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GIANTS



Great Moments
in
New York Giants Football

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

by
Brian Kelly





Great Moments in New York Giants Football

This book begins at the beginning of Football and goes to the Pat Shurmur era.

This book is written for those of us who love New York Giants Football. Those who hate 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 NFL was only five years old at the time. But, this book reaches back even further in history than 1925 to find some precursor teams to the Giants that amazed New York Fans for their short duration. Some were even named "Giants."

All this before the Giants formally became an NFL franchise. This book takes Giants' fan on a journey from when there was no football at all, to where American football was only a dream, to where American football was played only by colleges with a mixture of soccer and rugby rules.

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. .

From how primitive man played football, this book quickly moves on to the beginning of football in the US and then to the first "American Football Game" in 1867. From there, the progression goes to college football where the graduates were looking for a place to play football after college. Eventually this resulted in great teams such as the NY Giants playing first game with Coach, Robert Folwell in 1925 for an 8-4-0 season.)

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 gets deep look at the great and soon-to-be-immortal-Giants' coaches including #1 Bill Parcells, #2 Tom Coughlin, #3 Steve Owen, #4 Jim Fassel, and #5 Dan Reeves# all the way to the current immortal with lots of years left, Pat Shurmur.

This book captures the great moments in Giants Football even before the Giants were the Giants. This Giants book takes the reader through stories about the Giants 20 coaches to great stories about the 93 seasons worth of great games with a preponderance of great wins. The book often stops in time and talks about a particular great player such as Charley Conerly, Y.A. Tittle, Lawrence Taylor, Michael Strahan, Eli Manning, Frank Gifford, Sam Huff, Phil Simms, Tiki Barber, and of course the newest great one Eli Manning, Archie's kid and Peyton's younger brother. These stops will add substantially to your reading enjoyment.

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 Moments in New York Giants Football

Author:
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Publisher/ Editor,

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Brian P. Kelly

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New York Giants 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 Bob Folwell final record (8-4-0)

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

1926-1926 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 Earl Potteiger final record (15-8-3)

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

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

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

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

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

1930-1930 Benny Friedman & 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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	2 nd	10 6 0 —
Bill Parcells	1989	1 st	12 4 0

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

Bill Parcells	1990	1 st	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 Bill Parcells final record (74-49-1)

Ray Handley	1991	4 th	8 8 0 —
Ray Handley	1992	4th	6 10 0 —

1991-1992 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 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	1 st	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 Jim Fassel final record (58-53-1)

Tom Coughlin	2004	2nd	6 10 0 —
Tom Coughlin	2005	1 st	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 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 Ben McAdoo final record (13-15)

Steve Spagnuolo(1–3) (2017)

2017-2017 Steve Spagnuolo final record (1-3)

Pat Shurmur 2018 4th 5 11 0

- Saquon Barkley(NFL OROY)^l

2018-2018 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 (Skip) 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 198 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 moments 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 moments 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:

“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 Giants the great legacy team 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 not 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.”

When the 2017 season began, there was talk of another Super Bowl after the great 2016 season (11-5) with new coach Ben McAdoo, but it did not happen. McAdoo did not finish the season well and interim coach Steve Spagnuolo mopped up his mess with a swab (1-3) that did not play well for anybody.

Manning was back to lead the team in 2018 but he and fans of big blue noticed that the very quick re-tooling of just about every aspect of the franchise did not produce a big payoff. Dave Gettleman had already left his imprint as general manager and new head coach Pat Shurmur raised expectations but had to put results off a year. We'll see this Fall, 2019.

Superstar Odell Beckham Jr. remained a focal point on offense but with #2 overall pick Saquon Barkley and offseason addition left tackle Nate Solder, there was talk about the Giants becoming not just a contender but a danger for opponents. Again, it did not happen. But it may in 2019.

Coach Pat Shurmur 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.



Coach Steve Owen Aug 12, 1953 during Training camp

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.



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

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 Moments 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.

Reading this book is like reliving the last game, the last football season, and / or all the seasons before last season without ever having to get on or off a plane. Seeing a game in the Polo Grounds or after 1956 in Yankee Stadium.

The Giants moved initially to Yankee Stadium in 1956. They played their final game at Yankee Stadium on Sunday, September 23, 1973 vs the Philadelphia Eagles. As a team without a real home, the Giants played one year at the Yale Bowl and one year at Shea Stadium before moving into Giants Stadium in 1976. Giants stadium in the Meadowlands closed down for Giants Football in 2010. Over its 33-year history, the stadium was the home to 14 playoff teams, three that won Super Bowl Championships.

The Giants and the Jets now play all their home games at Met Life Stadium. This is located in the same general area as Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, 8 miles (13 km) outside of New York City. It is owned by the MetLife Stadium Company, a joint venture of the Giants and Jets, who jointly built the stadium using private funds on land owned by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority. It opened as New Meadowlands Stadium in 2010. In 2011, MetLife, an insurance company based in New York City, acquired the naming rights to the stadium. At a construction

cost of approximately \$1.6 billion, it was the most expensive stadium ever built at the time that it opened.9]

As you will soon learn, this book examines more than just great moments. There are some moments that are not so great in every team's football seasons and the New York Giants offer no excuses for those times. Giants fans simply hope the new iteration of bad games ends soon. Your author shows the bad with the good to get the proper perspective for the great moments in this book.

Not all Giants' coaches for example, are named Owen, Sherman, Parcels, or Shurmur. so not all games are in the W column. However, all teams from 1925 to the present, no matter who the coach is, showed that they were Giants tough, nonetheless. That means they all fought hard for wins for the good of the team and the fans.

Opening with its first story at the very beginning of Football as a sport in America, this book goes all the way to Pat Shurmur's first season. We hope to do a quick redo of the book next year as the Giants win their ninth Championship (Super Bowl) . Now, that would be a miracle season and well enjoyed.

This book is written for those of us who love Giants football as played in many of the great venues over the years. After discussing the origins of football and then the origins of pro-football, the book first tells the story of the first New York Giants Football Game in 1925. It then advances to the games, the victories and losses, and the onward to the great immortal New York Football Giants' coaches of historical fame—Steve Owen, Allie Sherman, Bill Parcels, and Tom Coughlin.

Predicting that another future immortal great is already in our midst, the book then takes us up to the last Giants season with Coach Pat Shurmur.



NY Giants v Washington Redskins at the Polo Grounds in 1938. Photo by AP Photo]

This book is all about the great moments in New York Giants Football. It touches every aspect of the historical and mythical Giants Football Teams. It tells exhilarating stories about the 22 coaches and its 95 seasons worth of great games. The book stops every now and then, and it takes the reader on a side excursion in time to learn about a particular event or a great player.

The player list always begins with the immortal Charley Conerly who played for NY from 1948, the year I was born 'til 1961. The book goes on and on and recounts the games of Y.A. Tittle, Frank Gifford, Roosevelt Brown, Roosevelt Grier, Lawrence Taylor, Michael Trahan, and of course Pat Summerall. These Pro Bowlers have made Giants Football a bright light experience for the program's many years and many fans.

In my role as Editor in Chief of Lets Go Publish! and a die-hard Giants' fan, I predict that you will not be able to put this book down

You are going to love this book because it is the perfect read for anybody who loves the New York Giants and Giants' football, and who wants to know more about one of the most revered professional athletic teams in all of football.

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

Who is 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.

This is Brian's fourteenth "Great Moments" book and his fourth about a professional NFL team. Writing about the New York Giants has been a special treat.

Chapter 1 Introduction to the Book

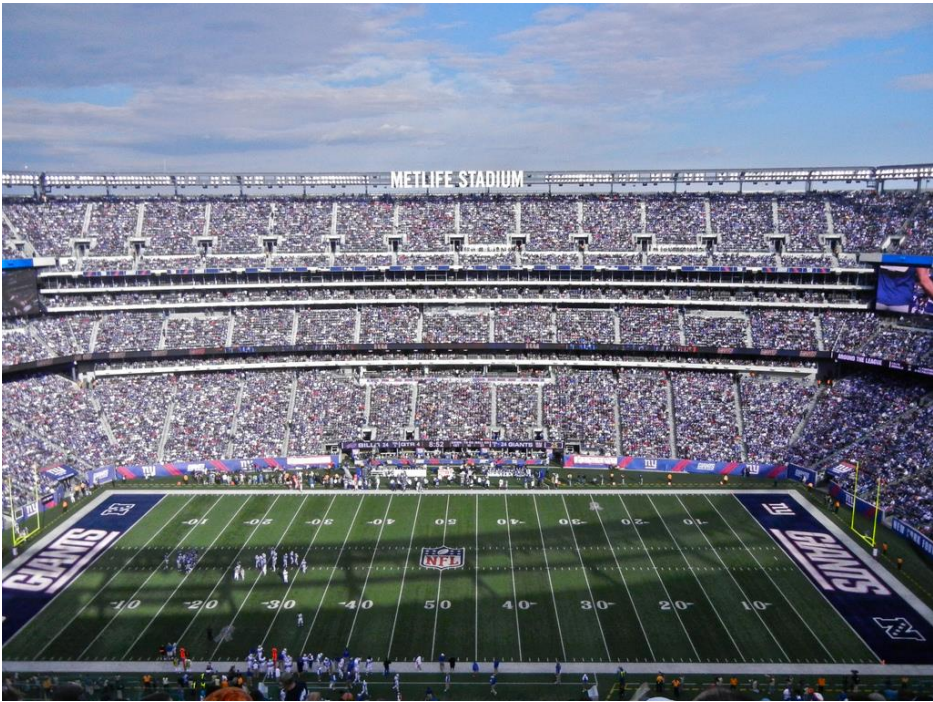
The Giants celebrate 95th year of football



Everybody loves the New York Giants!

In 2019, New York is celebrating its 95th year of Great 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 moments in New York Giants Football History, and there are many great moments. No book can claim to be able to capture them all, as it would be a never-ending story, but we sure try. The great moments naturally include a lot of great people, including players and the 17 great coaches that over time would make or break the New York Giants.

Even before we get into Giants football, we discuss the beginning of football; the beginning of pro-football; and the beginning of the NFL.

Lawrence Taylor, OLB (1981-1993); Frank Gifford, RB/WR (1952-1964); Mel Hein, C (1931-1945); Roosevelt Brown, OT (1953-1965); Sam Huff, LB (1956-1963); Emlen Tunnell, DB (1948-1958); Harry Carson, LB (1976-1988); Michael Strahan, DE (1993-2007); Tuffy Leemans, FB (1936-1943); Andy Robustelli, DE (1956-1964); Charley Conerly QB (1948-1961), Eli Manning, QB (2004-present) and other New York Giant Football greats from over the years, have

great reverence for the team for which they played the game of football. That reverence is captured in these pages.

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, displayed in a properly summarized format so that none of us are reading this book forever. There are 500 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 Moments 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 History of New York Giants' Football Stadiums

The New York Giants have played football in their share of stadiums over the years. From their first game shortly after becoming a franchise in 1925, until 1955, the Mara family's Giants played at the Polo Grounds. They then moved to the original Yankee Stadium and shared the field with the Baseball Yankees in 1956. Though Yankee Stadium had been built primarily for baseball, it served as a suitable location for the NY Football Giants for nearly two decades.



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

The Giants were great right from the beginning. Its first two seasons were 8-4 and then in its third season, the team claimed its first world championship in the NFL. It was just its third season when the team finished with the best record in the league at 11-1-1, and it received the prestigious NFL title. Then, in the next 14-years from 1933 to 1946, New York qualified to play in the NFL championship game eight more times, coming away with two more trophies. It was

another ten years before they won their next title, right after moving into Yankee Stadium.



The New York Giants and the Chicago Bears faced off in the 1956 NFL Championship at Yankee Stadium—a game the Giants would go on to win. Photo by AP Photo/Harry Harris]

After their time in Yankee Stadium, the Giants moved to a stadium named after the Giants – Giants Stadium. There was only one problem. It was not in NY but that did not seem to matter to Giants fans, or NY Jets fans with whom the Giants shared the football stadium. Before the move to Giants stadium, however, NY had two other venues.

Because Yankee Stadium was being renovated in 1973 and 1974, the Giants played 12 home games at the Yale Bowl, which was home to the Yale University football team in New Haven, Connecticut. In 1975, the Giants played at Shea Stadium before making the big move to the new Giants Stadium in The Meadowlands.

Over the years, fans have referred to this stadium as Giants Stadium or Giants Stadium at the Meadowlands. Some even called it *the swamp* from the origins of the land used to build it. The city location

was East Rutherford, New Jersey, and specifically the venue was the Meadowlands Sports Complex. The facility opened up in 1976 and lasted until 2010. It primarily hosted sporting events and concerts in its history.

This chapter in the history of the New York Giants football stadiums ended with the closing of Giants Stadium in 2010. Over its 33-year history, the stadium was the home to 14 playoff teams, three of which won Super Bowl Championships. Unlike any other NFL team, at the time, for 25 years the New York Giants and Jets shared the same stadium.

You will learn in this book that the New York Football Giants are a franchise with a big history. Having been a member of the short-lived NFL at the time since 1925 and having won eight NFL championships in total through 2019. New York's Football Giants are quite a legacy.

The National Football League itself played a few years before the Giants came in. From 1920 on, the league functioned as the American Professional Football Association (APFA). At the time, there were ten teams from four states, but the New York Giants were not one of those ten teams.

The National Football League changed names from the APFA and became the NFL in 1922. It was the first professional football league to successfully establish a nationwide presence after several decades of failed attempts by other leagues. Only two teams currently in the NFL, were part of the starting ten in 1920. They are both Chicago teams—the Decatur Staleys (now the Chicago Bears) and the Chicago Cardinals (now the Arizona Cardinals).

The Green Bay Acme Packers, founded in 1919 (joined the NFL in 1921. They are now the Green Bay Packers). They are the oldest NFL franchise within continuous operation in the same location.

When the Giants got their franchise in 1925 until 1955, they played at Polo Grounds. They moved to Yankee Stadium in 1956, sharing the stadium with baseball's New York Yankees. Yankee Stadium was the “house that Ruth (Babe) in April 1023. It was originally built

for baseball but was a suitable location for the Football Giants for nearly two decades.

In the late 1960s, discussions of new stadiums, one for football and one for baseball, in the Meadowlands began. The New York Giants were targeted for this project because Yankee Stadium was deteriorating by the late 1960s. On August 27, 1971 the Giants signed a 30-year lease agreement to move to a new stadium to be constructed in the Meadowlands. The New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority was formed to finance, construct and maintain the stadium.

No public funding was used to finance the stadium. Originally scheduled to be completed by 1975, several obstacles forced the opening of the stadium to be pushed back a year. Since the stadium was being constructed and Yankee Stadium was eventually renovated, the Giants played the 1973 and 1974 seasons at the Yale Bowl, and the 1975 season at Shea Stadium.



Giants Stadium – Giants played there until 2010

Named after the team, Giants Stadium opened on October 10, 1976. Over 77,000 seats in three tiers circled the entire playing field. Two scoreboard / video-boards were located above the upper deck beyond

both end zones. The Giants were the primary tenant at the stadium until 1984, when the New York Jets moved from Shea Stadium to share Giants Stadium.

On September 6, 1984 the Jets played their first game at the stadium. Their move to Giants Stadium was not a very wise financial decision during their first several seasons. Many Jets games did not sell out and the stands were half-empty. The stadium also lacked many things to make it look like the Jets home. From its opening in 1976 until 2000, the stadium had AstroTurf as its playing surface.

In 2000, it was replaced with natural grass. However, after the 2002 season the grass field was then replaced with FieldTurf. Giants Stadium had over 70 luxury suites, and also had a restaurant that seated 2,000 people. The stadium hosted many concerts, the NY/NJ Metro Stars (MLS), and many other events.

Because Giants Stadium lacked many of the modern amenities found in newer stadiums built since the late 1990s, the Giants and Jets partnered in building a new stadium adjacent to Giants Stadium. MetLife Stadium opened in August 2010. Giants Stadium was demolished in Winter and Spring 2010.



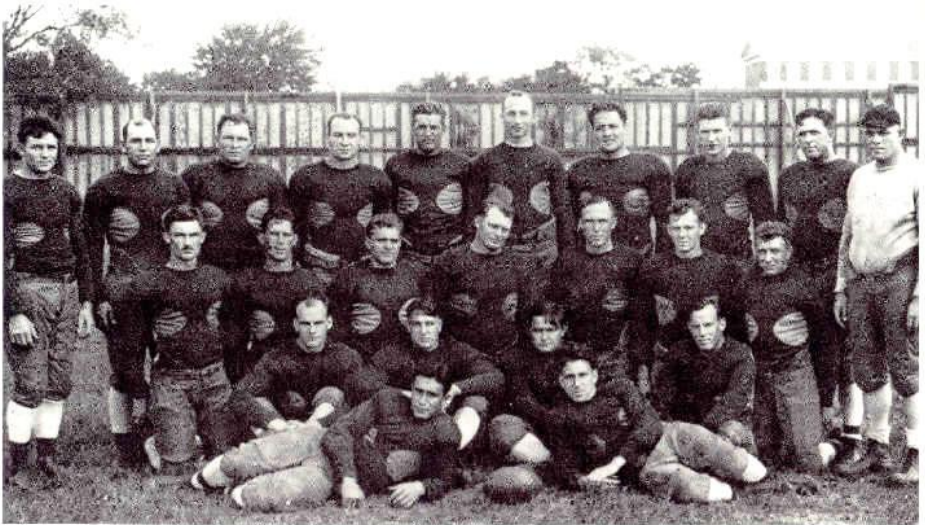
Met Life Stadium NY Giants

Chapter 3 Giants Launch First Football Team

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 New York Giants Coach 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. Overall they played seventeen games. Five were non-league exhibition 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.

After a book hiatus to go way back into the football archives to show how football and then pro-football began, we will continue with the 1926 season and on to the current season.

You will learn some things in the next few chapters that I did not even know about when I began to research this book. Enjoy.

Chapter 4 The Evolution of Modern Football



Lots of playing before playing became official

The official agreed upon date for the first American-style football game is November 6, 1869. There would be more than thirty plus thirty years plus some years after this for the Philadelphia Eagles to meet the NY Giants on the gridiron. The Eagles first had to become an NFL franchise. If you can find a replay of the first college game someplace in the heavens, however, you would find its replay would not look much like football as we know it. But, it was not completely soccer or rugby either.

Before this game, teams were playing a rugby style similar to that played in Britain in the mid-19th century. At the time in the US, a derivative known as association football was also played. In both games, a football is kicked at a goal or run over a line. These styles were based on the varieties of English public-school football games. Over time, as noted, the style of "football" play in America continued to evolve.

On November 6, 1869, the first football game in America featured Rutgers and Princeton. Before the teams were even on the field it was being plugged as the first college football game of all time. Syracuse University opened in 1870, the year after the first college football game.

The first game of intercollegiate football was a sporting battle between two neighboring schools on a plot of ground where the present-day Rutgers gymnasium now stands in New Brunswick, N.J. Rutgers won that first game, 6-4.

There were two teams of 25 men each and the rules were rugby-like, but different enough to make it very interesting and enjoyable.

Like today's football, there were many surprises; strategies needed to be employed; determination exhibited, and of course the players required physical prowess.



1st Game Rutgers 6 Princeton 4 College Field, New Brunswick, NJ

Before we begin to focus solely on the Eagles, the next several chapters will describe the origins of football, the origin of the football, and how the NFL grew out of something that became known as American football that was first played on college campuses.

Chapter 5 The First American College Football Game



Early American Football

We can all read Walter Camp's books about how the rules of American football came about. We can also learn a lot from the writings of the day. However, since nobody alive today was alive way back when, it is safe to say that nobody actually knows. But from all the accounts, we do have a pretty good idea.

There are a lot of guessers and some wrong readers out there because nobody from November 1869, of which I am aware can refute anything via an eye-witness account. So, there are a lot of great stories, some duplicated many times over. Some are right on the money and others are inexact. We'll do our best to bring you the story as it really happened in this book.

Once the first College football game was played, the next major game to be played was the first professional football game. Though there were dribs and drabs of pro football being played by some famous

coaches such as Knute Rockne, it took a while for professional football to take off.

In these pre-Giants football chapters that eventually get us to the first pro-football game, know that the facts in this section come from a book written by your author that sells much better in England than in the US. Its title is *The Birth of American Football*. The modified excerpts from this book help set the stage for a proper introduction to professional football, the NFL, and the road to Super Bowl LIII, a game won by the Patriots over the LA Rams.

For Giants Fans of course, the better story is from seven years in the past when the NY Giants rode to a Super Bowl XLVI win in 2012 in perfect style. Tom Coughlin, not known for many smiles over the years, for a few years after the 2011 season looked like he had that continual smile pasted on by a professional. That, my friends is the beauty of winning.

It has been almost 150 years since the first American College Football game. Therefore, it helps to recall the old schoolroom exercise of whispering into a person's ear a little passage and thirty students later seeing what comes back. The good news is that the further back that you get from the time of Walter Camp, the stories are all similar and there are fewer and fewer of them.

Camp had all the future rules in his head!

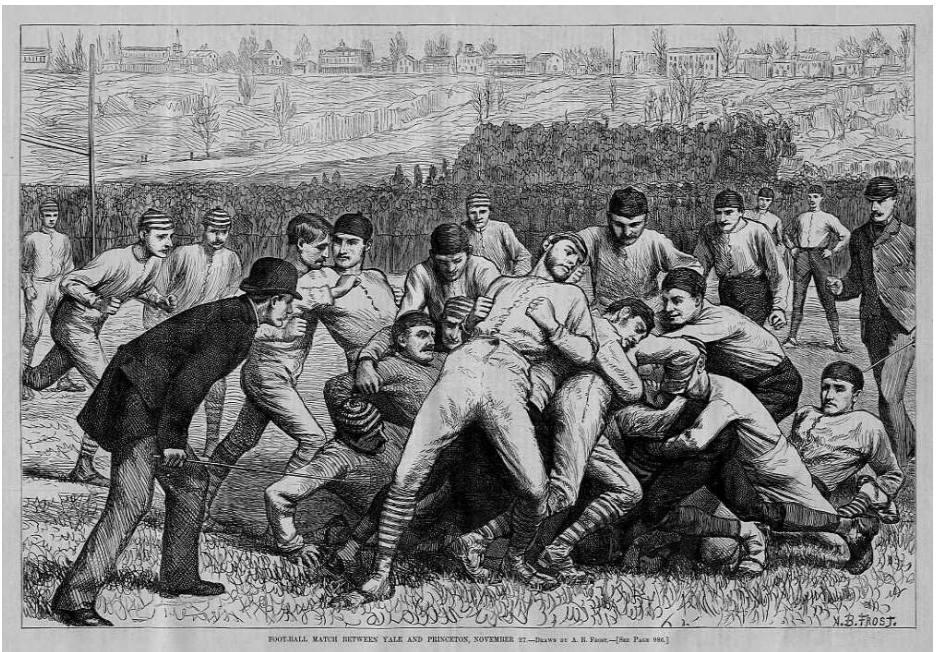
Eventually, in the 1870's, shortly after the very first recognized collegiate football game in America, the great Walter Camp began to get really interested and he wrote a lot of football history and a number of football rule books. These are trusted implicitly today by most experts as the defining moments in American football.

