finished at 6-10 again in 1979..

The season began on September 7, 1980 at St. Louis as the Giants defeated the Cardinals W (41–35) before 49,122. Then on Sep 14,

the Washington Redskins defeated the Giants L (21–23) before 73,343. At Philadelphia on Sep 22, the Eagles whooped the Giants L (3–35) before 70,767. Then, on Sep 28, at home in Giants Stadium, the Los Angeles Rams bombed the Giants L (7–28) before 73,414. At Dallas, on Oct 5, the Cowboys pounded the Giants L (3–24) before 59,126. At home in Giants Field, on Oct 12, the Eagles got the best of the Giants L (16–31) before 71,051.

At San Diego, on Oct 19, the Chargers pounded the Giants L (7–44) before 50,397. At home on Oct 26, the Denver Broncos beat the NY Giants L (9–14) before 67,598. At Tampa Bay on Nov 2, the Buccaneers wumped the Giants L (13–30) before 68,256. Then, on Nov 9 at home in Giants Stadium, the Giants edged out the Dallas Cowboys W (38–35) before 68,343. At home on Nov 16, the Giants defeated the Green Bay Packers W (27–21) before 76,609. At San Francisco on Nov 23, the 49ers shutout the Giants L (0–12) before 38,574.

At home on Nov 30, the St. Louis Cardinals outplayed the Giants L (7–23) before 65,852. At Seattle on Dec 7, the Giants defeated the Seahawks W (27–21) before 51,617. At Washington on Dec 13, the Redskins edged-out the NY Giants L (13–16) before 44,443. In the very last game of the 1980 season, aka the season finale, at home on Dec 21, the Oakland Raiders drubbed the New York Giants L (17–33) before 61,287.

1981 Ray Perkins Coach # 12

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1981 professional football season. The 1981 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-seventh Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 12th Giants Head Coach Ray Perkins in his third of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 57th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. The Giants finally had a winning season with nine wins, seven losses and no ties. At 9-7, New York finished in third place in the NFC East.

Things were happening this year—what they were, weren't exactly clear. But the Giants were a proud team over there, Ray Perkins made it seem easy because he had been shaping the team structure and the psychology since he had arrived. Good teams do not just happen. They are coached.

This was a big deal for the Giants New York had qualified for the playoffs for the first time in 18 years with a 9–7 record. Nobody gave Ray Perkins the wins because they liked him or they liked Bar Bryant or Alabama. Ray put a team together that could win and they won.

The Giants' effort placed them third in the National Football Conference East Division. They qualified for the postseason thanks to an overtime victory over the Dallas Cowboys in the last game of the season, coupled with a loss by the Green Bay Packers. There was the normal amount of luck in football but by and large, it was tough orchestrated play. Ray Perkins was the conductor.

In the Wild Card playoffs, the Giants got over their inability to win when it counted, and the Perkins' team defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 27–21 in Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium. New York's season ended in the next playoff game with a 38–24 loss to the San Francisco 49ers in the Divisional round. They did not mean to lose to San Francisco. They planned to win. But, they did not. Like grown men, there were some disappointments but no tears.

Game Highlights for 1981

In the season opener in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ, on September 6, 1981, the Giants lost to the Philadelphia Eagles L (10–24) before 72,459. Then, at Washington on Sep 13, the Giants beat the Redskins W (17–7) before 53,343. At home on Sep 20, the Giants defeated the New Orleans Saints W (20–7) before 69,814. Then, on Sep 27 at Dallas, the Cowboys beat the Giants L (10–18) before 63,449. On Oct 4, 1981 at home, the Green Bay Packers beat the NY Giants L (14–27) before 73,684. On Oct 11, at home, the Giants whipped the St. Louis Cardinals W (34–14) before 67,128

At Seattle on Oct 18, the Seahawks were smothered by the Giants in a shutout W (32–0) before 56,134. At Atlanta on Oct 25, the Giants

beat the Falcons W (27–24) before 48,410. At home on Nov 1, the New York Jets defeated the New York Giants L (7–26) before 74,740. At Green Bay on Nov 8, the Packers beat the Giants L (24–26) before 54,138. Then, at home on Nov 15, the Washington Redskins got the best of the Giants L (27–30) before 63,133. At Philadelphia on Nov 22, the Giants defeated the Eagles W (20–10) before 66,827.

At San Francisco on Nov 29, the 49ers beat the Giants L (10–17) before 57,186. Then, on Dec 6, the Giants edged out the Los Angeles Rams W (10–7) before 59,659. Then, on Dec 13 at St. Louis, the Giants beat the Cardinals W (20–10) before 47,358. In the season finale, at home, on Dec 19 the Giants edged out the Dallas Cowboys W (13–10) before 73,009

Wild Card Playoffs 1981 v Philadelphia

NFC Wild Card game Giants 27, Eagles 21

You lived with us in this book for the full playoff drought that had lasted nearly two decades. The 18 years of losing finally came to an end in 1981, thanks to a legendary, devastating fumble three years earlier and a gruff character wearing 1950s-style browline eyeglasses named George Young.

The triggering event was The Fumble — or if you're an Eagles fan, the Miracle at the Meadowlands.

A disastrous botched handoff between Joe Pisarcik and Larry Csonka in the waning seconds of a 1978 game resulted in a Herm Edwards 26-yard fumble return touchdown for the Eagles and a nearly-impossible Giants defeat. Philadelphia was the clear favorite, having reached the Super Bowl in 1980. The Giants had snuck into the playoffs at 9-7, after winning their final three games behind a stout defense.

Divisional Playoffs San Fran 38 v New York 24

The 1981 Football Season Divisional Playoffs between the 49ers and the Giants were won handily by San Francisco. The Giants had to go home. From this point on after the 20-year drought, the Giants were a different team. Thankfully.

1982 Ray Perkins Coach # 12

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1982 professional football season. The 1982 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-eighth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 12th Giants Head Coach Ray Perkins in his fourth and last of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 58th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. After the 1982 winning season, there were expectations but Ray Perkins did not meet them this year. But, he set the stage for future years. The Giants had a respectable outing in this strike-shortened season. Finally have a winning season with nine wins, seven losses and no ties. At 4-5, New York finished in fourth place in the NFC East.

This season was shortened to nine games due to the 1982 NFL Players Strike. The season saw the Giants attempting to improve on its fine 9-7 record from 1981, a season in which they had made the playoffs for the first time since 1963. 1981 was also their first winning record since 1972. However, the Giants stumbled out the gates early, starting 0-2 before the strike had occurred and they did not have enough games left to get fully back on track.

After the strike ended, the Giants won 4 of their last 7 games, but missed the playoffs because of losing 2 tiebreakers to the Saints and the Lions (who both ended with identical 4-5 records). They lost the tiebreakers based on best conference record. The Lions went 4-4 against NFC teams, while the Giants and Saints both went 3-5 against NFC teams. The Lions won the tiebreaker over the Saints,

thus eliminating the Saints and Giants from playoff contention and putting the Lions into the playoffs as the final wild card spot in the NFC.

This was the 19th season out of the last 20 seasons that the Giants missed the playoffs. From now on, being in the playoffs for the Giants would not be a regular occurrence. This season the Redskins won the Super Bowl XVII on January 30, 1983 27-17 over the Dolphins.

Games of the 1982 Short NFL Season

Kicking off the 1982 home season on September 12, the Giants lost to the Atlanta Falcons L (14-16) before 74,286. On Sept 20 at home the Green Bay Packers defeated the Giants L (19-27) before 68,405. The following games were canceled due to the players strike:

- ✓ Sep 26 Pittsburgh Steelers
- ✓ Oct. 3 at Dallas Cowboys
- ✓ Oct. 10 St. Louis Cardinals
- ✓ Oct. 17 Cincinnati Bengals
- ✓ Oct. 25 at Philadelphia Eagles (Postponed)
- ✓ Oct. 31 Dallas Cowboys
- ✓ Nov. 7 at Cleveland Browns
- ✓ Nov. 14 at Los Angeles Rams

When the season resumed on Nov. 21, at home, the Washington Redskins beat the Giants L(17-27) before 70,766. On Nov 25, the Giants picked up their first win of the season on Nov 25 at Detroit over the Lions W (13-) before 64,348. Then, on Dec 5 at home the Giants defeated the Houston Oilers W (17-14) before 71,184.

At home on Dec 11, the Giants defeated the Philadelphia Eagles at home W (23-7) before 66,053. At Washington on Dec. 19, the Redskins nosed out the Eagles L (14 15) before 50,030. At St. Louis on Dec 26, the Cardinals beat the Giants L (21-24) before 39,824. In the makeup game postponed from Oct. 25, the Eagles and Giants played on January 2 in the final game of the shortened season at Philadelphia with the Giants emerging with the W (26-24) over the Eagles before 55,797

Chapter 20 Coach Bill Parcells 1983 to 1990



There he is folks in the center of the picture in 1983 at the top of his game

Bill Parcells, A Great NY Giants Head Coach

I can recall Bill Parcells when he arrived at the Giants after Ray Perkins. My brothers were both wild Giants fan. I liked the Giants for sure growing up on High Street in Wilkes-Barre, with our 1956 Admiral Black & White 21# floor model delivering Charley Conerly games every Sunday followed by YA Tittle later on. You had to be a Giants fan on High Street. My brothers both kept the torch hot over the many years from the 1950's on . I did not lose it but my older and younger brothers were Giants everything. Knowing the Giants and their poor record at the time, I did not expect anything from Bill Parcells. Boy, was I wrong even though it did not come in his first season?

Parcells was born on August 22, 1941 in Englewood, New Jersey. There was no Bill and no Tuna in his birth name of Duane Charles Parcells. His first nickname of Bill came early in life by mistake. The change to Bill came in his early teenage years when he was often mistaken for another boy, a look-alike, who happened to be named

Bill. Young Duane Parcells got accustomed to being called Bill, and he liked its ring. He was happy to take it as a nickname, and it stuck.

Bill Parcells was not *The Big Tuna* when he coached in New York. *The Big Tuna* nickname came the way of normal nicknames though they all have their origin stories. For Parcells it happened with the Patriots. He “earned” the nickname "Big Tuna." According to the coach: "the players pulled a practical joke and I said, 'Do you think I'm Charlie the Tuna, like a sucker?' After that, they called me Tuna." No Parcells does not look like a Tuna...I think.

Coach Parcells is known for his work on *Any Given Sunday* (1999), *StarCraft* (1998) and *NFL Monday Night Football* (1970). He was previously married to Judith Goss from March 3, 1962 to January 16, 2002. He is divorced with three children.

Bill Parcells is a great motivator and a great speaker, known for his animated press conferences. He is known for letting his feelings show at times but not in a repugnant way. You can tell if he does not like you.

For Giants fans, he orchestrated two Super Bowls and he is credited with turning the Giants program around after about 20 years of darkness. He was hired by his predecessor Ray Perkins, who was a great judge of talent. His big victory was coaching the New York Giants to victory in Super Bowl XXV over the Buffalo Bills. He also led New England Patriots to Super Bowl XXXI but emotionally quit the team afterward in a lengthy dispute with team owner Robert Kraft. Parcells was a great judge of talent and ironically, his defensive coach, Bill Belichick, would lead the Patriots to victory in the Super Bowl five years later.

Parcells was very influential with teams that were not in good shape. Throughout his career, he coached teams that were in a period of decline and turned them into postseason contenders. He is the only coach in NFL history to lead four teams to the playoffs and three teams to a conference championship game. Because it is such a special accomplishment, permit me to list some of the other famous coaches who you know who were directly influenced by the mentorship of Bill Parcells. Then, we'll talk about his Giants record:

Bill Parcells has what we would call one heck of a coaching tree. His legacy on others is quite impressive. As of 2018, former Parcells assistants who are currently head coaches in either the NFL or the college ranks include:

- Bill Belichick, New England Patriots
- Sean Payton, New Orleans Saints
- Mike Zimmer, Minnesota Vikings
- Anthony Lynn, Los Angeles Chargers
- Freddie Kitchens, Cleveland Browns

In addition, former Parcells assistants who previously served as NFL or College head coaches include:

- Ray Handley, New York Giants (1991–1992)
- Chris Palmer, Cleveland Browns (1999–2000)
- Al Groh, New York Jets (2000), University of Virginia (2001–2009)
- Eric Mangini, New York Jets (2006–2008), Cleveland Browns (2009–2010)
- Tony Sparano, Miami Dolphins (2008–2011). Oakland Raiders (2014, Interim)
- Romeo Crennel, Cleveland Browns (2005–2008), Kansas City Chiefs (2011–2012)
- Todd Haley, Kansas City Chiefs (2009–2011)
- Charlie Weis, Notre Dame (2005–2009), University of Kansas (2012–2014)
- Tom Coughlin, Jacksonville Jaguars (1995–2002), New York Giants (2004–2015)
- Mike MacIntyre, San Jose State (2010-2012), University of Colorado (2013-2018)
- Todd Bowles, New York Jets (2015-2018)

This year, 1983, we are about to cover was Bill Parcells's first as head coach of the New York Giants. Even Bill Parcells could not flip the switch and turn the Giants around without some work. So, in 1983, there was a lot of rebuilding during the 3-12-1 season with the biggest sign of success as Lawrence Taylor being named the NFC Player of the year.

From dead last in 1983, Parcells brought the Giants to 2nd place in the NFC East in 1984 with a 9-7 record. . This year his Giants won the Wild Card playoffs at the Rams, 16-13, and then lost the Divisional playoffs at the 49ers, 21-10.

In 1985, Parcells brought in another second place with a better record of 10-16. The Giants again won the Wild Card playoffs v the 49ers, 17-3, and then the lost the Divisional playoffs at the Bears L 0 -21. This year, the Parcells starting QB, Phil Simms was the Pro Bowl MVP. Good things were happening to the Giants.

In 1986, Parcells led his first Giants team to the Division Championship. Each year, the Giants under Parcells became more powerful and more dominant in the NFC East. This year the Giants got a bye in the Wild Card Playoffs as the won a clean first place finish with a 14 2 record. They then picked up the Divisional playoffs over the 49ers in a blowout W (49-3). They then shut out the Redskins for the NFC Championship W 17-0 and they whooped the Broncos in Super Bowl XXI W (39-20). In addition to the team honors, Coach Parcells was named NFL Coach of the Year and Phil Simms was named Super Bowl MVP.

In 1987, Parcells' Giants finished in 5th place with a 6 9 0 record. There were hold outs in training and the Giants lost their first two games in the 1987 season. Then there was a 57-day player work stoppage that resulted in canceled games and replacement player. The Giants played with a ragtag group of players hastily organized by general manager George Young, Parcells' replacement team lost to the 49ers, Redskins and Bills. By the time the entire team returned from the strike, the Giants were 0-5. They never recovered that year.

Bill Parcells brought the team back in 1988 with a second-place finish and a 10-6 season. There were no big accolades. In 1989, the Giants played even better with a 12-4 record winning 1st place in the Eastern Division. They qualified for the playoffs without a Wildcard week. Then, they lost to the Rams in OT L (13-19) in the Divisional Playoffs. Ottis Anderson grabbed comeback player of the year (CPOY) honors.

In 1990 Bill Parcells pulled an even better record with the Giants with a 13-3-0 season. His Giants won the Divisional Playoffs v the

Bears W (31–3). They then won the NFC Championship at 49ers W (15–13) and followed that up with Parcells 2nd Super-Bowl Victory. They won Super Bowl XXV vs. Bills W (20–19). Ottis Anderson was the Super Bowl XXV MVP.

Bill Parcells first "retired" from football coaching after 1999 season with New York Jets. However, he nearly unretired for 2002 with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He chose against coaching the Bucs, but for 2003 he did accept the job as coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

He did not win any Super Bowls for Dallas but during his final season as Cowboys head coach (2006), he had a big enough issue with Terrell Owens that he might have left for that reason alone. He showed his disdain for Owens so much that during press conferences, he would only refer to him as "The Player" instead of saying his name. He would often appear visibly frustrated when media members would ask questions about Owens.

Bill Parcells received many honors including being inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in 2013 for his services to sports.



Parcells 2013 Hall of Fame Speech

1983 Bill Parcells Coach # 13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1983 professional football season. The 1983 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-ninth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his first of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 59th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. When Parcells was hired, after the 1982 season, there were major expectations but Ray Perkins did not meet them and Bill Parcells did not meet them but they did get things going. The Giants had a poor season in Parcells' first year but they would get better in 1984 and would not lose many times after that. At 3-12-1, New York finished this year, in fifth place in the NFC East.

Yes, in his first year the Giants finished in fifth which was last place in the National Football Conference East Division with a 3-12-1 record. It was the team's worst record since 1976.

Parcells knew how to draft new players. In the 1983 NFL draft, the Giants selected defensive back Terry Kinard in the first round, with the 10th overall pick. As we now know, the 1983 season was the first for the Giants under Bill Parcells, who had been offered the position after previous head coach Ray Perkins resigned before succeeding Bear Bryant as the coach for the University of Alabama.

Parcells named Scott Brunner the team's starting quarterback, ahead of Phil Simms and Jeff Rutledge. Upset with the decision, Simms requested a trade at one point during the season. New York was 2-2 in their first four games of the season, before a three-game losing streak that left the club at 2-5. Against the Philadelphia Eagles in their sixth game, the Giants inserted Simms into their lineup in place of Brunner; shortly afterward, Simms suffered a season-ending injury.

Four players from the Giants earned selection to the 1984 Pro Bowl: Harry Carson, Ali Haji-Sheikh, Mark Haynes, and Lawrence Taylor. Haji-Sheikh, the Giants' kicker, set a team record for points scored in a season; with 35 field goals and 22 conversions, he was responsible for 127 points. In addition, he set a team record for the longest field

goal in a game versus Green Bay, with a 56-yard kick. Earnest Gray had 1,139 receiving yards, becoming the first Giants wide receiver in 15 years to exceed 1,000 yards. The Giants and Bill Parcells were glad to have 1983 behind them.

Games of the 1983 Season

The season and home opener was played on September 4, 1983 in a game won by the Los Angeles Rams over the Giants L (6–16) before 75,281. At Atlanta on Sep 11, the Giants beat the Falcons W (16–13) before 58,075. Then, at Dallas on Sep 18, the Cowboys thumped the Giants L (13–28) before 62,347. At home on Sep 26, the Giants defeated the Green Bay Packers W (27–3) before 75,308. At home on Oct 2, the San Diego Chargers defeated the NY Giants L (34–41) before 73,892. Then at home on Oct 9, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Giants L (13–17) before 73,291

At Kansas City, on Oct 16, 1983, the Chiefs pounded the Giants L (17–38) before 55,449. At St. Louis, on Oct 24, the Cardinals tied the Giants T (20–20) before 45,630. At home, on Oct 30, the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Giants L (20–38) before 76,142. At Detroit on Nov 7, the Lions defeated the Giants L (9–15) before 68,985. Then, on Nov 13 at home, the Washington Redskins beat the Giants L (17–33) before 71,482. At Philadelphia on Nov 20, the Giants shut out the Eagles W (23–0) before 57,977.

At Los Angeles on Nov 27, the Raiders beat the Giants L (12–27) before 41,473. At home on Dec 4, the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Giants L (6–10) before 25,156. At home on Dec 11, 1983, the Seattle Seahawks beat the New York Giants L (12–17) before 48,945. Then, wrapping up the season in the finale, on Dec 17, at Washington, the Redskins peppered the Giants L (22–33) before 53,874

1984 Bill Parcells Coach # 13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1984 professional football season. The 1984 New York Giants football team competed in their sixtieth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC

East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his second of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 60th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, Bill Parcells would break the win barrier with a 9-7 season. New York finished in a tie for second place in the NFC East.

The Giants qualified for the playoffs. In the Wild Card round, New York traveled to Anaheim Stadium in California and defeated Los Angeles Rams 16–13 to advance to the Divisional round. Instead of traveling across the country back to New York, the Giants spent the week in Fresno, California. They used the facilities at Fresno State to prepare for the San Francisco 49ers game. However, the team lost to the San Francisco 49ers 21–10.

The season opener was at home on September 2, 1984. In the game, the Giants nosed out the Philadelphia Eagles W (28–27) in a real nail-biter before 71,520. At home, on Sep 9, the Giants hammered the Dallas Cowboys W (28–7) before 75,921. At Washington on Sep 16, the Redskins scorched the Giants L (14–30) before 52,997. At home on Sep 23, the Giants beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers W (17–14) before 72,650. At Los Angeles on Sep 30, the Rams pounded the Giants L (12–33) before 53,417. At home on Oct 8, the San Francisco 49ers overpowered the Giants L (10–31) before 76,112

At Atlanta on Oct 14, the Giants beat the Falcons W (19–7) before 50,268. At Philadelphia on Oct 21, the Eagles defeated the Giants L (10–24) before 64,677. At home on Oct 28, the Giants whipped the Washington Redskins W (37–13) before 76,192. Then. On Nov 4, at Dallas, the Giants defeated the Cowboys W (19–7) before 60,235. On Nov 11, at Tampa Bay, the Buccaneers edged out the Giants L (17–20) before 46,534. At home on Nov 18, the Giants beat the St. Louis Cardinals W (16–10) before 73,428.

Then, on Nov 25, the Kansas City Chiefs nosed out the Giants W (28–27) before 74,383. At New York, on Dec 2, the Giants beat the Jets W (20–10) before 74,975. Then, at St. Louis, on Dec 9, the Cardinals beat the Giants L (21–31) before 49,973. At home on Dec 15, the New Orleans Saints beat the Giants L (3–10) before 63,739.

Wild Card Playoffs 1984 Giants v Rams

Christmas Eve 1984 was a great Christmas present for Giants fans—especially those extending the holiday on the West Coast.

Dickerson did his job for the Rams but the Giants' defense did not let him do his job well enough. They made a goal-line stand in the last quarter and enough other big plays, mostly against Dickerson, and it was the D that squeezed out the 16-13 upset victory.

This was all from a Giants team that barely had a 3-12-1 team record last year and a 9-7 record this year.

"The Giants were are not going home for Christmas," Taylor announced. "We are sending someone else home."

1984 Divisional Playoffs Giants v 49ers

The Giants lost. That's all we really need to know but it was a respectable game.

The skinny was that Phil Simms did not throw any TD passes but he did throw two interceptions. He had a pretty good night but not good enough with 25 completions out of 44 attempts. He was not the difference maker for the Giants. The difference was that the Giants secondary let Joe Montana throw three TDs, though they also stole three passes via interception.

Montana was 25 for 39 but his passes mattered for more than Phil Simms' completions. Montana also outrushed Joe Morris. He had 3 rushes for 63 yards while Morris tried seventeen times and he got 46 yards. Z. Mowatt snagged 5 passes for 49 yards and D Clark picked up 9 for the Giants for 112 yards and a TD.

The bottom line is all that counts in football and the home team 49ers won the game and New York lost the game. That's all she wrote. Final score 21-10 with the 49ers getting the victory over the Giants. Both teams went home early for there was no scoring in second half.

1985 Bill Parcells Coach # 13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1985 professional football season. The 1985 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-first Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his third of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 61st season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, Bill Parcells would break the win barrier with a 10-6 season. New York finished in a second place in the NFC East.

The Seasons' Games of 1985

The season opener was at home on September 8, 1985. In the game, the Giants shut-out the Philadelphia Eagles W (21-0) before 76,141. At Green Bay on Sep 15, 1985, the Packers edged out the Giants L (20-23) before 56,145. At home on Sep 22, the Giants pounded the St. Louis Cardinals W (27-17) before 74,987. At Philadelphia on Sep 29, the Giants defeated the Eagles W (16-10) before 66,696. Then, at home on Oct 6, the Dallas Cowboys literally nosed out the Giants L (29-39) in a nail-biter before 74,981. At Cincinnati on Oct 13, the Bengals got the best of the Giants L (30-35) before 53,112.

At home on Oct 20, the Giants defeated the Washington Redskins W (17-3) before 74,389. At New Orleans, on Oct 27, the Giants scorched the Saints W (21-13) before 54,082. Then, at home, on Nov 3, the Giants edged out the Tampa Bay Buccaneers W (22-20) before 72,031. At home on Nov 10, the Giants beat the Los Angeles Rams W (24-19) before 74,663. At Washington, on Nov 18, the Redskins edged out the Ny Giants L (21-23) before 53,371. At St. Louis on Nov 24, the Giants pounded the Cardinals W (34-3) before 41,248.

At home in Giants Stadium on Dec 1, the Cleveland Browns barely got the best of the Giants L (33-35) before 66,482. At Houston, on Dec 8, the Giants wumped the Oilers W (35-14) before 36,576. At Dallas on Dec 15, the Cowboys overpowered the Giants L (21-28)

before 62,310. At home on Dec 21, 1985, the NY Giants whipped the Pittsburgh Steelers W (28–10) before 66,785.

Playoffs: 1985 Bring on the Chicago Bears.

In the Wildcard Game, the Giants prevailed 17-3 against the San Francisco 49ers. The Giants won on their magnificent defensive play. Their offense, especially the O-line, did almost everything it had to do. The result was a 17-3 thrashing of the San Francisco 49ers in the National Conference wild-card playoff game.

1985 Conference Championship Bears v Giants

The Giants were on a high after beating the World Champs and the Bears were well rested after a bye week. When the game was played, the Chicago Bears knocked the New York Giants out of the playoffs in the divisional round with a dominating defensive performance in a 21-0 victory.

1986 Bill Parcells Coach # 13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1986 professional football season. The 1986 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-second Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his fourth of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 62nd season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, Bill Parcells would break the Super Bowl barrier with a 14-2 record a trip the full distance to the ring. New York finished in first place in the NFC East and won right through to the big Super Bowl.

The New York Giants, playing in the National Football Conference (NFC) of the National Football League (NFL), won their fifth NFL championship—and first Super Bowl—in franchise history during the

1986 season. They were led by consensus league Most Valuable Player (MVP) linebacker Lawrence Taylor and Super Bowl MVP quarterback Phil Simms.

As noted, the Giants posted a phenomenal 14–2 record during the regular season, tied for the best record in the league with the defending Super Bowl champion Chicago Bears and the best in team history. The Giants improved on their 10–6 regular season record by four more wins from 1985, and won their first division championship since the NFL-AFL merger in 1970. They also won Super Bowl XXI against the Denver Broncos.

As the top seed in the conference ahead of the Bears, in the playoffs the Giants defeated the San Francisco 49ers for the second consecutive year by a whopping score of 49–3.

They then disposed of their division rivals, the Washington Redskins, in the NFC Championship Game in a shut-out 17–0.

In the Super Bowl, thanks to Phil Simms' 88% pass completion percentage and their strong defense, the Giants overcame a 10–9 halftime deficit and scored thirty second-half points while allowing only ten more and defeated the Broncos 39–20.

Games of the 1986 Season

The Giants played at Dallas in their season opener on September 8, 1986. The Cowboys beat New York L (28-31) in Texas Stadium before 59,804. On Sep 14 at home, the Giants beat the Diego Chargers W (20-7) in Giants Stadium before 74,921. At Los Angeles on Sep 21, the Giants defeated the Raiders W (14 9) at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum before 71,164. Then at home on Sep 28, the Giants beat the New Orleans Saints W (20-17) before 72,769.

On Oct 5, at St. Louis, the Giants defeated the Cardinals W (13-6) at Busch Memorial Stadium before 40,562. Then, on Oct 12, at home, the Giants thumped the Philadelphia Eagles W (35-3) before 74,221. At Seattle on Oct 19, the Giants lost a close match against the Seahawks L (12-17) in the Kingdome. Then, on Oct 27, at home, the Giants beat the Washington Redskins W (27-20) before 75,923.

At home on Nov 2, the Giants edged out the Dallas Cowboys for the Win (17-14) in Giants Stadium before 74,871. On Nov 9, at Philadelphia, the Giants edged out the Eagles W(17-14) before 60,601 in Veterans Stadium. On Nov 16, 1986 at Minnesota, the Giants nosed out the Vikings W (22-2) at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome before 62,003. The, on Nov 23, at home, the Giants beat the Denver Broncos W (19-16) at Giants Stadium before 75,116.

On Dec 1, at San Francisco, the Giants defeated the 49ers in a close match W (21 17) in Candlestick Park before 59,777. Then, on Dec 7, at Washington, the Giants overpowered the Redskins W (24-14) at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium before . Then, on Dec 14, at home, the Giants pounded the St. Louis Cardinals W (27-7) before 75,261 in Giants Stadium.

Then, in the season finale, sporting its best record since its last NFL championship years ago, Bill Parcells' New York Giants shellacked the Green Bay Packers on Dec 20 W (55-24) finishing the season at 14-2 in Giants Stadium before 71,351. What a game! What a season. There would be no stop for a Wildcard Playoff game on the way to the Super Bowl.

NFC Divisional Playoffs: vs. San Francisco 49er

The Giants had the best record in their division, conference and the league going into the playoffs. The Giants defeated the San Francisco 49ers 49-3 in their opening playoff game.

NFC Championship: vs. Washington Redskins

The game at Giants Stadium was played on January Giants were ahead 17-0 at halftime. There would be no more scoring for the game. Giants moving to Super Bowl.

Super Bowl XXI: Giants v Denver Broncos

After winning the Conference, by the time two weeks later in January came, the Giants were in Pasadena California ready for the big game. Bill Parcells had them 100% ready. The Giants were not about to go home without a ring.

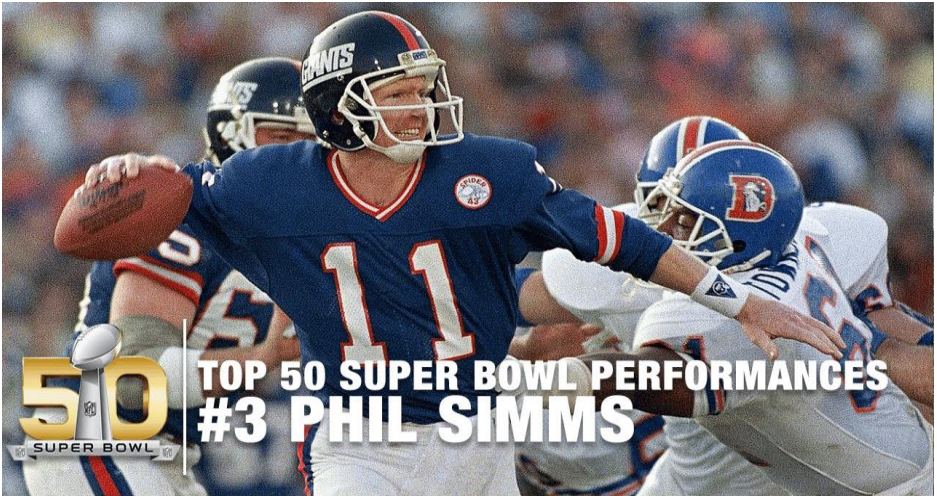
It was January 25 and after playing at home in the cold for the prior two playoff games, it was a treat for sure to be in Southern California before a capacity crowd of 101,063. The entire nation or so it seemed anticipated the Super Bowl Kickoff. Whatever his secret, Coach Parcells had the team ready.

From kickoff to the final whistle, the Giants played the Denver Broncos full-steam in Super Bowl XXI in front of 101,063 fans at the Rose Bowl. After the Broncos' Rich Karlis kicked a 48-yard field goal on the game's opening drive, the Giants took the lead back quickly with a 78-yard touchdown scoring drive, led by quarterback Phil Simms's 6-for-6 passing.

The Broncos were not finished and they came right back and scored on a 4-yard quarterback draw by John Elway to make the score 10–7 at the end of the first quarter.

Although the two teams quarterbacks combined to complete all 13 passes attempted in the second quarter, the only score came when Giants' defensive end George Martin sacked Elway in the endzone for a safety to make the score 10–9. The Giants were down by one point and they played like there was an emergency someplace—because there was. The turning point of the game came on the first possession of the second half. The Giants took the second half kickoff, and led a short drive. But, that drive stalled at their own 47-yard line. What to do?

On fourth and 1, the Giants lined up in a punt formation before shifting to a traditional set. Second string quarterback Jeff Rutledge then looked over to Parcells for a signal as to whether he should try to draw the defense offside or run a play. After a nod of approval from Parcells, he ran a quarterback sneak for a first down. The Giants scored on the drive, and built a 39–13 lead before a late touchdown by the Broncos made the final score 39–20.



Simms threw touchdown passes to Mark Bavaro and Phil McConkey to give him three on the game, and Joe Morris and Ottis Anderson each rushed for one touchdown. The Giants' defense ruled the day and limited the Broncos to only two net yards and 10 offensive plays in the third quarter.

The 30 second half points set a Super Bowl-record for points in a half, and Simms was named MVP after completing 22 of 25 (88%) of his passes—a Super Bowl record which still stands. Giants fans all over the world were smiling with good reason. Bill Parcells had turned the program around so far, with the help of a determined team, he got the fans a Super Bowl and he got the players a nice ring with which to memorialize their victory over the Broncos and their NFL Championship.

1987 Bill Parcells Coach # 13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1987 professional football season. The 1987 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-third Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his fifth of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 63rd season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, Bill Parcells squad did not fully recover from the great year in 1986 including winning the Super Bowl and the great 14-2 regular record. This year, the record dropped to 6-9 and the placement from first to fifth. Though the Giants played hard, they were not able to play hard enough to win another ring. But, they would be back.

As we know, the Giants came into the 1987 season as the defending Super Bowl champion but failed to qualify for the playoffs. They were the sixth team in NFL history to enter a season as the defending Super Bowl champion and miss the playoffs. The Giants started the season like the Giants from the funk years at 0-5, becoming the first defending Super Bowl champion to lose their first 5 games. Ultimately, the Giants never recovered from their poor 0-5 start, and they fell hard to a 6-9 finish which placed them last in their division and out of the postseason until another year.

The Games of the 1987 Season

The Giants season opener was on Sep. 14 at Chicago. The Bears were ready and they pounded the Giants L (19-34) before 65,704. On Sep. 20 at home the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Giants L (14-16) . At Miami on Sep 27 the Giants game v the Dolphins was canceled. On Oct 5, at home, the San Francisco 49ers pounded the Giants L (21-41) before 16,471. On Oct. 11, the Washington Redskins smashed the Giants L (12-38) before 9,123. Then, on Oct. 18 at Buffalo, the Bills edged out the Giants in OT L (3-6) before 15,737. Notice that the word got out attendance-wise that the Giants were not the Super Bowl Champs of yore.

At home on Oct. 25, the Giants whipped the St. Louis Cardinals W (30-7) for their first win of the season before 74,391. The Giants had finally found their Karma but too late for an impact this year. On Nov 2 at Dallas, the Cowboys beat the Giants L (24-33) before 55,730. At home on Nov 8, the Giants defeated the New England Patriots W (17-10) before 73,817. At Philadelphia on Nov 15, the Giants edged out the Eagles W (20-17) before 66,172. Then on Nov. 22 New Orleans, the Saints overcame the Giants L (14-23) before

67,639. On Nov 29, at Washington, the Redskins beat the Giants L (19-23) before 45,815.

At home on Dec 6 in Giants Stadium, the Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles in OT W (23-20) before 65,874. At St. Louis, on Dec 13 at St. Louis, the Cardinals edged out the Giants L (24-27) before 29,623. At home on Dec 19, the Giants found the spirit in the season finale over the Green Bay Packers W (20-10) before 51,013. Then in the season finale, on Dec 27, the Giants defeated their most unloved, the New York Jets by a hair W (20-7) before 68,318

1988 Bill Parcells Coach # 13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1988 professional football season. The 1988 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-fourth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his sixth of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 64th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, Bill Parcells squad still did not fully recover from the great year in 1986 but they decided not to have a losing season. This year, they picked their record back up to 10-6 and their placement from fifth to second. Though the Giants played hard, they were not able to play hard enough to win another ring. But, they were as close as one can get to contention. They would be back.

As we know, the Giants came into the 1988 season with a 6-9 record with one game canceled. They were the prior defending Super Bowl champion but had failed to qualify for the playoffs.

They were the sixth team in NFL history to enter a season as the defending Super Bowl champion and miss the playoffs. The Giants started the season like the Giants from the funk years at 0-5, becoming the first defending Super Bowl champion to lose their first 5 games. Ultimately, the Giants never recovered from their poor 0-5

start, and they fell hard to a 6–9 finish which placed them last in their division and out of the postseason until another year.

This fine NY Giants team would finish with 10 wins and 6 losses. Unfortunately, it was a loss to the New York Jets in the season finale that kept the Giants out of the playoffs for second out of three seasons. The Giants would finish the season second behind the Philadelphia Eagles in the division, losing the conference tiebreaker to the Los Angeles Rams for the final wild card.

The season was marked early by the suspension of a great Giants player. Nobody more than Bill Parcells wanted to claim the substance abuse of star linebacker Lawrence Taylor for the Giants. Yet, he had already been suspended by the NFL for the first four games of the season. Following the end of the season, the Giants would see two longtime defensive stalwarts; defensive end George Martin and future Hall-of-Fame inside linebacker Harry Carson, announce their retirement. These things happen and Bill Parcells understood what needed to be done.

The games of the 1988 Giants Season

In the home and season opener in Giants Stadium, on September 5, 1988, the Giants defeated the Washington Redskins W (27–20) before 76,417. Then, on Sep 11, at home, the San Francisco 49ers defeated the Giants L (17–20) before 75,943. At Dallas, on Sep 18, the Giants shut out the Cowboys in a minimal scoring game W (12–10) before 55,325. Then, at home in Giants Stadium on Sep 25, the Los Angeles Rams whipped the Giants L (31–45) before 75,617.

At Washington on Oct 2, the Giants nosed out the Redskins W (24–23) before 54,601. At Philadelphia on Oct 10, the Eagles beat the Giants L (13–24) before 63,736. At home on Oct 16, at Giants Stadium, the Giants pounded the Detroit Lions W (30–10) before 74,813. At Atlanta on Oct 23, the Giants beat the Falcons W (23–16) before 45,092

At Detroit, on Oct 31, the Giants defeated the Lions W (13–10) before 38,354. At home on Nov 6, the Giants defeated the Dallas Cowboys W (29–21) before 75,826. At Phoenix after the move from St. Louis, the Cardinals defeated the Giants on Nov 13 L (17–24)

before 65,324. Then on Nov 20, at home, the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Giants L (17–23) before 43,621.

At New Orleans on Nov 27, the Giants beat the Saints by a small margin W (13–12) before 66,526. On Dec 4, at home, the Giants shellacked the Phoenix Cardinals W (44–7) before 73,438. Then, on Dec 11, the Giants walloped the Kansas City Chiefs W (28–12) before 69,807. At the New York Jets stadium, on Dec 17, in the season finale, the Jets got the best of the Giants L (21–27) before 69,770. And so went the Giants 1988 regular season.

1989 Bill Parcells Coach # 13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1989 professional football season. The 1989 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-fifth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his seventh of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 65th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants had a fine year with a 12-4 record. They came in first in the NFC East Division. After going 10–6 the prior year and suffering a heartbreaking final-day elimination from playoff contention in 1988, the team went 12–4 and won the NFC East. The Giants lost to the Los Angeles Rams in the NFC Divisional playoffs.

In the season opener at Washington on September 11, 1989, the Giants defeated the Redskins in close match W (27-24) before 54,160. At home on Sep 17, the Giants defeated the Detroit Lions W (24-14) before 76,021. Then on Sep 24, at home the Giants pounded the Phoenix Cardinals W (35-) before 75,742. Then at Dallas on Oct. 1, the Giants smashed the Cowboys W (30-13) before 51,785

At Philadelphia on Oct 8, the Eagles beat the Giants L (19-21) before 65,688. Then at home on Oct. 1, the Giants edged out the Washington Redskins W 20 (17-5) before 76,245. At San Diego on Oct 22, the Giants beat the Chargers W (20-13) before 46,566. On

Oct 30, at home, the Giants beat the Minnesota Vikings W (24-14) before 76,041.

At Phoenix on Nov. 5, the Giants defeated the Cardinals W (20-13) before 46,588. At Los Angeles on Nov. 12, the Rams pounded the Giants L (10-31) before 65,127. At home in Giant Stadium on Nov. 19, the Giants beat the Seattle Seahawks W(15-3) before 75,014. At San Francisco on Nov 27 the Giants were beaten by the 49ers L (24-34) before 63,461.

On home, on Dec 3, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Giants L (17-24) before 74,809. Then on Dec. 10 at Denver, the Giants beat the Broncos W (14-7) before 63,283. At home on Dec 16, the Giants beat the Dallas Cowboys W (15-0) before 72,141. In the season finale on Dec 24, the Giants defeated the Los Angeles Raiders W (34-17) before 70,306.

Divisional Playoffs LA Rams 19, NY Giants 13 (OT)

In the divisional playoff game that began at 12:30 PM EST at Giants Stadium, in East Rutherford, New Jersey before a crowd of 76,325, the Rams defeated the Giants in overtime L (13-19)

1990 Bill Parcells Coach # 13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1990 professional football season. The 1990 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-sixth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his eighth and last of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 66th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants had a fine year with a 13-3 record. They came in first in the NFC East Division. Then they won all the way to the Super Bowl where they became world champions again. After going 6-9, the comeback was next with a 10-6 record, followed last year by a

12-4 and this year, with a Super Bowl 13-3 first place finish in everything,

The Giants of course play in the Eastern Division of the National Football Conference (NFC) of the National Football League (NFL). In this year 1990, they won their sixth championship and second Super Bowl. Led by all-everything linebacker Lawrence Taylor (LT) and quarterbacks Phil Simms and Jeff Hostetler, the Giants posted a 13–3 record before defeating the Chicago Bears and the two-time defending Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers in the NFC playoffs.

In Super Bowl XXV, the Giants defeated the Buffalo Bills in a nail-biter 20–19 in Tampa Stadium against a patriotic backdrop inspired by the recently started Gulf War.

In Super Bowl XXV, the Giant defense held its own against the Bills' no-huddle offense while the Giants' offense executed long methodical drives that gave the Giants a time of possession advantage of 2-to-1, and New York won 20–19."

Games of the 1990 season

In the season opener at Giants Stadium on September 9, 1990, the Giants defeated the Philadelphia Eagles in a close match W (27-20) before 76,202. On Sep 16, at Dallas, the Giants pummeled the Cowboys W (28–7) in Texas Stadium before 61,090. Then, on Sep 23, the Giants overpowered the Miami Dolphins W (20–3) in Giants Stadium before 76,483. Then, on Sep 30, at home, the Giants beat the Dallas Cowboys W (31–17) at Giants Stadium before 75,923. In week 5, the Giants drew a bye.

On Oct 14 at , the Washington Redskins were beaten by the Giants in a close match W (24–20) at RFK Stadium before 54,737. At home on Oct 21, the Giants nosed out the Phoenix Cardinals W (20–19) at Giants Stadium before 76,518. On Oct 28, at home, the Giants defeated the Washington Redskins W (21–10) at Giants Stadium before 75,321. On Nov 5, at Indianapolis's Hoosier Dome, the Giants beat the Colts W (24–7) before 58,688.

At Los Angeles' Anaheim Stadium, on Nov 11, the Giants trounced the Rams W (31–7) before 64,632. Then, on Nov 18, at home in Giants Stadium, New York defeated the Detroit Lions W (20–0) before 76,109. At Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium before 66,706, the Eagles drubbed the undefeated Giants L (13–31). On Dec 3, at San Francisco's Candlestick Park, the 49ers beat the Giants L (3–7) before 66,092.

On Dec 9, at home, the Giants beat the Minnesota Vikings W (23–15) at Giants Stadium before 76,121. At home on Dec 15, the Buffalo Bills defeated the Giants L (13–17) at Giants Stadium before 66,893. At Phoenix, on Dec 23, the Giants defeated the Cardinals W (24–21) at Sun Devil Stadium before 41,212. Then in the season finale on Dec 30, at New England, the Giants beat the Patriots W (13–10) in Foxboro Stadium before 60,410.

NFC Divisional Playoff: Giants V Chicago Bears

In the third quarter, Hostetler got a first down on fourth down again—his third of the day. He finished the drive with a 3-yard touchdown run, putting his team up 24-3. Chicago responded with a drive to the Giants 5-yard line but could not finish it off.

In the fourth quarter, Giants defensive back Everson Walls returned an interception 37 yards to the Giants 49. The Giants then went on a grueling 51-yard drive consisting of 16 running plays, the last a 1-yard touchdown plunge by fullback Maurice Carthon, that ate up a staggering 10:30 of play time. That was the game, 31-3.

NFC Championship Game: 49ers v Giants

Bahr's fifth successful kick of the game, which was a 42-yarder, was made with no time left on the clock. The Giants won 15–13. They scored no touchdowns played one heck of a game played on the field.

Super Bowl XXV—Buffalo Bills V NY Giants

Just like the Conference championship between the 49ers and Giants was anybody's game, won in the last seconds of the game; so also was the January 27, 1991 Super Bowl extravaganza. Bill Parcells did not have his team ready for defeat.

The game was played in pleasant Florida weather at 73 degrees. The Giants managed three points in the fourth quarter to take the game by a fingernail bite W (20-19). The Super Bowl XV game was played in Tampa Bay Florida amidst a background of war and patriotism in front of 73,813 fans at Tampa Stadium.

The total time of the first gulf war was from Aug 2, 1990 – Feb 28, 1991. The Gulf War hostilities had begun less than two weeks previous and the nation rallied around the Super Bowl as a symbol of America. Adding to the patriotic feeling was Whitney Houston's stirring rendition of the national anthem, perhaps the greatest in Super Bowl history. The game itself was among the most competitive Super Bowls ever played.

The Giants got off to a quick 3–0 lead. However, the Bills scored the next 12 points, on a field goal, a touchdown by backup running back Don Smith and a safety after Jeff Hostetler was sacked in the end zone by Bruce Smith. Down 12-3, the Giants ran a drive that took nearly eight minutes and culminated in a 14-yard touchdown pass from Hostetler to Stephen Baker, making the score 12–10 at halftime.

Neither team was having an easy time with the opposing defense. The Giants received the second-half kickoff and mounted a drive in which, after taking the count to third down, converted on all five critical plays. They gobbled up more than nine minutes, which was a Super Bowl record. The drive reached pay dirt as they scored on a one-yard touchdown run by Ottis Anderson. This gave the Giants a 17–12 lead.