One of the few things about early football that we do know with reasonable certainty is that professional football as we understand it, was non-existent until long after collegiate football was established. It can also be said with certainty that if it were not for the colleges playing football with abandon for so many years, and Walter Camp's fastidious attention to the game, in particular, there probably would be no American football today at any level. Of course, more than

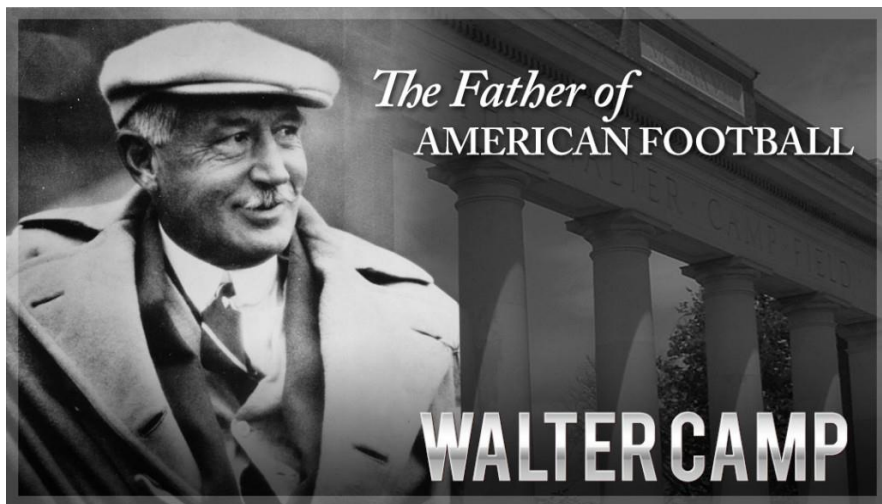
likely there would still be rugby and soccer. Walter Camp was an amazing football pioneer.

We also know that there was a great gifted athlete who played every sport imaginable including soccer and rugby, and then American football. His name as you might guess, is Walter Camp. He is universally recognized by all students and experts of the game of football as the Father of American Football.

There is some irony in putting this out as a two plus two equals four story, however. You see, Walter Camp, as noted, widely considered the most important figure in the development of American football, was not playing organized football when the first football game took place in 1869. So, who gave them their football rules? Voila, it is a conundrum!



1879 Football Game Depiction



As a youth, we know that Camp excelled in sports such as track, baseball, and association football, and after enrolling at Yale in 1876, he earned varsity honors in every sport the school offered. But, what about 1869 which is the consensus origin date for the beginning of American football in the US?

Many apologists have written about this period from 1869 onward as if it were the beginning of American football that, at the time was played only at the collegiate level. In essence, the true beginning of college football was in fact, the beginning of American football.

However, the rules of the game began more as rugby rules than football rules but over the years, changes were made. Today, no other country plays the type of football played in America. America created its own game of football and it is unique.

There were other rough games out there at the time and they still exist across the world. One might conclude that football was unnecessary as those who played soccer and rugby could be maimed or killed in a contest without needing Camp's American football rules.



Scenes from First Football Game

Considering that the centennial of the US was approaching in 1869, the year of the first game, some feel there was a need to create a game besides the American past-time of baseball, that was a cool-weather sport. Yes, there was soccer and rugby, but these have a European or English heritage, from whom America had declared independence about 100 years prior. England for the most part owned the rules of soccer and rugby for some time. The Europeans did not look to Camp's rule book for advice for their favorite sports.

Nonetheless, historians trace the roots of American football to early versions of rugby football and association football neither of which are indigenous to America. Both games have their origin in varieties of football played in Britain in the mid-19th century, in which a football is kicked at a goal or kicked over a line. These varieties of style in England were based on the various English public school football games.

It helps to be reminded in this story that our nation's birth date is July 4, 1776 and so 1869 was just 93 years from the founding.

There are lots of stories about the evolution towards American football, and this part of this discusses includes many ideas supplied

by Walter Camp for the transition. American football resulted from several major modifications from association football and rugby football, most notably the rule changes instituted by Camp at Yale University and when he was a Hopkins School graduate. To repeat Camp is significant as he is attributed as being the designated "Father of American Football."

One of the changes not attributed to Walter Camp was the shape of the ball. As you will see, the forward pass did not become legal until 1906 and so the spherical shape of modern footballs was not required until passing became a larger part of the game.

The football itself was evolving steadily from the first game. But, it was not completely perfected until 1935. The ball used in the very first game was round, like a soccer ball and like early rugby balls. It was tough to carry, and awkward to throw.

In 1874, in a McGill and Harvard game, they used a ball that looked like a watermelon. Over time, balls became more plum-like and easier to throw. The problem was that pigs' bladders, not balloons were used and they by definition were inexact. We refine this study of the ball later in this writing before we look at NY Giants' season summaries, so please hang on. For now, know that Walter Camp was not involved in defining the ball itself.

Among these important changes to rugby that Camp brought into American football were the introduction of the line of scrimmage, of down-and-distance rules. He also introduced the notion of legal interference, which today is called blocking and prior to the Camp rule change was plain old interference.

Camp was the rules guy but before he went to Yale, like most New Englanders of the day, he played soccer, which was the preferred cool-weather fall sport. He did not play much rugby football until his time at Yale University from 1876 to 1881.

Camp was not the first person to play football—any kind of football—be it soccer, rugby, or Harpastum. Some joke that Adam and Eve may have played football with a round fruit. Most of us would hope it was an orange or a grapefruit.

A sport called Harpastum and others

You can go back through history and find sports that had some of the roughness and rudiments of soccer, rugby, and American football but the games they played were not very rule-based.

In a “sport” called *Harpastum*, a form of ball game played in the Roman Empire, for example, the Romans enjoyed their own form of football.

There have been many forms of traditional football that have been played throughout Europe and beyond since the beginning of mankind.

We have already discussed the possibility that there may have been nicht-verboten round or oval fruits in the Garden of Paradise used for football. Apples would not do well in football games.

From the beginning of antiquity, knowing man’s propensity to exercise, have fun and use various shaped balls in so doing, if not in the garden, then one can bet it was not long after Paradise that ancient forms of football abounded. See pic of *Harpastum* next page.



Many of these ancient matches would involve handling of a ball and scrummage-like formations. Several of the oldest examples of football-like games include the Greek game of Episkyros and the Roman game of Harpastum (both pictures on this page).

Over time many countries across the world developed their own national football-like games. For example, New Zealand

has Ki-o-rahi; Australia has Marngrook; Japan has Kemari; China has Caju; Georgia has Lelo Burti; and the Borders have Jeddart Ba'; and the Cornwall Cornish of course have Hurling.



The pictures below of balls and balls in play are interesting and make the point. Left to right, Ki-o-rahi ball, Marngrook ball, and a snap of a game of Kemari in process. None of these forms appear to have a direct link to American football but they surely are forerunners.



Tall tales that may be true

In football-story-telling, there is also an often-told story about a ship in 1586, almost 100 years after Columbus, in which the men from the ship wanted to play a little sport. The ship was reportedly commanded by an English explorer named John Davis. The young crew would go ashore to play a form of football with the Inuit (Eskimo) people in Greenland. There are other later accounts of an Inuit game played on ice, called Aqsaqtuk.

This game had a similarity to football in that each game, which was called a match, began with the two teams facing each other in parallel lines. The objective was to kick the “ball” through each other team's line and then kick it at a goal. Moving along in time, it is recorded from 1610 that William Strachley from Jamestown, Virginia, an English Colonist, wrote the account of a game played by Native Americans. They called the game Pahsaheman. Dear folks, none of these encounters were sanctioned by the NFL but the participants chose not to care. They played for fun.

Though there are stories of Native Americans playing foot and ball games, a variety of American football historians agree that the game has its roots from the traditional football games played all over Europe in villages, towns, and schools for centuries before Columbus.

Mob Football from Europe

The scuttle on those is that the early games appear to have had much in common with what has been called "mob football" from England. There were typically no uniforms or coaches nor hard and fast rules. Before money entered the game, fun was the major factor for playing. Men were brutes at the time and playing brutish sports helped their desire to win at all costs. Women chose not to participate with the brutes as their needs were filled by the daintiness of the day.

In the 19th century, intramural games of rugby, soccer, and association football began to be played on American college campuses. There were no rules committees and no Walter Camp at the time they began to play and so each school played its own variety of football with its own rules.

Princeton University students, for example, are reported to have played a game called ball-own, as early as 1820.

Harvard had its own tradition known as "Bloody Monday," which began in 1827. This was all about a mass ballgame between the freshman and sophomore classes. In 1860, both the town police and the college authorities agreed the Bloody Monday had to go. There was too much blood for the good of the game.

The gendarme would not permit "football" for well over twelve years. Then the game was played again. Dartmouth had its own version which they called "Old division football." Its rules were first published in 1871, though it is said they played the game from the 1830's.

There were commonalities in all these games Yet, they remained largely "mob" style games, with huge numbers of players on the "field" or whatever makeshift was available. All players were on the field at the same time. There was a little rhyme and some reason as the objective seemed always to be to advance the ball into a goal area, quite often by any means possible and necessary.

There were no complicated rules as the games were played for sport—just for fun. Rules were simple, and so without protection by rules, violence and injury were common. There was supposedly no

beer drinking at the games, but plenty of beer was consumed shortly thereafter by the young adult participants.

Yes, to be sure, the games were often heated as no group wanted to lose. Some games were actually violent. Yet, afterwards, sometimes after beating each other to a pulp, both squads normally would choose to gather together from their rivalry for some post-game revelry that often included the singing of songs, awarding of small prizes, and of course lots of beer-drinking.

There is an old football / rugby saying that parallels the US Las Vegas slogan: "What happens on the pitch, stays on the pitch." "This is an oft-quoted rugby truism.

Take away the violence!

The brutality and frequent bloodshed of these mob-style games led to widespread protests and there were many separate decisions from cities and schools to abandon the games. Yale, for example, under pressure from the city of New Haven, banned the play of all forms of football in 1860. Eventually, because of popular pressure, the games would be brought back in one form or another.

From 1854 to 1882, there was a variant of the mob football style that was once again played at Yale in the form of bladderball. The objective, of this "game" was to gain control of an oversized inflatable ball and bring it through the gates of the residential college represented by another on-campus intramural team.

As one would expect, this game was eventually banned by school authorities for a number of reasons, not the least of which was alcohol fueled violence. The violence and the alcohol were most often precipitated by the game and vice versa. Revival games were played in 2009 and 2011, and very briefly, in 2014. The revivals were most often scripted though the grog surely flowed.

Eventually, the informality of the matches gave way to formality as bona fide institutions began to sponsor collegiate level teams. The 1869 college football season is recognized as the first season of

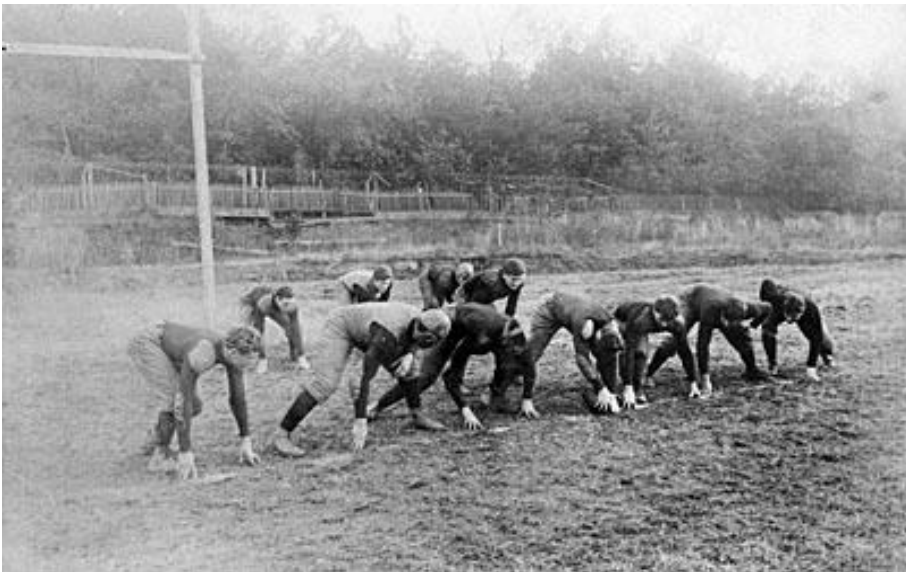
intercollegiate football in the United States, though at the time, there were only two teams in the league – Rutgers and Princeton.

The rules were not refined and so the teams used “agreed-upon improvised rules” resembling soccer and rugby as much as the modern American sport. 1869 is considered by historians as the inaugural college football season.

This 1869 football season consisted of only two total games and as noted, there were just two teams – Rutgers University and Princeton University; The first game was played on November 6 at Rutgers' campus, and the second was played on November 13 on the Princeton's campus.

1869–1875

As noted, the November 6, 1869 football game between Rutgers and Princeton, which by the way was then known as the *College of New Jersey*, was played with a round ball. The rules were provided by Rutgers captain William J. Leggett. They were based on the Football Association's first set of American football rules.



Rutgers Scarlet Knights practice 1869

Walter Camp did not write the first set of rules, but he made them all better. These rules were an early attempt by those who had studied football in England's public schools, to codify the rules and create what hopefully would become a universal and standardized set of dictates for the game. Let me posit an analogy of the *evolution* of American Football Rules.

I remember back in the late 1980's when Windows 2.0 came out and it was a major improvement on DOS and the prior Windows. I am sure if the hardware were capable then, the Bill Gates led Microsoft team would have built Windows 10 or Windows 11, instead of going through all the iterations to make the program better over the next thirty years. But, for lots of reasons, they could not.

Rules changes work well through an iterative process of testing new rules, introducing them to the "game," and then removing objectional parts. In the process, some rules are enhanced; others eliminated; while still other rules are added.

The 1869 football games bore little resemblance to the American game, which would be developed slowly in the following decades through the continual work of Walter Camp and others. Nonetheless, it is still regarded as the first game of Intercollegiate American Football.

Think of the mob playing this first game at a Rutgers field. It could have been worse. Two teams of 25 players lined up and attempted to score by kicking the ball into the opposing team's goal. Throwing or carrying the ball was not allowed, but there was plenty of physical contact between players. The first team to reach six goals was declared the winner. Rutgers won this game by a score of six to four.

A rematch was played at Princeton a week later under Princeton's own set of rules. There was a major difference in the rules of this game as a team was awarded a "free kick" when any player caught the ball on the fly. This feature had been adopted from the Football Association's rules. The fair catch kick rule has survived through our modern American game.

Princeton won the second game with home field advantage by a score of 8–0. More teams began to play each other in 1870. Columbia

was next to join the series and then by 1872 several other schools began to field intercollegiate teams, including Yale and the Stevens Institute of Technology.



Chapter 6 Moving Closer Towards American Football

Nothing happens overnight in American football



Soon after the early football changes, in the late nineteenth and into the early twentieth centuries, more game-play type developments were introduced by college coaches.

The list is like a who's who of early American College Football. Coaches, such as Eddie Cochems, Amos Alonzo Stagg, Parke H. Davis, Knute Rockne, John Heisman, and Glenn "Pop" Warner helped introduce and then take advantage of

the newly introduced forward pass.

In later chapters, we will look at the enhancements attributed to these football greats. It was a great time to be involved in the early sport of football for sure.

We have learned that American College football as well as professional football, were introduced prior to the 20th century. Pro football remained ragtag until 1920 when the American Professional Football Association (APFA) was formed. Fans were lured into watching again and again once they saw the game played. How could we not love American football?

American college football especially grew in popularity even after the beginning of professional football. It became the dominant version of

the sport of football in the United States. It was this way for the entire first half of the 20th century. For many fans, it still is this way. There are pro football fans who do not enjoy college football and vice versa.

Bowl games made the idea of football even more exciting in the college ranks. Rivalries grew and continued, and the fans loved it! This great football tradition brought a national audience to college football games that still dominates the sports world today.

Edgar Allan Poe – No kidding!



In researching this section, I found that some players with some great names played football in the early years. For example, Edgar Allan Poe was an All-American for Princeton in 1889. Additionally, in

1889, first-year players were permitted to wear numbers representing their names in college football games.

This particular Edgar Allan Poe was eventually a great historical figure. He served as Attorney General of the State of Maryland from 1911 to 1915. Born in Baltimore, Poe was named for his second cousin, twice removed, the celebrated author & poet, Edgar Allan Poe, who died in 1849.

What number is he?

Another interesting tidbit on the formation of football is that teams played without uniform numbers. Nonetheless somehow the players were identified. Just two years after Penn State, as well as Notre Dame formed their teams and played their first official football games in 1887, the first All-America team was named in 1889.

There is some scuttle about that as Walter Camp and some others with mostly Eastern College roots were accused of picking players from the big Eastern Colleges almost exclusively and so there were few All Americans at Notre Dame or Penn State or Alabama in the early years. Eventually, it all became fairer.

Seventeen years after the first all-American for example, W. T. (Mother) Dunn was Penn State's first All-American in (1906). He was named by Walter Camp. He was both a linebacker and a center. The next All-American for PSU was Bob Higgins, the long-time PSU football coach who, as an End, gained the honor both in (1915 & 1919). The PSU football program has produced 88 consensus all-Americans in total. Notre Dame has 90. Alabama has 68.

Notre Dame had two All-Americans in 1913—Knut Rockne, an End, and Gus Dorais, a quarterback. By 1913; the forward pass was legal and that is how ND was winning its games in this undefeated season.

As touched on in this section, in 1889, numbers to identify individual players, were permitted but not recommended. It took until 1915 that they were recommended. But, it was not until 1937 that numerals were required on both the front and back of game jerseys. In 1967

this rule was further modified to require numbering according to position, with offensive players typically ineligible to receive forward passes assigned numbers in the 50-79 range.

Pro football came from American college football

There is no denying that the greatest college football players more often than not eventually found their fortunes in professional football. Non-NFL Pro football can be traced back to 1889, just a few years after Penn State and Notre Dame rolled out their football programs, and just before Alabama got in the game.

It was 1892 when William "Pudge" Heffelfinger signed a \$500 contract to play for the Allegheny Athletic Association against the Pittsburgh Athletic Club. There was no NFL back then. Players who were so talented that they could play anywhere were able to make a few bucks in early pro-football. But, there were no millionaires.

Twenty-eight years later, the American Professional Football Association was formed. This league changed its name to the National Football League (NFL) just two years later.

Eventually, the NFL became the major league of American football. Originally, pro football was just an unaffiliated sport played in midwestern industrial towns in the United States. Yet, because of the tenacity of some owners ready to bet on the come, professional football eventually became a national phenomenon.

FYI: "Betting on the Come" is derived from a gambling expression (CRAPS) and means you don't have what you want or need, now at the moment; but, you are betting or hoping you will have what you want or need when the time comes.

We all know that pro football is the sport because from August to February, in America, every year, many of us are glued to our TV sets or chained to our seats in some of the most intriguing pro-football stadiums in America—mostly on Sundays.

The end of football?

Football was never a game for the light of heart. You had to be tough physically and tough mentally to compete. Way back in 1906, for example, complaints were many about the violence in American football. It got so bad that universities on the West Coast, led by California and Stanford, replaced the sport with rugby union rules. The moms and dads were not looking to have their “juniors” injured for the sake of any sport.

At the time, the very future of American college football, a very popular sport enjoyed by fans nationwide was in doubt. The schools that eliminated football and replaced it with Rugby Union believed football would be gone and Rugby Union would eventually be adopted nationwide.

Soon other schools followed this travesty and made the switch. Eventually, due to the perception that West Coast football was an inferior game played by inferior men, when compared to the rough and tumble East Coast, manhood prevailed in the West over the inclination to make the game mild.

The many tough East Coast and Midwest teams had shrugged off the loss of the few teams out West and they continued to play American style football.

And, so the available pool of Rugby Union "football" teams to play remained small. The Western colleges therefore had to schedule games against local club teams and they reached out to Rugby Union powers in Australia, New Zealand, and especially, due to its proximity, Canada. America at the time was almost exclusively playing American football.

American football OK without the west

The famous Stanford and California game continued as rugby. To make it seem important, the winner was invited by the British Columbia Rugby Union to a tournament in Vancouver over the Christmas holidays. The winner of that tournament was rewarded with the Cooper Keith Trophy. Nobody in the American football America cared. Eventually the West Coast came back to American-style football ala Walter Camp.

Nonetheless the situation of injury and death in football persisted and though there was a lot of pushback, it came to a head in 1905 when there were 19 fatalities nationwide. Nobody, even football lovers, wanted this.

President Theodore Roosevelt, a tough guy himself, is reported to have threatened to shut down the game nationwide if drastic changes were not made. Sports historians however, dispute that Roosevelt ever intervened with any wielded power.

What is certified, however, is that on October 9, 1905, the President held a meeting of football representatives from Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. The topic was eliminating or at least reducing injuries and the President, according to the record, never threatened to ban football.

The fact is that Roosevelt lacked the authority to abolish football but more importantly, he was a big fan and wanted the game to continue. The little Roosevelts also loved the sport and were playing football at the college and secondary levels at the time.

This was over 110 years ago, a century plus. That is why they say football was an even more brutal sport then, than some believe it is today. There are accounts of games that left dozens of dead on college and prep school gridirons. Though I have the reference, I cannot find any of the games in which such carnage may have occurred.