Every drive has a play that makes it or breaks it. The key play of the drive came on a third-down play, when Giants receiver Mark Ingram appeared about to be tackled well short of a first down. However,

Ingram evaded several tacklers, dragging one defender in the process, to gain just barely enough yards for a first down. The Giants' strategy to handle the Bills' potent offense had become clear: KEEP THEM OFF THE FIELD! The Giants' two touchdown drives consumed over 17 minutes.

The Bills came back quickly. On the first play of the fourth quarter, Thurman Thomas ran for a 31-yard touchdown that put the Bills back in front, 19–17. When the Giants got the ball back, a few possessions later, they drove down to the Bills' 4-yard line but could not poke it in. They instead settled for a chip shot 21-yard field goal by Matt Bahr. This gave the Giants their victory lead at 20–19.

It was tough moving the ball. Both teams exchanged possessions before the Bills began one last *make it or break it* drive. Buffalo drove down to the Giants' 30-yard line to set up a game-winning 47-yard field goal attempt by Scott Norwood. The kick was expected to be good.

Just before the kick, ABC TV showed a graphic indicating that, on grass that season, Norwood had only made three of seven field goals from at least 40 yards, and that the 47-yarder would be Norwood's longest ever on grass. A few moments later, in what became the game's true signature moment, Norwood's attempt missed wide right, and the Giants won their second Super Bowl in five years, 20–19. Wow!

The Giants set a Super Bowl record for time of possession with a mark of 40:33, and Ottis Anderson was named MVP of the game after rushing for 102 yards and a touchdown. What a game. Bill Parcells, two Super Bowls in eight years after a twenty-year playoff drought. That is some football, folks. From 1983 to 1990, Bill Parcells final Giant record was 74-49-1. That is one fine coach.

Bill Parcells Leaves the Giants

At the time that Bill Parcells gave his notice to Giants management that he had had enough of the Giants, there were a lot of questions that the fans and others wanted answered so many speculated and writers were busy offering conjecture about it all. Giants fans were

not happy and it made good news to learn about the favorite coach from the last eight years.

One of the authors who wrote about Coach Parcells was Vito Stellino of the Baltimore Sun. He wrote a piece that he titled:

Parcells departs, leaves Giant a question: Why? Assistant Handley named successor

In this section of the book until the next chapter, I base a lot of the text on the Baltimore Sun Article by Vito Stellino and so this is the attribution for his work and the work of the Baltimore Sun. This piece is not an exact version of Vito's article but there are a lot of facts that are sourced in the Sun Article.

Stellino begins his article by noting that "Bill Parcells couldn't answer the most obvious question yesterday when he walked away from the job he had dreamed about holding all his life: Why?"

"Why did he quit as coach of the New York Giants, the team he grew up following as a youngster in New Jersey and took to two Super Bowl victories?"

Parcells spoke "I just feel it's time to move on. It's hard for me to put it in any different words. Really, that's what it is."

The coach finally spoke to somebody four months after winning his second Super Bowl at a crowded news conference. The Giants would no longer have Bill Parcells. My brothers and dad were upset. Me too! I was shocked.

The guy who I thought was the best coach in the NFL was quickly replaced by his offensive coordinator, Ray Handley, who had been considering bailing from the Giants himself but his mentor Bill Parcells was successful in talking him into staying. Now, he got to become the head honcho by following Parcells' advice. .

Stellino made a point of suggesting that Parcels could not talk himself out of leaving but he talked Handley into staying. Parcels at 49 had a lot of football left in him. He had more than proven himself.

The coach himself had ruled out burnout, money, health or reported problems with general manager George Young as factors in the decision. It was well known that he had a television audition three months prior with NBC Sports, but said he had no deal with the network and said the possibility of going into television played no role in the decision. Maybe even, like many of us facing indecision, Bill Parcels did not know why Bill Parcels did what Bill Parcels did. But, he sure and heck created a big stir about it. If he was a nobody, that would not have been the case.

Here are a few more Parcels' quotes"

"Players come and go. Coaches come and go. Recently, owners come and go. I just think it's time. That's all there is to it. There's absolutely no other reason. I have a feeling. My instincts are usually good. I have absolutely no plans, fellas. I don't know what I'm going to do,"

I don't suggest I know but I do know how he felt. I have never hit his level of success but compared to others in my family, my career with IBM brought me unparalleled success and more income than I thought could ever fit in my wallet.

When I did not need the job any more, I was not sure what I wanted but I knew I wanted out of IBM, which by the way was a great company when it employed yours truly. Sometimes we are willing to take a shot at doing whatever it is when we get the clear head we need to make the decision – even if it is to wish we never left where we were. That's the beauty of it. As long as the decision does not put you on welfare, then maybe you and/or I and / or Bill Parcels should go for it. Looks like in 1991, Parcels decided to go for the moon and he may tell nobody ever if it really has green cheese. Why should he?

Stellino finds it very mystifying about Parcels' decision to fold it up with the Giants because he once quit football 1979, but was so unhappy that he came back to the game again and wound up at the Giants in 1983. .

"This is a different deal. I've had some personal satisfaction that I didn't have at that point," Parcells said.

When they asked the coach whether the seven-days-a-week schedule wore him down, he said, "No, that's what I do. I'm a football coach. That's the schedule. That's the way it is these days. That's what you do. It's about competition. It's about winning. Unless you're willing to pay that price, you're not going to do very well in this league. You'd better be willing to pay that price."

What about the answer to that big question? Had Parcells stopped being willing?

Asked whether he no longer was willing to pay the price, he said: "I never looked at it that way. That's not why we're having that discussion today. I just feel like it's time to move on."

Stellino points out that Parcells said "I'm a football coach." I don't know if I would have said I am an IBM guy or an IT guy, or a Systems Designer or a Problem Solver. I don't know what I would have said if interviewed. I think I did not know but I know I had to make a living every year after I left IBM, and considering Parcells' success, I suspect, he could have made it without a job for quite a while..

Stellino sees Parcells as a guy who likes hanging around the locker room. It's hard to imagine him not coming back to the game eventually. He wouldn't rule out the possibility, saying, "I don't have a crystal ball."

Asked what he'd miss, Parcells said, "On the road in Washington and on the road in Philadelphia. They hate me so much there; they almost like me."

Ray Handley now faces the challenge that all good coaches face when they replace a great coach. Who ever felt good about replacing Knute Rockne at Notre Dame after the plane crash? Bob Davie felt good replacing Lou Holtz at Notre Dame but many suggest he should not have felt so good.

George Seifert had some moments in San Francisco in 1989 when he replaced the immortal Bill Walsh, who also stepped down after winning a Super Bowl. Who can pull off a Super Bowl in year one? Who can repeat a Super Bowl in his first season? Seifert pulled it off, and now Ray Handley has to feel the pressure of taking that great team and trying to do it again. Whew!

Parcells may not have needed all of Handley But, Handley, 46, was a guy that Parcells often referred to as his "computer" on the sidelines. Would Parcells have run the team as Handley would?

Who knows? Handley is characterized as an advocate of hard-nose defense and a grind-it-out style, two things that have typified the Giants under Parcells and two things not likely to change soon. So, Handley should have a shot at success.

I

It is clear that Handley was an obscure assistant. However, at the time of his ascension, he was no more obscure than Parcells was when Young tabbed him late in the 1982 season to replace Ray Perkins. Perkins had bailed like Parcells to become head coach at Alabama.

Handley said: "If I can stand up here eight years from now and have the record that he's put on paper, I'd be much more than satisfied."

Who knows what happens when we test fate and break away from our comfort zone? The beauty in this book is that for the Giants at least, we will cover it all. We may even sneak back to check out Ray Handley, Ray Perkins and Bill Parcells to see how they made it after 1991. Then again, we might decide to put it in another book. Who knows? Copyright © 2019, [The Baltimore Sun](#), a Baltimore Sun Media Group

publication.

Chapter 18 Coach Ray Handley, 1991 to 1992

Coach #14 Ray Handley1

Coach	Year	Place	Record
Ray Handley	1991	4 th	8 8 0 —
Ray Handley	1992	4 th	6-10-0 —

1991-1992 Ray Handley final record (14-18-0)



Coach # 14 Ray Handley instructing during Giants game

Coach # 14 Ray Handley—not a bad coach!

The Ray Handley Era at the New York Giants did not have a long duration. It came and went and not too many today remember it.

After just two years, the NY Times wrote that “The Ray Handley era ended today.” When they wrote about it, it had ended. So, here we are at the beginning of the Ray era and nobody is sure despite good signs but this tells you it did not go well. Two years from the Bill Parcells era, to no one's surprise, the Giants chucked their head coach after two non-Parcells seasons marked by player-coach controversies, confrontations with the news media, poor play and,

most galling to the team's supporters, a lousy record. Ray Handley was stubborn like Parcels to a fault as his decisions were not as wise.

George Young, who brought in the Giants turnaround after the lost twenty years. FYI, he is the Giants' vice president and general manager. Young announced the dismissal of the old young shoe at a news conference at Giants Stadium. He said he told the 48-year-old Handley on Monday that a change would be made. At a 10 o'clock on announcement day, Handley told his assistant coaches of the decision. An hour later, Handley was gone without comment, and only Young appeared at the news conference. Who knows the rationale for the abrupt departure?

Young offered that there was no leading candidate for the job, he added, "I do have things in my mind." Bill Parcels, who left the Giants after they won the Super Bowl in January 1991, remained a popular choice among players and fans, but perhaps there was a reason why Young would not come back to Parcels. The pundits seemed to believe that Young was a Tom Coughlin advocate. Coughlin who had his time as a Giants assistant under Parcels was at the time the head coach at Boston College.

It was well known that Lawrence Taylor, the infamous LY wanted Parcels Back. Taylor was so good and so smart on the field that Parcels let him do what he wanted. With Handley, Taylor felt like he was a bolt of lightning that they were trying to be control with a hair ribbon. that

Another Young favorite at the time was Dave Wannstedt, the defensive coordinator of the Dallas Cowboys. Wannstedt and Coughlin were involved in post-season games.

Linebacker Lawrence Taylor, recovering from Achilles' tendon surgery, again campaigned for the return of Parcels.

I think George probably did the right thing by letting Ray go," Taylor said. "The question now is, will he do two right things in a row. Will he get Bill Parcels to coach this team and bring us back a championship?"

One Giants source confirmed that some of the prospective coaches were already under contract. Coughlin and Wannstedt fit that category. Young did say he had made no contact with prospective coaches and had not sought permission to talk to any coach under contract. No Names Mentioned

Young said he was drawing up a list of prospective new coaches, but he would not mention names. "I'm not going to talk about anybody we're considering," Young said. "There will be more than one candidate."

Coughlin and Handley were Giants assistants together. Coughlin, who left as the coach of the Giants' receivers after the 1990 season, was in Tampa, where Boston College will play Tennessee on Friday in the Hall of Fame Bowl.

"If and when there is contact with the Giants," Coughlin said, "I will decide on the matter at the proper time. I came to Boston College to win the national championship. None of this is going to diminish what we're trying to do in Tampa. I'm happy with the program and the way it's progressed."

Young gave no timetable for naming a new coach, except that he hoped to do it as soon as possible. There were indications that the new coach might not be selected until mid-January.

Parcells, concerned about health problems and burnout, quit the Giants on May 15, 1991, less than four months after the Giants won Super Bowl XXV. At Super Bowl time, Handley was the offensive backfield coach. Weeks later, when he was about to leave coaching to enter law school, the Giants changed Handley's mind by promoting him to offensive coordinator. When Parcells left, Handley became the head coach.

"Some guys are meant to be head coaches," said the Giants' Pepper Johnson. "I don't know if Ray was."

Handley's lack of head-coaching experience in the National Football League may have hurt as the Giants fell to an 8-8 record last year and 6-10 the following year. However, Young said the new coach would not necessarily have to have been a head coach in the N.F.L. He

cited such coaches as Don Shula, Tom Landry, Weeb Ewbank, Bill Cowher and Handley's two predecessors (Ray Perkins and Parcells). None had been an N.F.L. head coach before and all were successful.

"I'd be limiting myself," Young said, "if I said the new coach would have had to have previous head-coaching experience. What's important is the person."

Young talked of what he would seek in a new coach.

"You always look for a guy that's organized," he said, "Because the Giants did not, Handley is gone. The Giants will pay him the \$450,000 he was scheduled to earn in the third year of his three-year contract."

This year, Handley's new defensive coordinator, Rod Rust, installed a read-and-act defense that antagonized veteran defensive players who enjoyed so much success in the past with an aggressive system. Players complained that there was no communication with coaches. And there were many more problems. '

"Coaches understand that when you don't win, there's a problem and your job is in jeopardy. I thought Ray handled it as well as any man could handle it. I think the length of time was against him and the timing was against him." 'Things Snowball'

1990 Ray Handley Coach # 14

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1991 professional football season. The 1991 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-seventh Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 14th Giants Head Coach Ray Handley in his first of two seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 67th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants had an OK rebuilding year with coach Handley and an 8-8-0 record. They came in fourth in the NFC East Division.

On February 2, 1991, shortly after Super Bowl XXV, Tim Mara announced he had sold his family's stake in the team to businessman Bob Tisch, the co-founder of Loews Corporation and former United States Postmaster General. Tisch did not take an active role in the operations of the team, instead choosing to focus on the team's finances; this enabled the Maras to keep control of the football side of the team and allowed Wellington Mara's son John to take a more active role with the Giants.

The 1991 season also marked the first time since 1983 that the Giants entered the season with a new head coach.

During the Giants' previous season Phil Simms began the year as the starter and started the first fourteen games of the season. In the course of that fourteenth game, where the Giants hosted the Buffalo Bills, Simms suffered a severe foot injury and backup Jeff Hostetler took over and led the Giants through the playoffs and to their Super Bowl victory over those same Bills. The Giants were loaded at QB.

Simms did recover from his injury and he was expected to regain his starting position, but Ray Handley had other thoughts. His idea was to make Simms and Hostetler compete for the position. Handley made his decision prior to the Giants' week one matchup with the San Francisco 49ers on Monday Night Football and gave the starting job to Hostetler amid some controversy.

Games of the 1991 Season

The season opener after the 1990 NY Giants Super Bowl Championship with Head Coach Ray Handley in his first game as head coach was a Giants win on Sept. 2, 1991 against the San Francisco 49ers W (16-14) before 76,319. Handley got an acceptable start to the season. On Sep 8, the good fortune ended at home as the Los Angeles Rams beat the Giants L (13-1) before 76,541. At Chicago on Sep 15 the Bears edged out the Giants L (17-20) before 64,829. Then, at home on Sep 22, the Giants edged out the Cleveland Browns W (13-10) before 75,891.

At Dallas on Sep 29, the Cowboys beat the Giants L (16-21) before 64,010. Then, at home on Oct. 6, the Giants beat the Phoenix

Cardinals W (20-9) before 75,891. At Pittsburgh on Oct 14, the Giants beat the Steelers W (23-20) before 57,608. On Oct 21, the Giants drew a bye. Then, on Oct 27 at home, the Washington Redskins defeated the NY Giants L (13-17) before 76,627.

At Philadelphia on Nov 4, the Eagles pounded the Giants L (7-30) before 65,816. At Phoenix, on Nov 10, the Giants beat the Cardinals W (21-14) before 50,048. At home, on Nov 17, the NY Giants whooped the Dallas Cowboys W (22-9) before 76,410. Then, at Tampa Bay, on Nov 24, the Giants edged out the Buccaneers W (21-14) before 63,608.

The Giants then lost three in a row, with the first on Dec 1 at Cincinnati. The Bengals beat the Giants in a close match L (24-27) before 45,063. The second was at home against Philadelphia on Dec 8. The Eagles tripped up the Giants L (14-19) before 76,099. Then the third was at Washington on Dec 15 as the Redskins pounded the Giants L (17-34) before 54,722. At this point the Giants had a losing season going but then on Dec 22, they defeated the Houston Oilers W (24-20) bringing the Giants season record to break even at 8-8 before 63,421.

1992 Ray Handley Coach # 14

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1991 professional football season. The 1992 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-eighth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 14th Giants Head Coach Ray Handley in his second of two seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 68th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants slipped from their 8-8 season after the Super Bowl win. They finished 6-10 and came in fourth in the NFC East Division.

Head coach Ray Handley was fired after this season, when the Giants finished 1-6 after starting the season 5-4. Whatever could go wrong, went wrong.

Games of the 1992 Season

The Giants got off to a poor start in the season home opener on Sep 6, 1992, at Giants Stadium as San Francisco overpowered New York L (14–31) before 74,519. At home on Sep 13, 1992, the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Giants L (28–34) before 76,430. At Chicago on Sep 21, the Giants beat the Bears W (27–14) before 63,444. On Sep 28, the Giants drew a bye. Then, after two weeks rest, the Giants still could not win at Los Angeles as the Raiders defeated New York on Oct 4 L (10–13) before 43,103.

On Oct 11, the Giants defeated the Phoenix Cardinals at home in Giants Stadium W (31–21) before 70,042. At Los Angeles on Oct 18, the Rams pounded the Giants L (38–17) before 53,541. Then, on Oct 25, the Giants defeated the Seattle Seahawks W (23–10) before 67,399. At Washington on Nov 1, the Giants defeated the Redskins W (24–7) before 53,647.

On Nov 8, the Giants whipped the Green Bay Packers W (27–7) before 72,038. At Denver on Nov 15, the Broncos beat the Giants L (13–27) before 75,269. On Nov 22, at home, the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Giants L (34–47) before 68,153. At Dallas on Nov 26, the Cowboys pummeled the Giants L (3–30) before 62,416.

At home on Dec 6, the Washington Redskins whipped the NY Giants L (10–28) before 62,998. At Phoenix, on Dec 12, the Cardinals shut out the Giants L (0–19) before 28,452. Then, at home in Giants Field on Dec 19, the Giants defeated the Kansas City Chiefs W (35–21) before 53,428. At Philadelphia in the season finale, the Eagles defeated the Giants L (10–20) before 64,266.

Coach Ray Handley departed at the end of the season.

Chapter 17 Coach Dan Reeves 1993-1996

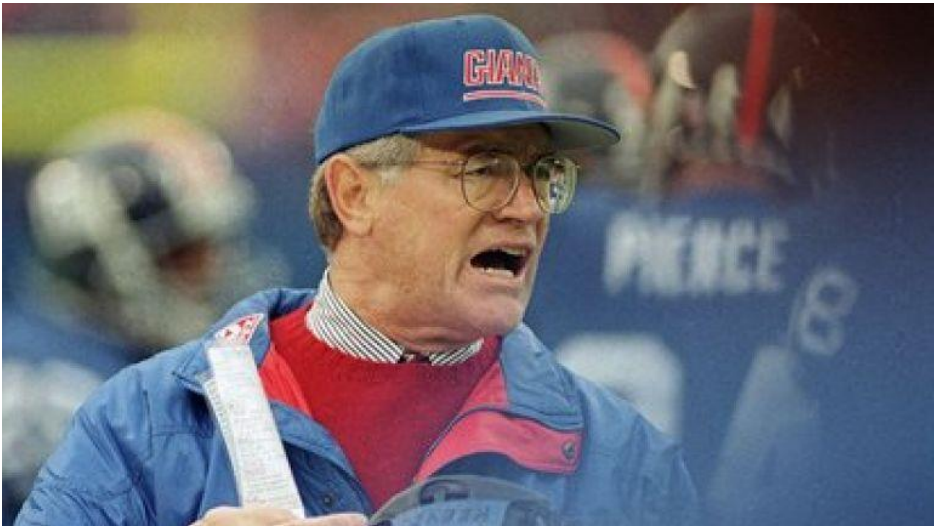
Coach #15 Dan Reeves

Coach	Year	Place	Record
Dan Reeves	1993	2nd	11 5 0
Dan Reeves	1994	2nd	9 7 0 —
Dan Reeves	1995	4th	5 11 0 —
Dan Reeves	1996	5th	6 10 0 —

1993-1996 Dan Reeves final record (31-33-0)

Coach Dan Reeves

Born in Rome, Georgia, Dan Reeves grew up in Americus, Georgia where he attended Americus High School. Dan Reeves was an exceptional athlete in football, baseball and basketball.



Dan Reeves, a great coach

Your typical head football coach in the NFL would most often come in and have to get the team in shape before he could make any headway on creating a positive record. Dan Reeves was the opposite. He would come in and be the best coach there ever was and then watch as his record would get worse over time. For example, he was 11-5 in his first year with the Giants and in his last two years, he was 5-11 and 6-10 respectively.

In 1970 he hired on with Dallas as an Assistant Coach and held numerous positions such as backfield coach an offensive coordinator until he got his shot as head coach of the Denver Broncos. He was 10-6 with Denver in 1981 and then in the strike shortened 1982 season, his record slipped to 2-7. In 1998 in his second year as head coach of Atlanta, Dan Reeves was 14-2, and in 2003, his last year at Atlanta, his record fell to 5-11. Funny! Some coaches have a tough time getting in the big games and others have a tough time winning them. Reeves got his teams to four Super Bowls but failed to win any.

In fact, over the course of his 38 years in the NFL, Reeves participated in a combined nine Super Bowls as player and coach, the second-most in league history behind Bill Belichick's eleven. He served as a head coach for 23 seasons, primarily with the Denver Broncos and the Atlanta Falcons but he also had a fine stint with the Giants going 11-5 in his first year. As a player, he spent the entirety of his eight-season career with the Dallas Cowboys

Reeves was a fine football coach overall in the National Football League (NFL) for 34 years from 1970 until 2003, finishing his career with the Atlanta Falcons as their head coach. Over his thirty-four years of coaching his teams compiled a cumulative record of 299-205-2.

He held head coaching positions for twenty-three of his thirty-four seasons. As noted, his first head coaching opportunity came with the Denver Broncos. Here is where his record was the best overall. He led the team for twelve seasons, compiling a record of 110-73-1. His next head coaching stint came with the New York Giants. He coached the New York Giants from 1993 to 1996. He led the team to a 31-33-0 record during his four seasons as Giants head coach. His third head coach opportunity as head coach came in 1997 with Atlanta. He coached the Falcons for seven seasons and the team had a 51-60-1 record.

During his coaching career, Reeves won the NFL's Coach of the Year award two times, most recently in 1998 after guiding the Falcons to a 14-2-0 record and a berth in the championship game. During his time as head coach and offensive coordinator he coached multiple players to outstanding seasons.

Three players have received awards at the end of the season under Reeves' coaching. As the head coach for the Broncos, for example, John Elway won Most Valuable Player and Mike Croel won AP Defensive Rookie of the Year. As the offensive coordinator for the Cowboys Tony Dorsett won AP Offensive Rookie of the Year

1993 Dan Reeves Coach # 15

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1993 professional football season. The 1993 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-ninth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 15th Giants Head Coach Dan Reeves in his first of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 69th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants came back from their 6-10 finish and had a very nice 11-5 season record, and came in second place in the NFC East Division.

As one of his first official acts on duty, head coach Dan Reeves immediately released Jeff Hostetler and named Phil Simms as the team's starting quarterback. 1993 turned out to be the final season for both Simms and all-time Giants great linebacker, Lawrence Taylor. This would also turn out to be the first season for future Hall-of-Famer Michael Strahan.

Phil Simms started all 16 games in 1993, being one of only seven quarterbacks to do so, and he led the Giants to a resurgent 11-5 season including a victory over the Minnesota Vikings in the playoffs.

However, after the season, Simms underwent shoulder surgery after the 1993 NFL Season to repair a torn labrum. The surgery was successful, and team doctor Russell F. Warren's prognosis for recovery was excellent, and Simms was expected to be ready in time for training camp. However, during his recovery time before training

camp. Simms was released by the Giants, and he then decided to hang up his spikes for good.

That explains why the record was not as good in 1994. The Giants offense had come off a sub-par 1992 season, so Dan Reeves and offensive coordinator George Henshaw added and adjusted schemes. The emphasis continued to advocate running the football ball as the coaches installed the Full House and Power I formations.

It was a good year for players as Rodney Hampton and Phil Simms both made the pro bowl. Those two were the driving force behind the offense. The Defense returned to its dominant ways; allowing an NFL-best 12.8 points per game, or 205 points all year.

Lawrence Taylor would join Simms in retirement after the season, ending an era of great offense and great defense. The Giants finished the 1993 season first in overall defense and rushing offense.

The Giants qualified for the playoffs on December 12 with a win at Giants Stadium against the Colts, 35 years after the two teams met in "The Greatest Game Ever Played". We will cover this game after we look at the games of the 1993 season.

Games of the 1993 Giants Season

In the season opener at Chicago on September 5, 1993, Dan Reeves' Giants defeated the Bears W (26–20) before 66,900. At home on Sep 12, the Giants beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers W (23–7) before 75,891. At home in Giants Stadium on Sep 19, the Giants defeated the Los Angeles Rams W (20–10) before 76,213. On Sep 26, the Giants drew a bye. Then, at Buffalo on Oct 3, the Bills defeated the Giants L (14–17) before 79,283

At Washington on Oct 10, the Giants pounded the Redskins W (41–7) before 53,715. At home on Oct 17, the Giants whipped the Eagles W (21–10) before 76,050. On Oct 24, the Giants drew their second bye of the season. Then, on Oct 31, at home, the New York Jets nipped the Giants L (6–10) before 71,659. At Dallas on Nov 7, the Cowboys drubbed the Giants L (9–31) before 64,735.

At home on Nov 14, the Giants beat the Washington Redskins W (20–6) before 76,606. At Philadelphia on Nov 21, the Giants defeated the Eagles W (7–3) before 62,928. At home on Nov 28, the Giants edged out the Phoenix Cardinals W (19–17) before 59,979. Then, on Dec 5, at, the Giants beat the Dolphins W (19–14) before 72,161.

At home on Dec 12, New York beat the Indianapolis Colts W (20–6) before 70,411. At New Orleans on Dec 20, the Giants beat the Saints W (24–14) before 69,036. At Phoenix, on Dec 26, 1993, the Cardinals beat the Giants L (6–17) before 53,414. In the 1993 season finale, on Jan 2, 1994, the Dallas Cowboys defeated the New York Giants L (13–16) before 77,356.

Wild Card Playoffs Jan 9 1994

NFC: New York Giants 17, Minnesota Vikings 10

This game was played on January 9, at 12:30 PM in 32-degree weather in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford NJ. There was a howling gusting wind that all pundits noted had big play in this game. Both teams could only score a combined 27 points due to the conditions. The Giants did not score until the third Q when Rodney Hampton scored two to pull ahead for good. They scored enough to win the Wild Card and move on with a 17-10 victory.

The NFL Divisional Playoffs

NFC: San Francisco 49ers 44, New York Giants 3

With 59-degree weather, there was no outside force in the way of a Giant victory other than the San Francisco 49ers. The game was played in ideal conditions on January 15, 1994 at 4:00 PM EST in Candlestick Park to a packed house of 67,143. The Giants faced a lot more than they expected this day from the 49ers.

It was 49ers running back Ricky Waters and then Ricky Watters and then Ricky Watters again as the fleet-footed tough back rushed for 118 yards, caught five passes for 46 yards, and scored an NFL playoff record five touchdowns as San Francisco literally crushed the Giants, 44–3. There is no reason to report more.

1994 Dan Reeves Coach # 15

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1994 professional football season. The 1994 New York Giants football team competed in their seventieth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 15th Giants Head Coach Dan Reeves in his second of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 70th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants did not match their 11-5 finish but had an OK and had an OK 9-7 season record. and came in second place in the NFC East Division.

The Giants failed to improve on their 11–5 record from 1993 and finished 9–7 in 1994.[They were second in the National Football Conference East Division, three games behind the Dallas Cowboys.

Games of the 1994 Season

In the 1994 Season opener, on September 4, 1994 in Giants Stadium, New York defeated the Philadelphia Eagles W (28–23) before 76,130. At Arizona on Sep 11, the Giants defeated the Cardinals W (20–17) before 60,066. On Sep 18, at home, the Giants defeated the Washington Redskins W (31–23) before 77,298 On Sept 25, NY drew a bye.

At New Orleans on Oct 2, the Saints beat the Giants L (22–27) before 55,076. At home on Oct 10, 1994 the Minnesota Vikings beat the Giants L (10–27) before 77,294. At Los Angeles, on Oct 16, the Rams beat the Giants L (10–17) before 40,474. Then, on Oct 23, at home, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Giants L (6–10) before 71,819. On Oct 30, at home, the Detroit Lions beat the Giants L (25–28) before 75,124.

At Dallas, on Nov 7, the Cowboys pounded the Giants L (10–38) before 64,836. At home on Nov 13, the Arizona Cardinals nosed out the New York Giants L (9–10) before 71,719. Then, on Nov 21, at Houston, the Giants defeated the Oilers W (13–10) before 53,201. At

Washington on Nov 27, the Giants edged out the Redskins W (21–19) before 43,384.

Then, on Dec 4, at Cleveland, the Giants beat the Browns W (16–13) before 72,068. At home on Dec 11, the Giants beat the Cincinnati Bengals W (27–20) before 67,530. At Philadelphia on Dec 8, the Giants beat the Eagles W (16–13) before 64,540. In the season finale on Dec 24, the Giants defeated the Cowboys W (15–10) before 66,943.

1995 Dan Reeves Coach # 15

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1995 professional football season. The 1995 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-first professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 15th Giants Head Coach Dan Reeves in his third of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 71st season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants did not match their 9-7 finish but had an OK and had a poor 5-11 season record. and came in fourth place in the NFC East Division.

In the season opener on September 4, 1995 at home in Giants Stadium the Dallas Cowboys shut out the Giants L (0-35) before 77,454. On Sep 10, at Kansas City, the Chiefs beat the Giants L (17-20) before 77,962. At Green Bay, on Sep 17, the Packers beat the Giants L (6-14) before 60,117. At home on Sep 24, the Giants beat the New Orleans Saints W (45–29) before 72,619.

On Oct 1, at San Francisco, the 49ers beat the Giants L (6-20) before 65,536. Then, on Oct 8, the Giants defeated the Arizona Cardinals W (27–21) before 68,463. At home on Oct 15, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Giants L (14–17) before 74,252. On Oct 22 Giants drew a bye. Then, on Oct 29, at Washington, the Giants defeated the Redskins W (24–15) before 53,310.

At Seattle on Nov 5, the Seahawks nosed out the Giants L (28–30) before 42,100. Then on Nov 12, at home, the Oakland Raiders beat the Giants L (13–17) before 71,160. At Philadelphia on Nov 19, the Eagles beat the Giants L (19–28) before 63,562. Then, on Nov 26, at home, the Chicago Bears beat the Giants L (24–27) before 70,015.

At Arizona on Nov 30, the Giants beat the Cardinals W (10–6) before 44,246. At home on Dec 10, the Giants beat the Washington Redskins W (20–13) before 48,247. At Dallas on Dec 17, the Cowboys nosed out the Giants in a nail-biter L (20–21) before 64,400. On Dec 23 in the season finale, at home, the San Diego Chargers defeated the Giants L (17–27) before 50,243

1996 Dan Reeves Coach # 15

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1996 professional football season. The 1996 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-second professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 15th Giants Head Coach Dan Reeves in his fourth and last of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 72nd season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants improved by one game over their 5-11 finish and had a poor 6-10 season record. and came in last place in the NFC East Division in 1086.

The Giants' first game of the season was at home against the Buffalo Bills, and the Giants lost 23–20 in OT. After defeating the Cowboys, the Giants' record entering December stood at 5–7. They ended the season by losing three of their last four games. The Giants had enough of Dan Reeves and fired him after the season, and they hired Jim Fassel as his replacement.

In the home and season opener, on Sept at Giants Stadium, the Buffalo Bills defeated the New York Giants L (20–23) before 74,218 At Dallas, on Sep 8, the Cowboys powdered the Giants L (0–27) before 63,069. At home on Sep 15, the Washington Redskins scalped the Giants L (10–31) before 71,693. At New York, on Sep 22, the Giants whiffed the Jets W (13–6) before 58,339.

On Sep 29, the Giants defeated the Minnesota Vikings W (15–10) before 70,970. On Oct 6, New York drew a bye this week. Then, on Oct 13, at home, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Giants L (10–19) before 72,729. At Washington, on Oct 20, the Redskins squashed the Giants L (21–31) before 52,684. Then, at Detroit, on Oct 27, the Giants pounded the Lions W (35–7) before 63,501.

At home, on Nov 3, the Giants beat the Arizona Cardinals W (16–8) before 68,262. At Carolina on Nov 10, the Panthers defeated the Giants L (17–27) before 70,298. On Nov 17, at Arizona, the Cardinals beat the Giants L (23–31) before 34,924. At home in Giants Stadium on Nov 24, the Giants smashed the Dallas Cowboys W (20–6) before 77,081.

At Philadelphia on Dec 1, the Eagles slugged-out the Giants in a shutout L (0–24) 51,468. At Miami on Dec 8, the Giants whipped the Dolphins W (17–7) before 63,889. At home on Dec 15, the New Orleans Saints defeated the Giants L (3–17) before 52,530. In the Giant's season finale on Dec 21, 1996, the New England Patriots found a way to nose out the New York Giants L (22–23) in a nosebleed match before 65,387. That's it for 1996.

Chapter 18 Coach Jim Fassel 1997-2003

Coach #16 Jim Fassel

Jim Fassel	1997	1st	10 5 1
Jim Fassel	1998	3rd	8 8 0 —
Jim Fassel	1999	3rd	7 9 0 —
Jim Fassel	2000	1 st	12 4 0
Jim Fassel	2001	3rd	7 9 0
Jim Fassel	2002	2nd	10 6 0
Jim Fassel	2003	4th	4 12 0 —

1997-2003 Jim Fassel final record (58-53-1)

Jim Fassel takes the Big Reins at the NY Giants

When the NY Giants stumble, they most often fall. Dan Reeves was a great coach at Denver and had moments of brilliance with the Giants but he lacked consistency. Perhaps with more time, he would have made the Giants contender, but... It is a perhaps that would never be answered as the team found a new coach, Jim Fassel.

Known across the league as a quarterback guru, Jim Fassel was named the New York Giants' coach Wednesday, accepting the tall task of bringing back to life the NFL's worst offense and developing Dave Brown, a QB with prospects into a bona fide quarterback.

Fassel, 47, took over the team that we have been following in this book. The Giants have missed the playoffs the last three seasons and that has made the postseason once since Bill Parcells resigned after the Super Bowl XXV party victory in January 1991.

Fassel is familiar with the Giants landscape having served as a Giant assistant under Ray Handley in 1991 and '92. His deal was not too flashy but not too shabby either with a four-year, \$3.2-million contract to replace Dan Reeves. Reeves, of course was fired on Dec. 23 after New York (6-10) posted its second consecutive terrible losing season.

"When I left here four years ago, there was something inside of me that I had a very good feeling about this organization, there was a lot

of work that I felt was left to be done," said Fassel, who was the Arizona Cardinals' offensive coordinator last season. "I had a feeling that I wanted to come back here."

Fassel immediately named Brown as his starting quarterback in training camp. The choice of Brown over second-year pro Danny Kanell clearly avoided a quarterback controversy.

"In my determination, right now, Dave Brown is the one closest to being ready to play," Fassel said. "He has more experience in the game. I don't see any . . . technical or physical flaws."

Fassel's work with quarterbacks is well known and well documented. He was one of the best. As former quarterback, he knows the position. He recruited John Elway to Stanford; helped Scott Mitchell set NCAA records at Utah and, after leaving the Giants, worked well with Elway, Jeff Hostetler, Boomer Esiason and Kent Graham while at Denver, Oakland and Arizona.

Fassel emerged as the leading contender since General Manager George Young began his head coach search, with the only serious challenge coming from Michigan State Coach Nick Saban. However, Saban's salary demands pushed him out of the picture over the weekend. For the record, Saban is doing well today without the Giants pulling in at least \$8.3 million per year coaching Alabama. Sometimes you have to pay for talent.

Young was not available to talk about the search at the time and did not want to discuss his rationale, particularly questions about whether Parcells was considered for the opening. Parcells' contract with the New England Patriots was to expire after the Super Bowl and there had been rumors that he wanted to return to his native New Jersey. Let's say that a team that would not afford Nick Saban would choose not to afford what Bill Parcells was worth at the time—especially right after a Super Bowl. And, I am not suggesting Fassel was a bad choice. He was a fine coach.

"We wanted someone who would help us now," John Mara, the Giants' executive vice president, said. "I think he [Fassel] has that ability. We felt he was the best coach available today."

Reeves looked like he had landed on his feet and appeared at the time to be the choice for the Atlanta Falcons' coaching job, with only the final details on a contract remaining to be negotiated, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported. Dan Reeves, a fine coach moved on and spent seven years coaching the Atlanta Falcons after the Giants.

1997 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1997 professional football season. The 1997 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-third professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his first of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 73rd season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants came back from their 6-10 finish under Dan Reeves and had a very nice 10-5-1 season record. This was under Jim Fassel, and the Giants came in first place in the NFC East Division.

The Giants season and home opener was played on August 31, 1997 as the New York Giants whipped the Philadelphia Eagles W (31-17) before 77,344. At Jacksonville on Sep 7, 1997 at Jacksonville Jaguars L 40-13 FOX 4:00et 70,581. At home on Sep 14, the Baltimore Ravens beat the NY Giants L (23-24) before 69,768. Then, on Sep 21 at St. Louis, the Rams beat the Giants L (3-13) before 64,642

On Sep 28 at home, the Giants beat the New Orleans Saints W (14-9) before 68,891. Then, at home again on Oct 5, the Giants beat the Dallas Cowboys W (20-17) before 77,137. On Oct 12 at Arizona, the Giants whooped the Cardinals W (27-13) before 38,959. Then, on Oct 19, at Detroit, the Giants beat the Lions in OT W (26-20), before 70,069

At home on Oct 26, the Giants defeated the Cincinnati Bengals W (29-27) before 72,584, On Nov 2, the Giants drew a bye. Then, on Nov 9, at Tennessee, the Oilers beat the Giants L (6-10) before 26,744. At home on Nov 16, the Giants defeated the Arizona

Cardinals W (19–10) before 68,316. Then, on Nov 23, at Washington, the Redskins tied the Giants T (7–7) in OT before 75,703. Then, on November 30, at home, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat the Giants L (8–20) before 68,678

On Dec 7 at Philadelphia, the Giants beat the Eagles W (31–21) before 67,084. At home on Dec 13, the Giants pounded the Washington Redskins W (30–10) before 77,571. In the season finale on Dec 21, at Dallas, the Giants smothered the Cowboys W (20–7) before 63,746.

1998 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1998 professional football season. The 1998 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-fourth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his second of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 74th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants did not do as well as their 10-5-1 finish in 1997 but had an OK 8-8 season record. The Giants came in third place in the NFC East Division. The 1998 Giants also missed the playoffs.

The home and season opener for the New York Giants was on September 6, 1998 as New York defeated the Washington Redskins W (31–24) before 76,629. At Oakland on Sep 13, the Raiders beat the Giants L (17–20) before 40,545. At home in Giants stadium on Sep 21, the Dallas Cowboys pounded the Giants L (7–31) before 78,039. At San Diego on Sep 27, the Giants whipped the Chargers W (34–16) before 55,672.

At Tampa Bay on Oct 4, the Buccaneers beat the Giants L (3–20) before 64,989. At home, on Oct 11, the Atlanta Falcons overpowered the Giants L (20–34) before 71,173. At home on Oct 18, the Giants walloped the Arizona Cardinals W (34–7) before 70,456. On Oct 25, the Giants drew a bye. Then, on Nov 1, at home, the Washington Redskins defeated the Giants L (14–21) before 67,976.

At Dallas, on Nov 8, the Cowboys beat the Giants L (6–16) before 64,316. On Nov 15, at home, the Green Bay Packers shellacked the New York Giants L (3–37) before 76,272. Then, on Nov 22, at home, the Philadelphia Eagles shut out the NY Giants W (20–0) before 65,763. On Nov 30, at San Francisco, the 49ers whipped the Giants before 68,212. On Dec 6, at Arizona, the Giants beat the Cardinals W 23–19 before 46,128.

On Dec 13, at home, the Giants defeated the Denver Broncos W (20–16) before 72,336. On Dec 20, at home, the Giants took it to the Kansas City Chiefs W (28–7) before 66,040. In the season finale at Philadelphia on Dec 27, the Giants whipped the Eagles W (20–10).

1999 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1999 professional football season. The 1999 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-fifth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his third of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 75th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants did not do as well as their 8-8 finish in 1998. They lost one more game and finished at 7-0 for the season. The Giants came in third place again in the NFC East Division. The Giants won only seven games and missed the playoffs for the second straight season.

In the Season opener on September 12, 1999 at Tampa Bay, the Giants defeated the Buccaneers W (17–13) before 65,026. At home on Sep 19, the Washington Redskins clobbered the Giants L (21–50) before 73,170. Then, on Sep 26 at New England, the Patriots beat the Giants L (14–16) before 59,169. On Oct 3, at home, the Giants nosed out the Philadelphia Eagles W (16–15) before 73,274.

At Arizona on Oct 10, the Cardinals beat the G1999 at Arizona Cardinals L 3–14 before 49,015. On Oct 18, at home, the New York Giants beat the Dallas Cowboys W (13–10) before 78,204.

Then, on Oct 24, at home, New York pounded the New Orleans Saints W (31–3) before 77,982. At Philadelphia on Oct 31, the Giants beat the Eagles W (23–17) before 66,481. On Nov 6, The Giants drew a bye.

On Nov 14, at home in Giants Stadium, the Indianapolis Colts defeated the Giants L (19–27) before 78,081. At Washington, on Nov 21, the Redskins beat the Giants L (13–23) before 78,641. On Nov 28, at home, the Arizona Cardinals beat the Giants L (24–34) before 77,809. On Dec 5, at home in Giants Stadium, the New York Giants defeated the NY Jets W (41–28) before 78,200.

At Buffalo, on Dec 12, the Giants beat the Bills W (19–17) before 72,527. Then, at St. Louis, on Dec 19, the Rams trounced the Giants L (10–31) before 66,065. Then, at home on Dec 26, the Minnesota Vikings lambasted the Giants L (34–17) before 78,095. In the season finale on Jan 2, at Dallas, the Cowboys prevailed L (18–26) before 63,767.

2000 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2000 professional football season. The 2000 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-sixth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his fourth of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 76th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants were tops in the AFC East. The Giants came in first in the NFC East Division at 12-4. The Giants won twelve games and made the playoffs for the first time in four years. They made it to the Super Bowl.

In the playoffs, they defeated the Philadelphia Eagles in the Divisional round 20–10, then they shut out the Minnesota Vikings in the NFC Championship game 41–0, making it to the Super Bowl. They ran out of steam against the Baltimore Ravens in the Super Bowl who defeated the Giants L (7–34).

Games of the Giants 2000 Season

In the Season opener on September 3, 1999 at home, the Giants defeated the Arizona Cardinals W (21–16) before 77,434. At Philadelphia on Sep 10, the Giants clobbered the Eagles W (33–18) before 73,170. On Sep 17, at Chicago, the Giants beat the Bears W 14–7 before 66,944. Then, on Sep 24, at home, the Washington Redskins beat the Giants L (6–16) before 78,216.

At Tennessee on Oct 1, the Titans beat the Giants L (14–28) before 68,341. At Atlanta on Oct 8, the Giants beat the Falcons W (13–6) before 50,947. On Oct 15, at home, the Giants beat the Dallas Cowboys W (19–14) before 78,189. This week Oct 22, the Giants drew a Bye. On Oct 29, at home the Giants defeated the Philadelphia Eagles W (24–7) before 78,087.

At Cleveland on Nov 5, the Giants overpowered the Browns W (24–3) before 72,718. Then, at home on Nov 12, the St. Louis Rams beat the Giants L (24–38) 78,174. At home on Nov 19, the Detroit Lions beat the Giants L (21–31) before 77,897. After this game, remember Jim Fassel announced publicly that the Giants would be in the 2000 playoff picture for sure. The Giants then won five straight.

On Nov 26, at Arizona, the Giants blew away the Cardinals W (31–7) before 42,094. At Washington on Dec 3, the Giants edged out the Redskins W (9–7) before 83,485. At home on Dec 10, the Giants beat the Pittsburgh Steelers W (30–10) before 78,164. At Dallas on Dec 17, the Giants beat the Cowboys W (17–13) before 61,311. Then, at home in the season finale at Giants Stadium, on Dec 23, New York nipped the Jacksonville Jaguars W (28–25) before 77,924.

The Playoffs

Divisional Playoffs

This is the year that might have been and should have been. The Giants stopped winning one game short of a Super Bowl Ring. In the divisional playoffs, the Giants beat the Eagles along with their MVP runner-up Donovan McNabb. In the game rookie WR Ron Dixon returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown, and Jason Sehorn

intercepted a McNabb pass for a touchdown. The win was the third by the Giants over the Eagles for the season. Giants fans always love a few good victories over the Eagles

NFC Championship

In the NFC Championship against the favored Minnesota Vikings, this year's hero QB Kerry Collins threw five touchdowns. These included two TDs to Ike Hilliard. The Giants moved on to the franchise's 3rd Super Bowl by demolishing Minnesota 41–0.

Combined with the Giants only other NFC championship game played at home (1986), the Giants have outscored their two opponents 58–0 in home NFC championship games. My guess is that Jim Fassel would have liked to save some of those points for the Super Bowl.

Super Bowl XXXV Giants v Ravens

In the Super Bowl, playing against what many pundits were calling the greatest defense in history, the Giants were dominated and lost control of the outcome of Super Bowl XXXV. The Ravens dominated and knocked off the Giants 34-7.

Instead of four touchdowns, Kerry Collins was off and he pitched four interceptions instead, including one that was returned for a score. The Giants got their only TD on a Ron Dixon 97-yd second-half kickoff return. It was the Giants' only Super Bowl loss—EVER!. There were no offensive or defensive scores for the Giants.