Many in the country were asking for action from politicians. With the very existence of the sport in jeopardy, President Theodore Roosevelt, who actually loved the sport, entered the fray and urged the schools noted above to institute some radical reforms that according to observers at the time saved the sport and gave another birth to the modern game of American football.

On the next page is a picture of a Teddy's Nephew being carried off the field after an injury in the "brutal game of football."

There are those who went as far as calling the turn of the 20th century America's football gridirons killing fields. College games

drew tens of thousands of spectators and had even more fan appeal than professional baseball, the national pastime.

Baseball was a gentle sport compared to football. American football in the early 1900s was lethally brutal. It was a grinding, bruising sport that required major physical contact on each play. In 1905, the forward pass was still illegal and, so it was sheer brute strength that was required to move the ball.

Eventually, the technology of modern football uniforms and the padding necessary helped the game to continue in its roughness without its major toll on bodily parts.



One of the Roosevelt offspring carried off after injuring his ankle.

Some of the permissible winning plays have been outlawed for a long time. For example, Huge players were once permitted to lock their arms in mass formations. They would use their unprotected helmetless heads as battering rams against other tough teams. Gang tackles routinely buried ball carriers underneath a ton and a half of

“tangled humanity.” It was good that some civility was injected into the game even though it came from the President’s intervention.

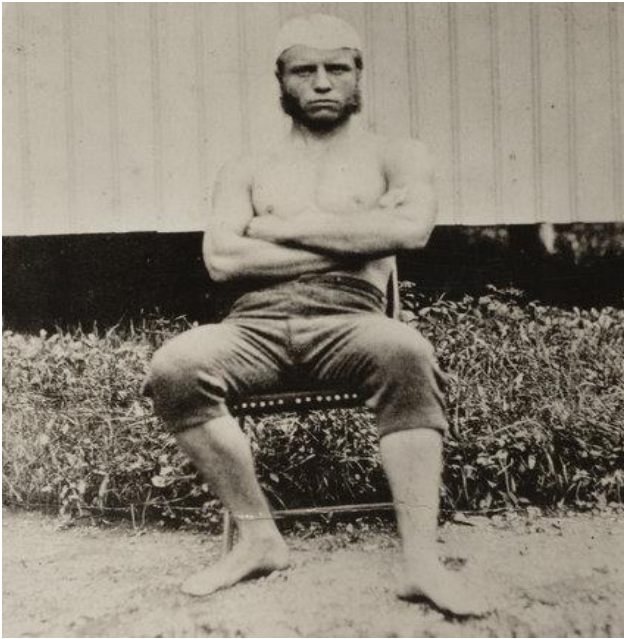
Football players fought like gladiators

There was little in the way of protective equipment. Apparently, nobody had ever thought of pads and helmets. Players would often sustain gruesome injuries such as wrenched spinal cords, crushed skulls and broken ribs that were sometimes so severe they pierced their hearts. It did not go unnoticed.

The Chicago Tribune wrote a piece that in 1904 alone, the year before Roosevelt’s involvement, there were 18 football deaths and 159 serious injuries, mostly among prep school players. It was sad.



A look at tangled humanity



TR as a college undergraduate; Theodore Roosevelt Collection, Harvard College Library
 There were obituaries of young pigskin players on a near-weekly basis during the football season. The carnage appalled America. Everybody loved the sport but not the maimings. The Newspapers did not take it easy on the game. Editorials called for the outright banishment of college and high school football.

Football was often compared to the Roman Gladiators: “The once athletic sport had degenerated into a contest that for brutality was little better than the gladiatorial combats in the arena in ancient Rome,” opined the *Beaumont Express*. The sport had reached such a crisis that one of its biggest boosters—President Theodore Roosevelt—got involved. Roosevelt wanted men to be as tough as they could be but, not to die playing for fun.

Roosevelt’s glasses gave away his nearsightedness. But, as a youth in college he did not wear them. This, however, was more than enough to keep this tough man from making the Harvard varsity squad, Yet, he was always a vocal exponent of football’s contribution to the “strenuous life,” both on and off the field.

When “Teddy” was New York City police commissioner, he helped bring back the old Harvard-Yale football series after it had been

canceled for two years following the violent 1894 clash that was labeled “the bloodbath at Hampden Park.”

He believed that the football field was more or less a proving ground for the battlefield. This was validated by the performance of his fellow Rough Riders who were mostly former football standouts. “In life, as in a football game,” he wrote, “the principle to follow is: Hit the line hard; don’t foul and don’t shirk, but hit the line hard!”

Teddy Roosevelt liked football

In 1903, the president told an audience, “I believe in rough games and in rough, manly sports. I do not feel any particular sympathy for the person who gets battered about a good deal so long as it is not fatal.” Unfortunately, in 1904-1905, football injuries were too often fatalities, and it was not improving.

Yes, even the President knew that football had become fatal, and he acknowledged that it needed reform if it were to be saved. With his son, Theodore Jr. who had begun to play for the Harvard freshman team, he had a major league paternal interest in reforming the game as well.

Roosevelt was the guy to negotiate with the foot-ballers for sure. He was straight from having negotiated an end to the Russo-Japanese War. He sought to end violence on the football field as well as the battlefield. Using his “big stick,” the gentleman known as the “First Fan” brought the necessary parties together—especially those from the premier collegiate football powers of the day—Harvard, Yale and Princeton—to the White House on October 9, 1905.

Roosevelt made no threats. But, he did urge them to curb excessive violence and set an example of fair play for the rest of the country. The schools responded with a heartfelt and effective press release condemning brutality and pledging to keep the game clean.

Ironically, Roosevelt, in taking on the problem of football fatalities, learned that real war may be even easier to gain peace than getting this new American sport to clean up its act. Fatalities and injuries continued and in fact increased during the 1905 season. In the

freshman tilt against Yale, the president's son was bruised and his nose broken—some say quite deliberately. This would not do. Yet, it continued

The following week, Harvard's entire varsity were ready to leave the field of play against Yale, after their captain was felled by an illegal hit on a fair catch. His nose was broken and bloodied. Union College halfback Harold Moore suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and died the same afternoon after being kicked in the head while attempting to tackle a New York University runner. Nobody really wanted the game to have such consequences.





THE TWELFTH PLAYER IN EVERY FOOTBALL GAME.

It was a grim and savage season and it finally ended. There was work to be done. The Chicago Tribune saw the senseless deaths as a “death harvest,” The football season had brought about 19 player deaths and 137 serious injuries. Newspaper artists had a field day creating “cartoons” of figures such as the Grim Reaper on a goalpost surveying a twisted mass of fallen players. It was similar to the cartoons on the prior page.

It was so tough that some tough schools such as Stanford and California, as previously noted, switched to rugby while Columbia, Northwestern and Duke dropped football all together. Harvard president Charles Eliot, who considered football “more brutalizing than prizefighting, cockfighting or bullfighting,” warned that Harvard would be next. This would be a totally crushing blow to the college game and the Harvard alum, President Roosevelt who worked every day in the Oval Office.



Helmet testing was quite animated in the early 1900's Roosevelt appreciated the need for men to play men sports and he captured his views in a letter to a friend. He stated that he would not permit the Harvard College president Elliott to “emasculate football,” and that Roosevelt hoped to “minimize the danger” without football having to be played “on too ladylike a basis.”

Roosevelt was a tough man and, so he again used his bully-pulpit. He urged all parties from the Harvard coach to other leading football authorities to quickly adopt radical rule changes. He invited other school leaders and football aficionados to the White House in the offseason for productive discussions.

Good rules made football even better

Many good rules were put forth at an intercollegiate conference, which would become the forerunner of the NCAA. The “radical” rules were approved for the 1906 season. They would have a very

positive effect on the game and eventually would substantially reduce injuries.

Looking at the lethality of the game in 1905, one might rightfully conclude that without the 1906 conference, baseball may have returned as the national past-time.

The rules of 1906 legalized the forward pass, abolished the dangerous mass formations, created a neutral zone between offense and defense and doubled the first-down distance to 10 yards, to be gained in three downs, which eventually was increased to four downs.

The rule changes did not completely eliminate football's dangers, but fatalities declined substantially—to 11 per year in both 1906 and 1907. While injuries fell sharply, a spike in fatalities in 1909 led to another round of reforms that further eased restrictions on the forward pass and formed the foundation of the modern sport where speed and athletic dexterity became as important as brute force.

So, the rule changes were good. There were other new rules such as the notion of reducing the number of scrimmage plays to earn a first down from four to three in an attempt to reduce injuries. The LA Times reported an increase in punts in an experimental game and thus considered the game much safer than regular play.

Football lovers did not accept many of the new rules because they felt they were not "conducive to the sport." We know today, for example, there are four downs for a first down. There was a period when rapid rule changes interfered with coaching strategies as a favored play in early season might be illegal before the season ended. This was an unintended consequence of rule refinement.

Because nobody wanted players injured or killed in a game, on December 28, 1905, to be sure the rules were put out for 1906, a group representing 62 schools met without the President in New York City to discuss the proposed major rule changes to make the game safer. From this meeting, the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States, later named the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), was formed.

The forward pass is legalized

One particular rule change that was introduced in 1906 was devised to open up the game and thus reduce injury, eventually gained favor with the coaches, players, and fans. This new rule introduced the legal forward pass. Though it was underutilized for years afterwards, this proved to be one of the most important rule changes in the establishment of the modern game. Those coaches, such as Eddie Cochems, who adopted the pass early, had a major advantage in winning games. In 1913, Knute Rockne (End) and Gus Dorais (QB) practiced the forward pass helping Notre Dame win more games than a normal brutal season would have gained them.



Because of these 1905-1906 reforms, mass formation plays in which many players joined together became illegal when forward passes became legal. Skill and athleticism instead of weightlifting ability became the ingredients necessary for star football players.

Chapter 7 Origin of the Oval-Shaped Sports-Ball



The coming of the sports-ball!

One of my great curiosities in researching this book is who would have ever thought of using an oval ball shaped like today's modern football? Secondly, why don't we all know that answer?

To answer the question, I got some help from the people at Inventors-Handbook as surely the oval football was a key invention for the game of football.

Please note that the folks from the Inventor's handbook have a different interest than I, in pursuing this information. They use the invention of the football as a reason why inventors should patent

their works while I was merely interested in learning who the inventor was and how he came about inventing the football.

The invention of the *football*—the ball used in the popular team game is not necessarily attributed to one inventor. But most historians agree that one particular English shoe maker is more than likely responsible for the way footballs look today.

This description is not for the faint of heart, and in fact, there is a death reported in this account.

Early footballs were essentially pig's or other animals' bladders which were inflated by the power of human lungs (blowing hot air into them). They were then tied and sealed, much like balloons would be sealed – knotted at the end.

As a result, they were often plum, or pear shaped, and not round, depending on the size of the individual animal's bladder.

Before the invention of football as we know it, balls were often prone to exploding while in use. This led to shoemakers selling leather cases to protect the inflated bladders. Shoes and boots makers used leather on a daily basis and were the most appropriate people to be able to sew the ball's leather cases around the bladder.

You may ask why rubber was not used instead of animal bladders. It took a while to be able to work rubber into all the uses we have today. Rubber was invented in 1839 by Charles Goodyear. He accidentally dropped Sulphur and white latex from a rubber tree onto a hot stove. This resulted in the formation of a dark elastic substance which came to be called vulcanized rubber, and the rest is history but not yet for football.

Until the 1860's, football, soccer and rugby were all played with a plum or pear-shaped ball made of leather, encasing an inflated animal bladder.

In Europe, the first proper football invention is attributed to two shoemakers: Richard Lindon and William Gilbert who invented round and oval shaped balls. Lindon is credited for inventing the rubber inflatable bladder.

In 1849, at the age of 33, Lindon, who worked just in front of the rugby school in Rugby England, was constantly asked to create footballs for the school's boys.

As a shoemaker, he was regularly receiving leather supplies for making shoes and, so he used some of this supply to also create balls for the boys' teams by covering the pig's bladders with leather.

Both Lindon and his wife worked at the craft and prepared the balls when requested. Because she was not a craft shoemaker and yet wanted to help with the many orders, Lindon's wife took on the additional responsibility of inflating the bladders by blowing air into them.

This was not as simple and innocuous as it sounds. In many ways, it was downright dangerous as many bladders were infected, having originated from diseased pigs.

It was around 1862 that Lindon had begun looking for an alternative to inflated pig's bladders that would be safer than the current practice. For his wife, those efforts came way too late. She eventually died by falling ill from inflating too many infected pigs' bladders.

Lindon invented an inflatable inner tube made of natural rubber, instead of the existing animal bladders. Because of the newly understood pliability of rubber, the shape of the football was able to be molded to the shape of a perfect round sphere.

His first prototype was made from such a rubber inflated tube covered with 7 strips of leather, stitched at the end with "bottoms" on both sides. The ball was almost spherical. This design gained popularity and became the one he used for all of the "footballs" that he sold.



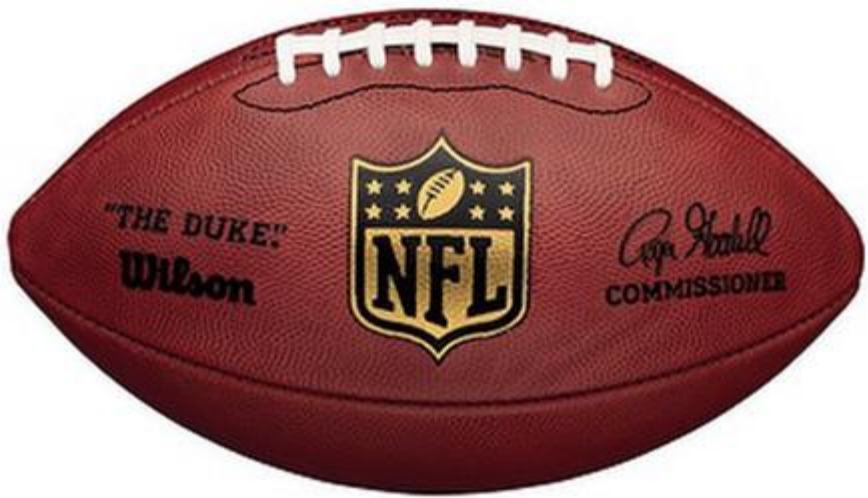
Lindon's Brass Pump Invention

Since he found inflating the rubber that he used too hard to do by hand, Lindon also invented a brass pump, inspired by a simple ear syringe. This could be used to inflate his footballs without the need to blow them up with one's mouth. Thus, he is also credited not only for the invention of the football but also for the invention of the air pump. Until his death, Lindon had never patented the bladder, ball or air pump, which he invented. Yet, these were key inventions for football. The moral of the story for the invention people is that he could have made a ton of money, which could have been passed on to his family on his death if he had only patented his invention.

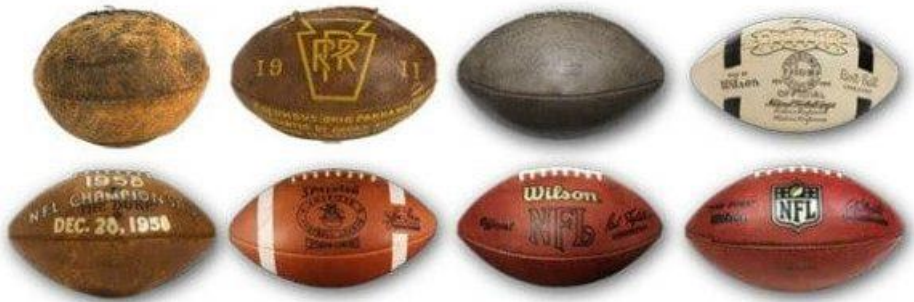
The shape of the football

On October 5, in 2012, Jimmy Stamp of Smithsonian Magazine wrote an expose on how the "pigskin" for modern football got its shape. "How Did the Pigskin Get Its Shape?"

Stamp put forth that even though American football may have evolved from soccer and rugby, the football was never truly designed—it just sorta happened.



Like the shoemaker's invention, Stamp also points out that the “pigskin” is not made of pig skin or pig’s bladders but is, in fact, made from cowhide, aka leather, and not the tanned skin of a pig.



He cites that the shape is mysterious, but we know it is because of the inexact shape of the original pig’s bladder. He asks, “If the sport evolved from soccer and rugby, how and when did the football gain its distinct shape – technically known as a prolate spheroid?” Stamp answers:

“Well, it turns out that the football was never truly designed, it just sorta happened.” This fact comes from one Henry Duffield, a man

who happened to be a spectator at the Princeton and Rutgers American Football Game in 1869, which as we know is considered the first intercollegiate game ever:

“The ball was not an oval but was supposed to be completely round. It never was, though — it was too hard to blow up right. The game was stopped several times that day while the teams called for a little key from the sidelines. They used it to unlock the small nozzle which was tucked into the ball, and then, the players took turns blowing it up. The last man generally got tired and they put it back in play somewhat lopsided.”

This would surely indicate that the football that bounces erratically all over a field and can fly through the air in a perfect spiral is not, in fact, the product of a grand design. According to Stamp, it is simply the result of a leaky sphere and some lazy inflators.

Rugby balls had been constructed long before this game but for some time, the round ball dominated the scene in soccer style / association football. The rugby balls were always in the shoemakers' shops for repair because of their pointy ends.

In 1879, Thomas Sherrin, from Australia took the point off the ends of the rugby balls and made his own design. His nephew noted that “He made a ball and created the ball that had less pointy ends. It was still able to bounce unpredictably but it was a little more consistent in its movement.” Sherrin also made leather punching bags.

Stamp wraps up his Smithsonian article with an interesting summary:

“Initially, football was a very different game – or perhaps I should say games. There were kicking games and running games, but as those two games began to merge together, as rules began to standardize, the ball began to slightly stretch out in order to accommodate more types of use. The unique shape of the ball was somewhat formalized in the early 20th century and that form was exploited to great success when the forward pass was introduced to football in 1906.”

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Chapter 8 The Birth of Play with Pay



When you look at the records of the college teams in the early years of their sports programs, you find the college football teams did not always play other college teams. Sometimes they played associations such as the Frankford Athletic Association, a precursor of the Philadelphia Eagles, and sometimes, they played high school powerhouses and they did not always win those games. Football was no different in its growth as a respected sport than other sports.

It was very popular with the many athletic clubs that proliferated in the late 19th century. Just like high school teams and prep schools and junior colleges, full four-year colleges often played athletic clubs from their area to get a good football game on a Saturday afternoon. When the pros fired up, Sunday was the only day of the weekend that was available.

These clubs were formed to compete against one another, but they had no problem saying yes to play Notre Dame or Penn State, or Alabama or any great college team of the day. Soon, the pro players were making real money.

The first documented professional football player was Pudge Heffelfinger. He broke the bank on November 12, 1892, when he received \$500 for just one game with the Allegheny Athletic Association. There were no easy ways to record information other than pencil and paper back then, so a lot of stories and their history did not make the newspapers and, so they are lost forever. The Pudge Heffelfinger story is the exception.

It is a safe bet that many other athletes played for money but managed to keep their earnings a deep secret. In 1893, the Pittsburgh Athletic Club signed one of its players to a contract to play for the entire season. By 1896, several of the clubs from the Pittsburgh area were openly professional.

For years after college football took off, there were attempts by graduates and coaches and others to create leagues with rules and better opportunities for players and fans. The first documented attempt came in 1902 with a Pennsylvania league known as the National Football League (NFL) with no relationship to the modern-day league. A lot of the action in these endeavors came about in Pennsylvania and then later, Ohio.

John Rogers, who owned the Philadelphia Phillies baseball team, founded a football team called the Phillies in 1901. This prompted another man with some extra change in his pocket, Ben Shibe, who owned the Philadelphia Athletics to create another new team in 1902. The baseball rivals tried to get other teams to join with them to compete for a self-proclaimed “football world championship.” Great ideas, however, are easier to conceive than to implement.

There was just one taker, a promoter in Pittsburgh. Out of nowhere, the National Football League was conceived, and it got a bump start. It was also a bumpy start. The three teams enjoyed being THE National Football League and they went ahead and played each other in a round-robin tournament.

The beauty of a “league” without rules is that each team, though each finished with a 2-2 record, could claim the national championship. Who could cast aspersions on three teams with equal records?

I surely do not want to make light of this effort as many of the best football players of the day participated in this league, as did three well-known baseball Hall of Famers who happened to love the emerging sport of football. Christy Mathewson, ace pitcher for the New York Giants played halfback and punter for the Pittsburgh Stars. Connie Mack, manager of the Athletics baseball team also managed the Athletics football team, and Rube Waddell one of the best left-handed pitchers in history, was a reserve lineman for Mack's squad.

Waddell put his weight in each pitch and it was enough weight for him to change sports at will, and block for the backs in this pro-league or tackle as many opponents' backs as may have made the mistake of running his way.

Think about how exciting those days had to be. There was no real NCAA and there was no real NFL to tell the players or the organizers that they needed to behave one way or another. Nobody said they had to wear stuff under their eyes during games or that they could not have a beer after practice. There was no bureaucracy with which to deal.

Nothing good happens overnight. Nothing worth having in life is easy. And, so players and investors with a lot of chutzpah chose to face the difficulties and they took up the challenges of making football, which was beginning to be very successful in American colleges, into a professional sport. Players, other than twenty-year old college kids could compete and could earn a few dollars on Sunday after they passed the hat.

The "NFL" three teams played a yearly football tournament in New York in 1902 and 1903. It was dubbed the "World Series of Football." With less than 2000 tickets sold for each game, there wasn't much evidence that there was much money to be made by running a football team. But, somehow Baseball teams were making it; but then again, baseball teams played a lot more games.

Baseball teams played games every day for six months, and that produced enough revenues that teams could afford to travel from New York to Chicago, Boston to Cincinnati, or St. Louis to

Philadelphia. The pageantry of college football drew fans in droves, and it wasn't unusual for crowds of 60,000 to see a matchup between rival schools when they could book a big stadium. That helped colleges pay to build their own stadiums and eventually pay coaches handsomely.

It was tough to do when everybody had to reach into their pockets in order to be able to put something into their pockets from pro-football. The pro game did not draw the numbers of college games with ardent fans. It was just a passing interest, so teams were forced to minimize costs in whatever ways they could.

There was no concentration on player safety in the early days so that cost nothing. The best way to reduce expenses was to limit team travel. Consequently, big entrepreneurs, who knew how to make a buck, were not stepping quickly into unorganized pro-football so they could make a killing. There was no killing to be made.

There was not much of an incentive for a nation-wide league of professional football teams in the 1910s. It made more sense to stay closer to home, with teams sponsored by local businessmen, whose chief interest was promoting their company. If local businesses were not gaining sales, they too would have abandoned pro-football in its infancy, in a heartbeat.

Over the next few years, the center focus of pro football moved from Pennsylvania to central Ohio. By 1905 there were at least seven pro teams playing in Ohio. They had great names such as the Massillon Tigers and the Canton Bulldogs. There was no really organized league, so these were independent teams. They had to fend for themselves. Though some were more successful than others, they all faced the same challenges.

Pro football needed to be profitable

Prior to television and the phone technology revolution, fans looked upon football as a great form of entertainment, even better, say some, than movie theatres. World War I soured a lot of people on life and everybody in the second decade of the twentieth century needed a pick-me-up. Football and the movies often lifted their spirits.

Nonetheless, it was tough for pro football teams to generate revenues without really good players. Since such players cost pro-teams big money, it became tougher for small football enterprises to make ends meet. Besides player raiding, steadily rising salaries made it difficult for many teams who wanted to win games and not be also-rans, to continue operating.

Finding and signing players was tough enough; but keeping them was even tougher. There were no rules for players having to stay with a team and their major opponents would often snatch players by offering bigger paydays. The poorly financed teams just as today did poorly in the standings.

There were also issues with what were known as “ringers.” Knute Rockne was a ringer in his day. There were lots of other college athletes who either coached or played while still enrolled in school. The pros were offering them comparatively big bucks to move out and join them. Certain teams with lots of cash were “stockpiling” college stars to make sure their teams won. If your team could not afford the going rate, your team’s talent level was at a major disadvantage.

Cooperation of the teams without a formal league framework could have resolved most of these issues in the twenty-years from 1900 to 1920 but it did not happen. The teams were more concerned about winning than cooperating.

Chapter 9 When Pro Football Was Unorganized

**ORIGINAL
NATIONAL
FOOTBALL
LEAGUE**

1902
Pittsburgh Stars



Former college players and coaches wanted to keep playing football

There were no million-dollar players in the professional football ranks at the beginning of the twentieth century, but there were a lot of players and coaches who wanted to play football. They hoped to get paid one day to play their favorite sport. Just like there are social clubs, dart clubs, shuffleboard clubs, rod and gun clubs, and a host of other clubs, before the NFL pro football league about which we know today, there were a lot of athletic clubs that focused on football as their only sports as it was evolving into American football.

The current NFL compiled a brief snapshot of what was going on in these early football days from 1900 to 1909 and then the Football Hall of Fame continued their work from 1910 to 2012. It is a nice work effort and I hope the Hall of Fame picks it up again and keeps it current. Many like you and I have a keen interest in the origins of today's NFL.

We thank these groups mentioned above briefly for putting together this very brief compendium presented below. It takes us through the

early pro football period right up until the formation of a league that lasted, and was called the NFL. And, so the rest of this chapter is courtesy of the NFL and the Pro football Hall of Fame:

1900

William C. Temple took over the team payments for the Pennsylvania Duquesne Country and Athletic Club, becoming the first known individual club owner. The NFL was in the minds of entrepreneurs such as Temple, who understood the draw that American professional football would have for fans.

1902

Baseball's Philadelphia Athletics, managed by Connie Mack, and the Philadelphia Phillies formed professional football teams. They joined the Pittsburgh Stars in the first attempt at a pro football league that had the same moniker as today's National Football League. The Athletics won the first night football game ever played, 39-0 over Kanaweola AC at Elmira, New York, November 21. They were exciting times but nobody knew whether teams or leagues would last financially from one weekend to the next.

There were no authorities so if the press believed it like in today's political roundup, the people got to read it as fact. All three teams claimed the pro championship for 1902, but the league president, Dave Berry, named the Stars the champions. Pitcher Rube Waddell was with the Athletics, and pitcher Christy Mathewson a fullback for Pittsburgh.

The first World Series of pro football, a tournament like the basketballers always held, was a five-team bout played among a team made up of players from both the Athletics and the Phillies, but simply named New York; the New York Knickerbockers; the Syracuse AC; the Warlow AC; and the Orange (New Jersey) AC at New York's original Madison Square Garden. New York and Syracuse played the first indoor football game before 3,000, December 28. Syracuse, with Glen (Pop) Warner at guard, won 6-0 and went on to win the tournament. Nobody had any idea what football would grow up to be..

1903

The Franklin (Pa.) Athletic Club won the second and last World Series of pro football over the Oreos AC of Asbury Park, New Jersey; the Watertown Red and Blacks; and the Orange AC. Pro football at the national level had not yet arrived but it was played well in Ohio when the Massillon Tigers, a strong amateur team, hired four Pittsburgh pros to play in the season-ending game against Akron. At the same time, pro football interest declined in the Pittsburgh area, and the emphasis on the pro game moved west from Pennsylvania to Ohio.

1904

As American football evolved the rules made it easier to play the game as tough as it was. In 1904, a field goal was changed from five points to four. Ohio had at least seven pro teams. By and large to play American Football and play it well, you were an Ohio Team.

Massillon won the Ohio Independent Championship, that is, the pro title. Talk surfaced about forming an Ohio-state-wide league to end spiraling salaries brought about by constant bidding for players and to write universal rules for the game. The feeble attempt to start the league failed. Halfback Charles Follis signed a contract with the Shelby (Ohio) AC, making him the first known black pro football player. There was more racism in the history books than there was in reality at the time.

1905

The Canton AC, later to become known as the Bulldogs, became a professional team. Massillon again won the Ohio League championship.

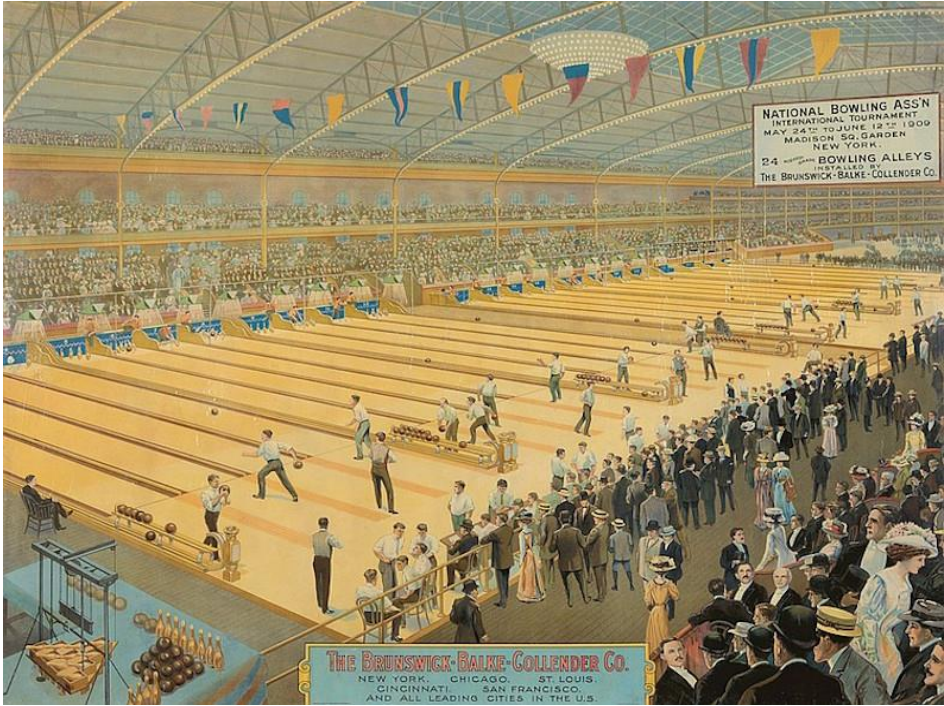
1906

The forward pass was legalized. The first authenticated pass completion in a pro game came on October 27, when George (Peggy) Parratt of Massillon threw a completion to Dan (Bullet) Riley in a victory over a combined Benwood-Moundsville team. Arch-rivals Canton and Massillon, the two best pro teams in America, played twice, with Canton winning the first game but Massillon winning the second and the Ohio League championship.

A betting scandal and the financial disaster wrought upon the two clubs by paying huge salaries caused a temporary decline in interest in pro football in the two cities and, somewhat, throughout Ohio.

1909

More rules changes: A field goal dropped from four points to three.



1909 New York was known more for Bowling Lanes than Football Fields

But with the popularity of football increasing, that too would change.

1912

A touchdown was increased from five points to six. Jack Cusack revived a strong pro team in Canton, Ohio. Ohio took the game very seriously.

1913

Jim Thorpe, a former football and track star at the Carlisle Indian School (Pa.) and a double gold medal winner at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, played for the Pine Village Pros in Indiana. Thorpe is buried now in the former Mauch Chunk city in

Pennsylvania. Once Thorpe's bones were interred in the former Mauch Chunk, the official town changed its name to Jim Thorpe. I have been at the memorial and I have prayed over Thorpe's Bones with my brother Joe, Sister Mary, Sister Nancy and beautiful wife Pat. Thorpe as one heck of an American athlete. To repeat, he was quite an American athlete.

1915

Massillon again fielded a major team, reviving the old rivalry with Canton. Long before he passed, Cusack signed Jim Thorpe to play for Canton for \$250 a game.

1916

With Thorpe and former Carlisle teammate Pete Calac starring, Canton went 9-0-1, won the Ohio League championship, and was acclaimed the pro football champion.

1917

Despite an upset by Massillon, Canton again won the Ohio League championship.

1919

Canton again won the Ohio League championship, despite the team having been turned over from Cusack to Ralph Hay. Thorpe and Calac were joined in the backfield by Joe Guyon.

Earl (Curly) Lambeau and George Calhoun organized the Green Bay Packers. Lambeau's employer at the Indian Packing Company provided \$500 for equipment and allowed the team to use the company field for practices. The Packers went 10-1.

1920

Pro football was in a state of confusion due to three major problems: dramatically rising salaries; players continually jumping from one team to another following the highest offer; and the use of college players still enrolled in school. A league in which all the members would follow the same rules seemed like it would be the answer.

An organizational meeting, at which the Akron Pros, Canton Bulldogs, Cleveland Indians, and Dayton Triangles were represented, was held at the Jordan and Hupmobile auto showroom in Canton, Ohio,

Unlike many formative meetings for many sports, back close to the beginning of the 20th Century, New York business persons did not play a major role because New York was into other things.

The meeting was conducted on August 20, 1920. There were just seven men in attendance—including legendary all-around athlete and football star Jim Thorpe. They all met with the purpose as noted above of organizing a professional football league. It was this meeting that led to the creation of the American Professional Football Conference (APFC), the forerunner to the hugely successful National Football League that we know today as THE NFL.

The APFA began play on September 26, with the Rock Island Independents of Illinois defeating a team from outside the league, the St. Paul Ideals, 48-0. A week later, Dayton, another Ohio team, beat Columbus 14-0 in the first game between two teams from the APFA, which I must add was the forerunner of the modern NFL.

The teams were from four states-Akron, Canton, Cleveland, and Dayton from Ohio; the Hammond Pros and Muncie Flyers from Indiana; the Rochester Jeffersons from New York; and the Rock Island Independents, Decatur Staleys, and Racine Cardinals from Illinois. It just happened that way.

Hoping to capitalize on his fame, the members elected Thorpe president and then Stanley Cofall of Cleveland as vice president. A membership fee of \$100 per team was charged to give an appearance of respectability, but no team ever paid it. Teams were not well-endowed. Scheduling was left up to the teams, and there were wide variations, both in the overall number of games played, and in the number played against APFA member teams. There were no archived original rules to be accessed.

Four other teams—the Buffalo All-Americans, Chicago Tigers, Columbus Panhandles, and Detroit Heralds-joined the league sometime during the year. As noted, on September 26, the first game featuring an APFA team was played at Rock Island's Douglas Park. A crowd of 800 watched the Independents defeat the St. Paul Ideals 48-0.

A week later, October 3, the first game matching two APFA teams was held. At Triangle Park, Dayton defeated Columbus 14-0, with Lou Partlow of Dayton scoring the first touchdown in a game between Association teams. The same day, Rock Island defeated Muncie 45-0.

By the beginning of December, most of the teams in the APFA had abandoned their hopes for a championship, and some of them, including the Chicago Tigers and the Detroit Heralds, had finished their seasons, disbanded, and had their franchises canceled by the Association.

Four teams-Akron, Buffalo, Canton, and Decatur-still had championship aspirations, but a series of late-season games among them left Akron as the only undefeated team in the Association. At one of these games, Akron sold tackle Bob Nash to Buffalo for \$300 and five percent of the gate receipts. It was the first APFA player deal. The word “professional” was being defined by the future teams of the NFL.

APFA would have a clear champion.

The Association's membership increased to 22 teams, including the Green Bay Packers, who were awarded to John Clair of the Acme Packing Company.

Thorpe moved from Canton to the Cleveland Indians, but he was hurt early in the season and played very little.

A.E. Staley turned the Decatur Staleys over to player-coach George Halas. He moved the team to Cubs Park in Chicago. Staley paid Halas \$5,000 to keep the name Staleys for one more year. Halas made halfback Ed (Dutch) Sternaman his partner.

Player-coach Fritz Pollard of the Akron Pros became the first black head coach.

The Staleys claimed the APFA championship with a 9-1-1 record, as did Buffalo at 9-1-2. Carr ruled in favor of the Staleys, giving Halas his first championship.

1921

In the league meeting in Akron, April 30, the championship in 1921 for the 1920 season was awarded to the Akron Pros. The APFA was reorganized, with Joe Carr of the Columbus Panhandles named president and Carl Storck of Dayton secretary-treasurer. Since football was all about Ohio back when the NF was formed, Carr moved the Association's Headquarters to Columbus. He then drafted a league constitution and by-laws, gave teams territorial rights, restricted player movements, developed membership criteria for the franchises, and issued standings for the first time.

1922

After admitting the use of players who had college eligibility remaining during the 1921 season, Clair and the Green Bay management withdrew from the APFA, January 28. Curly Lambeau promised to obey league rules and then used \$50 of his own money to buy back the franchise. Bad weather and low attendance plagued the Packers, and Lambeau went broke, but local merchants arranged a \$2,500 loan for the club. A public nonprofit corporation was set up to operate the team, with Lambeau as head coach and manager.

The American Professional Football Association changed its name to the National Football League on June 24 in 1922. The Chicago Staleys became the Chicago Bears.

The new NFL fielded 18 teams, including the new Oorang Indians of Marion, Ohio, an all-Indian team featuring Thorpe, Joe Guyon, and Pete Calac. They were sponsored by the Oorang dog kennels.

Canton was led by player-coach Guy Chamberlin and tackles Link Lyman and Wilbur (Pete) Henry. This great team emerged as the league's first true powerhouse, going 10-0-2.

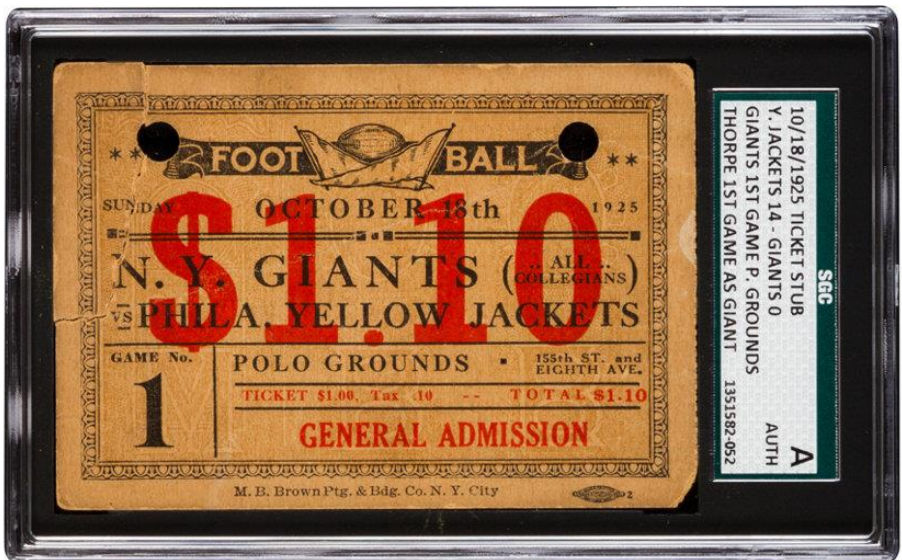
Our sincere *Thank You* to the NFL and to the Football Hall of Fame for the facts presented above about the formation of the NFL.

Chapter 10 NFL's Fast Start from 1920 Set the Stage for Today



1920 American Professional Football Association (1920 - 1922) Consisting of 12 Teams:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Canton Bulldogs | Dayton Triangles |
| Cleveland Indians | Akron Professionals |
| Rochester Jeffersons | Rock Island Independents |
| Massillon Tigers | Muncie Flyers |
| Decatur Staleys | Racine Cardinals |
| Hammond Pros | Buffalo All-Americans |



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NFL growth: One thing right after another

The Giants joined the NFL in 1925 and then played its first pro season. It did not compete with the teams above in the APFA.

Americans, and in fact the whole world sports community, know that the National Football League today is a multi-billion-dollar enterprise. Few know the early history provided by the NFL et al in Chapter 8. We just learned that its origins as the American Professional Football Association were much humbler than today's millionaire players and billionaire players and luxury-box stadiums with some capacities of over 100,000 fans.

Pro-football lovers look back at the league's inaugural 1920 campaign, which we know featured its birth in an Ohio auto dealership. They see strange team names such as Decatur and Muncie and the crowning of a champion that was not immediate as today in the middle of the Super Bowl Field. Instead, it took four months after the last snap was taken to get it right—back in 1921.

As promising as the pro-football scenario was in 1920, even though things looked good for the future of the pro sport, just like today, College Football dominated. Pro football remained completely overshadowed by the college game. This was tough for team owners, as we discussed. Most were in it for the profits and there were few to none in the early goings.

The owners were almost literally bleeding cash because of soaring player salaries and intense bidding wars as they poached players from other squads. The owners of these independent pro teams desired a strong league using the baseball model which had worked for so long. They wanted to gain more control over the sport—and their finances. A fully functional NFL was right around the corner and it would eventually provide this stability.



As we learn in exploring the early days of American football, everything was changing to comply with Walter Camp's rules and others—even the field size. Yes, even the field size in early American football was changing regularly but by 1920, the size had stabilized. The gridiron dimensions were the same in 1920 as they are today. However, the game of professional football was much different. Back then, there were no Johnny Unitas's, Charley Conerly's, Norm Van Brocklin's, Bart Starr's, Joe Namath's, Tom Brady's. Carson Wentz's, or Nick Foles's.

The Quarterback slot on the offense was often a running position. Forward passes were rare. Even things we take for granted today were prohibited. Can you imagine that coaching from the sidelines was not permitted?



When the forward pass was legalized in 1906, it still was not like today. It was not readily accepted by “real teams.” Established college coaches in the elite Eastern schools like Army, Harvard, Pennsylvania and Yale did not embrace the pass. It was also a gamble. You had to be pretty darn good to not lose more than the potential gain.

Here are some of the stipulations. Passes could not be thrown over the line on five yards to either side of the center. An incomplete pass resulted in a 15-yard penalty, and a pass that was dropped without being touched meant possession went to the defensive team. According to Kent Stephens, a historian with the College Hall of Fame in South Bend, “Because of these rules and the fact coaches at that time thought the forward pass was a sissified type of play that wasn’t really football, they were hesitant to adopt this new strategy.”

Each athlete played on both offense and defense. The late great Chuck Bednarik of the Eagles was the last consistent two-way player in the NFL, Bednarik played center and linebacker for a franchise-record 14 seasons with the Eagles from 1949 to 1962. In 1920, just about every player competed on both offense and defense. Money was so tight that the great coach of the Bears, George Halas carried

equipment, wrote press releases, sold tickets, taped ankles, played and coached for the Decatur club. Having two platoons would cost twice as much.

Today the league has a standard 16-game schedule, all nice and tidy and made up by the NFL itself. Back then, in 1920, the teams scheduled their own opponents and could play nonleague and even college squads if they chose and it all counted toward their records.

There simply were no established guidelines. Everything was ad hoc—the number of games played, and the quality of opponents scheduled. The league did not even maintain official standings in its fledgling years.

By 1925, it looked like the NFL was going to make it. Late in the season, it pulled off its greatest coup in gaining national attention. The University of Illinois season ended in November, and that made All-America halfback Harold (Red) Grange eligible conflict-free to do as he wanted with his life.

Grange signed a contract to play with the Chicago Bears. On Thanksgiving Day, a crowd of 36,000, which was the largest in pro football history at the time watched Grange and the Bears play the Chicago Cardinals to a scoreless tie at Wrigley Field. At the beginning of December, the Bears hit the jackpot when they went out on the road playing all around the country in 12 days.

They actually played eight games in 12 days, in St. Louis, Philadelphia, New York City, Washington, Boston, Pittsburgh, Detroit, and Chicago. A crowd of 73,000 watched the game against the Giants at the Polo Grounds.

This helped assure the future success of the troubled NFL franchise in New York. The Bears then played nine more games in the South and West, including a game in Los Angeles, in which 75,000 fans watched them defeat the Los Angeles Tigers in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Owners, players, and coaches were ready to do anything to make sure the new league was a success.

In 1930, the league had changed its whole complexion, literally.

Dayton was one of the NFL's original franchises. In 1930, it became the last of the NFL's original franchises when it was purchased by William B. Dwyer and John C. Depler, and the whole team was moved to Brooklyn, and renamed the Dodgers. They were a football team, nonetheless even with the Dodgers name. The Portsmouth, Ohio Spartans also entered the league at the same time. Things were changing rapidly

Other things were happening such as the Packers edged the Giants for the title, but the most improved team was the Bears. George Halas retired as a player and replaced himself as coach of the Bears with Ralph Jones. Jones refined the T-formation by introducing wide ends and a halfback in motion. He also brought in rookie All-America fullback-tackle, the great Bronko Nagurski.

Anybody would still play anybody. The Giants whooped a team of former Notre Dame players coached by Knute Rockne 22-0 in a successful match before 55,000 at the Polo Grounds on December 14. This was a charity game as the proceeds went to the New York Unemployment Fund to help those suffering because of the Great Depression. The easy victory helped the NFL's credibility with the press and the public. Everybody likes an act of kindness.