At the end of the long and arduous 2000 football season with sixteen regular season games and three sets of playoff games, the teams had been selected by match play and this year's Super Bowl XXXV (35) game was played on January 28, 2001 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Florida. The contestants were the champions of the (AFC) champion Baltimore Ravens and the National Football Conference (NFC) champion New York Giants.

The prize was the National Football League (NFL) championship for the 2000 season. In this game, The Ravens got the best of the Giants by a score of 34–7. This game margin came in as a tie for the seventh largest Super Bowl margin of victory with a game that had not been played yet Super Bowl XXXVII.

Both the Ravens and the Giants finished the regular season at 12-4. The Ravens needed to play a Wild-Card game to win their division. keep They became the third wild card team to win the Super Bowl and the second in four years.

Baltimore held the Giants to only 152 yards of offense. This was the third-lowest total ever in a Super Bowl. They recorded 4 sacks, and they forced 5 turnovers. All 16 of the Giants' possessions even their lone TD (came on a Kickoff Return scored by Special Teams) ended with punts or interceptions, with the exception of the last one, which ended when time expired in the game.

New Yorkers grabbed just one TD -- a 97-yard kickoff return that was quickly answered by Baltimore on an 84-yard touchdown return on the ensuing kickoff. The Giants became the first team since the Cincinnati Bengals in Super Bowl XXIII to not score an offensive touchdown and the fifth overall (joining the Bengals as well as the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IX, the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl VII, and the Miami Dolphins in Super Bowl VI, and subsequently the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl LIII.) Baltimore linebacker Ray Lewis, who made 3 solo tackles, 2 assists, and blocked 4 passes, was named Super Bowl MVP.

In the First Quarter, both defenses dominated early as the first five possessions of the game ended in punts. On the fifth punt, Ravens kickoff/punt returner Jermaine Lewis took the ball 33 yards to the New York 31-yard line. Baltimore took only two plays to score as QB Trent Dilfer struck on a 38-yard scoring strike to wide receiver Brandon Stokley.

Early in the second quarter, holding nullified a Giant interception. Jessie Armstead had a 43-yard interception return for a touchdown that would have tied the game but he did not get it. Later in Q2, Dilfer tossed a 44-yard completion to Qadry Ismail which set up a 47-yard field goal by Ravens kicker Matt Stover. Baltimore was up 0–

0. After Tiki Barber's 27-yard run, the Giants got to the Ravens' 29-yard line, but Baltimore defensive back Chris McAlister intercepted a Kerry Collins pass from quarterback Kerry Collins to keep NY scoreless at halftime.

The Giants forced the Ravens to punt in the third Q on the opening drive of the second half. Five plays later, Ravens intercepted Collins again and they advanced to the 24-yard line, and Stover missed a 41-yard field goal attempt. Punts were exchanged then Duane Starks intercepted a pass from Collins and returned it 49 yards for a touchdown. This set off a major chain of events unseen in Super Bowl history. Three touchdowns were scored on three consecutive plays in 36 seconds.

On the ensuing kickoff, Ron Dixon returned the ball 97 yards for the Giants' first and only score of the game. Then, Jermaine Lewis took the next kickoff 84 yards for a touchdown, making the score 24-7 for the Ravens. This was the first time in history two kickoffs were returned for touchdowns in the same Super Bowl game, and on back-to-back kickoffs.

In the fourth quarter, the Giants got the ball four more times and they were able to muster just one first down on their final four possessions. They were never able to move the ball into Baltimore

2001 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2001 professional football season. The 2001 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-seventh professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his fifth of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 77th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants were tops in the AFC East. The Giants came in third in the NFC East Division at 7-9. The Giants won seven games and after making the playoffs in 2000, did not repeat this year in 2001.

The 2001 Giants were returning as Super Bowl runners-up from the 2000 season after losing Super Bowl XXXV to the Baltimore Ravens. The Giants tried to improve on their 12-4 record from the previous year, but instead they went 7-9 and they missed the playoffs for the first time since 1999. Nobody likes to miss the playoffs.

The Giants season opener was played on Sep 10 at Denver as the Broncos defeated the Giants L (20-31). Coming back from Denver, the Giants' plane returned to Newark Liberty International Airport at 6 am, only hours before the 9/11 attacks commenced. The game was watched by 75,735. On Sep 23 at Kansas City, the Giants beat the Chiefs W (13-3) before 77,666. At home on Sep 30, the Giants defeated the New Orleans Saints W (21-13) before 78,441. Then at home, on Oct 7, the Giants beat the Washington Redskins W (23-9) before 78,651.

At St. Louis on Oct 14, the Rams nosed out the Giants L (14-15) before 65,992. On Oct 22, at home in Giants Stadium, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Giants in a nail-biter L (9-10) before 78,821. At Washington, on Oct 28 the Redskins beat the Giants L (21-35) before 80,316. Then, on Nov 4 at Giants Stadium (Home), the New York Giants edged out the Dallas Cowboys W (27-24) before 78,673.

At Arizona on Nov 11, the Cardinals defeated the Giants W (17-10) before 36,917. Then, at Minnesota on Nov 19, the Vikings peppered the Giants L (16-28) before 64,283. Then on Nov 25, the Oakland raiders whipped the NY Giants L (10-28) before 78,756. On Dec 2, the Giants drew a late season bye. On Dec 9 at Dallas, the Cowboys outslugged the Giants L (13-20) before 61,821.

On Dec 15 at home, the Giants beat the Arizona Cardinals W (17-13) before 77,913. At home in Giants Stadium on Dec 23, New York defeated the Seattle Seahawks W (27-24) before 78,119. Then, on Dec 30 at Philadelphia, the Eagles defeated the Giants L (21-24) before 65,885. On Jan 6, at home in the season finale, the Green Bay Packers beat the Giants L (25-34) before 78,601.

2002 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2002 professional football season. The 2002 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-eighth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his sixth of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 78th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants improved upon their previous season's 7–9 were second in the AFC East at 10–6. The Giants won ten games and after not making the playoffs in 2001, they played in the Wild Card game this year.

It was a good year but a disappointment. The team won ten games and returned to the playoffs for the second time in three years, ended the 2002 season a four-game winning streak. The team went through a mid-season slump after which, head coach Jim Fassel stripped offensive coordinator Sean Payton of play calling duties, and the Giants went on a tear that would carry them to the playoffs.

They had the Wild Card Playoff Game won with a lead of 35–14 in the third quarter at San Francisco, when it started. Jeremy Shockey dropped a touchdown pass forcing a field goal to make the score 38–14. Fassel decided to rest starting running back Tiki Barber to save him for the next round, but the 49ers gained momentum, and the Giants did not score again, losing the game by a scant point 39–38. Following the season, Payton was not retained. He learned some lesson that year as he came back and won the Super Bowl seven years later as the head coach of the New Orleans Saints.

Games of the 2002 Season

On Sep 5 in the season and home opener, the San Francisco 49ers beat the Giants L (13–16) before 78,748. Then, on Sep 15 at St. Louis, the Giants beat the Rams W (26–21) at the Edward Jones Dome before 65,932. On Sep 22, the Giants beat the Seattle Seahawks W (9–6) in Giants Stadium before 78,551. Then, on Sep 29 at Arizona,

the Cardinals beat the Giants L (7-21) at Sun Devil Stadium before 30,014.

At Dallas on Oct 6, the Giants beat the Cowboys W (21-17) in Texas Stadium before 63,447. On Oct 13, the Atlanta Falcons beat the Giants L (10-17) at Giants Stadium before 78,728. On Oct 20, the Giants drew a bye, On Oct 28 at Philadelphia, the Eagles beat the Giants L (3-17) at Veterans Stadium before 65,791. At home on Nov 03, the Giants defeated the Jacksonville Jaguars W (24-17) in Giants Stadium before 78,337.

On Nov 10 at Minnesota, the Giants defeated the Vikings W (27-20) at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome before 64,005. On Nov 17, the Giants defeated the Washington Redskins W (19-17) at Giants Stadium before 78,727. At Houston, on Nov 24, the Texans beat the Giants in a nail-biter L (14-16) at Reliant Stadium before 70,054. On Dec 1, the Tennessee Titans defeated the Giants L (29-32) at Giants Stadium before 78,640.

At Washington on Dec 8, the Giants beat the Redskins W (27-21) at FedExField before 78,635. At Giants Stadium on Dec 15, the Giants pounded the Dallas Cowboys W (37-7) before 78,698. Then, on Dec 22 at Indianapolis, the Giants beat the Colts W (44-27) at the RCA Dome before 56,579. At home in the season finale, the Giants edged out the Philadelphia Eagles on Dec 28 W (10-7).

Playoffs

Wild Card: Giants 38 @ San Francisco 49ers 39

January 5, 2003: 1:45 PM; at 3Com Park, San Francisco, California

The Giants began to build their big advantage during the final minutes of the first half. Collins & Company drove down on the next drive for another touchdown, Kerry Collins again connecting with Amani Toomer for an 8-yard touchdown with 2:49 to go in the first half. After an interception of Jeff Garcia, Collins threw yet another touchdown to Toomer for his third of the game, and the had a commanding 28-14 lead at the half.

Out of nowhere, after three minutes, with 14:55 to go in the game, the Giants were only leading by one score 38-30. The Giants were flat like they had nothing left.

The 49ers were still playing while the Giants were going through the motions. They drove 68 yards down the field, with Garcia finding Tai Streets on a 13-yard touchdown toss with just 1:05 to go. The Giants were now losing a game they had been winning by 24 points. They looked like an “I can’t” team losing at the time 39-38. The Giants could not regain their composure.

The 2002 Wild Card against the 49ers is among the most devastating losses in Giants history—not only for its comeback and ending, but also because of the impact on the team. The following season, the Giants fell to 4-12 and tied for last place in the entire league. They were clearly heart-sick. The next year Jim Fassel was fired and Kerry Collins was traded to Oakland, while many key defensive starters left. The team had basically frittered away. As a result, the Wild Card against the 49ers would retrospectively be seen by Giants fans as the beginning of the end of the Jim Fassel era. The Tom Coughlin era was around the corner.

2003 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL’s 2003 professional football season. The 2003 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-ninth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his seventh and last of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 79th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants were at the bottom of their game with a 4-12 season record down from their previous season's 10-6. They came in fourth place in the AFC East. The Giants did not make the playoffs in 2003. Some say they gave up in 2002!

Games of the 2003 Season

In the season opener on Sep 7, 2003 the Giants beat the St. Louis Rams W (23–13) before 78,666. Then, on Sep 15, 2003 at home, the Dallas Cowboys beat the Giants L (32–35) in (OT) before 78,907
 3 September 21, 2003 at Washington Redskins W 24–21 before 84,856. On Sep 28, the Giants drew a bye. Then, on Oct 5, 2003, the Miami Dolphins pounded the Giants L (10–23) before 78,863

At New England on Oct 12, the Patriots beat the Giants L (6–17) before 68,436. At home on Oct 19, 2003, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the NY Giants L (10–14) before 78,883. At Minnesota on Oct 26, the Vikings ripped the Giants W (17–29) before 64,114. At the New York Jets on Nov 2, the Giants prevailed W (28–31) in (OT) before 78,132.

Then at home on Nov 9, the Atlanta Falcons pounded the Giants before 78,813. At Philadelphia on Nov 16, the Eagles whooped the Giants L (10–28) before 67,867. At Tampa Bay, on Nov 24, the Buccaneers were victorious L (13–19) before 65,648. At home on Nov 30, the Buffalo Bills took it to the Giants L (7–24) before 78,481.

At home on Dec 7 in Giants Stadium, the Washington Redskins beat New York L (7–20) before 78,217. At New Orleans, on Dec 14, the Saints shellacked the Giants L (7–45) before 68,399. At Dallas, on Dec 21, the Cowboys ripped the Giants L (3–19) before 64,118. In the season finale on Dec 28, 2003, the Carolina Panthers overwhelmed the New York Giants L (24–37) before 78,130

Jim Fassel off to greener pastures???

Jim Fassel could have lasted for years as a Giants coach but looking at it from the fan side, he seemed to get caught up in the emotions of the game just like the fans. That's why the fans that liked him, liked him. It was the heartache of 2002 that really put him back. Jim Fassel was no slouch. But football is football and there are no guarantees even when the work output is high quality.

As he passes on in this book, Jim Fassel is still one year younger than I. He will never be older. He was a Bill Parcells' protégé and a great football coach in the National Football League (NFL) from 1991 until 2006, finishing his career with the Baltimore Ravens as their offensive coordinator.

Over his sixteen years of coaching his teams, he compiled a cumulative record of 131-124-1. During his career as we just covered, Fassel was the head coach of the New York Giants from 1997 until the 2003 season. If Fassel had just a few more Parcell's lessons on keeping his cool and not letting the bad days get the best of him, he might have had a Parcells-like record because he was all-in the game.

The Giants went 58-53-1 during their seven seasons with Fassel as head coach. Fassel won the NFL's Coach of the Year award in 1997 after guiding the Giants to a 10-5-1 record and a berth in the playoffs. During the 2001 season as the head coach of the New York Giants he coached Michael Strahan to the AP Defensive Player of the Year.

Chapter 19 Coach Tom Coughlin 2004-2015

Coach #17 Tom Coughlin



Tom Coughlin	2004	2nd	6 10 0 —
Tom Coughlin	2005	1 st	11 5 0
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Wild Card playoffs(Panthers) 23–0
Tom Coughlin	2006	3rd	8 8 0
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Wild Card playoffs(at Eagles) 23–20
Tom Coughlin	2007	2 nd	10 6 0
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Wild Card playoffs (at Buccaneers) 24–14 • Won Divisional playoffs (at Cowboys) 21–17 • Won NFC Championship (at Packers) 23–20 (OT) • Won Super Bowl XLII (7)(vs. Patriots) 17–14 • Eli Manning(Super Bowl XLII MVP)[7]
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Coughlin 2008 1st + 12 4 0
Tom Coughlin	2008	1 st	12-4-0
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Divisional playoffs(Eagles) 23–11
Tom Coughlin	2009	3rd	8 8 0 —
Tom Coughlin	2010	2nd	10 6 0 —
Tom Coughlin	2011	1 st	9 7 0
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Wild Card playoffs(Falcons) 24–2 • Won Divisional playoffs (at Packers) 37–20 • Won NFC Championship (at 49ers) 20–17 (OT) • Won Super Bowl XLVI (8)(vs. Patriots) 21–17 • Eli Manning (Super Bowl XLVI MVP)[25]

Tom Coughlin	2012	2nd	9 7 0 —
Tom Coughlin	2013	3rd	7 9 0 —
Tom Coughlin	2014	3rd	6 10 0
			• Odell Beckham Jr.(NFL OROY) ^l
Tom Coughlin	2015	3rd	6 10 0 —

2004-2015 Tom Coughlin final record (108-90-0)

Tom Coughlin new coach at Giants

Former Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Tom Coughlin was hired to replace Jim Fassel, who was fired following the conclusion of the 2003 season. Other departures from the Giants include Kerry Collins, Brian Mitchell, Kenny Holmes, Brandon Short, Cornelius Griffin, Keith Hamilton, Michael Barrow, Matt Bryant. There was some question if in 2004 the Giants would really be the Giants

Tom Coughlin was a great football coach in the National Football League (NFL) from 1984 until 2017. He almost finished his career with the Jacksonville Jaguars as their executive vice president. When the in January 2018, the Jaguars reached the AFC Championship for the first time since he was the head coach of the Jaguars in 1999, Coughlin got good news. On February 23, 2018, the Jaguars extended the ole NY coach's contract through 2021. Coughlin is still in football,

Over his twenty-eight years of coaching his teams compiled a cumulative record of 237-208-2. During his career he was a head coach for twenty seasons. His first head coaching opportunity came with the Jacksonville Jaguars. He led the team for eight seasons, compiling a record of 68-60-0. His next head coaching stint came with the New York Giants.

Tom Coughlin coached the Giants from 2004 to 2015, leading the team to a 102-90-0 record during his twelve seasons as head coach. During his time, he led the Giants to a Super Bowl in both 2007 and 2011. Throughout Coughlin's coaching career his teams led the league in victories during the 1999 season. During the 2014 season as the head coach of the New York Giants he coached Odell Beckham to the AP Offensive Rookie of the Year.

The Giants were 4-8 record in 2003 gave them a tie with San Diego Chargers, Oakland, and Arizona for the worst team in the league. By virtue of a series of tiebreakers, the Giants landed at the fourth pick in the draft and were ready to select Robert Gallery, an offensive tackle from Iowa, or Ben Roethlisberger, a quarterback from Miami of Ohio, with their pick. Another scenario could also have been possible, and this move would set the Giants for the future.

Ole Miss quarterback Eli Manning was a top pick in the past year's draft coming into 2004. Manning knew he would be a pro and let it be known that he did not want to play for the Chargers and would not sign with them even if he was drafted by them.

The Chargers worked out a deal with the Giants before the draft that helped both franchises for the future. The plan was for the Chargers to select Manning first overall as originally intended. But, they would not keep him. Instead, they would take the Giants pick. The Giants plan was to pick quarterback Philip Rivers of North Carolina State, and then swap him and two 2005 draft picks for Manning. Such a deal. Additionally, outside this deal the Giants got former Boston College offensive guard Chris Snee, Auburn linebacker Reggie Torbor, and strong safety Gabriel Wilson.

As we discussed, the Giants traded for Eli Manning this season, but the season began with veteran quarterback and former league MVP Kurt Warner as the Giants' starter. After a season-opening loss to the Philadelphia Eagles, Warner and his Giants team enjoyed some unexpected success. It began with a four-game winning streak, including away victories over Dallas and Green Bay Packers. After a Halloween rout of the Minnesota Vikings, 34-14, the Giants were 5-2 on the season and looking good. They were trailing the then-undefeated Philadelphia Eagles by just two games.

Could they sustain the success? The best it got for the Giants season was on November 7. The Giants were leading the Bears 14-0 as the second quarter began. But, in the rest of the game, the Giants turned the ball over five times and allowed the Bears to score 28 unanswered points (20 in the second quarter) causing them to lose by a score of 28-21. After another loss, this time on the road against the Arizona Cardinals, Giants coach Tom Coughlin decided to replace Warner with Eli Manning. His decision did not pay off as the Giants turned

the ball over ten times in the next four games, scoring a total of 37 points.

And so, the pundits and a lot of fans blame close losses to the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Bengals, for dropping the Giants to 5–10 with just one game left. Yet, despite the poor five game stint, there was still a slim chance for success. The season ended with a win as the Giants rallied from a 16–7 fourth quarter deficit to end the season with a season-ending 28–24 victory over the rival Dallas Cowboys. Manning looked good, throwing two fourth-quarter touchdown passes, and Tiki Barber scored the game winner. Giants fans had 2005 to look forward to.

2004 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2004 professional football season. The 2004 New York Giants football team competed in their eightieth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his first of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 80th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants finished in second place in the NFC East with a 6-10 season record up from their previous season's 4-12. The Giants did not make the playoffs with Tom Coughlin's first year at the helm in 2004.

Games of the 2004 Season

In the season opener at Philadelphia, on September 12, 2004, the Eagles defeated the Giants L (17–31) before 67,532. Then, at Giants Stadium for the Home Opener, the Giants defeated the Washington Redskins W (20–14) before 78,767. At home again on Sep 26, the Giants beat the Cleveland Browns W (27–10) before 78,521. Then on Oct 3, at Green Bay, the Giants beat the Packers W (14–7) before 70,623.

At Dallas on Oct 10, the Giants whipped the Cowboys W (26–10) before 64,018. On Oct 17, the Giants drew a bye; On Oct 24, at home, Detroit Lions beat the Giants L (13–28) before 78,841. At Minnesota on Oct 31, the Giants pounded the Vikings W (34–13) before 64,012. At home, on Nov 7, the Chicago Bears beat the Giants L (21–28) before 78,786.

At Arizona on Nov 14, the Cardinals beat the Giants L (14–17) before 42,297. At home in Giants Stadium, on Nov 21, the Atlanta Falcons defeated the Giants L (10–14) before 78,793. Then, on Nov 28, at home the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Giants L (6–27) before 78,830. At Washington on Dec 5, the Redskins pounded the Giants L (7–31) before 87,872

At Baltimore on Dec 12, the Ravens shellacked the Giants L (14–37) before 69,856. At home on Dec 18, the Pittsburgh Steelers edged out the Giants L (30–33) before 78,836. Then, on Dec 26 at Cincinnati, the Bengals nosed out the Giants L (22–23) before 64,606. In the season finale on January 2, 2005, the Giants broke their losing streak and finished the season with a win against the Dallas Cowboys W (28–24) before 78,500.

2005 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2005 professional football season. The 2005 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-first professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his second of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 81st season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants finished in first place in the NFC East with an 11-5 season which was a big improvement over the prior year's 6-10 record. The Giants made the playoffs but lost to the Carolina Panthers in the NFC Wild Card Playoff Game.

Looking to improve the team in the draft and any way they could, the Giants acquired former Steelers' wide receiver Plaxico Burress as a free agent. Also, during the 2005 Draft, the Giants used their first pick on Louisiana State cornerback Corey Webster. They then used their next pick on Notre Dame defensive end Justin Tuck. The rest of their picks included Southern Illinois running back Brandon Jacobs and Florida State defensive end Eric Moore.

Games of the 2005 Season

In the home opener on Sep 11, 2005 the Giants shellacked the Arizona Cardinals W (42–19) before 78,387. Then, at New Orleans on Sep 19, the Saints were beaten by the Giants W (27–10) before 68,031. At San Diego on Sep 25, the Chargers out-charged the Giants by a big measure L (23–45) before 65,373. On Oct 2, the Giants pounded the St. Louis Rams W (44–24) before 78,453. On Oct 9, the Giants drew a bye.

At Dallas, on Oct 16, the Cowboys edged out the Giants L (13–16) before 62,278. At home in Giants Stadium on Oct 23, the Giants nosed out the Denver Broncos W (24–23) before 78,516. On Oct 30, at home, the Giants decimated the Washington Redskins by shutout W (36–0) before 78,630. At San Francisco, the Giants pounded the 49ers on Nov 6, W (24–6) before 63,820. Tom Coughlin really had the team moving.

On Nov 13, at home, the Minnesota Vikings edged out the Giants L (21–24) before 78,637. At home on Nov 20, 2005, the Giants defeated the Philadelphia Eagles W (27–17) before 78,626. At Seattle on Nov 27, the Seahawks edged out the Giants L (21–24) before 67,102. At home on Dec 4, the Giants whipped the Dallas Cowboys W (17–10) before 78,645

At Philadelphia on Dec 11, the Giants beat the Eagles W (26–23) before 67,443. At home on Dec 17, the Giants defeated the Kansas City Chiefs W (27–17) before 78,625. At Washington on Dec 24, the Redskins got the best of the Giants L (20–35) before 90,477. In the season finale, on December 31, 2005, the NY Giants beat the Oakland Raiders W (30–21) before 44,594. Tom Coughlin prepared his team for the playoffs.

Unfortunately, in his first NFL successful year for the Giants, Coach Coughlin did not have all his marbles lined up for the Wild Card match on January 8, 2006 against the Carolina Panthers, and he had to observe his Giants in a predicament for the whole game and a loss that ended the playoffs for the Giants L (0–23) before 79,378.