Carl Storck takes over the NFL as 2nd commissioner

In 1939, as the league was moving closer to 20 years in operation, Joseph Carr, who had been NFL president since 1921, died in Columbus on May 20. Carl Storck was named acting president of the NFL on May 25. Technology was about to help the NFL. The first televised NFL game saw NBC broadcast the Brooklyn Dodgers v Philadelphia Eagles game from Ebbets Field to the approximately 1,000 TV sets that were known to be in the New York Area.

Championships were beginning to be a big thing in pro-football as Green Bay defeated New York 27-0 in the NFL Championship Game, December 10 at Milwaukee. This was the first year that NFL attendance exceeded 1 million in a season, reaching 1,071,200.

Pro Bowl gave football an All-Star Game

In 1939, The New York Giants defeated the Pro All-Stars 13-10 in the first Pro Bowl. It was played in Chicago at Wrigley Field on January 15. The NFL also decided to change the format of the field, but not the dimensions. Each field would need just a paint job. The inbounds lines or hashmarks were moved from 15 yards away from the sidelines to nearer the center of the field-20 yards from the sidelines.

Funny things were happening that were unexpected. For example, Brooklyn and Boston merged into a team that played home games in both cities and was known simply as The Yanks. Additionally, George Halas rejoined the Bears late in the season after service time with the U.S. Navy during World War II. He took over much of the coaching duties, but he kept the prior coaches throughout the season. Steve Van Buren of the Philadelphia Eagles led the NFL in rushing, kickoff returns, and scoring.

Rookie quarterback Bob Waterfield led Cleveland to a 15-14 victory over Washington in the NFL Championship Game,

At the end of World War II, after the Japanese surrender, 638 players had served in the Armed forces and 21 of them had died in action.

After the 1942 Pro-Bowl game, during the war period, the “all-star” game was not played again until 1951. This classic contest was revived. On January 14, the American Conference defeated the National Conference in a nail-biter 28-27.

More rules were passed including some we might think were in the rulebook forever. For example, no tackle, guard, or center would be eligible to catch a forward pass.

The 1951 NFL Championship Game was televised coast-to-coast for the first time The Rams defeated the Browns 24-17.

Ted Collins sold the New York Yanks' franchise back to the NFL in 1952 and a new franchise was awarded to a group in Dallas after it purchased the assets of the Yanks on January 24. The new Texans

went 1-11. This of course was not too good for the new owners. At the end of the season the franchise was canceled. It was the last time than an NFL team would fail.

The Pittsburgh Steelers abandoned the Single-Wing for the T-formation, the last pro team to do so. The Detroit Lions won their first NFL championship in 17 years in 1952 defeating the Browns 17-7 in the title game, played before New Year's on December 28.

In 1953 the Old Yanks came back to life again as a Baltimore group headed by Carroll Rosenbloom got the franchise and the holdings of the defunct Dallas organization. The new team became The Baltimore Colts. It was the product of the largest trade in league history, acquiring 10 players from Cleveland in exchange for five. In a cosmetic name change, American and National conferences were changed to the Eastern and Western conferences.

Another major happening was that the immortal great Jim Thorpe died on March 28. Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania agreed to terms with Thorpe's widow to build a memorial and change the Town's name to Jim Thorpe. Thorpe's bones are buried in this beautiful memorial, which I visit every year on my annual visit to this wonderful town where Sean Connery and Richard Harris tipped a few in the filming of the Molly Maguires.

In 1956, the NFL Players Association was founded to give players a bigger voice in what was going on in the NFL. In 1959, the immortal Vince Lombardi was named coach of the Green Bay Packers and Tim Mara of New York Giants fame passed away.

The NFL was so successful, it spawned the AFL

The American Football League (AFL) was formed as a major professional American football league in 1960 and it was very successful. It was a lot of fun watching all the new teams in action. The teams included the Dallas Cowboys, Houston Oilers, New York Jets, Kansas City Chiefs, Boston Patriots, and even John Madden's Oakland Raiders. It operated for ten seasons from 1960 until 1969. Then, it merged with the older National Football League (NFL), that had been established in the 1920-1922 period.

The first AFL-NFL World Championship Game in professional American football was dubbed retroactively as Super Bowl I. It had been referred to in some contemporaneous reports, including the game's radio broadcast, as the Super Bowl. The name stuck. It was played after the 1966 season on January 15 at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. In this game, NFL Green Bay Packers defeated the AFL champion Kansas City Chiefs by the score of 35–10.

John Madden is still a people's favorite at 83 years of age. He was hired by Al Davis when the AFL was in its prime as the linebackers' coach for the AFL's Oakland Raiders. This was in 1967 and the league would last only two more seasons. He helped the team reach Super Bowl II that season. A year later, after Raiders head coach John Rauch left, John Madden stepped in to become the Raiders' head coach. This made Madden professional football's youngest head coach at the age of 32.

Former Raiders coach Dennis Allen in interviews noted that John Madden was arguably the best Oakland Raiders coach in the history of the team. His Raiders reached but lost five AFC Title games in seven years. This left the Raiders with the same image that the Dallas Cowboys had previously had—as a team unable to "win the big one."

Despite a 12–1–1 mark in 1969, for example the team lost 17–7 to the Kansas City Chiefs in the final American Football League championship game. The next year, the Raiders would be in the AFC Division of the NFL as the AFL lost its identity.

Was the AFL Any Good? See Super Bowl III

Super Bowl III was the third AFL–NFL Championship Game in professional American football, and the first to officially bear the name "Super Bowl". It was not AFC v NFC. It was the last interleague Super Bowl and the AFL did not win either of the first two games.

This game was played on January 12, 1969, at the Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida. Everybody over five years old at the time remembers

Broadway Joe Namath, cocky as can be, making a prediction that the AFL's Jets would win the game.

This game is still regarded as one of the greatest upsets in American sports history. The heavy underdog American Football League (AFL) champion New York Jets, led by former Alabama QB Joe Namath defeated the National Football League (NFL) champion Baltimore Colts by a score of 16–7. I was a senior in College at the time. What a great football game. I watched it from pre-game through post-game.

This was the first Super Bowl victory for the AFL. Though the AFL had been in existence ten years, before the start of this game, most sports writers and fans had written off the AFL teams as being less talented than every one of the NFL clubs. There were few who expected anything less than the Colts to whoop the Jets by a wide margin.

Baltimore had posted a 13–1 record during the 1968 NFL season before defeating the Cleveland Browns, 34–0, in the 1968 NFL Championship Game. The Jets finished the 1968 AFL season at 11–3, and defeated John Madden's great Oakland Raiders, 27–23, in the 1968 AFL Championship Game. Darryl Lamonica had a poor game and Kenny, the Snake, Stabler, who took Oakland to Super XI had just joined the Raiders.

After beating the Raiders and despite the hype saying the Jets did not have a shot, Joe Namath was undaunted. This unafraid Jets quarterback made an appearance three-days before the Super Bowl at the Miami Touchdown Club and brashly guaranteed a victory. The Jets could not have been more pleased with the prediction and they backed up Broadway Joe's words by controlling most of the game. They built a 16–0 lead by the fourth quarter off of a touchdown run by Matt Snell and three field goals by Jim Turner.

Colts quarterback Earl Morrall threw three interceptions before being replaced by the great Johnny Unitas, who then led Baltimore to its only touchdown during the last few minutes of the game.

With the victory, the Jets remain the only winning Super Bowl team to only score one touchdown (either offensive, defensive, or special

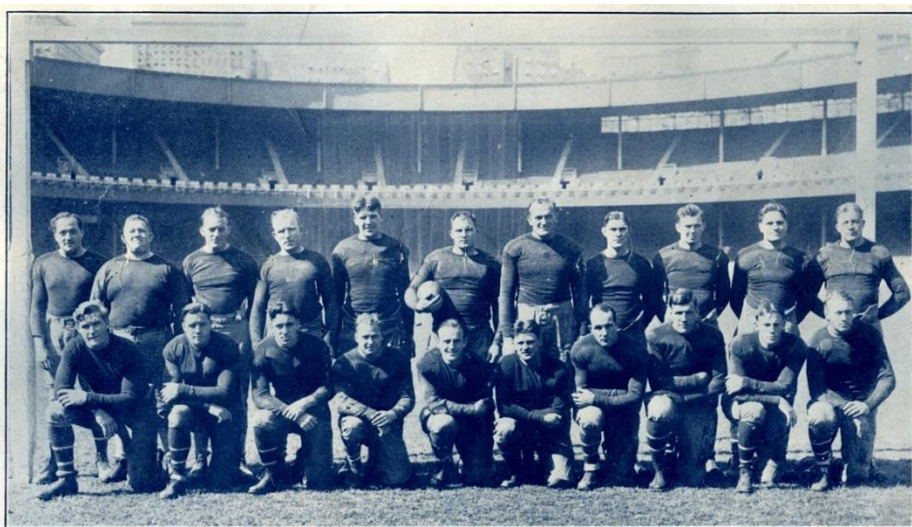
teams). Namath, who completed 17 out of 28 passes for 206 yards, was named as the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player, despite not throwing a touchdown pass in the game or any passes at all in the fourth quarter. The recap of the game is not as exciting as its reality.

And that, my friends, is how the NFL got to where it is today.

Chapter 11 Giants Football Five Seasons after the First Game

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>W L T</u>	<u>* Story in Chapter 3</u>
Coach #1 Bob Folwell	1925	4th	8 4 0	

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>W L T</u>
2. Doc Alexander	1926	7 th	8 4 1
3. Earl Potteiger	1927	1 st	11 1 1
3. Earl Potteiger	1928	6th	4 7 2
4. LeRoy Andrews	1929	2nd	13 1 1
4. LeRoy Andrews	1930	2nd	11 4 0; 13-4 all coaches
5. Benny Friedman &	1930	2nd	2-0 – both coaches
6. Steve Owen	1930	2nd	2-0—both coaches



NEW YORK FOOTBALL GIANTS 1927

1927 New York Giants Team Picture

1926 New York Giants Coach #2 Doc Alexander

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1926 professional football season. The 1926 New York Giants football team competed in their second season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Doc Alexander in his only season as head coach of the Giants



<< Coach Doc Alexander. This Giants team finished with a winning record of 8-4-1. This was 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.

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

Known in this book as the Giants first 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.

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To describe Steve Owen (above) as a person, you need only look at the contract he signed with the Mara family when he became the team's head coach.

Oh wait, he didn't sign one. He and Tim Mara agreed he would become the head coach only on a handshake. The agreement would last 24 years.

Before that, Owen was one of the first great linemen with the Giants. He captained the 1927

team and along-side Cal Hubbard they dominated opponents by a margin of 197-20 on the way to the title.

Owen would lead the Giants to eight of the first 14 NFL Championships, winning two as the team's head coach and one as a player.

1927 New York Giants Coach #3 Earl Potteiger



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.



1927 Giants Champions

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).

1927-1936 Top Giants Players: Cal Hubbard OL

Robert Calvin Hubbard from Oct 31, 1900 – Oct 17, 1977) was a professional football player and Major League Baseball(MLB) umpire. After playing football at Centenary College and Geneva College, Hubbard played in the National Football League (NFL) between 1927 and 1936 for the New York Giants, Green Bay Packers and Pittsburgh Pirates. He played the bulk of his career with the Packers. Cal Hubbard is credited as being one of the inventors of the football position of linebacker.



Cal Hubbard would be much higher up this list had he not only played two meaningful seasons with the Giants. He helped the Giants win the title in 1927 and was elected as an All-Pro in 1928.

However, a road game with the Green Bay

Packers in the 1928 season caused him to demand a trade to the team before the 1929 season. He wasn't a big proponent of big cities, and the Giants obliged his request.

Hubbard and Hall of Famer Steve Owen teamed up to anchor one of the greatest defenses of the time. They allowed only 20 points in 13 games, though low scoring was common place back then, and had 10 shutouts.

Hubbard went on to have a great career with the Packers, winning the title with them for his first three years. He won a title in four of his first five years as a pro.

One wonders how good the Giants could have been had he been able to handle the big city life.

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

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. 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.

APFA President Joe Carr served from 1921-1939. He is known as the man who brought respectability to professional football. He had a resolute decision style—quick and decisive to correct faults. His simple philosophy was that pro football should always strive for the highest possible standards and the public should be considered first, last and always.

The lack of standardized player contracts, make-shift schedules and franchise instability were paramount issues that were gradually rectified over time. However, with no post-season play until 1933, the most public controversies were the ones that came after the close of each season. Considering that it was often a challenge to determine that the season had reached an end. Then, of course there were the times in which more than one team crowned itself as league champions. Four of the first six APFA/NFL titles were publicly disputed, hurting the credibility of the pro game with a sporting public who clearly preferred the college game at the time.

It didn't help any that the first controversy came after the APFA's inaugural 1920 season. The lack of structure was astounding and nobody had the foresight to recognize that it was lacking. There were 14 teams stacked top-to-bottom, with a convoluted method of calculating win percentage (remarkably, the all-too-common ties were discounted); no coherent tie-breakers; unbalanced, makeshift schedules that teams modified during the season; and a lack of a clearly defined conclusion to the season. This was a recipe for disaster.

Even worse, most of the early championships were not awarded until an oft-contentious vote at the spring meetings, months after the last game had been played. The title outcome was inevitably anti-climactic.

New York, New York

Given all that tumult, it is easy to forget that professional football finally placed a permanent foothold in the nation's largest city, New York, which had been a part of Carr's vision for long-term league success. Carr had originally envisioned boxing promoter Billy Gibson to be the founder, but he deferred instead to friend Tim Mara. Present at the meeting was also the football-knowledgeable Dr. Harry March. March had been vital in the success of the APFA/NFL's predecessor, the Ohio League, where he had served as the team physician for the Canton Bulldogs. Mara took March on as a minority owner and installed him as team President to take charge of assembling a quality roster.

As we have just discussed in this book, the Giants fared reasonably well for their first season of competition in 1925, finishing the year 8-4, but they struggled to attract paying customers. In fact, tickets for games at the Polo Grounds were routinely handed out free of charge to fill empty seats. It wasn't until a visit from Illinois superstar Harold "Red" Grange, who had made the mid-season leap from college to the Chicago Bears, that the Giants could declare a profit and decide to move forward with their franchise. The possibility of the Giants dissolving after one season was very real, as nine other franchises had disbanded or left the NFL during or after their inaugural season of play.

The Polo Grounds seating capacity for football was normally around 55,000, but the demand to see the already legendary Grange was so irresistible that temporary seating was put in place in the outfield and standing room only tickets were issued. The gate was estimated to be in excess of 70,000 and photographs from the event support this claim. The only other time the Polo Grounds was that full was for the game against the Notre Dame All Stars in 1930. Not even the five post-season contests the Giants hosted in the Polo Grounds in later years against stalwart franchises Chicago, Green Bay and Washington had as many.

Irony reared its head just a few short months later when Grange's manager, Charles C. Pyle, found a loophole in the contract with the Bears and signed Grange. Pyle prematurely leased Yankee Stadium

before he even had a team. But Pyle had Grange so he had leverage. When Pyle approached Carr on the idea of expansion in New York, Mara and March balked. The prospect of having a team with Grange playing within walking distance of the Polo Grounds would spell the Giants doom.

As tempting as it was to have Grange headlining the marquee in New York, Carr had no choice but to follow the precedent he'd set the prior season in the dispute between Frankford and Pottsville. Carr upheld Mara's claim to having "exclusive right to anything in New York." Being spurned but resolute, Pyle formed his own league to feature his star player, the first-ever American Football League (AFL).

This was now a league-wide threat for Carr and his constituents. The AFL attempted, and sometimes did, lure players from the established but still tenuous NFL. The Giants lost both their best lineman Century Milstead and head coach Robert Folwell to the upstart league. Part of Carr's response to the new threat was to reinstate the Pottsville franchise, being fearful that team would sign with Pyle. Also, he forged an agreement with the Giants to allow a franchise in Brooklyn. Carr feared the AFL establishing two franchises in New York and wanted to beat them to the punch.

He assured the Giants that the Brooklyn team's schedule would not conflict with the Giants. This was keen foresight on Carr's part, as the AFL then placed a franchise in nearby Newark, New Jersey. Just one year after having a single professional football team in New York, the metropolitan area now had four! The man most responsible for saving the Giants franchise in 1925, Red Grange, now threatened to render them irrelevant.

The 1926 season played out much like the one before for the Giants. Their 8-4-1 record was similar and so was their attendance. With no draw like Grange to fill the house and player salaries increasing with the competing league, the Giants finished in the red financially. They did win the war against Pyle however. Following the season, Mara and March hosted a game at Yankee Stadium against the AFL Champion Philadelphia Quakers. The motivated sixth-place Giants team manhandled the Quakers at the Polo Grounds 31-0, leaving no doubt as to which league was superior. Fortunately, the crowning of

the NFL champion was not business as usual. All was calm and everyone was in agreement when the title was bestowed upon Chamberlin's 14-1-2 Frankford team. It was his fourth championship with his third team in only five seasons, a feat that has yet to be equaled.

The Giants Win

The AFL disappeared just as quickly as it emerged. Although the Yankees drew well wherever they went, the rest of the league seemed to go unnoticed. The debts incurred by the NFL teams were a fraction of those compared to the ones suffered by the AFL. The Giants fortunes seemed to turn around quickly following that boastful triumph over the Quakers.

The dissolution of the nine-team AFL was a significant coup for the NFL, which had fielded 22 teams in 1926. The available talent was spread thin over the total of 31 teams in operation between the two leagues. A series of difficult ownership meetings that off season resulted in the contraction of the NFL. Gone were sentimental favorites with Ohio League roots like Canton, Akron, Hammond and Columbus. It was just not practical for the league's survival to maintain franchises in locations lacking growth potential. For the NFL to become a big-time league it had to play in big-time cities, and having better players on those teams improved the quality of the product on the field.

The NFL would field 12 teams for the 1927 season. The Giants were ready. Ten of the teams, including NY, NY, were NFL survivors of the great purge of 1926, plus the return of the Cleveland Bulldogs following a year of suspended operations. Pyle's Yankees team, which had the distinction of becoming the forty-first franchise in the APFA/NFL's seventh season of operation, was the sole newcomer from the now-defunct AFL. The only small market team continuing on was publicly-owned Green Bay.

Part of the consolidation directly benefitted the Giants. The Brooklyn Horsemen disbanded, but Carr kept its charter active. It was awarded to Mara as payment for unresolved debts. Soon after, Pyle returned to Carr's office seeking admission to the NFL. This time Mara and

March had no objections. Mara leased the former Brooklyn charter to Pyle, who would continue to feature Red Grange at Yankee Stadium. But the Football Yankees schedule would be tightly restricted. The Yankees would primarily be a traveling team, and their few home games would not coincide with Giants home games. Lastly, the season would end with a home-and-home competition for the City Championship.

With Pyle being reduced from threat to nuisance, the focus of the New York Giants was now on team building. Having less competition and a larger talent pool to select from, Mara confidently told March, “I don’t care what it costs but get the players you need. I want a winner this year.”

March’s vision was simple and the approach primal. After installing Earl Pottier as the Giants third head coach in just their third season, this Giants team would be built for power and control both sides of the line of scrimmage. The roster was composed mostly of veterans and was unusually deep; there would be little drop-off in performance when a sub was called upon. Here is a look at a number of the star players from 1927. First, let’s check out Joe Alexander and George Murtagh, New York Giants (1927)



<<< Joe Alexander and George Murtagh – Photo Courtesy of Rev. Mike Moran

Mickey Murtagh returned at center from the 1926 team. Hec Garvey and Al Nesser were well-traveled and experienced guards. Nesser was familiar to March as he was one of the seven famed Nesser brothers who played for Carr’s Columbus Panhandles in the Ohio League. They were professional football’s original “royal family” and their reputation was rock solid.

Legendary Notre Dame Coach Knute Rockne competed against them as a member (player) of the Massillon Tigers and famously stated, “Getting hit by a Nesser is like falling off a moving train.” Al brought championship experience, having been a member of the 1920 Akron Pros. Joe “Doc” Alexander, a remnant from the inaugural 1925 Giants, backed them up when available, as his medical practice demanded much of his time.

Steve Owen, Left Tackle

e

This left tackle was one of the largest and toughest players in all of professional football, Steve Owen. March brought Owen to the Giants the prior year after observing him as a member of the 1925 Kansas City Cowboys. The Cowboys had visited the Polo Grounds that season and later served as the Giants barnstorming team after the regular season. Owen was a man who relished having his hand in the dirt, “We were pretty much a smash and shove gang. We were bone crushers, not fancy Dans.”

Wilbur “Pete” Henry, a member of the 1922 and 1923 champion Canton Bulldogs, served as the right tackle for the early portion of the season. The sub for Owen and Henry was Dick Stahlman. The athletic Chuck Corgan, who had been a teammate of Owen in Kansas City, was a good receiving end.

On the other side was the rookie wunderkind Cal Hubbard. At 6’4” and 245 pounds, he was the largest member of a team stocked with big men. But it was his unusual speed and agility that made him one-of-a-kind. He did more than just set the edge for end runs. Hubbard would routinely knock his counterpart on his back and continue his path of destruction downfield, springing Giant ball carriers for long gains. He was also a premier defender, patrolling the line of scrimmage as an end or prototype linebacker. His ascension to stardom was as brutal as it was quick. Wellington Mara recalled Hubbard years later, “You could tell when Cal hit a man. You would hear it on the bench – a hard, dull boom.”

The backfield may have lacked the notoriety of the group blocking for them, but it was talented and versatile. The mainstays were

tailback Hinkey Haines and fullback Jack McBride, both members of the 1925 Giants. They complimented one-another with a blend of power and speed. McBride was the power back who bulled through the line while Haines rushed around the corner with elusiveness and speed. Atypical of the common trend though, the fullback McBride was the Giants primary passer, whereas the tailback for most teams performed that role. McBride was also the primary kicker, whether from a drop-kick or placement.

The versatile Doug Wycoff subbed both positions. Mule Wilson was the lead blocking back, and he was backed up by Jack Hagerty, who was moved from the halfback position he'd played during the 1926 season. A veteran presence was provided by the former Ohio Leaguer Joe Guyon, who played multiple roles including wingback. Guyon had been a teammate of Jim Thorpe's with the Canton Bulldogs in the Ohio League in 1919 and also with the NFL's Oorang Indians in 1921 and 1922. Phil White served as a utility sub for halfback and fullback.