2006 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2006 professional football season. The 2006 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-second professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his third of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 82nd season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants finished in first place in the NFC East with an 11-5 season which was a big improvement over the prior year's 6-10 record. The Giants made the playoffs but lost to the Carolina Panthers in the NFC Wild Card Playoff Game.

The Giants under Tom Coughlin began the season with the team trying to improve on their prior 11–5 record from 2005. You remember that the Giants in 2005 saw them win the NFC East. In this year, 2006, their record slipped to 8-8. They did not win the NFC East or improve on that 11-5 record, even after beginning the season at 6–2.

Games of the 2006 Season

In the home and season opener at Giants Stadium, on September 10, 2006, the Indianapolis Colts defeated the New York Giants Stadium L (21-26). On Sep 17 at Philadelphia, the Giants beat the Eagles W (30–24) in Lincoln Financial Field. On Sep 24 at Seattle, the Seahawks overpowered the Giants L (30–42) at Qwest Field. On Oct1, the Giants drew a bye. On Oct 8, at home in Giants Stadium, New York defeated the Washington Redskins W 19–3.

At Atlanta on Oct 15, the Giants beat the Falcons W (27–14) in the Georgia Dome. At Dallas, on Oct 23, the Giants beat the Cowboys W (36–22) in Texas Stadium. Then, at home, on Oct 29, 2006, the Giants defeated the Tampa Bay Buccaneers W (17–3) in Giants Stadium. At home on Nov 5, the Giants beat the Houston Texans W (14–10) in Giants Stadium.

At home on Nov 12, the Chicago Bears whipped the Giants L (20–38) at Giants Stadium. At Jacksonville, on Nov 20, the Jaguars pounded the Giants L (10–26) at Alltel Stadium. Then, on Nov 26, at Tennessee, the Titans edged out the Giants L (21–24) at LP Field. On Dec 3, at home, the Dallas Cowboys beat the Giants L (20–23) at Giants Stadium.

At Carolina, on Dec 10, the Giants beat the Panthers W (27–13) at Bank of America Stadium. On Dec 17, at home, the Philadelphia Eagles overpowered New York L (22–36). At Giants Stadium on Dec 24, at home, the New Orleans Saints pounded the Giants L (7–30) at Giants Stadium. Then, in the season finale, on December 30, 2006 at Washington, the Eagles won their final game of the regular season v the Redskins W (34–28) at FedExField.

Wildcard Playoffs

The Giants lost L (20-23). This match was a close one played on January 7, 2007 at 4:39 PM EST in 52 degree. There were almost ideal weather conditions of partly cloudy. The Giants lost against the Philadelphia Eagles in Lincoln Financial Field. 69,094 saw the game in person.

Burress got the final third down. Then, Manning threw a bullet pass to Burress for the touchdown to tie the score. Then, the Giants failed to stop Westbrook. On safe passes and runs until David Akers got in position for the game winning kick as the clock ran out.

2007 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2007 professional football season. The 2007 New York

Giants football team competed in their eighty-third professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his fourth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 83rd season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants finished in second place in the NFC East with a 10-6 regular season which was a big improvement over the prior year's 8-8 record. The Giants made the playoffs and won all the way out capturing the first Tom Coughlin / Eli Manning Super Bowl

The 2007 Giants qualified for the playoffs as a wild-card team. They were a #5 seed. The Giants won the Super Bowl without having won the Division in the regular season. They came in second.

Regular Games of Super Bowl Season 2007

The season opener was played a Dallas on September 9 at 8:15 p.m. as the Cowboys beat the Giants in the first game of a season in which the Giants would win the Super Bowl. This game, the score was L (35–45) at Texas Stadium. The Giants lost their second game of the season on September 16 as they were pounded by the Green Bay Packers L (13–35) at Giants Stadium. It was game three in which the Giants won their first game of the season at Washington on Sep 23 as they beat the Redskins W (24–17) at FedExField. Then, on Sep 30, the Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (16–3) at Giants Stadium.

On Oct 7, the Giants beat the New York Jets W (35–24) at Giants Stadium. At Atlanta on Oct 15, the Giants pasted the Falcons W (31–10) at the Georgia Dome. Then, on Oct 21, the Giants knocked off the San Francisco 49ers W (33–15) at Giants Stadium. At Miami on Oct 28, the Giants edged out the Dolphins W (13–10) at Wembley Stadium in London, England. On Nov 4, the Giants drew a bye.

On Nov 11 the Dallas Cowboys defeated the New York Giants L (20–31) at Giants Stadium bringing the Giants record to 6–3. On Nov 18, at Detroit, the Giants beat the Lions W (16–10) at Ford Field. On Nov 25, the Minnesota Vikings pounded the Giants L (17–

41) at Giants Stadium. At Chicago on Dec 2, the Giants brought their record to 8-4 after beating the Bears W (21–16) at Soldier Field.

At Philadelphia on Dec 9, the Giants beat the Eagles W (16–13) at Lincoln Financial Field. Then, on Dec 16, the Washington Redskins defeated the Giants L (10–22) at Giants Stadium. On Dec 23 at Buffalo, the Giants beat the Bills W (38–21) at Ralph Wilson Stadium. In the season finale, on December 29 at 8:15 p.m., the undefeated New England Patriots beat the Giants L (35–38) in Giants Stadium. The next time these two teams would meet would be in the Super Bowl.

The brief 2007 Post Season happenings were as follows.

On January 6 at 1:00 p.m. at Tampa Bay, the Giants beat the Buccaneers W (24–14) in the Wildcard playoffs in Raymond James Stadium.

On January 13 at 4:30 p.m. at Dallas, the Giants beat the Cowboys in the Divisional Championship W (21–17) at Texas Stadium 2–0

On January 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Green Bay, the Giants beat the Packers W (23–20) in the Conference Championship at Lambeau Field.

On February 3 at 6:30 p.m. in a neutral field, the Giants beat the New England Patriots W (17–14) to win the Super Bowl at University of Phoenix Stadium

2007 NFC Wild Card Game Giants v Tampa Bay Buccaneers

The Giants made the playoffs for the NFC Wild Card game on January 6, 2008 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Florida. Over 65,620 attended the game in balmy 70-degree weather for the 1:00 PM kickoff time. The Giants prevailed 24–14 over the Tampa Bay

Buccaneers ending their end of season slide. Eli Manning came of age in this game as he won his first career playoff game. Tom Coughlin won his first playoff game with the Giants.

2007 NFC Divisional Game

Giants at Dallas Cowboys[edit]

The Giants made the playoffs for the NFC Divisional Championship game on January 13, 2008 at Texas Stadium in Irving, Texas. Over 63,500 attended the game in balmy 59-degree weather for the 4:30 PM kickoff time. The Giants prevailed 21–17 over the Dallas Cowboys ending the Cowboys season.

The second half was all about defense as both teams totaled 10 points in the second half.

Though Dallas dominated the game statistically, outgaining the Giants 336-230 and controlled the ball for 36:30 compared to the Giants 23:30, they also committed 11 penalties compared to just three by the Giants. Romo outgunned Manning through the air, Manning's QB rating for the game was 132.4 compared to Romo's 64.7. The Giants were off to Green Bay after the Game for the NFC Championship

2007 NFC Championship Game

Giants v Green Bay Packers

At 1 degree it is safe to say it was a freezing night in which the Giants faced the second-seeded Green Bay Packers. T

The Packers defense shut the Giants' passing game down so the Giants settled for a second Tynes field goal at 11:41 left in the half.

The Giants got the ball first in the 3rd quarter, and scored on a drive that ended with Brandon Jacobs bulling-in on a 1-yard TD run. The Giants led 13–10. Then Brett Favre threw a 12-yard TD pass to tight end Donald Lee. The Packers led 17–13.

The Giants came back to the four-yard line after a 23-yard reception by Amani Toomer Manning then handed off to Ahmad Bradshaw, who went off tackle right but got caught at the one-yard line.

After a Pack field goal, the Giants were ready but Lawrence Tynes missed the 43-yarder. With the game tied, The Packers' next two drives were three-and-out before they punted to the Giants with 2:30 left, Ahmad Bradshaw broke through the Packers' defense for what appeared to be a 48-yard touchdown run, but the play was nullified due to a holding penalty. Undaunted, Manning found Steve Smith for completions of 14 and 11 yards before the Giants killed time for Lawrence Tynes to attempt a game-winning 36-yard field goal. The kick was wide left as time expired. OT

The Packers won the coin toss and got the ball first. Going down the field, Favre dropped back, and in a bonehead play that helped to define his legacy as a "gunslinger," he threw the ball straight towards Webster, who intercepted the pass, making up for an earlier miscue of his end he went five yards before the Packers Donald Driver dragged him down. On this drive, Tynes made up for his miss with 12:29 left in OT.

Before Tynes attempt, no kicker had made a field goal of over 40 yards with the game time temperature below freezing. His attempt first looked wide of the right goalpost, but the wind hooked it left and the kick went just over the crossbar for the game-winning field goal, and the Giants became the 2007 NFC Champions. The Giants beat the Packers, 23–20.

2007 / 2008 Super Bowl XLII

Giants v New England Patriots

The Giants made the Super Bowl to decide the NFL Championship between the AFC and the NFC. The game was played on February 3 at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale Arizona. e on January 20, 2008 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Over 71,100 attended the game in balmy seventy-one-degree weather for the 6:31 PM kickoff time. The Giants prevailed 17–14 over the new England

Patriots putting the first blemish on the Pats 18-0 season and sending them home without a ring. The Giants won all the marbles.

After the traditional two-week wait after the Conference battles, the AFC and the NFC were ready to butt heads. The Giants had beaten the Packers and the flew to the University of Phoenix Stadium for Super Bowl XLII against the undefeated AFC Champions, the New England Patriots, it was in essence a rematch of Week 17. That game ended with the Patriots on top in a very close contest after a comeback. It would be a sign of things to come in this game, but with a reverse ending.

The Giants started the game with the longest opening drive in Super Bowl history. Manning kept the ball moving for 16-plays and gained 77-yards while consuming clock time of 9 minutes, 59 seconds. The drive featured four third-down conversions, which was the most ever on a Super Bowl opening drive. The Patriots said “enough” at their own 14-yard line, where New York delivered the first punch with kicker Lawrence Tynes perfectly nailing a 32-yard field goal for the only score of the First Quarter.

In Q2, the Pats came back with RB Laurence Maroney bulling in with a 1-yard TD run for the only score of the period. The Patriots were up 7-3. There was nothing doing in the scoreless third quarter but the Giants came back strong in the fourth.

They regained the lead when QB Eli Manning completed a 5-yard TD pass to WR David Tyree. New England got the lead bac, when QB Tom Brady completed a 6-yard scoring toss to WR Randy Moss. Afterwards, with only 2 minutes and 40 seconds left, Manning brought the Giants all the way back from their own 17-yard line to the Patriots' 13-yard line. The drive featured a 4th down conversion (a one-yard run by Brandon Jacobs on 4th and inches).

There was also a close call with Eli escaping a sure sack and following through to complete a 32-yard pass to Tyree. From there, Manning hook up with WR Plaxico Burress for the game-clinching TD pass. The Giants defense after that TD did not allow even a single yard. They plagued Brady with one sack and forced three incomplete passes. The Patriots coughed the ball up on downs.



The Giants visiting the White House in honor of their Super Bowl victory on April 30, 2008.

With the win, the Giants finished their championship season with an overall record of 14–6. They became the third team (after the 1993 Cowboys and 2001 Patriots) to win the Super Bowl after beginning the season 0–2 and were the first NFC Wild Card to win the Super Bowl. The victory also gave them their 11th-straight road win (an NFL record).

Eli Manning was named the game's MVP after completing 19 of 34 passes for 255 yards, 2 touchdowns, and an interception; a majority of his offense came in the decisive fourth quarter, completing nine of

14 passes for 152 yards and both touchdowns. The defense had a stellar performance, sacking Patriots QB Tom Brady five times.

Coach Tom Coughlin became the third oldest head coach to win the Super Bowl (61 years and 156 days). Punter Jeff Feagles was the oldest player to play in a Super Bowl, let alone win one.

Eli and Peyton Manning became the first brother QBs to become back-to-back Super Bowl winners and Super Bowl MVPs. Isn't that great! I bet Archie and the family are very proud of both young men. So are we!

2008 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2008 professional football season. The 2008 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-fourth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his fifth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 84th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants finished in first place in the NFC East with a 12-4 regular season which was a nice improvement over the prior year's 10-6 record. The Giants made the playoffs and lost the Divisional Championship and that's all she wrote. No Super Bowl repeat!

They were so good in the 2008 regular season that the Giants finished with the #1 seed in the NFC playoffs for the only time in the Tom Coughlin era. Despite a franchise best 11-1 start and clinching the number 1 seed for the first time in eight years, the Giants lost four of their last five games and got in the mood to lose. The losses included their first playoff game against the Eagles, ending their season. That was a bad mood to catch.

The team Giants qualified for the postseason for the fourth consecutive year, marking the first time in club history that they had accomplished that. This was also the first time that the Giants made the playoffs the year after making the Super Bowl. They missed the playoffs in 1987 with Bill Parcells (following win in Super Bowl

XXI). They missed the playoffs in 1991 again with Bill Parcells (following win in Super Bowl XXV), and 2001 with Jim Fassel (following loss in Super Bowl XXXV).

This season was the last season the Giants had 11+ wins until 8 years later in 2016 when the Giants went 11-5. Tom Coughlin never saw 11 wins for the Giants again but he would find another Super Bowl—but not this year.

The games of the 2008 Season

This was a great regular season for the Giants and it opened up with a win on September 4, 2008 against the Washington Redskins W (16–7) in Giants Stadium. At St. Louis, on Sep 14, the Giants pummeled the Rams W (41–13) at the Edward Jones Dome. On Sep 21, the Giants edged out the Cincinnati Bengals W (26–23) in OT at Giants Stadium. On Sep 28, the Giants drew a bye. Then, on Oct 5, the Giants shellacked the Seattle Seahawks W (44–6) in Giants Stadium

At Cleveland, on Oct 13, the Browns manhandled the Giants L (14–35) at Cleveland Browns Stadium. On Oct 19, the Giants beat the San Francisco 49ers W (29–17) in Giants Stadium. At Pittsburgh on Oct 26, the Giants defeated the Steelers W (21–14) in Heinz Field. Then, on Nov 2, the Giants pounded the Dallas Cowboys W (35–14) in Giants Stadium.

At Philadelphia on Nov 9, the Giants beat the Eagles W (36–31) in Lincoln Financial Field. Then on Nov 16, the Giants defeated the Baltimore Ravens W (30–10) in Giants Stadium. At Arizona on Nov 23, the Giants beat the Arizona Cardinals W (37–29) in University of Phoenix Stadium. At Washington, on Nov 30, the Giants defeated the Redskins W (23–7) in FedExField.

On Dec 7, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the New York Giants L (14–20) in Giants Stadium. At Dallas, on Dec 14, the Cowboys beat New York L (8–20) in Texas Stadium. On Dec 21, the Giants beat the Carolina Panthers W (34–28) in a tough game in OT in Giants Stadium. In the Season finale, at Minnesota, on December 28, 2008, the Vikings put it all together to nose out the defending world champions L 19–20 in the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome.

It is tough to win when you are the Super Bowl Champion of the prior year. The Giants faced the best of the best all year and perhaps were a bit tired out when they automatically made the post season without a Wildcard game. Perhaps the week off hurt more than it helped.

Post Season

2008 NFC Divisional Round

Giants v Philadelphia Eagles

The Giants made the playoffs for the NFC Championship game on January 11, 2009 at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. Over 79,100 attended the game in football weather at 30 degrees weather for the 1:00 PM kickoff time. The Giants lost the game 11–23 over the Philadelphia Eagles ending the Giants Season ‘til the Fall.

The Giants were top seed in the playoffs due to their fine regular season record. Their postseason would begin at home in the NFC Divisional round against their NFC East rival, the #6 Philadelphia Eagles, in Round 3 of 2008's series.

2009 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2009 professional football season. The 2009 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-fifth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his sixth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 85th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants finished in third place in the NFC East with an 8-8 regular season which was a lot less than the prior year's 12-4 record. The Giants did not make the playoffs for the first time in five years,

This was the team's final season in Giants Stadium; In 2010, the Giants would move what was named the New Meadowlands Stadium. In 2009, this year, the Giants were hoping to improve upon their fine first-place 12–4 record, and they were hoping to avenge their divisional round loss to the Eagles and of course they hoped to make the playoffs for the fifth straight year. It did not happen.

Despite starting 5–0 to begin the season, they hit a losing mood and went 3–8 in their next 11 games and finished 3rd in the NFC East. This poor record eliminated them from playoff contention for the first time since 2004 in Week 16.

In the season and home opener, on September 13, 2009, the Giants defeated the Washington Redskins W (23–17) in Giants Stadium. At Dallas on Sep 20, the Giants edged out the Cowboys W (33–31) at Cowboys Stadium. At Tampa Bay on Sep 27, the Giants whipped the Buccaneers in a shutout W (24–0) at Raymond James Stadium. At Kansas City, on October 4, the Giants beat the Chiefs W (27–16) at Arrowhead Stadium.

At Giants Stadium on October 11, the Giants shellacked the Oakland Raiders W (44–7). At New Orleans on Oct 18, the Saints ripped the Giants L (27–48) in the Louisiana Superdome. On Oct 25, the Arizona Cardinals beat New York L (17–24) in Giants Stadium. At Philadelphia on Nov 1, the Eagles pounded the Giants L (17–40) in Lincoln Financial Field.

On Nov 8, the San Diego Chargers nosed out the Giants L (20–21) in Giants Stadium. On Nov 15, New York drew a bye. On Nov 22, the Giants beat the Atlanta Falcons in OT W (34–31) in Giants Stadium. On Nov. 26 (Thursday—Thanksgiving) at Denver, the Broncos pounded the Giants L (6–26) in INVESCO Field at Mile High . Then, on Dec 6, the Giants defeated the Dallas Cowboys W (31–24) in Giants Stadium

On Dec 13, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the NY Giants L (38–45) in Giants Stadium. In a Monday Night game on Dec. 21 at Washington , the Giants shellacked the Redskins W (45–12) at FedExField. On Dec 27 the Carolina Panthers pummeled the Giants L (9–41) in Giants Stadium. The 2009 season finale was played on January 3 at

Minnesota. The Vikings walloped the Giants L (7–44) at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome.

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After the 2009 season, the Giants became the eighth team since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger to miss the playoffs after starting the season 5–0, and the first NFC team since the Vikings in 2003. The Giants had a shot at five playoffs in a row for Tom Coughlin but missed out.

2010 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2010 professional football season. The 2010 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-sixth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his seventh of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 86th season in the NFL. Home games were played in New Meadowlands Stadium. This year, the Giants finished in second place in the NFC East with a 10-6 regular season which was a lot better than the prior year's 8-8 record. The Giants did not make the playoffs for the second time in five years,

This was the team's first season in New Meadowlands Stadium which replaced Giants Stadium. In 2011, the name was changed to MetLife Stadium. Like Giants Stadium, the facility is in East Rutherford, NJ. It is one of the largest NFL Stadiums in existence with 82,500 seats. It is used by both the Jets and the Giants for football and hosts over 20 NFL games each year as well as other events. When the new stadium was used for the first time in 2010, the old Giants Stadium, which was close by was demolished.

Giants Games of the 2010 Season

In the season and home opener played on Sep 12, the Giants defeated the Carolina Panthers W (31–18) in New Meadowlands Stadium. At Indianapolis, on Sep 19, the Colts beat the Giants L (14–38) in Lucas Oil Stadium. On Sep 26, the Tennessee Titans pounded the Giants L (10–29) in New Meadowlands Stadium. Then,

on Oct, the Giants beat the Chicago Bears W (17–3) in New Meadowlands Stadium.

On Oct 10, at Houston, the Giants pounded the Texans W (34–10) in Reliant Stadium. On Oct 17, the Giants defeated the Detroit Lions W (28–20) in New Meadowlands Stadium. Then, on October 25, at Dalla, the Giants outgunned the Cowboys W (41–35) in Cowboys Stadium. On Oct 31, New York drew a bye. At Seattle on Nov 7. The Giants scorched the Seahawks W (41–7) in Qwest Field.

On Nov 14, the Dallas Cowboys overpowered the Giants L (20–33) in New Meadowlands Stadium. Then, on Nov 21 at Philadelphia, the Eagles beat the Giants L (17–27) in Lincoln Financial Field. On Nov28. The Giants defeated the Jacksonville Jaguars W (24–20) in New Meadowlands Stadium. Then, on Dec, the Giants defeated the Washington Redskins W (31–7) in New Meadowlands Stadium.

At Minnesota on Dec 13, the Giants outslugged the Vikings W (21–3) in Ford Field. On Dec 19, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Giants for the second time this season L (31–38) in New Meadowlands Stadium. At Green Bay, on Dec 26, the Packers pounded the Giants L (17–45) in Lambeau Field. At Washington, in the season finale on Jan 2, the Giants defeated the Redskins W (17–14) in FedExField.

With a 10-6 record nonetheless, the Giants failed to make the playoffs.

2011 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2011 professional football season. The 2011 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-seventh professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his eighth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

Games of the 2011 Giants Season

In the season opener on September 11 at Washington, the Redskins beat the New York Giants L (14–28) in FedExField. On Sep 19, the Giants defeated the St. Louis Rams W (28–16) in MetLife Stadium. At Philadelphia on Sep 25, the Giants beat the Eagles W (29–16) in Lincoln Financial Field. Then, on Oct 2 at Arizona, the Giants beat the Cardinals W (31–27) in University of Phoenix Stadium.

On Oct 9, the Seattle Seahawks beat the New York Giants L (25–36) in MetLife Stadium. Then, on Oct 16, the Giants edged out the Buffalo Bills W (27–24) in MetLife Stadium. On Oct 23, New York drew a bye. On Oct 30, the Giants edged out the Miami Dolphins W (20–17) in MetLife Stadium. At New England on Nov 6 the Giants defeated the Patriots W (24–20) in Gillette Stadium.

At San Francisco on Nov 13, the 49ers beat the Giants L (20–27) in Candlestick Park. On Nov 20, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Giants L (10–17) in MetLife Stadium. On Nov 28 at New Orleans, the Saints smashed the Giants L (24–49) in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. On Dec 4, Green Bay edged out the Giants L (35–38) in MetLife Stadium

At Dallas, on Dec 11, the Giants defeated the Cowboys W (37–34) in Cowboys Stadium. On Dec 18, the Washington Redskins slugged the Giants L (10–23) in MetLife Stadium. On Dec 24, the New York Giants drubbed the New York Jets W (29–14) in MetLife Stadium. Then, the Giants won their season finale on January 1, 2012, to gain a playoff berth, walloping the Dallas Cowboys W (31–14) in MetLife Stadium.

2011/2012 Playoffs at a Glance

The Giants played their Wild Card round on January 8 at 1:00 p.m. EST against Atlanta. They beat the Falcons W (24–2) in MetLife Stadium.