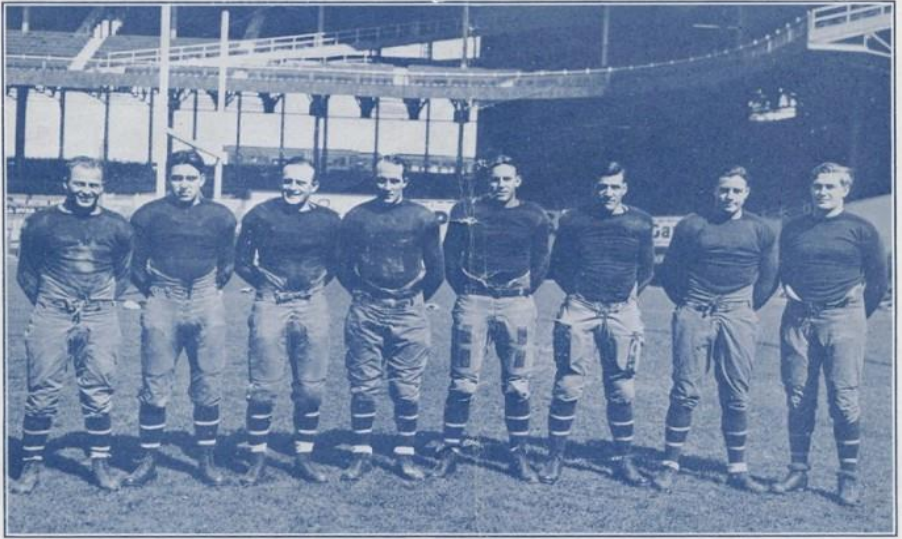
Power Football

Steve Owen and Cal Hubbard – Photo on next page courtesy of Rev. Mike Moran

Following a dress rehearsal against the Orange Athletic Club, the Giants opened their regular-season campaign by disappointing 7,500 Providence fans with a stifling 8-0 victory over the Steam Roller. The local press lauded the Giants "great forward wall" and singled out Cal Hubbard, "He put on one of the greatest displays of line work ever seen on a Providence gridiron." The rookie set up New York's only touchdown by blocking a punt that Owen recovered at the Providence 2-yard line. Hubbard was also instrumental in limiting the home team to five first downs.

The defense continued its good work at Cleveland the following week, but the offense sputtered. It was surprising that only 3,000 fans attended given that it was their first opportunity to witness the home debut of rookie passing sensation Benny Friedman. Friedman moved the ball well but the Giants defense was stout when most needed. Doug Wycoff returned a punt 70 yards for New York, but the rest of

the special team's performance was dreadful. The Giants missed five field goals and left Cleveland with a 0-0 tie.



NEW YORK GIANTS
Back Field Stars



CAPT. STEVE OWEN
New York Giants



CAL. HUBBARD
New York Giants

Following a 19-0 win in front of 5,000 fans in Pottsville, where New York's subs enjoyed plenty of second-half playing time, the Giants returned home to the Polo Grounds, unfortunately to second billing.

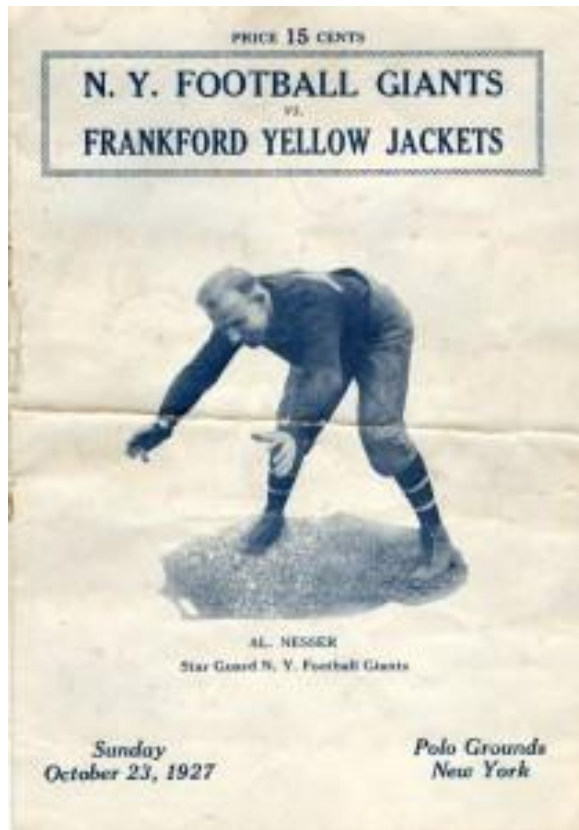
New York Giants vs Cleveland Bulldogs (October 16, 1927)In the rematch against Cleveland, Friedman arrived several days ahead of his Bulldog teammates and was lavished with several honors, not the least of which was a gala event in his honor at the Hotel Majestic. Despite this being just his fourth professional game, he was easily one of the NFL's marquis attractions among the likes of newsreel sensations Red Grange and Ernie Nevers. The Giants even printed the tickets for the game to read: "N.Y. Giants vs Benny Friedman's Bulldogs".

All of the pomp may seem excessive, but to his credit, Friedman lived up to the billing. Even as a rookie he was audacious in his play calling, throwing the ball on first down and from deep in his own territory when the common practice at the time would call for conservative line plunges or a punt. Although the crowd at the Polo Grounds was not nearly as large as the one to see Grange two years earlier, the Giants had to be pleased with the turnstile count of 25,000.

The Giants strong line controlled most of the first half, but the game was tied 0-0 at halftime after Jack McBride missed a field goal attempt. The third quarter began with an exchange of punts, then Cleveland's speed got the better of New York's muscle. Friedman connected on a 35-yard pass to Tiny Feather down to the Giants 30-yard line, followed by a 15-yard completion to Jim Simmons to the 14.

Friedman and Simmons alternated rushes until Simmons went over for the score from the one-yard line. This was the only score of the game (Friedman was wide on his point-after attempt) and the first of the season yielded by the Giants. But Cleveland won the game 6-0 and the Giants fell to 2-1-1. Friedman ended the afternoon 11-17 passing, which was very respectable for the time and unheard of in a winning effort. Normally that many pass attempts came in desperate, come-from-behind situations.

Although New York fielded a quality team, something was amiss. Aside from the poor tackling exhibited in the second half of the loss to Cleveland, the running game on offense was sporadic. The Giants made a move by sending the powerful but slowing Pete Henry to Pottsville. They then signed Century Milstead, who was idle after a one-year hiatus with the rival AFL's Philadelphia team. He had been the best lineman on New York's 1925 team.



Al Nesser – Photo Above Courtesy of Rev. Mike Moran

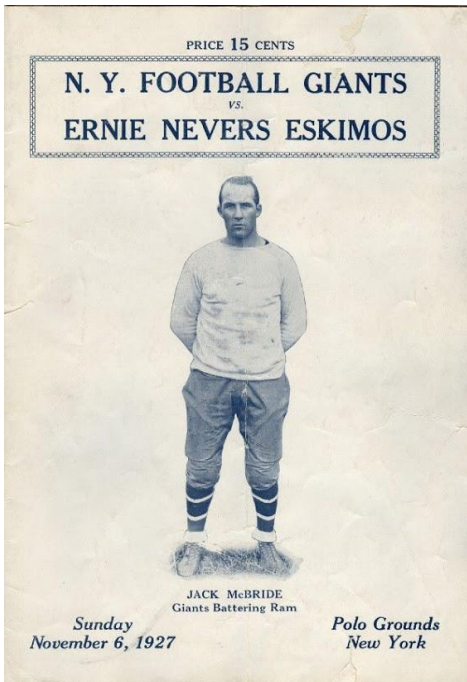
The infusion of relative youth and tangible athleticism was appreciably noticed during a home-and-home weekend against the defending-champion Yellow Jackets. As was their custom, Frankford played their home games on Saturday as Sunday spectacles were prohibited by local blue laws. Often they would follow up a Saturday game at Frankford Stadium with an away game against the same team on Sunday. The rushing game was greatly improved, as the

Philadelphia press cited Haines for “having an outstanding game” for New York in their 13-0 victory.

At the Polo Grounds rematch, a 20-point second quarter for New York was highlighted by a spectacular defensive play that brought the crowd of 15,000 to its feet. Jack Hagerty intercepted a pass at his own 47-yard line, sidestepped two Yellow Jackets, cut up-field, stiff-armed a would-be tackler along the sideline, and eluded several others until he was dragged down from behind at the 3-yard line for a 50-yard return. Phil White went over for the touchdown and the Giants subs held Frankford off the scoreboard in the second half to finish the 27-0 victory.

The following week saw a physical, altercation-filled scrum with Pottsville. The New York defense was dominant once again, registering a safety in a 16-0 win. The 20,000 Polo Grounds faithful must have been amused when a second safety was awarded after the Maroons punter had lined up beyond the end line to receive the snap despite several warnings to correct his position from the closest official.

The Giants played host to another of the NFL’s early stars the next week when Ernie Nevers arrived with his traveling Duluth Eskimos. They represented Duluth in name only, having played in the city only once in 1926. The Eskimos counted on lucrative visitor’s shares of the gate by playing an all-road schedule in large venues such as the Polo Grounds. The 15,000 who showed up may have been a mild disappointment to the Giants, but it was far more than Duluth could realistically hope for in northern Minnesota.



<<<< Jack McBride – Photo Courtesy of Rev. Mike Moran

Nevers was the second most famous player in the league after Grange, and some observers believed him to be of equal talent. Nevers was a triple threat on offense, played rock solid defense and could be counted on to play close to the full 60 minutes every game, occasionally completing the duration without a trip to the bench. Glenn “Pop” Warner, who coached Nevers at Stanford famously called him, “the football player without a fault.”

The Giants powerful defense did yield yardage to Nevers, who was cited by the press for giving “a strenuous effort,” but again refused to yield a point. The Eskimos penetrated the New York 30-yard line five times but came away empty. Three of those drives ended with interceptions while the other two saw them halted on downs. Jack McBride engineered three scoring drives for New York. The final one featured an exclamation-point 25-yard touchdown pass to Hinkey Haines to close out the 21-0 win.

At 6-1-1, the Giants may have been pleased with their place in the standings. But a three-way race with the Packers and Bears for the number one spot in the league made it clear that there was no time to rest on laurels. Tuesday was Election Day and the Providence Steam Roller was coming to the Polo Grounds, while on the other side of the Harlem River the Bears would be visiting their old teammate Red Grange and the Yankees. This would be Grange’s first game back after tearing a ligament in his knee at Cubs Park back in October, and it was the Yankees first home game of the season.

The Giants played in front of their largest house of the year; 38,000 fans showed up for a football triple header, as the Giants and Steam

Roller played following two high school games. The headliners did not disappoint. The Giants capitalized on three big plays in all three phases of the game: Mule Wilson's 54-yard interception return, Jack McBride's 39-yard touchdown pass to Jack Hagerty and Hagerty's 53-yard punt return. Most of the fans probably forgave the Giants for missing three of their four point-after attempts in the 25-0 victory after learning the rival Yankees, with a limping Grange, upset Chicago 26-6.

End Ray Flaherty, who would join the Giants in 1928, starred for the Yankees that afternoon by hauling in three touchdown receptions. The Giants now held the top spot in the NFL and had the inside track to the championship if they could win out the rest of the way.

The Giants had next been scheduled to play the Buffalo Bisons, but the Bisons disbanded mid-season. Instead, the Giants played a non-league exhibition at Staten Island against the Stapletons. Showing no fear of travel or injury, the Giants then visited Boston to play another exhibition game against Pierre Marquette the Saturday before a crucial league contest against the Chicago Cardinals, who were now coached by Chamberlin. The Cardinals held no advantage as they played at Frankford on Saturday as well.

The Giants jumped all over the visiting Cardinals early, scoring three touchdowns in the game's first 10 minutes. New York's subs played to a stalemate as the Giants coasted to a critically important 28-7 victory that maintained their slim advantage over the Bears who were next on the docket. Chicago was in a second-place tie with Green Bay, but both of the Packers losses were to the Bears so the Packers only hope for first place would be both teams above them collapsing.

Strength Versus Strength

Again, the Giants participated in a non-league exhibition at Staten Island the Thursday prior to their biggest game of the season. The 8-1-1 Giants knew owner-player-coach Halas would have his 7-2-1 Bears ready to go, as he had been in this situation many times before. A Chicago win would give the teams matching 8-2-1 records and the Bears a late-season head-to-head victory. Should both teams win out after that, history had already demonstrated Halas' persuasiveness

among the league's owners in regard to championship votes. Ironically, the situation could even have been in reverse. In the event of a tie, the Giants would be the team in position to challenge the Bears to a rematch. Knowing the precedent set in 1921 with the Bears and Buffalo, would Halas have even accepted and risked a title he may have believed already belonged to him?

Were it not for miserable cold and the threat of snow, the crowd of 15,000 at the Polo Grounds probably would have been much larger, as the local press had well-publicized the significance of the game. Although no official NFL championship game yet existed, this was as close to it as you could get. The winner in all likelihood would end up being crowned champion, even if they had to wait until April for it to be declared official!

If any team were capable of matching the Giants on the line of scrimmage it was the Bears. They had two future Hall of Famers at the tackle positions: Link Lyman and Ed Healy. Center George Trafton was an All-Pro. The backfield featured future Hall of Fame halfback Paddy Driscoll and tailback/quarterback Dutch Sternaman. Sternaman co-coached the Bears with Halas.

The Bears front line asserted itself early. After receiving the opening kickoff, Chicago pounded away at New York's defense, moving the chains until facing a first-and-goal at the 8-yard line. Three line plunges set the Bears up with fourth-and-goal on the one. Halas wanted six and ordered Sternaman to go for it. Fullback Jack White took the ball on a handoff, but as he attempted to vault over the wall of crashing bodies, White was hammered in mid-air and knocked backward by Al Nesser.



<<< Hinkey Haines and Jack McBride – Photo Courtesy of Rev. Mike Moran

The scoring threat was thwarted, but New York was still in trouble. Not surprising for the era, the Giants lined up in punt formation of first down. Mule Wilson was deep to receive the snap. The up-back Hinkey Haines cautioned him to line up correctly with his heels in front of the end line, recalling the incident with Pottsville's punt several weeks earlier, and requested that the referee wipe mud off of the ball with a towel for a more

accurate snap. Chicago realized the predicament the Giants were in and jammed nine men on the line of scrimmage. While the official wiped the ball down, Haines discreetly deepened his position a few steps and surveyed Chicago's deployment as he called the signals. Haines received a direct snap and lofted a perfect pass to Chuck Corgan over the unguarded middle. The Bears had only two men deep and did not take Corgan down until he had advanced beyond midfield to Chicago's 41-yard line.

Although the Bears kept the Giants off of the scoreboard, the stunning 58-yard play not only tipped the field position back to the Giants favor, it also quelled the surge of momentum the Bears had in their favor with the long opening drive. The action largely took place around mid-field for the remainder of the first half with the teams exchanging punts. At the half, the game was deadlocked 0-0.

The third quarter began much the same way, but the Giants received a jolt in an unlikely fashion. On the Giants second possession of the half, Halas attempted to clip Joe Guyon. Guyon had heard him coming though. As Halas launched himself, Guyon pivoted and rammed his knees into Halas' chest, sending him to cold turf breathless. As Halas was helped off the field with two broken ribs, Guyon slyly told his Giants captain Steve Owen, "That fellow ought to know you can't sneak up behind an Indian."

The ensuing 15-yard penalty on Halas was the spark New York had been looking for. Jack McBride punctured the Chicago front for a total of 53-yards on the 60-yard drive and went over for the touchdown from the two on a fourth-and-goal. The point-after was missed so the score held at 6-0. Another exchange of punts had the Bears pinned on their own two, and a poor punt only moved the ball out to the 30. McBride mixed runs with passes. Three line plunges from goal-to-go gave him his second touchdown of the quarter. And this time the point-after was good. The Giants led 13-0 as the quarter came to an end.

Undeterred, Driscoll took the Bears down the field as he did to start the game. Noticing that the New York front seemed to be growing fatigued, Sternaman kept calling for rushes as Chicago pushed and pounded the ball to the Giants 10-yard line. Here the Bears reached deep into their playbook and changed up their strategy entirely, lining up in a spread formation. Sternaman caught a pass from Laurie Walquist and darted into the end zone. The point after was good and the lead was trimmed to 13-7.

The concluding 10 minutes of action was fierce and physical, both powerful lines traded blows but neither offense could advance until Chicago's last possession. A trade of punts preceded a last valiant effort by the Bears. The Chicago running game found a few creases and moved into New York territory with the clock running after each carry. The tiring Giant defense was bending and Chicago had the ball on the 17-yard line. Perhaps feeling a sense of desperation with the clock now just under 2:00 or recalling how the Bears last scoring drive ended, Sternaman called the first pass play of the possession. Mule Wilson made the play for New York and intercepted the throw. The Giants ran three plays to run out the clock. The chilled crowd celebrated the thrilling win, but the victors and losers were too spent to react.

“It was the hardest game any of us ever played,” said Steve Owen. “I played sixty minutes at tackle opposite Jim McMillen, who later became a world wrestling champion. When the gun ended the exhausting game, both of us just sat on the ground in the middle of the field. He smiled in a tired way, reached over to me, and we shook

hands. We didn't say a word; we couldn't. It was fully five minutes before we got up to go to the dressing room.”

Once inside the locker-room, little changed. Hinkey Haines described the ironic scene, “That victory just about gave us the championship, but you'd have thought we all were just given walking papers.”

March tended to his battered victors, “Some of them looked like they'd never walk again.”

The key plays in the first quarter still reverberated. “Al Nesser (who stopped the Bears on fourth-and-goal from the one) was the real hero,” said Century Milstead. “Bare-headed and with no shoulder guards, he just kept submarining their running plays. He was battered but he never quit.” Owen complimented the selling of the fake punt, “Haines called one of the smartest plays I've ever seen to win for us. He stage-managed it perfectly.”

The New York Times led off the Monday game summary superlatively: “The Giants powerful forward wall met their equal in the Chicago Bears' line yesterday and the battle that ensued was one of the most brilliant and savagely fought in the three years of professional football in New York...The play was spirited through sixty minutes of action, both elevens traveling at a fast and furious pace.”

The New York Daily News singled out the Giants touchdown maker: “Jack McBride was the outstanding figure in this grim grid struggle, counting both Giant touchdowns in a wild burst of ground spurning in the third quarter after the first half had been scoreless.”

Settling One Final Score

The Giants truly needed the full week off following their most important triumph in the franchise's short history. They must have been relieved to not have any exhibition contests interrupt their recovery. The season-ending home-and-home matches with their neighboring Yankees were most likely anti-climactic for most observers. But there is no doubt some within the Giants organization relished watching “arrogance being humbled” first hand as the

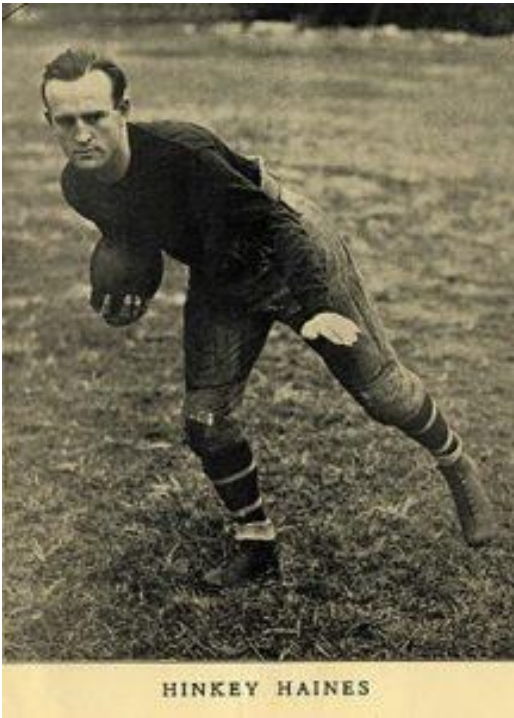
Giants swept Pyle's team 14-0 and 13-0 in miserable weather in front of small crowds. Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig were among the 10,000 fans who braved the snow and sleet to watch the first game at the Polo Grounds in support of Grange's team.

Haines quickly dampened any enthusiasm they may have brought as he returned a first quarter punt 75 yards for a touchdown. Only 8,000 came through the turnstiles the following week to watch the two teams slosh around in the Yankee Stadium mud. Ball handling was treacherous in a fumble-filled contest. Joe Guyon was a featured ball carrier in these two games and contributed significantly to both Giants victories.

To his credit, Grange's heart was stronger than his damaged knee. He played as long as he could and suffered a beating as the Giants repeatedly gang-tackled him after short gains. He hung tough, finished the first game and came out late in the second only after the outcome had been decided. Unfortunately, the fans chose to express their disappointment in his performance by booing him, despite the fact he was the Yankees leading passer and had several good punt returns.

A Team for The Ages

It was a relatively inglorious end to an 11-1-1 season that had been anything but that. Yardage statistics from the 1920's and early '30's are sketchy. Some beat writers compiled such stats for the teams they covered, as did some teams. Over the years, historians have attempted to make calculations from news stories, but all such attempts are fragmentary and therefore not officially recognized. Jack McBride may have led the Giants in both passing and rushing in 1927. There is no doubt he led the Giants in passing yardage by a wide margin; the rushing total could be up for debate. He and Hinkey Haines carried the ball close to the same number of times. Given Haines' break-away ability, a missing long gainer or two could easily tip the scale in his favor.



<<< Hinkey Haines, New York Giants (1927)

Scoring records are reliable though. McBride led the NFL in rushing touchdowns with six. Including his two field goals and league-leading 15 point-afters, McBride also led the NFL in total scoring. McBride finished second (behind Friedman) in touchdown passes with six. His favorite target on scoring plays was Haines, who finished tied for first in the NFL with Ray Flaherty with four scoring receptions.

The post-season accolades, albeit diverse and unofficial, were abundant and adulatory. Various media outlets that covered professional football would comprise their own All Pro-style lists of players after each season. Not surprisingly, the most consistent over the early years was the daily paper from the football-crazed town of northern Wisconsin, The Green Bay Press-Gazette.