In the Divisional round, on January 15 at 4:30 p.m. EST at Green Bay, the Giants defeated the Packers W (37–20) in Lambeau Field

The Giants flew out to San Francisco for the NFC Championship game which they won on January 22 at 6:30 p.m. EST against the 49ers W (20-17) in OT in Candlestick Park.

In another close game, the Giants won the Super Bowl XLVI for their fourth playoff victory in 2011 in a row on February 5 at 6:25 p.m. EST against the perennially great New England Patriots W (21-17) in Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis Indiana.

Recap of the 2011 Playoff Games

NFC Wild Card Game

New York Giants (24) v Atlanta Falcons (2)

In the third quarter. Tynes kicked a 22-yard field goal at the 4:47 marker. Then, Manning caught up with Nicks again with a spot-on 72-yard touchdown pass and another straight-through Tynes extra point.

In the fourth quarter Atlanta was shut out again and Eli Manning connected with Mario Manningham on a nice 27-yard pass. Tynes kept his record clean for the afternoon with a perfect kick at 5:38 remaining in the game. That was all she wrote.
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NFC Divisional Game

NY Giants v Green Bay Packers

January 15 2012

Once the playoffs began, the NY Giants got on a roll that would not stop until everybody on the team had a ring. They orchestrated a second consecutive playoff upset of the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field, knocking out the No. 1 seed, 37-20, to advance to the NFC championship game. It came on the passing of quarterback

Eli Manning, and a great performance by wide receiver Hakeem Nicks and an ever-ready defense.

Manning's final scoring throw for four yards went to wide receiver Mario Manningham with less than seven minutes to play to put the game completely out of reach, 30-13. Green Bay did manage a touchdown shortly thereafter, when Rodgers found wide receiver Donald Driver in the end zone with 4 minutes 46 seconds left, but it was far too little and way too late.

The Giants were off to San Francisco for the right to represent the NFC in Super Bowl XLVI next week. They had last come to Lambeau Field during the playoffs after the 2007 season and that time they rallied for a 23-20 overtime victory on their way to winning Super Bowl XLII.

See you in San Francisco

2011/2012 NFC Championship Game NY Giants (20) v San Fran 49ers (17)

After the NFC Championship and actually well before, the Giants were ready to take off to the Super Bowl. They were chanting "Super Bowl XLVI," here we come! That, of course, happened because the New York Giants defeated the San Francisco 49ers, 20-17, in the NFC Championship Game at Candlestick Park on January 22.

After a 9-7 season, the Giants were tickled to still be engaged yet there was an expectation in their step that good things were about to happen. And, as of this game, they were happening. In a season of last-minute thrills, and a few spills, the Giants of course took this one to the end. In fact, past the end, winning this game in overtime on a 31-yard field goal by Lawrence Tynes. San Francisco was already home so they could cry in their beer without a plane ride home.

This great victory sent the Giants to their fifth Super Bowl, and capped an improbable run. Reflecting, we recall the Giants at 7-7 and

having lost five of six. Giants players had not given up and they said this was still possible -- but I am not sure how many people still really believed.

Super Bowl XLVI: Patriots (17) v Giants (21)

The Giants competed in Super Bowl XLVI on February 5, 2012 at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, Indiana. Candlestick Park in San Francisco California. Over 68,000 attended the game which was played indoors with the retractable roof closed in to make sure it was comfy. It was all set for the 6:30 PM EST kickoff time. The Giants upset the Patriots 21-17 punctuating the Patriots high flying season with a period that meant a big loss.

The Giants had a number of firsts in their 2012 Super Bowl engagement. They became the first team to have won Super Bowl games broadcast on all four U.S. national networks (CBS, ABC, Fox, and in 2012, NBC), as well as the first team to win Super Bowls in four different decades. The Giants-Patriots game was the 11th time that there was a rematch in a Super Bowl.

In doing so, the 2011 Giants became the first team with fewer than 10 wins (9 wins – 7 losses) in the regular season to win a Super Bowl. Besides that, Super Bowl XLVI marked just the second time in Super Bowl history that opening score of the title game occurred with a safety when Justin Tuck pressured Tom Brady, and he was called for intentional grounding;

The first such instance was Super Bowl IX, when Pittsburgh registered a safety on Hall of Fame coach Bud Grant's Vikings. Eli Manning won his second Super Bowl MVP award in four years after orchestrating another game-winning touchdown drive in the game's final moments. Bravo NY Giants.

Super Bowl XLVI eventually came to an end. Once again, the New York Giants had beaten the New England Patriots, by the final score of 21-17.

There were a lot of memorable moments throughout the course of the day, and anybody part of that day would not be forgetting any of those moments any time soon.

Kelly Clarkson sang my favorite song. The pressure was on Kelly Clarkson to best Christina Aguilera's rendition of the national anthem from the prior Super Bowl. She did great!

Few bet that the first scoring play of Super Bowl XLVI would be an intentional grounding safety. It was. The Patriots started their first drive on their own 6-yard line, and it lasted just one play. Brady took the snap, and dropped back into the end zone to pass. He was rushed hard and he fired the ball deep down the field. No Patriots player was in the stadium area. Intentional grounding in the end zone is a safety. Giants 2, Patriots, 0.

The Giants first big play made the safety seem small. After taking the free kick, the Giants drove right down the field, making it inside the red zone with ease. It looked for a moment that the Patriots had scored a key turnover, but it was called off because they had 12 men on the field. A couple plays later, Eli Manning hit Victor Cruz in the end zone. He juggled the ball initially, but he managed to hang on for the touchdown. 9-0 Giants.

With the Giants up 9-3 in the second quarter, the game's first major injury occurred. Giants tight end Travis Beckum was jammed by a Patriots defender and was seen clutching his knee after he hit the deck. He had to be helped off the field – torn ACL. Out for six months if not more. .

The Patriots finally weaseled into the end zone just before the end of the half. It was a tough score. Pats started inside their own 5 with just about four minutes to go in the half. After a 14-play drive, Brady capped it off with a 4-yard pass to Danny Woodhead. The drive ended with a mere 11 seconds on the clock. The Pats had gained a 3-pointer earlier in the half. The extra point put the Patriots up 10-9.

Madonna performed for World Peace. Let me keep my feelings to myself on that. If you're a fan of Madonna, her halftime performance was the best in Super Bowl history. If you're not a fan of Madonna, her halftime performance was the worst in Super Bowl history.

Tom Brady came alive as the Patriots started the second half the same way they ended the first half. They drove the length of the field and punched it in for a touchdown. Not good for the Giants to let Brady loose on the field. All told, it was an eight-play, 79-yard drive capped by a 12-yard touchdown pass. The extra point made it 17-9 Patriots.

Nobody looks for injuries to help win a game. It took until the third quarter for the Giants to record their first sack of the game. Justin Tuck was the one who got it, and Tom Brady was shaken up big-time on the play.

Team doctors were checking him out once he got there. Back-up quarterback Brian Hoyer started warming up. However, thankfully for the sport of the game, Brady was able to return to the game in the next series. The Patriots avoided disaster. It did not help the Giants but it was a good feeling.

The Giants lost Travis Beckum to a torn ACL in the first half, and then in 3Q, they had to watch Jake Ballard go down with a knee injury. Not good!

Ballard wanted to tough it out and did his best to get warmed up on the sidelines after he was helped off the field. However, cameras caught him sinking to the ground in pain. ESPN's John Clayton announced that Ballard was ruled out of the game with a left knee injury. His exit left the Giants with one healthy tight end. Would that be enough while behind?

Getting down to the wire as the game moved on, the Giants took over with less than four minutes to play in the fourth quarter and after coming back somewhat, they had a 17-15 deficit to overcome.

On the first play of the drive, Eli Manning, known for some excellent play, uncorked a throw from inside his own 10-yard line and found Manningham deep down the left sideline. It was ruled a catch at first, and an instant replay confirmed it. Manningham got both feet down and possession.

The catch set the Giants up at midfield. Could it be? There was a moment four years prior in which David Tyree's brilliant catch was followed by a game-winning touchdown pass from Eli Manning to Plexico Burrell. Could it happen again? This year, Manningham's brilliant catch was ultimately followed by a touchdown run by Ahmad Bradshaw that was slightly less anticlimactic.

Put simply, the Patriots used a strategy to let Bradshaw score. They knew the Giants were going to score anyway, so they decided to let them score quickly so they could get the ball back.

Bradshaw was not thinking and so he crossed the goal line by mistake. He tried to stop short, but his momentum carried him across for the touchdown. The two-point conversion failed, bringing the score to 21-17 Giants.

Tom Brady took over after the kickoff. It was a hard-fought back-and-forth battle the whole way, so it made sense that Super Bowl XLVI would come down to what we might call, the mother of all final plays. It was a Hail Mary and the Pats were hoping it was full of perfection and grace.

There were five seconds on the clock. The ball was in Tom Brady's hands. He heaved one towards the end zone from midfield. The Pats' Aaron Hernandez was there waiting for it, but he was swarmed by Giants defenders. One of them tipped the ball keeping it from Hernandez.

And the ball also fell just out of Rob Gronkowski's reach.

Can you imagine photographs of their faces. The writer was finished. That's all she wrote, Game over. Giants won the game—21-17 and there was no OT and no miracles—just past good plays.

The pundits admitted that Eli Manning was simply brilliant in Super Bowl XLVI. Tom Brady would have been the hero but for a few inches and a few fewer long fingertips.

Manning put up 40 passes during the game and completed 30 of them for 296 yards and a big touchdown. Just as he did four years

prior, Eli Manning came up clutch when it mattered, making several key throws in New York's final drive.

Naturally, he was named Super Bowl MVP for the second time for a great effort. At the time of the final whistle, Eli Manning had achieved as many Super Bowl MVPs as Tom Brady and one more than his talented older brother Peyton.

It was a great year watching Tom Coughlin, a Bill Parcells protégé and Bill Belichick, a Bill Parcells protégé battling it out for football supremacy. It was also nice to see two of the finest QBs in football, Tom Brady and Eli Manning doing the same on behalf of their talented coaches and teams. For my money in this game, I was pleased to see the Coughlin and Manning combo bring a big victory home for New York. Bravo again to the Giants!

2012 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2012 professional football season. The 2012 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-eighth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his ninth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 88th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. This year, the Giants finished in 2nd place in the NFC East with a 9-7 regular season record which was the same as the prior year's record. The Giants did not make the playoffs at 9-7 even though their 9-7 in 2011 got them a Super Bowl Championship.

This is the third season that the Giants played their home games at MetLife Stadium. The Giants were the defending 2011 Super Bowl Champions for the fourth time in their history. By 21-17, they beat the New England Patriots. It was their second Championship victory over the Patriots. The Giants finished 9-7 again -- for the second straight year, and they failed to make the playoffs with the same record as last year. Unfortunately for readers looking for a positive

message, this would be the last time the Giants had a winning record until the 2016 season.

Games of the 2012 Season

On September 5, 2012, in the season opener, the Dallas Cowboys beat the Giants L (17–24) at MetLife Stadium. On Sep 16, the Giants won the shootout battle over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers W (41–34) in MetLife Stadium. At Carolina on Sep 20, the Giants pounded the Panthers W (36–7) in Bank of America Stadium. At Philadelphia on September 30, the Eagles beat the Giants L (17–19) at Lincoln Financial Field.

On Oct 7, the Giants defeated the Cleveland Browns W (41–27) in MetLife Stadium. Then, on Oct 14 at San Francisco, the Giants whooped the 49ers W (26–3) in Candlestick Park. On Oct 21, the NY Giants soundly beat the Washington Redskins W (27–23) in MetLife Stadium. At Dallas, on Oct 28, the Giants beat the Cowboys W (29–24) in Cowboys Stadium.

On Nov 4, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the NY Giants L (20–24) in MetLife Stadium. At Cincinnati on Nov 11, the Bengals pounded the Giants L (13–31) at Paul Brown Stadium. On Nov 18, New York drew a bye. Then on Nov 25, the Giants walloped the Green Bay Packers W (38–10) at MetLife Stadium. At Washington, on Dec 3, the Redskins squeaked out a win v the Giants L (16–17) in FedExField.

On Dec 9, the New Orleans Saints pounded the Giants W (52–27) in MetLife Stadium. On Dec 16 at Atlanta, Falcons blasted away the Giants L (0–34) in the Georgia Dome. Then, on Dec 23, the Baltimore Ravens beat the Giants L (14–33) in M&T Bank Stadium. Wrapping up the year in the season finale, the final game on Dec 30, 2012 found the NY Giants decimating the Philadelphia Eagles W (42–7) in MetLife Stadium. The Giants had a fine year but not good enough for the league to take notice. New York left the field wanting to be something better in 2013.

2013 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2013 professional football season. The 2013 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-ninth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his tenth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 89th season in the NFL. Home games were played in MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. This year, the Giants finished in 3rd place in the NFC East with a 7-9 regular season record which was the reverse of the prior year's record of 9-7. The Giants did not make the playoffs at 7-9, even though their 9-7 in 2011 got them a Super Bowl appearance and championship. What a difference a year and a few wins make.

Games of the 2013 season

In the 2013 season opener at Dallas on September 8, the Cowboys defeated the Giants L (31–36) in AT&T Stadium. On Sep 15, the Denver Broncos pounded New York L (23–41) in MetLife Stadium At Carolina on Sep 22 , the Panthers shellacked the Giants in a shutout L (0–38) in Bank of America Stadium. On Sep 29 at Kansas City, the Chiefs beat the Giants in Arrowhead Stadium.

On Oct 6, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Giants L (21–36) in MetLife Stadium. At Chicago, on Oct 10, the Bears beat the Giants L (21–27) in Soldier Field. This was the sixth straight loss since the season began and it was the last in a row. On Oct 21, the Giants beat the Minnesota Vikings W (23–7) in MetLife Stadium. Then, in Lincoln Financial Field, on October 27 the Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (15–7). New York drew a bye on November 3

On Nov 10, the Giants edged out the Oakland Raiders W (24–20) in MetLife Stadium. At home on Nov 17, the Giants beat the Green Bay Packers W (27–13) in MetLife Stadium. On Nov 24, the Dallas Cowboys broke the Giants' 4-game win streak edging out the New York Giants L (21–24) MetLife Stadium. At Washington on Dec 1, the Giants beat the Redskins W (24–17) in FedExField.

On Dec 8 at San Diego, the Chargers pounded the Giants L (14–37) in Qualcomm Stadium. At home on Dec 15, the Seattle Seahawks shutout the Giants L (0–23) in MetLife Stadium. Then, on Dec 22 at Detroit, the Lions beat the Giants W (23–20) in (OT) in Ford Field. In the season finale for 2013, on Dec 29, the Giants beat the Washington Redskins W (20–6) in MetLife Stadium

2014 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2014 professional football season. The 2014 New York Giants football team competed in their ninetieth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his eleventh of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

Games of the 2014 season

The Giants opened their 2014 season on September 8 at the Detroit Lions where they were clubbed L (14–35) in Ford Field. On Sep 14, the Arizona Cardinals beat the Giants L (14–25) in MetLife Stadium. Then, on Sep 21, the Giants whipped the Houston Texans W (30–17) in MetLife Stadium. At Washington on Sep 25, the Giants shellacked the Redskins W (45–14) in FedExField.

Then, on Oct 5, the Giants beat the Atlanta Falcons W (30–20) in MetLife Stadium. At Philadelphia on Oct 12, the Eagles threw a big shutout at the Giants L (0–27) in Lincoln Financial Field. At Dallas, on Oct 19, the Cowboys whooped the Giants L (21–31) in AT&T Stadium. New York drew a bye on October 24. Then, on Nov 3, the Indianapolis Colts overpowered the Giants L (24–40) in MetLife Stadium.

At Seattle on November 9, the Seahawks drubbed the Giants L (17–38) in CenturyLink Field. On Nov 16, the San Francisco 49ers beat the Giants L (10–16) in MetLife Stadium. Then, on Nov 23, the Dallas Cowboys edged out the Giants L (28–31) in MetLife Stadium.

At Jacksonville on Nov 30, the Jaguars nosed out the Giants L (24–25) in EverBank Field.

On Dec 7 at Tennessee, the Giants pounded the Titans W (36–7) in LP Field. Then, on Dec 14, the Giants defeated the Washington Redskins W (24–13) in MetLife Stadium. At St. Louis, on Dec 21, the Giants beat the Rams W (37–27) in the Edward Jones Dome. Then, in the season finale on December 28, 2014, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the New York Giants L (26–34) in MetLife Stadium.

2015 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2015 professional football season. The 2015 New York Giants football team competed in their ninety-first professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his twelfth and last of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 91st season in the NFL. Home games were played in MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. This year, the Giants finished again in 3rd place in the NFC East with the same exact 6-10 regular season record as 2015. The Giants did not make the playoffs with such a poor showing.

As noted, Tom Coughlin returned for his 12th and final season as the team's head coach. It would have been a good sendoff for the Giants to have a better record but, c'est la vie.

Games of the 2015 Season

In the Season opener at Dallas on September 13, 2015, the Cowboys nosed out the Giants L (26–27) in AT&T Stadium. On Sep 20 at home, the Atlanta Falcons edged out the New York Giants L (20–24) in MetLife Stadium. On Sep 24, the Giants defeated the Washington Redskins W (32–21) in MetLife Stadium. At Buffalo on Oct 4, the Giants beat the Bills W (24–10) in Ralph Wilson Stadium.

On Oct 11, the Giants edged out the San Francisco 49ers W (30–27) in MetLife Stadium. At Philadelphia on Oct 19, the Eagles defeated

the Giants L (7–27) in Lincoln Financial Field. On Oct 25, the Giants beat the Dallas Cowboys W (27–20) in MetLife Stadium. On November 1 at New Orleans, the Saints edged out the Giants in a shootout L (49–52) in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

On Nov 8 at Tampa Bay, the Giants defeated the Buccaneers (W 32–18) in Raymond James Stadium. On Nov 15, the New England Patriots nosed out the Giants L (26–27) in MetLife Stadium. On November 23, New York drew a bye-week. On November 29 at Washington, the Redskins beat the Giants L (14–20) in FedExField. Then, on Dec 6, the New York Jets edged out the NY Giants L (20–23) in OT in MetLife Stadium,

On Dec 14 at Miami, the Giants beat the Dolphins W (31–24) in Sun Life Stadium. At home on Dec 20, the Carolina Panthers edged out the Giants L (35–38) in MetLife Stadium. At Minnesota on Dec 27, the Vikings pounded the Giants L (17–49) in TCF Bank Stadium. On January 3, 2016 in the season finale, the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the New York Giants L (30–35) in MetLife Stadium

Tom Coughlin Steps Down as NY Giants Coach

This article was written by Dan Graziano, ESPN Staff Writer

Our thanks to ESPN for permitting us to use this article by Dan Graziano which sums up the Tom Coughlin Years with the New York Giants. As you look back on the last season, you can see that there differential in many off the losses was from one to five points. Even in his last season where the record was not great, the team was a contender. Nobody pushed Tom Coughlin's Giants arounds. When you don't win for a few years. The fans always get restless. Here is the article:

By Dan Graziano

After 12 years and two Super Bowl titles, Tom Coughlin is no longer the coach of the New York Giants.

Coughlin, 69, resigned after meeting with Giants ownership Monday, one day after New York completed its third consecutive losing season.

Justin Tuck shares how he tried, and failed, to outwork Tom Coughlin

"I met with John Mara and Steve Tisch this afternoon, and I informed them that it is in the best interest of the organization that I step down as head coach," Coughlin said in a statement. "I strongly believe the time is right for me and my family and, as I said, the Giants organization.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as head coach of the New York Football Giants. This is a not a sad occasion for me. I have spent 15 years with this organization as an assistant and head coach and was fortunate to be part of three Super Bowl-winning teams. A Lombardi Trophy every five years is an achievement in which we all take great pride."

The Giants have scheduled a news conference for 10:30 a.m. ET Tuesday to address Coughlin's resignation. Coughlin will be in attendance, along with Mara, Tisch and Giants general manager Jerry Reese.

"It is difficult to come up with words adequate to describe the appreciation we have for everything Tom Coughlin has done for our franchise," Mara said in statement. "In addition to delivering two Super Bowl titles, Tom represented us with class and dignity and restored the pride to our entire organization. He has all the qualities you could ever ask for in a head coach and set very high standards for whoever will succeed him."

The Giants' third straight losing season is a fate that hadn't befallen the franchise since eight straight losing seasons from 1973 to 1980. The Giants have missed the playoffs four years in a row and six of the past seven, though the one year in that stretch when they did make the postseason ended in a Super Bowl championship.

"Obviously, the past three years have not been what any of us expect, and as head coach, I accept the responsibility for those seasons," Coughlin's statement said. "I think it has been evident these last 12 years here how much pride I take in representing this franchise. I am gratified and proud that we were able to deliver two more Lombardi trophies to the display case in our lobby during that time. That is a tribute to our players and staff, and it was truly fulfilling to be the leader of those teams.

Tom Coughlin's final record as Giants head coach is 110-92, including playoff games.

"I appreciate the support of John and his family and Steve and his family and of Jerry Reese and his staff. I think our organization is a great representation of what I mean when I talk about 'team.'"

Hall of Fame coach Bill Parcells, who also led the Giants to two Super Bowl titles, was sad to see Coughlin depart.

"We all know, when you're in this business, we have to get off the train some time," Parcels said in an ESPN interview. "And sometimes we get off of our own volition, and other times they ask us to get off. And that's true for players and coaches, owners and everybody who's associated with the NFL. It's a sad day because he's done such a magnificent job there with the Giants. We've been friends a long time, and I'm sad, but I'm happy because it's a new adventure. Guys like him always make it work."

Star wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., who had hoped Coughlin would remain coach of the Giants, weighed in before the news broke Monday.

"I love Coach Coughlin," Beckham said. "He's always going to be my coach."

Raiders defensive end Justin Tuck, who played for Coughlin with the Giants from 2005 to 2013, took to Instagram to pay tribute to his former coach's "dedication to your team and how intense you are on the football field."

"I will remember you for helping me become a man and challenging all of us to be better husbands and fathers and men," Tuck wrote Monday. "You did it the right way Coach. And you might be retiring from coaching but I'm sure this isn't a goodbye. That's not in your nature."

A former Giants wide receivers coach who spent 1988 to 1990 on Bill Parcels' staff, Coughlin became the Giants' head coach in 2004, after a nine-year run as the first coach of the expansion Jacksonville Jaguars. That was the same year the Giants traded up in the first round of the draft to select quarterback Eli Manning.

Coughlin promoted Manning to the starting quarterback job midway through the 2004 season, and the two went on to have great success together, although it wasn't always smooth and easy.

"He has been a great coach to play for," Manning said. "Learned so much from him from an early age when I got here to every year. Just to meet with him and talk football and X's and O's and strategy ... he has a great football mind and loves what he does, has great passion. He is an example of how you should handle your job and love what you are doing."

Coughlin came to New York with a reputation as a stern disciplinarian and famously proclaimed in his introductory news conference that injuries were "a mental thing" and something to be "corrected."

Coughlin's old-school methods chafed some of his players, most notably Hall of Famer Michael Strahan, who to this day says he doesn't understand why you need to be five minutes early to a meeting to be considered "on time."