New York Giants who appeared on more than one first team list included: Cal Hubbard, End; Steve Owen, Tackle (though sometimes on these lists he was slotted in the Guard position); Jack McBride, Fullback (surprisingly usurping the great Ernie Nevers on occasion here); and Al Nesser, Guard.

Of course, the ultimate personal recognition is receiving a bronze bust in Canton, Ohio. Four members of the 1927 Giants have their likeness on display there for future generations of fans to admire: Steve Owen, Cal Hubbard, Joe Guyon and Wilbur “Pete” Henry.

In terms of perpetuity, New York set a record that realistically is not likely ever to be broken: the Giants shut out 10 of their 13 opponents, surpassing the nine shutouts by the Canton Bulldogs in 1922.

Cumulatively, the Giants only gave up 20 points all season (Canton only gave up 15 points over 12 games in 1922).

The legacy of the 1927 Giants was power and control at the line of scrimmage. They were built to succeed in an era where the rules and equipment demanded conservative play in battles of field position. The few times New York exhibited weakness was when encountering speed (the two games they failed to win were the loss and tie against Friedman's Bulldogs) and when they were spread horizontally (the touchdown they surrendered against the Bears.)

After he retired, Red Grange summed up the 1927 champions succinctly: "It was the best football team of its time. Their line beat the hell out of you and wore you down, and their backs could move the ball. But they would have been passed off the field by the top teams of the 30's."

Tell Us a bit about Author Larry Schmitt

Thank you Larry for a great piece. Larry is a lifelong Giants fan, former third-generation season ticket holder and passionate student of Pro Football history. Reading material that can be found on the shelves of his football library are divided between texts on Giants history, player biographies, yearbooks and game programs as well as volumes covering the general history of professional football, and frequently searches libraries for out-of-print copies of football books. Larry was born in Brooklyn, NY, grew up in Putnam Valley, NY and currently resides in New Milford, CT with his wife and son. He enjoys teaching Yoga and playing guitar when not writing history articles for BBI or assisting in research projects for The Gridiron Uniform Database.

Here are a few sources Larry Used:

Articles, New York Giants History Tagged with: 1927 New York Giants, Al Nesser, Cal Hubbard, Hinkey Haines, Jack McBride, Steve Owen

New York Giants New Passing Game – A Work in Progress Big Blue Breakdown: Passing on Tight End the Right Decision?

1928 New York Giants Coach #3 Earl Potteiger

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

1928-1935 Top Giant Players Raymond Flaherty

Raymond Paul Flaherty (September 1, 1903 – July 19, 1994) was an American football player and coach in the National Football League, and a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He was part of three NFL Championship teams, one as a player and two as a head coach.

Ray Flaherty's contributions noted in his Hall of Fame induction were definitely in his work as a head coach, but he was one of the first great offensive lineman for the Giants



He was selected to the All-NFL team three times. His impact on the game is lasting; he created the behind the line of scrimmage screen pass and introduced the idea of players only playing one way.

Though most of his players still did play two ways because it's what they were known for, he did put his foot down for his two-platoon offense, which had two different units for passing and rushing offense.

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).

1929 New York Giants Coach #4 Le Roy Andrews



1929 Giants

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 Tornadoes 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)

1929-1931 Top Giants Players Benny Friedman



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.

1930 New York Giants Coach #4 Le Roy Andrews

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).



<< Coach Benny Friedman.

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)

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 Owens together coached the last two games. Steve Owens picture is shown as a player and a coach. Benny Friedman's picture is shown on the left above.



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 football history. The accompanying excerpt is from an Associated Press article published in The Yonkers Herald.

“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
Rugby Park, Quarterback



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

University of Notre Dame Archives

On The Associated Press

New York, Dec. 15.—The difference between professional and "college" grade football, it may be said, is already demonstrated tomorrow when Knute Rockne's Irish Stars will play with the New York Giants at the Polo Grounds before a crowd of 25,000.

Rockne has gathered together an unusual group of players, including three stars of the 1929 season, including Bill and D'Onofrio. These stars will be Law, quarterback; Carideo, "center"; and other players of whom Knute Rockne speaks.

The roster this group of all stars is such and that the Giants will win out of the game by winning in the game. "Boss" Friedman, the manager of the Giants, will be in the box, as it were, but he will be a good bet in the game, because this group, Rockne says, are considered all to be first class.

Director and Star of Army Team.

The game is being played for the benefit of the unemployed.

The game is expected to be a complete success with a gate of \$100,000 and while it may not attract as large a crowd as the Army-Gary game, it will attract a more experienced following of football who had.

This thing will be made out in a 100,000 and more, which means promptly at 1:30 and start popping off with loud whistles. Heavy footed and Chris Cochran—two have to be added into themselves were expected to be the great best special game.

Rockne states the college men who are better and in better position and that these reflect the older and more professional. Of particular interest will be the work of Rockne and Coach. The Irish will play "Tommy" and his team, the Notre Dame team. If these play the best, these tactics, or the best, there will be much to be said in favor of the game.

Failed to direct his team which turned and headed out its signals from South Street.

Last night more than \$100,000 worth of tickets had been purchased, according to Mayor Walker's committee, which puts the people considerably better than realized from the N. Y. G.—Giants game last week.

Notre Dame Man to Give Dinner

After the game the Notre Dame Club of New York will give a dinner to the Polo Grounds of the Notre Dame Club in Rockne and his All Stars, with Hugh A. O'Donnell, president and manager, presiding.

Major Wicks will be a guest of honor as will members of the Mayor's official committee on unemployment relief, including Commissioner Philip H. Taylor, chairman; Joseph J. Ryan, president of the New Yorker News Club; and the presence with a delegation.

Rockne's will attend the Army-Gary game with Major Wicks and will become active before leaving. Wicks is also on the way out the Columbia Broadcasting chain with headquarters on the radio.

The Mayor's committee has announced that at noon Sunday it will pass \$100,000 tickets, each being \$1 each, on sale at the Polo Grounds ticket windows. These are expected to be snapped up early as the interest of the fans who cannot afford to pay high prices is intense.

The number of spectators who have paid \$100 each for their reservations last night had reached 50,000. John F. Curry, John H. McConey and other prominent men already have purchased blocks of tickets. They have given to 500 and the sale, added to the number has crossed 80,000.

Great assurance of their attendance being guaranteed had weather should clear.

A cheer will be given in the game by the presence of New York University's band, whose members have been selected, as well as the Tower police band and police in the park. The National Legion also has ordered its Marine band.

These arrangements for handling crowd have been covered in special reports made by Commissioner McInerney.

By AMERICAN NEWS CLIPPER
By A. R. Stone (Special)

New York, Dec. 15.—Knute Rockne and 25 of his Notre Dame football athletes arrived in town today.

Tomorrow Rockne will lead his team, which includes four All-American footballers, Miller, Crowley and Landon, in the Polo Grounds park in front of Bruce Fieldman's Giants in the evening game.

This game will serve to show whether to make the much debated question whether or not a top team can offer real opposition to a top class opposition.

Some of the nation's leading quarterbacks will act as 100 spectators during the evening fight. O'Donnell, who has led the 1929 team through two national seasons, Harry Campbell, representative of the "Four Horsemen," and Benny Friedman of Michigan now playing with the Giants.

The Clinton Herald will be reported of being in town, Buffalo Herald, Syracuse Herald, Fairport Herald and Rochester.

**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

**OFFICIAL
25 CENTS**

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

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. 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!

1930 -1935 Top Giants Players Red Badgro WR/HB/DB

Morris Hiram "Red" Badgro was born on December 1, 1902, and he passed away at 96 years of age on July 13, 1998. Red was a football player and a football coach who also played professional baseball. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1981.

He was a native of Orillia, Washington, where he attended the University of Southern California (USC), playing baseball, basketball, and football as an all-around athlete. He then played nine seasons of professional football as an end for the New York Yankees (1927–1928), New York Giants (1930–1935), and the Brooklyn Dodgers (1936).

He was selected as a first-team All-Pro in 1931, 1933, and 1934. He scored the first touchdown in the first NFL Championship Game and was a member of the 1934 New York Giants team that won the second NFL Championship Game



Red Badgro would not necessarily wow you with his stats or his flashy plays. He was just a great two-way player for a team that consistently contended for an NFL championship during his six years with the Giants.

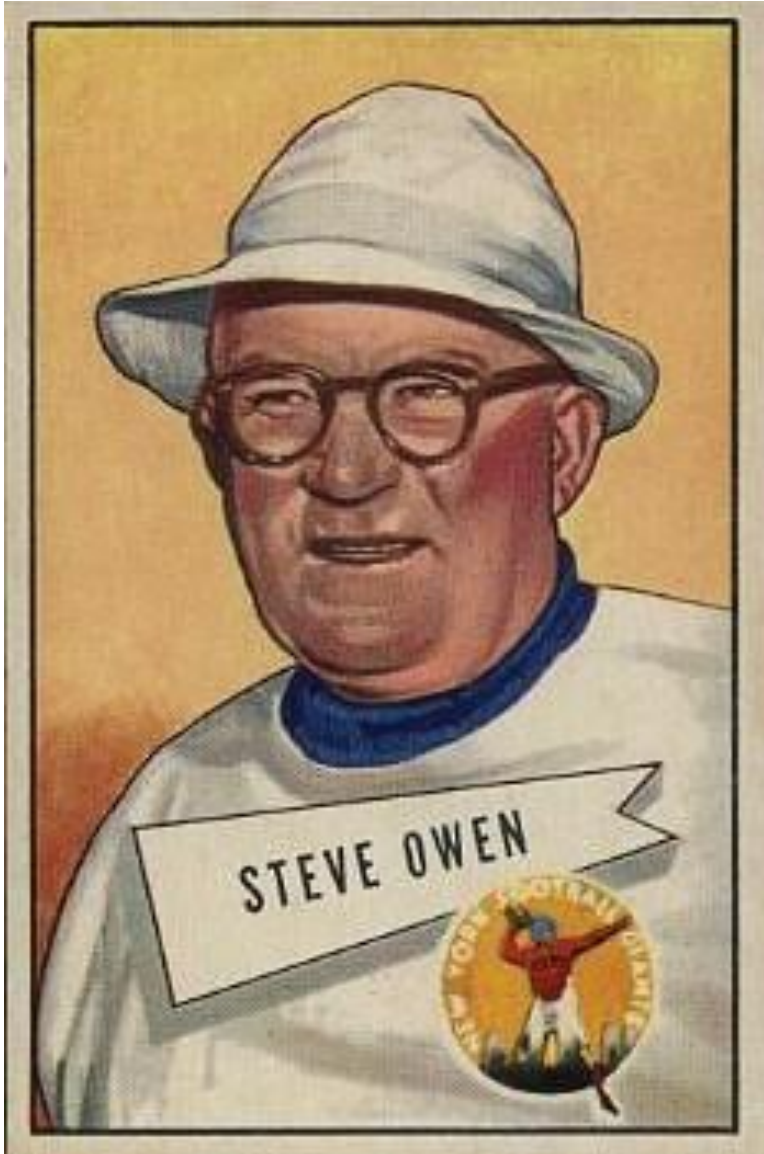
Incredibly, it took the NFL until 1933 before someone scored a touchdown in a championship game, and it was Red Badgro who was the first to do it, catching a 29-yard touchdown.

Red Badgro was selected to the All-NFL team four times in his six years with the Giants. He was mostly known for his big play receptions and being one of the most shore tacklers in the entire league

Chapter 12 Giants Football 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



<u>Coach</u>	<u>Year</u>
Benny Friedman	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)

I was born in 1948 even before my grand-mom and mom tricked my dad into acquiring a 1957 Admiral B/W Tv from Russel Daubert's what would now be a miniature 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 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, 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/>

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

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.

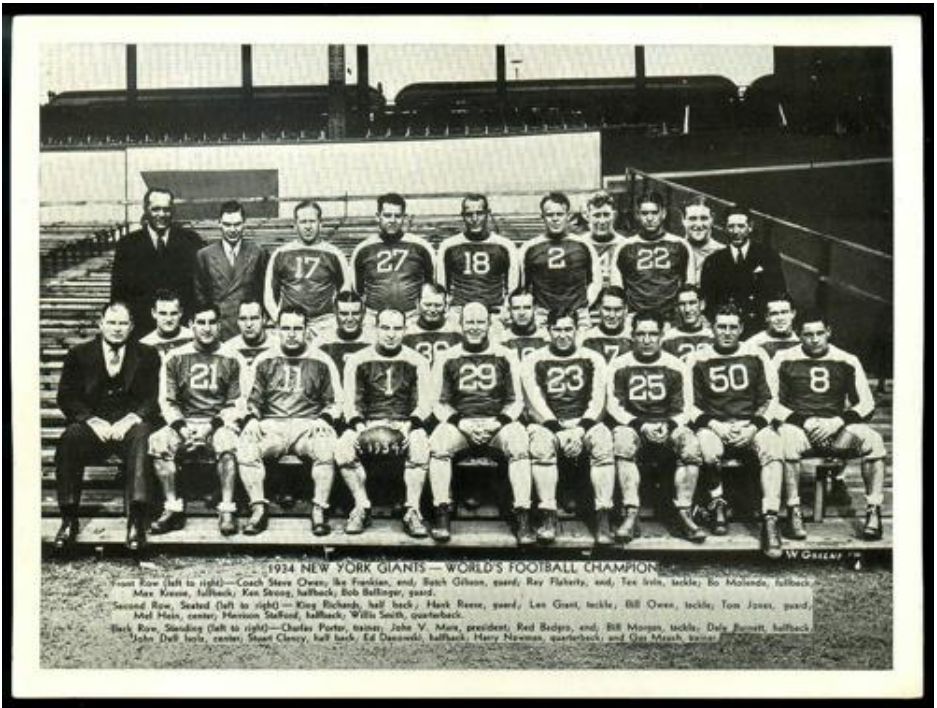
"If it's new," wrote a sportswriter, "Close-to-the-Vest Owen won't try it."

"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 lineman 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 New York Giants Coach #5 Benny Friedman

1930 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

1931 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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)

1931 -1945 Top Giants Players Mel Hein OL



If there is anyone who could challenge Rosey Brown as the Giants best offensive lineman ever, it's

Mel Hein. Hein is the first and only offensive lineman to win the MVP award, playing 15 years with the Giants and never missing a single game due to injury.

He retired in 1945 and was one of the first inductees in to the Hall of Fame when it opened in 1963. He was named the starting center on the NFL's 50th anniversary team, and even named No. 74 on The Sporting News' Top 100 players of all time.

Hein was Chuck Bednarik before there was a Chuck Bednarik; he dominated as the team's starting center and middle linebacker, often making as many plays on defense as he did opening holes on offense.

According to the Pro Football Hall of Fame website, Hein played 60 minutes a game and only called a timeout for himself once, so the people on the sideline could repair a broken nose and he could get back in to the game.

1932 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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).

1933-1947 Top Giants Players Ken Strong FB/HB/K

Ken Strong played for a lot of different teams and a lot of different Giants teams as shown in the list below:

- Staten Island Stapletons (1929–1932)
- New York Giants (1933–1935)
- New York Yankees (1936–1937)
- Jersey City Giants (1938)
- New York Giants (1939)
- Jersey City Giants (1940)
- New York Giants 1944–1947)

Elmer Kenneth Strong was born on April 21, 1906 and he passed away on October 5, 1979. He played at the halfback and fullback positions and he was also a fine minor league baseball player. Considered one of the greatest all-around football players in the early decades of the game, he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1957 and the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1967 and he was named to the NFL 1930s All-Decade Team.

He had a great name that matched his abilities. Ken Strong was another one of those dependable players who could do just about everything on a football field. Though he spent most of the time carrying the rock, he also doubled as the team's place kicker on occasion



His last name certainly did him justice as 206 lbs. was huge for a tail back in those days.

In the 1934 championship game he set the record for most points scored by one person with 17—two touchdowns, two extra points, and one field goal. The record would stand for 30 years.

Strong made the All-NFL team five times with four different

New York franchises, eight of those years being with the Giants.

Giants Play for NFL Championship

The Eagles win in the last regular season game 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 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).

The 1933 NFL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME Recap

Pro football was growing up.

The prior NFL year, in 1932, the Chicago Bears beat the Portsmouth Spartans (now the Detroit Lions) 9-0 in the National Football League's first post-season game ever. During the off-season, sweeping changes occurred to the NFL, one of which called for the league to be divided into two divisions.

At the end of the 1933 regular season, the NFL held a championship game that pitted the two division winners in the title bout to determine the world champions of pro football.

So, on December 17, 1933, the Bears hosted the New York Giants at Wrigley Field in Chicago in the NFL's inaugural championship game.

The game, witnessed by an estimated 26,000 fans, lived up to its billing. The contest featured lots of offense by both teams. After two field goals by the Bears' Jack Manders, the Giants responded with the first touchdown in NFL championship game history when Hall of Famer Morris "Red" Badgro connected with Harry Newman on a 29-yard touchdown play to put the Giants in the lead, 7-6.

The game remained close throughout the second half as well. The Bears went ahead on a Manders' 15-yard field goal before the Giants responded with a one-yard run by Max Krause to regain the lead, 14-9.

A lot of big-name players were in this game.

Hall of Fame fullback Bronko Nagurski, for example, led the charge for Chicago as he gained 65 yards rushing on the day but more importantly, he threw an 8-yard pass to end Billy Karr to put the Bears in front by two in the third quarter. The Giants once again pulled ahead when Newman hauled in his second touchdown pass of the game, an eight-yarder from Hall of Famer Ken Strong. It looked good for the Giants but emotions turn games around in football, and this was a Chicago home game.

In the closing minutes of the game with the Giants leading 21-16, Nagurski threw 14 yards downfield to fellow Hall of Famer Bill Hewitt who quickly and wisely lateraled the ball to Karr who raced into the end zone to give the Bears the victory. It happened just that fast. The winners got a bigger payday than the losers but at today's prices nobody could have had an extended night out.

For their efforts, each member of the Bears earned a whopping \$210.34 while the Giants players were awarded \$140.22 each. By comparison, the New England Patriots, winners of Super Bowl XLIX took home \$97,000 and each player on the Seattle Seahawks received \$49,000.

It is good reading to know that Hall of Fame members in the '33 Championship Game included Chicago Bears Red Grange, George Halas (coach), Bill Hewitt, Link Lyman, George Musso, and Bronko Nagurski
New York Giants stars included Red Badgro, Ray Flaherty, Mel Hein, Ken Strong, Tim Mara (owner), and Steve Owen (coach)

What a game! What a cast of all-star players in the game!

1934 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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 Eaglesfor 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 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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).

1936 -1943 Top Giants Players Tuffy Leemans FB/HB



"Tuffy" Leemans certainly embodied his "tuff" first name by doing just about anything and everything a team asked of him. He was the team's fullback and halfback rushing for over 3,000 yards, had over 400 receiving yards, and over 2,000 yards as a passer. He also played defense and returned punts.

Leemans made the All-Pro team in each of his first

seven seasons with the Giants; it's no coincidence they were contenders during that time due to the great play of guys like Leemans and Strong.

To put it in plainly, there was nothing on the field Leemans couldn't do, and he made a name for himself that way. After his retirement in 1941, the Giants named December 7 "Tuffy Leemans Day."

Leemans' addition to the Giants in the first ever NFL draft in 1936 has an interesting story. Tim Mara was the Giants owner at the time when his young high school son Wellington told him of an incredibly talented player out of George Washington University.

The Giants drafted Leemans in the second round of that draft and Wellington would become the Giants longtime owner from 1959 to 2005. He has since passed on the team to his son John; the Giants are one of very few remaining franchises who still have their original family owners.

1937 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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.

Our thanks to The Coffin Corner for providing this recap of the 1938 Championship Game held on December 11, 1938, at New York.

In a slam-bang championship game that saw players limp off the field in twos and threes, the Giants overcame a Green Bay comeback to win 23-17 before a record championship game crowd of 48,120 at the Polo Grounds. The Packers won the statistical battle by a near-two-to-one margin -- including 378 yards to 212 -- but New York took scoreboard honors.

By far the most serious injury loss for Green Bay was that of Don Hutson who went out in the second quarter after re-injuring his knee. He returned late in the final period for a last-ditch Packers' effort that fell short. Arnie Herber appeared to have a drive going when he completed a pass to Milt Gantenbein at the New York 40, but Gantenbein was ruled to be an ineligible receiver.

New York end Jim Lee Howell blocked Clarke Hinkle's punt on the game's second possession to set up the game's first score, a 14-yard field goal by Ward Cuff. Almost immediately the Giants blocked another punt that eventually resulted in a six-yard scoring run by Tuffy Leemans. Before the first quarter ended, the Packers came back to cut the score with a 40-yard touchdown pass to Mulleneaux from Herber.

New York widened its lead again in the second quarter, when Ed Danowski threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to rookie Hap Barnard. Green Bay responded with a touch-down on Hinkle's one-yard run. At the half, New York had the home crowd smiling with a 16-14 lead.

In late November, the Giants had beaten the Packers 15-3 in a regular season game, but by then Green Bay had just about wrapped up its division. The big question in New Yorkers' minds as the halftime ended was whether Hutson would return to spark the visitors' offense.

He was on the bench as the second half began. Never the less, Green Bay marched down the field to take the lead. Tiny Engebretsen's 15-yard field goal put Green Bay in front by a point 16-16.

Halfback Hank Soar led the Giants right back downfield. He carried the ball five times and caught one pass before making a leaping grab from Danowski at the goal line, and dragging Hinkle over for the winning score.

With their win, the Giants became the first team to win two championship games since the league split into two divisions in 1933. Their previous victory was in the famous "Sneakers" game of 1934. New York also won the 1927 title when the crown was awarded to the team with the best season record.

The victory earned each winning Giant \$900.00 and each Packer \$700.00.

1939 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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.



Our thanks to packerhistory.net for this complete game recap. 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.

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE) (MILWAUKEE)

- It was cold-blooded murder in broad daylight, as the Green Bay Packers drowned the championship hopes of the New York Giants under a 27 to 0 pasting before 32,379 enthralled fans at State Fair park here Sunday afternoon. The margin, largest in the history of the National league playoff series, gave the Packers their fifth undisputed world professional football crown, and assured them of a return engagement before an All-Star crowd at Chicago next summer.