After going 11-5 in his second season in New York, Coughlin went 8-8 in 2006 and appeared in danger of losing his job. But things turned around in 2007, when the Giants recovered from an 0-2 start to finish 10-6, win a wild-card spot and upset the undefeated New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII. That run included a second-round playoff victory over the top-seeded Dallas Cowboys and an overtime victory in Green Bay in an NFC Championship Game that became famous for Coughlin's red, frozen face.

The following year, the Giants went 12-4 and secured the No. 1 seed in the NFC playoffs but lost star receiver Plaxico Burress when he shot himself in the leg at a New York City nightclub -- an offense for which Burress did jail time. The Giants lost their first playoff game that season and missed the playoffs in each of the next two seasons.

In 2011, after losing to Washington in Week 15 to fall to 7-7, the Giants rebounded with a Christmas Eve victory over the Jets and a Week 17 victory over Dallas to win the NFC East. They won playoff games on the road in Green Bay and San Francisco before defeating the Patriots once again in Super Bowl XLVI.

Recent years have not ended as well for Coughlin. The Giants started 0-6 in 2013 and, though they rallied in the second half, finished 7-9 for Coughlin's first losing season since his 6-10 debut in New York in 2004. The Giants followed that with a 2014 season that featured a seven-game losing streak and ended with a 6-10 record. This year, they were unable to take advantage of a weak NFC East, as late-season losses to Washington and the Jets knocked them out of the playoffs, and they finished 6-10.

Coughlin's final record as Giants head coach is 110-92, including playoff games. Including his time in Jacksonville (and the playoff games he coached there), he is 182-156 as an NFL head coach. His regular-season win total of 170 ranks 12th in NFL history and, somewhat poetically, right behind Parcells' total of 172.

"On behalf of my family, I want to thank Coach Coughlin for how he has represented our franchise for the past 12 years," Tisch said. "He embodies the beliefs of this organization and everything the New York Giants stand for. I respect his decision, and while I appreciate Tom's perspective and attitude, at the same time, I am a bit saddened today because we are losing a man who is just as good a person as he is a coach. He is a Hall of Famer in every regard."

Information from ESPN's Ohm Youngmisuk and The Associated Press was used in this report.

Chapter 20 Coach Ben McAdoo 2016-2017

Coach #18 Ben McAdoo

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
Ben McAdoo	2016	NFC East	2 nd	11-5-0
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Wild Card playoffs(at Packers) 38-13 • Eli Manning (Co-NFL WPMOY)
Ben Mc (2-10)	2017	NFC East	4 th	3 13 0 —

2016-2017 Ben McAdoo final record (13-15)



Coach Ben McAdoo with Eli Manning from the sidelines.

Tell us about Coach Ben McAdoo--from nfl.com January 14, 2016

The Giants found a new head coach inside their own building. New York announced Thursday that the team will promote Ben McAdoo to head coach. NFL Media Insider Ian Rapoport first reported the news Wednesday before the press conference. McAdoo, 38, had been the team's offensive coordinator for the past two seasons. The team introduced him at a special press conference at 10:30 a.m. ET on Friday January 11.

McAdoo was seen as a favorite for the job after Tom Coughlin stepped down following a 12-year run with the franchise. The Giants went 6-10 this season, their fourth straight season without a playoff berth.

McAdoo's promotion provides continuity for Eli Manning and the Giants' offense. Rapoport reported that Manning paid a visit to ownership to vouch for a McAdoo promotion. Some in the Giants' organization have compared McAdoo to a "young Andy Reid", according to Rapoport.

"Ben is an outstanding young coach who has great experience and has done a good job as our offensive coordinator these past two years," Giants owner John Mara said in a team statement. "We were all impressed with his energy, his enthusiasm, his vision and his desire. Ben has been preparing for this opportunity since he started coaching, and he has earned his stripes every step of the way.

"Some have suggested he may not be ready, and as I said last week, we want a coach who feels like he has something to prove."

Rapoport additionally reports that Steve Spagnuolo is expected to remain the team's defensive coordinator. The Giants had one of the worst defenses in football last season, though a lack of quality personnel played perhaps the biggest role in the struggles. Expect that to be a major area of focus this offseason as Spagnuolo gets another chance to improve the unit.

The Giants planned to interview Hue Jackson on Thursday, but Jackson surprised Big Blue brass by taking the Browns' job on Wednesday. The Eagles were also very interested in McAdoo, which likely played a role in New York's decision to act when Jackson came off the board.

New York interviewed Spagnuolo, Lions defensive coordinator Teryl Austin, former Bears offensive coordinator Adam Gase, former Billscoach Doug Marrone and former Falcons coach Mike Smith. Gase was named the Dolphins' new coach last week.

This is a sensible move by a Giants team that has established a well-earned reputation for its organizational stability. There is much to do

on the defensive side of the ball, but McAdoo will continue to oversee an offense that will score points with Manning and Odell Beckham Jr. involved. This was a desirable job, and McAdoo should have an opportunity for extended run.

2016 Ben McAdoo Coach #18

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2016 professional football season. The 2016 New York Giants football team competed in their ninety-second professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 18th Giants Head Coach Ben McAdoo his first of two seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 92nd season in the NFL. Home games were played in MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. This year, the Giants finished in 2nd place in the NFC East with an unexpectedly fine 11-5-0 regular season record as of 2016. They made the playoffs but lost in the Wildcard match.

This was the first year under head coach Ben McAdoo. The team began 2-0 before falling into a three-game losing streak to the Redskins, Vikings and Packers. New York then rebounded and went on a six-game winning tear for the first time since 2010. In Week 13, they ended the streak by falling to the Pittsburgh Steelers. They came back and upset the 11-1 Dallas Cowboys in Week 14 to improve to 9-4. With their Week 14 win over the Dallas Cowboys, the Giants clinched a winning season for the first time since 2012 and they also swept the Cowboys for the first time since 2011.

Ben McAdoo's Giants were surprising everybody and they were not done yet. The Giants got their 10th win in Week 15, giving them their first 10-win season since 2010. They had magnificent 7-1 record at home--their best since MetLife Stadium opened in 2010.

Despite a loss to the Eagles in Week 16, the Buccaneers' loss to the New Orleans Saints assured the Giants of a playoff trip for the first time since their last Super Bowl season in 2011.

Games of the 2016 season

In the season opener on Sep 11 at Dallas, the Giants nosed out the Cowboys W (20–19) in AT&T Stadium. On Sep 18, the New Orleans Saints defeated the Giants W (16–13) in MetLife Stadium. On Sep 25, the Washington Redskins edged out the Giants L (27–29) in MetLife Stadium. Then, on Oct 3 at Minnesota, the Vikings got the best of the Giants L (10–24) in U.S. Bank Stadium.

At Green Bay on Oct 9, the Packers beat the Giants L (16–23) in Lambeau Field. At home on Oct 16, the Giants beat the Baltimore Ravens W (27–23) in MetLife Stadium. On Oct 23 at Los Angeles , the Giants defeated the Rams W (17–10) in Twickenham Stadium (London, England). The Giants drew a bye on Oct 30. On Nov 6, the Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles W (28–23) in MetLife Stadium .

On Nov 14, the Giants nosed out the Cincinnati Bengals W (21–20) in MetLife Stadium. Then, on Nov 20, the Giants defeated the Chicago Bears W (22–16) in MetLife Stadium. At Cleveland, on Nov 27, the Giants pounded the Browns W (27–13) in FirstEnergy Stadium. On Dec 4 at Pittsburgh, the Steelers beat the Giants L (14–24) in Heinz Field

On Dec 11, the Giants edged out the Dallas Cowboys W 10–7 in MetLife Stadium. On Dec 18, the NY Giants defeated the Detroit Lions W (17–6) in MetLife Stadium. On Dec 22 at Philadelphia, the Eagles edged out the Giants L (19–24) in Lincoln Financial Field. Then, at Washington in the season finale on Jan 1, the Giants defeated the Redskins by nine points W (19–10) in FedExField.

2016 Wildcard playoff game.

It was the Giants' first playoff game since Super Bowl XLVI ended in disappointment, when they were upended by the Green Bay Packers in the Wild Card round at Lambeau Field. The Giants were flat and scored only 13 points while allowing a season high 38 points. A one-point loss would have ended their season. This 25-point defeat forced the Giants to swallow some humility and have their season ended by Green Bay at the same time.

Chapter 21 Coach Steve Spagnuolo 2017-2017

Steve Spagnuolo(1-3) (2017 with Ben McAdoo)
2017-2017 Steve Spagnuolo final record (1-3)

Steve Spagnuolo 2017 Interim Giants Coach



NY Giants Coach Spagnuolo doing his job

Steve Spagnuolo was at one time in the right place at the right time. When the Giants were so frustrated with Ben McAdoo even though a full season had not passed since he had completed a fine season—the Giants were ready to fire him. At that precise time, Steve Spagnuolo was there ready and willing to take his place. Maybe if he had won just two games (one more) in his four-game stint, we would be talking about him rather than Coach Shurmur for 2019.

The Steve Spagnuolo we care about in this book is a four-game head football coach in the National Football League (NFL) working as an interim for the New York Giants. He later became the defensive coordinator for the Kansas City Chiefs. He held this position since 2019. Prior to this season, he coached for twenty-one seasons for the

Washington Redskins, San Diego Chargers, Philadelphia Eagles, New York Giants, St. Louis Rams, New Orleans Saints, and Baltimore Ravens. His most recent outing had been with the Giants as their interim head coach/defensive coordinator. It would have been tough for Spagnuola to be at his best during this period when the Giants were at their worst.

During his career, Coach Spagnuola was also the head coach of the St. Louis Rams from 2009 until the 2011 season. The Rams went 10-38-0 during their three seasons with Spagnuolo as head coach. During the 2010 season as the head coach of the St. Louis Rams he coached Sam Bradford to the AP Offensive Rookie of the Year. His credits are few and the list of plaudits is short but like most NFL head coaches, he was a fine coach and a great player before that.

2017 Ben McAdoo Coach #18 (2-10)

2017 Steve Spagnuola #19 (1-3)

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2017 professional football season. The 2017 New York Giants football team competed in their ninety-third professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 18th Giants Head Coach Ben McAdoo in his second of two seasons (12 games) as head coach of the Giants. Coach Steve Spagnuola (#19) finished up the last four games of season for Ben McAdoo. It was Spagnuola's only time as a Giants head coach.

As noted, this was the franchise's 93rd season in the NFL. Home games were played in MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. This year, the Giants finished in 4th place in the NFC East with an unexpectedly poor 3-13-0 regular season record as of 2017. The Giants did not make the playoffs this year.

Coming fresh off a fine 11-5 season, the Giants had high hopes of a Super Bowl Championship and were an expected playoff contender by many critics. However, things quickly fell apart after key injuries and controversial decisions regarding the team.

There is a lot of news in good seasons and bad seasons. The Giants 3–13 record was their worst record in a 16-game season; their worst winning percentage since 1974, the worst record in the Eli Manning era, their worst record since 2003, and they finished dead last in the NFC East for the first time since 2003. It was the second-worst in the league behind the winless Browns.

The Giants also went 1–11 against the NFC in 2017 and 1–5 against the NFC East. In the process, the Giants acquired the 2nd pick of the 2018 NFL Draft. That was the only bright note. The future might be easier to rebound.

Wrapping up the news, Dave Gettleman, on December 29, 2017 was hired as the new general manager for the team. Gettleman quickly address the offensive line issues which led to the release of offensive tackle Bobby Hart and the benching of 2015 1st rounder Ereck Flowers. Flowers started all games to this point being the only consistent starter on the offensive line. The only good news seemed to be that from now on, they Giants were not going to horse around. They were staging themselves to be winners again.

Games of the 2017 season

In the season opener on September 10 at Dallas, the Cowboys thumped the Giants L 3–19 in AT&T Stadium. Then, on Sep 18, the Detroit Lions pounded the Giants L (10–24) in MetLife Stadium. Then, on Sep 24 at Philadelphia, the Eagles edged out the NY Giants L 24–27 in Lincoln Financial Field. At Tampa Bay on Oct 1, the Buccaneers nosed out the Giants L (23–25) in Raymond James Stadium.

On Oct 8, the Los Angeles Chargers squeaked by the Giants L (22–27) in MetLife Stadium. At Denver on Oct 15, the Giants got the best of the Broncos W (23–10) in Sports Authority Field at Mile High. On Oct 22, the Seattle Seahawks bombed the Giants L (7–24) in MetLife Stadium. Then, New York drew a bye for Oct 29. On Nov 5, the Los Angeles Rams shellacked the New York Giants L (17–51) in MetLife Stadium.

At San Francisco on Nov 12, the 49ers defeated the Giants L (21–31) in Levi's Stadium. On Nov 19, the Giants beat the Kansas City Chiefs in OT W (12–9) in MetLife Stadium. At Washington on Nov 23, the Redskins beat New York, L (10–20) in FedExField. At Oakland, on Dec 3, the Raiders beat the Giants L (17–24) in Oakland–Alameda County Coliseum.

On Dec 10, the Dallas Cowboys pounded the New York Giants L (10–30) in MetLife Stadium. Then, on Dec 17, the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the New York Giants L (29–34) in MetLife Stadium. On Dec 24 at Arizona, the Cardinals shot-out the Giants L (0–23) in University of Phoenix Stadium. Then, in the season finale on New Year's Eve, Dec 31, the NY Giants beat the Washington Redskins W (18–10) in MetLife Stadium

Chapter 22 Coach Pat Shurmur 2018 →

Coach #20 Pat Shurmur

Pat Shurmur 2018 NFC East 4th 5 11 0

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Pat Shurmur 2019 NFC East pre season`

2018-2018 Pat Shurmur final record (5-11-0)



Pat Shurmur NY Giants New Head Coach

The pundits say Pat Shurmur was named the 18th head coach in Giants history on Jan. 22, 2018. I say he was named the 20th head coach and I beg you to go back in this book and check the numbers.

Though Shurmur looks like a kid compared to Parcels and Coughlin, he is no kid. Patrick Carl Shurmur was born on April 14, 1965. He has made money in life as an American football coach who in 2019 is the head coach of the New York Giants of the National Football League (NFL). He had once been the head coach of the Cleveland Browns from 2011 to 2012, and was also been the offensive coordinator of the St. Louis Rams, Philadelphia Eagles and Minnesota Vikings. He knows football and if he gets a few years, I think he'll do OK. That's a big "IF".

James Kratch wrote a preview of Coach Shurmur before he was announced. I edited it to suit the description I wanted to present. Thank you James.

Kratch knew that the Giants were scheduled to interview Vikings offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur for their 2017 vacancy on Saturday in Minneapolis. He was about their fourth interview, and it came a day after they went two-for-one in Foxborough, Massachusetts, and they had met with Patriots coordinators Josh McDaniels and Matt Patricia.

What did we know then about Shurmur?



Bruce Kluckhohn | AP Photo from the Internet

Shurmur turned 53 that April. The Dearborn, Michigan, native was not a quarterback or even a fullback, He was an All-Big Ten lineman at Michigan State before beginning his career as a graduate assistant at the school. His uncle Fritz Shurmur had been a long-time NFL assistant and a Super Bowl-winning defensive coordinator for the Packers. They live in Green Bay Wisconsin.

Shurmur would have been a good Eagles candidate having spent the bulk of his NFL career with the Eagles over two stints, as well as time with the Browns (as a head coach), Rams and Vikings. He was not anybody's disciple or the doors would have opened sooner.

He interviewed successfully with the Giants in Minneapolis. Co-owner John Mara, general manager Dave Gettleman and assistant general manager Kevin Abrams evaluated the interviews.

He's not a Giant with big connections and thankfully nobody held his Eagle ties against him, He did spend three seasons on Nick Saban's staff at Michigan State, and Saban has ties to Patriots coach Bill Belichick, who in turn has ties to the Giants.

So, if you are good at cross- footing ties, everybody has ties. Shurmur also spent two seasons as Giants interim coach/defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo's offensive coordinator when Spagnuolo was Rams coach. The cross-footing goes deep if you really must find a connection.

However, Mr. Shurmur, forever known as Coach Shurmur has been a coordinator in the NFL for parts of seven seasons. He was the Browns' head coach for two seasons (2011-12) and the Eagles' interim head coach for one game in 2015. He has a career coaching record of 10-23. It always helps to have a great team to work with when doing brief stints that count on your overall record.

Here are Coach Shurmur's coaching stops:

- Michigan State graduate assistant, 1988-89
- Michigan State assistant (TE, OL, ST), 1990-97
- Stanford offensive line coach, 1998
- Eagles offensive line and tight ends coach, 1999-2001
- Eagles quarterbacks coach, 2002-08
- Rams offensive coordinator, 2009-10
- Browns head coach, 2011-12
- Eagles offensive coordinator, 2013-15 (Interim head coach, 2015)
- Vikings tight ends coach/interim offensive coordinator, 2016
- Vikings offensive coordinator, 2017

Is Shurmur going to make it as a Giant?

If the Giants are going to take a quarterback with the No. 2 pick in the 2018 NFL Draft, or if they are going to progress with Davis Webb as their future, they will want a coach who has proven he can work with quarterbacks to great success. The analysts say Shurmur fits the bill. He helped develop Donovan McNabb in Philadelphia, he's gotten the best out of Sam Bradford in several stops and he's worked wonders this year with Case Keenum. He is a football brain.

His tremendous resume appealed to the experience-seeking Giants, as he was prepared to run a West Coast system, which makes the Giants greatest current QB Eli Manning well in the loop. As a big strong lineman himself, without figuring our X's and O's, Shurmur has the offensive line background which helped the Vikings more than overhaul their unit on the fly in the recent past season.

Pat Shurmur is an everyman coach who simply has been undiscovered until now. Other teams such as The Bears interviewed Pat Shurmur. They like Offensive coordinators for HC jobs. Shurmur had a lot of top 12 offenses with backup quality QB's while constantly losing key players to injury (AP, Cook, Bradford twice). Without spending a zillion dollars for an experienced nobody. Pat Shurmur was an excellent choice.

The Giants finished their first season 2018 under Shurmur with a 5-11 record. We would not call it not too shabby because it was shabby. It was a two-game improvement over their 2017 record. Shurmur is pleased he did not replace Bill Parcells.

Twelve of the Giants' 16 games in 2018 were decided by seven or fewer points, tying them with Philadelphia and Pittsburgh for the most in the NFL. The Giants were 4-8 in games decided by seven or fewer points. The eight losses in such games were an NFL high. The Giants held a fourth-quarter lead in four of those games.

2018 Pat Shurmur Coach #20

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2018 professional football season. The 2018 New York Giants football team competed in their ninety-fourth professional

National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 20th Giants Head Coach Pat Shurmur in his first of an unknown # of seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 94th season in the NFL. Home games were played in MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. This year, the Giants finished in 4th place in the NFC East with an expectedly poor 5-11-0 regular season record as of 2018. The Giants did not make the playoffs for the second straight year.



The Giants entered the season looking to improve on their 2017 campaign, which had seen the team finish with a 3–13 record, their worst since the adoption of a 16-game regular season. Despite starting 1–7 for the second consecutive year, the Giants managed to improve on their 3–13 campaign by gaining a 30–27 victory over the Chicago Bears. Then, after Shurmur's squad lost a 17–0 shutout to the Titans in Week 15, they were sure of missing the playoffs for the second straight season. T

The Shurmur team was trying to improve on the McAdoo and Spagnuola mini-era but the improvement was negligible in 2018 with much more expected in 2019. The season was marred by blown fourth-quarter leads much like in 2015. The Giants were in 12 one-possession games and lost eight games by seven points or fewer. They could have gone either way but they went the wrong way and that is not good.

The Giants finished up at 5–11 and they had sole possession of last place in the NFC East for the second straight year. Despite the 5–11

record, the season was highlighted with a great former PSU rookie running back named Saquon Barkley who won many awards including Pepsi Rookie of the Year, FedEx Ground NFL Player of the Year, AP NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year and Barkley was named to the PFWA All-Rookie Team and AP All-Rookie teams. If he can stay healthy and the Giants can improve a bit of the rest of their game, Shurmur may be dancing with the NFL stars before too long. We sure hope so.

In the season and home opener on September 9, 2018, the Jacksonville Jaguars beat the Giants L (15–20) in MetLife Stadium. At Dallas on Sep 16, the Cowboys beat the Giants L (13–20) in AT&T Stadium . At Houston on Sep 23, the Giants beat the Texans W (27–22) in NRG Stadium. On Sep 30 the New Orleans Saints pounded the New York Giants L (8–33) in MetLife Stadium.

At Carolina on Oct 7, the Panthers edged out the Giants L (31–33) in Bank of America Stadium. On Oct 11, the Philadelphia Eagles lambasted the Giants L (13–34) in MetLife Stadium. At Atlanta on Oct 22, the Falcons edged out the Giants L (20–23) in Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Then, on Oct 28, the Washington Redskins overpowered the Giants L (13–20) in MetLife Stadium. New York drew a bye week on November 5.

At San Francisco on Nov 12, the Giants squeaked by the 49ers W (27–23) in Levi's Stadium. In another close game, on Nov 18, the Giants beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers W (38–35) in MetLife Stadium. At Philadelphia on Nov 25, the Eagles edged out the New York Giants L 22–25 in Lincoln Financial Field. On Dec 2, the Giants won a hard-fought OT victory from the Chicago Bears W (0–27) in OT in MetLife Stadium.

At Washington, on Dec 9, the Giants thumped the Redskins W (40–16) in FedEx Field. On Dec 16, the Tennessee Titans smashed the New York Giants in a shutout L (0–17) in MetLife Stadium. At Indianapolis, on Dec 23, the Colts won a one-pointer from the Giants in a nail-biter L (27–28) in Lucas Oil Stadium. In the season finale for New York, the Dallas Cowboys survived a one-point game L (35–36) in MetLife Stadium.

Coach Shurmur is looking for a lot more W's in the 2019 season. So am I and I bet, so are you!

Other Books by Brian W. Kelly: (amazon.com, and Kindle)

[Great Moments in New York Giants Football. From beginning of football to Pat Shurmur Era](#)
[Hope for Wilkes-Barre-John Q. Doe Next Mayor of Wilkes-Barre PA: John Doe Plan, will help create a better city!](#)
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[Special Report: Solving America's Student Debt Crisis!](#): The only real solution to the \$1.52 Trillion debt
[How to End DACA, Sanctuary Cities, & Resident Illegal Aliens](#) . best solution to wipe shadows in America.
[The Winning Political Platform for America](#) Unique winning approach to solve the big problems in America.
[Lou Barletta v Bob Casey for US Senate](#) Barletta's unique approach to solving the big problems in America.
[John Chrin v Matt Cartwright for Congress](#) Chrin has a unique approach to solving big problems in America.
[The Cure for Hate !!!](#) Can the cure be any worse than this disease that is crippling America?
[Andrew Cuomo's Time to Go? "He Was Never that Great!"](#): Cuomo says America never that great
[White People Are Bad! Bad! Bad!](#) Whoever thought a popular slogan in 2018 would be *It's OK to be White!*
[The Fake News Media Is Also Corrupt !!!](#): Fake press / media today is not worthy to be 4th Estate.
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