Throughout four beautifully executed periods - with the finesse all on the side of the Packers - the Green Bay team poured pure football onto an archenemy which had dealt it a death blow

in the 1938 playoff, and at the close there wasn't a dissenting murmur when the victorious Bays were hailed as the team of the season. Never has a Green Bay squad looked better. The Packer passing was superb, their ground game devastating. Their line held like steel, and the New York defense crumbled under its steady charges ahead of pounding, driving backs.

Aerially, Cecil Isbell connected twice in two attempts, one of them being a touchdown heave to halfback Joe Laws. Arnold Herber threw eight, of which five landed into Packer hands, and three were intercepted. Thus, not a single Green Bay toss fell incomplete. One of Herber's bullets was accepted by Captain Milton Gantenbein for a touchdown. Eddie Jankowski was the third Packer to pound over the last chalk like.

In addition to this scoring trio, some spectacular kicking was provided by Ernie Smith and Paul (Tiny) Engebretsen, the former booting an extra point and a 42-yard field goal, while Engebretsen kicked two points after touchdown and a field goal from 29 yards out.

From this team of Packers, no individual star could be selected. To a man, they handled their assignments to perfection. When New York advanced, they did so strictly on their own merits against the most bitter resistance, and whenever their counter thrusts gave indication of approaching scoring territory, the Packers hurled them back, savagely and completely.

INTERCEPT SIX PASSES

Six New York passes were intercepted, several at times which would have been crucial had not the Packer offense been functioning to such telling effect. Center Charley Brock hooked off two of the Easterners' tosses, while others were intercepted by center Bud Svendsen, halfback Andy Uram, end Milt Gantenbein and halfback Jimmy Lawrence.

New York's vaunted aerial attack perished before the onrushing Packer linemen and the alert secondary. As has been remarked, it is hard to throw an accurate forward pass when one is sitting down, and the Giant aerialists did most of their tossing from extremely un-advantageous positions. Most of the time they had Packer ends, tackle and guards crawling all over them.

BLOCKING IS TERRIFIC

The Green Bay blocking was at its best of the season, and equaled that of any season. The charging forward line tore mammoth gaps in the New York wall, and through these spots poured a deadly stream of blocking backs and ball carriers, pounding out yardage which New York gave grudgingly, but helplessly. When the ground game set up the defense, the Packers passed, with crushing effectiveness.

And over it all the great crowd roared and cheered its approval, chanting a steady victory hymn that matched the thud of the Green Bay charge and counter charge. New York blew a forlorn scoring chance early in the game, after fullback Clarke Hinkle's punt was blocked by end Jim Poole, the opposite Giant end, Jim Lee Howell, recovering on the Packer 44-yard line. Three plays netted nine yards, and on fourth down Ward Cuff tried a field goal kick from 42 yards away, but this effort was wasted. Hinkle shoved the Giants back with a towering punt which sailed out of bounds on the New York 16-yard

line, and when Ed Danowski's return kick was downed on the New York 47, the Packers marched in to score.

Running plays by Isbell and Herber plus a 5-yard penalty on the Giants, gave the Packers one first down, and they added another on Don Hutson's end around play, a short Herber to Larry Craig forward pass, and line plunges by Isbell and Hinkle. That brought the ball to the New York 21-yard stripe. Isbell couldn't gain at the line, but the Packers promptly stuck together a perfect pass play. With Craig sweeping wide to the left, Hutson was left uncovered momentarily, and Herber drove a pass into his arms, putting the ball on the 6-yard stripe.

THROWS FOR TOUCHDOWN

Isbell lost a yard in a sortie at end, but on the next play Gantenbein got loose behind the goal and Herber rammed the ball down his throat. Engebretsen kicked the goal, and the score was 7 to 0. The Giants tried a hopeless field goal from 52 yards away early in the second period, with Len Barnum doing the kicking, but the try was wide, and the Packers drove back, with Ed Jankowski and Andy Uram doing some fine ball toting.

The attack was halted by an intercepted pass. Uram returned the compliment a short time later by picking off one of Tuffy Leeman's tosses. A third New York field goal was attempted late in the half, with Cuff kicking from the 42-yard line, but this too was a failure. Late in the half a 37-yard gain on a Danowski to Leemans toss put the Giants on the Packer 9-yard line, distinctly threatening, but Brock intercepted Leemans' pass on the next play and the Packers had the ball at the intermission.

GIANTS ARE OUTFOUGHT

The Packers outfought the Giants badly as the third period started, and when Joe Laws returned a Danowski punt 15 yards to the Green Bay 45-yard line, the Packers moved in and scored. Two cracks at the line by Isbell and Hinkle brought a first down, and a second came on running plays by Isbell and Laws. The advance was checked when

Hinkle fumbled, and on fourth down, from the 29-yard stripe, Engebretsen kicked a perfect field goal, making the lead 10 to 0.

The Packers kicked off, the Giants' running plays were murdered by a swift-charging Green Bay line, and when Danowski tried to pass the toss was intercepted by Gantenbein on the New York 33-yard line.

LAWS ACCEPTS PASS

Three downs later Isbell popped a high pass which Laws hooked over his shoulder on the 5-yard line, and the stocky Packer right halfback drove over for a touchdown, ignoring Danowski and Leemans en-route. That was the score that broke the Giants' resistance, for Engebretsen's kick made the score 17 to 0.

The Giants got a break late in the third period when Johnny Dell Isola blocked Hinkle's punt from the end zone, the New Yorkers getting the ball on the Packer 16-yard line, but Danowski's pass on the first play thereafter was intercepted by the ever-present Brock, and the thrust fizzled.

Early in the last period, the Packers for underway again, aided principally by a 31-yard gain on a pass from Herber to Harry Jacunski. The drive failed to produce a touchdown, but on fourth down Ernie Smith kicked his 42-yard field, and the score was 20 to 0.

SETS UP FINAL SCORE

Bud Svendsen set up the last Packer touchdown by intercepting Barnum's forward pass and wriggling back 15 yards to the New York 15-yard line midway in the period. Uram and Jankowski hit the line, and a double reverse which wound up with Jacunski carrying the ball netted 11 yards for a first down on the 1-yard line. Jankowski easily lugged it over, Smith kicked the goal, and the score was 27 to 0.

Late in the game halfback Eddie Miller did some effective passing, and the Giants worked deep into Packer territory, but the contest ended before they could score assuming that they would have.

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 13 Giants Football Coach Steve Owen 1941-1953

Coach # 6 Steve Owen



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 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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).

Some highlights

The Giants New York Giants were a more than just a respectable team this year. Management had lured Ed Danowski from retirement status; Tuffy Leemans' back finally healed, and the great Mel Hein was talked out of a potential retirement.

The Giants rolled right through their first five games. Only the Washington Redskins came close—within a TD of them as they outscored their first five opponents by a mighty 122–27. Unfortunately, the Brooklyn Dodgers were their bad penny this year. Coached by Jock Sutherland and guided on the field by All-Pro Ace Parker, the Dodgers were the Giants' most formidable opponent in the season preceding WWII. The Dodgers dealt the Giants two of their three defeats this year.

The Giants were bullying everybody in the league and back then bullying was a good thing for a football team. They clinched the Eastern Division title weeks in advance of the regular season finale, but neither the American population nor any NFL players could have been prepared for the big attack on Pearl Harbor that occurred less than fifteen minutes before kickoff of Week 14 of the season. The three games that day were not interrupted, but a bye week was observed before proceeding to the championship game. Delays never help any team that is at its peak.

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 Owens 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 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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).

1942-1944 Top NY Giants Players Al Blozis T



Albert Charles Blozis, known as "Al", was born on January 5, 1919, in Garfield, New Jersey to Lithuanian immigrants.

Al Blozis only played two seasons in 1942 and 1943 as well as a few games when he was on furlough. He was a New York Giant and would have been one of the best according to those who observed him. He played at an exceptional level of greatness in those two

seasons and the nature of his short time with the team. Most know that it was common practice back in his day for players to end or suspend their careers in order to serve our country, which Blozis did during World War II.

He made the Pro Bowl in just his second season as an offensive lineman for the Giants and could have returned from the war with a chance for a great career, but his life was cut short in service of our

country. Americans must have great respect for that, so, I felt compelled to tell his story.

1943 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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.

1944 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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 the following 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 outcharge 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.

HUTSON SNARES ONE

The Packers began their first concerted drive midway in the first period when Comp took (Len) Younce's punt back nine yards to the Packers' 44-yard line. The first play was a pass, Comp to Hutson, who fooled the Giant defenders completely and Comp hit him expertly in the flat. But Hutson slipped after making the catch and slid out of bounds with a 22-yard gain.

Comp's protection miscued on the next pass and he was hit from a blind side just as he let the ball go and Younce intercepted the throw.

LAWS BREAKS LOOSE

An exchange of punts ended the quarter and set up the stage for the first Packer touchdown. On the opening play of the second period, Laws broke inside the Giants' left tackle and bolted 21 yards to the Giants' 23-yard line. On the next play Fritsch smashed his way through the same hole, broke into the clear. At the 10-yard line he met Cuff head on, bounced the Giant out of the path and kept going until Livingston brought him down from behind on the 1-yard line. Laws slipped trying to score on first down. Fritsch lost a yard and Laws was held for no gain. After a time out, during which (Lou) Brock replaced Laws, Fritsch charged straight ahead behind (Charley) Brock, (Buckets) Goldenberg and (Bill) Kuusisto and went over. Hutson added the extra point.

The Packers came back from this touchdown prepared for greater effort. They throttled the Giants completely, then in the final minutes, got their own offense together for their second touchdown. After Laws returned Younce's punt 11 yards to the Packers' 38-yard line, Comp was dumped for a yard loss. Laws got back the yard and three more off tackle. Comp then whipped a 25-yard pass to Laws for a first down on the Giants' 29-yard line. Fritsch bulled his way for three yards inside (Al) Blozis.

GIANTS GET FOOLED

The next play found Hutson starting from right end and racing into the deep flat. He was in the clear, but the pass fell five yards behind him. The next play from all intents and purposes was identical. Hutson was in the clear to the right again and the Giants were following him attentively. Comp faked to the lanky end, then wheeled and passed to Fritsch on the other side. He took the ball on the 5 and dashed over. It was a gain of 26 yards and with Hutson's successful kick gave the Packers a 14 to 0 lead. There was no letup in the Packers' attack in the second half, but the Giants, who had been roundly rocked in the first half, fought back with more gusto and succeeded finally in making some headway offensively.

CUFF GOES OVER

Arnie Herber, who was having some difficulty keeping Packer lineman out of his hair, finally got away a long pass on the last play of the period. Comp had end Frank Liebel covered perfectly on the 10-yard line, but as he reached to intercept, his feet went out from under him on the frozen turf and the ball sailed over him into Liebel's arms. Fritsch finally hauled Liebel down on the 1-yard line as the quarter ended. Cuff smashed over center on the first play of the fourth quarter and Ken Strong kicked the extra point. Thereafter it was a dog fight, with the Giants providing the only sustained drive of the last quarter when they put together three first downs, two running and one passing, for a 38-yard advance before Duhart intercepted Herber's pass. The Packers had the ball at the end of the game, having taken it on downs at midfield when the Giants tried a fourth down shovel pass maneuver, Herber to Cuff. It gained four yards but missed by three of being a first down.

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

THE LEAST-REMEMBERED CHAMPIONSHIP –
By PFRA Research

Mostly it was the war. Patton was doing his end-run through Europe, the Marines were plunging across the Pacific, and long bombs were what the Air Force dropped on Berlin and Tokyo.

Football — even a championship game — didn't seem all that important to most Americans. A diversion. No more. Moreover, many of the stars who might have lifted the 1944 NFL Championship Game out of the commonplace were wearing khaki. That made it hard to gauge the Packers and Giants. How would they have fared against some of the pre-war powerhouses? Not too well, most people agreed. Even the pairing was pedestrian.

Baseball had been lucky. 1944 was the year the St. Louis Browns won a pennant, lending an aura of the unusual — even the bizarre — to the World Series. But the Packers and Giants? That was old news. The championship game ALWAYS had the Bears or Redskins or Packers or Giants. Was it an NFL rule?

Four decades later, it takes a good trivia expert to recall which teams played in 1944. If he can remember who won, he gets an orange wedge. It's a shame really. The teams were actually pretty good, despite the loss of so many players to the military.

The Packers had Hutson, of course. Irv Comp, the passer, was no Cecil Isbell but he could get the job done. Ted Fritsch made a first-rate fullback and Lou Brock could scamper. The line had big Baby Ray, Buckets Goldenberg, Charley Brock, and Larry Craig. They ran off six straight wins to start the season and then coasted home at 8-2-0. The Giants caught them relaxing four weeks before the end of the regular season and zapped them 24-0, then knocked off Washington twice in the final two games to nose out the Eagles and Redskins.

A typical Steve Owen concoction, the New Yorkers played tough defense. During the season, they shutout half their opponents enroute to an 8-1-1 mark. Frank Cope, Al Blozis, Len Younce, and Mel Hein did the tough work in the line, and blond Bill Paschal was the league's best runner. In a "human interest" story, long-time Packer thrower Arnie Herber came out of retirement, paunchy and graying, to give New York its best passing in years.

A large and loyal New York crowd of 46,016 showed up at the Polo Grounds on December 17. They hoped Paschal could still go despite an ankle injured in the final regular season game against the Redskins. They prayed Hutson could be held to some ordinary mortal stats by tough Giant double and triple-teaming.

They wanted a win. In the push-and-shove first quarter neither team gained an advantage. New York defenders covered Hutson like a coat of whitewash. That was the good news for Giant fans. The bad news was that Paschal's ankle made him nearly immobile. About all he could do in the backfield was act as a decoy. Early in the second

quarter, Green Bay gained decent field position with a punt return to the New York 48.

On first down, eleven-year veteran Joe Laws slashed through the line for 20 yards. Before the Giants got their bearings, 210-pound Ted Fritsch rumbled for 27 more to put the ball at the one. New York's tough defense stiffened and held off the Packers for three downs, but on the fourth Fritsch smashed over behind Goldenberg's block for a touchdown. Hutson kicked the PAT and Green Bay led 7-0. New York still couldn't get any offense going.

Late in the second period the Packers started another drive at their own 38. On third and three, Hutson worked clear of the Giant defenders and Comp hit him for a 24-yard gain to the New York 30. Three downs gained only two yards and only a little over a minute remained in the half. Everyone in the Polo Grounds knew it was "Hutson time."

At the snap Hutson moved to the right and virtually every Giant on the field (and probably some on the bench) moved with him like a herd of lemmings. Meanwhile, Ted Fritsch strolled through the line, looking for all the world like a guy out on his Sunday constitutional. None of the New Yorkers paid him a mind. He would have had to have insulted their mothers to get a glance. Everyone was after Hutson. But once he was past the line of scrimmage, Ted put on speed and for a big guy he could motor pretty well. When Comp finally launched his pass, it wasn't to Hutson loping through a Giant team meeting to the right. Instead it went straight down the middle to Fritsch, the lonely guy at the five.

Once Ted clutched the ball he could have sung two choruses of the Packer fight song and still walked over the goal line before any Giant could have caught up with him. Hutson kicked the extra point to put the score at 14-0, but he deserved credit for the touchdown too.

Down by two TDs as the second half began, the Giants had to pass and Green Bay knew it. Old friend Arnie Herber was playing against a stacked deck and a couple of his tosses were picked off — Joe Laws had three interceptions on the day — but he kept pitching. With Paschal unable to run, there wasn't much else in the New York arsenal.

Late in the third stanza, Arnie hoisted a long one to Frank Liebel for 41 yards to take ball to the Packer one. Another ex-Wisconsinite, Marquette's Ward Cuff, smacked over for the score on the first play of the final quarter. Ward had spent eight years as a New York wingback, but he took this one in from tailback—one of those little adjustments necessitated by Paschal's injury. Ken Strong, who'd been kicking since Walter Camp was around, knocked the football through the uprights to make the score 14-7.

Giant fans screamed for just one more big pass from Herber's ancient arm. Arnie did his best to accommodate them. A final desperation drive late in the period was going pretty well. But suddenly Green Bay's Paul Duhart was in the right spot at the right time — the Packer 20 just as a Herber heave descended on that spot. It was Green Bay's fourth interception and New York's last gasp.

All things considered; it wasn't a bad game. It broke all play-off game records financially with a gross gate of \$146,205.15 and a net gate after taxes of \$121,703. Each Packer got \$1,449.71; each Giant \$814.36. There was lots of great defense and a couple of big plays. It almost had a great comeback, and it did have some human interest in Arnie Herber versus his old team. It was Al Blozis' last game.

It even had one of those screwy twists people like to remember — the biggest offensive threats for both teams, Hutson and Paschal, were used almost exclusively as decoys. But you never hear fans fondly reminiscing about the "Decoy Game." Instead it's "Who played?" "Who won?" "Who cares?" Fans forget a lot of games, of course, even championships, but — if such a thing could be measured — this one would win the cup as least remembered. And they'd probably forget to inscribe it. Mostly it was the war. Amen!

1945 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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.

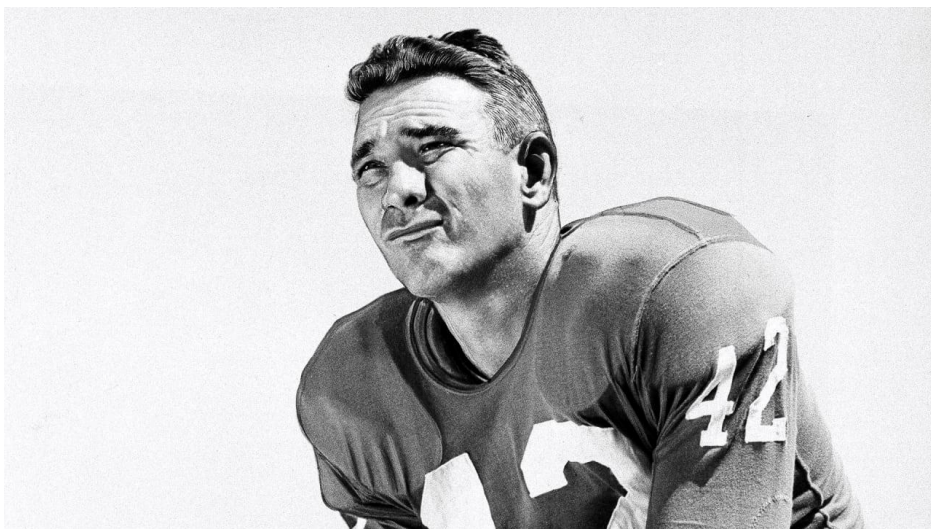
The Giants began the season on a positive note on Sept 23, 1948 at Boston with a win against the Boston Yanks W (27-7). On Oct 3, at Washington, the Redskins whooped the Giants L (10-41). Then at Philadelphia on Oct 10, the Eagles walloped the Giants L (0-45) in a shutout victory. At home on Oct 17, 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.

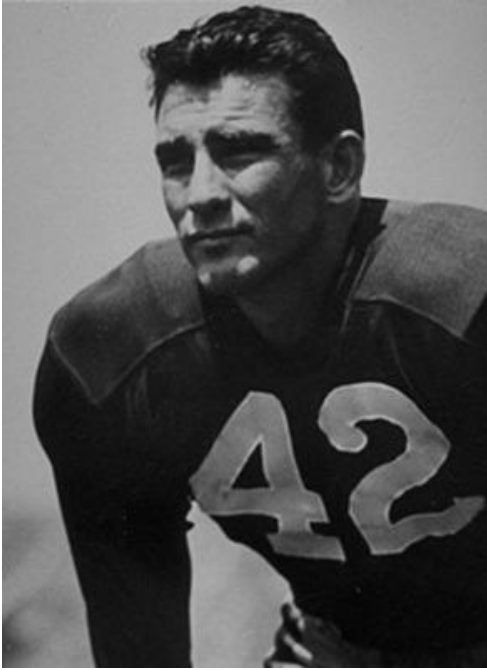
1948-1961 Top Giants Players Charley Conerly QB

If not for the absolute brilliance of Y.A. Tittle in his four years with the Giants, many suggest that Charlie Conerly would today be the hands-down greatest QB in Giants history.

Of course, there will always be record books that place Phil Simms a notch or two ahead of Conerly in terms of production, but the era of the quarterback was much different in Conerly's time. I recall seeing the games in which Conerly and the Giants played against Johnny Unitas and the Colts. Now, that was football at its best.



They still talk about when The New York Giants and Baltimore Colts faced off in what became known as "The Greatest Game Ever Played." Giants.com took a recent look back at the 1958 NFL



Championship Game and the impact it still has on the game years Later. Those games are still fun to watch.

173 touchdown passes in the 1950s looks a whole lot better than the 199 touchdown passes from Phil Simms in the 1980s, especially when so many of Simms' peers surpassed the 200 mark.

Charlie Conerly, among other things was the quarterback who led the New York Giants to the 1956 National Football League championship and held virtually all of the club's

career passing records until Phil Simms surpassed them. He was the Giants QB when my dad and I watched early NFL games on our 1956 Admiral B/W TV

He died in Methodist Hospital in Memphis at 74 years of age after a full and robust life. He lived in Clarksdale, Miss., not far from Memphis. When he passed, it was after a long bout with heart failure after a long illness, according to his wife, Perian. He had been hospitalized since Sept. 19, his birthday, when he underwent triple-bypass heart surgery.

With silver-streaked black hair and a ruggedly handsome face that would later be seen in the "Marlboro man" cigarette advertisements, Conerly was the quiet leader of the Giant team that popularized pro football in New York in 1956 with an 8-3-1 record and a 47-7 rout of the Chicago Bears in the N.F.L. championship game at Yankee Stadium.

"The next year, the Giants had a sellout every game because of what we did in 1956," Frank Gifford, a teammate, once said. "Charlie was the biggest reason for that."

Conerly, Gifford, Kyle Rote, Alex Webster, Roosevelt Brown, Andy Robustelli, Sam Huff, Emlen Tunnell, Jim Patton and Pat Summerall were suddenly the toast of New York football fans. Charley's teammates credit the agile QB for all that fame.

Those Giant teams also finished first in the Eastern Conference in 1958 and 1959 before losing both championship games to the Baltimore Colts.

In the 1958 title game, Conerly collaborated with Gifford on a 15-yard touchdown pass for a 17-14 lead late in the fourth quarter. But the Colts forced overtime on Johnny Unitas's passes to Raymond Berry that positioned Steve Myhra's tying 17-yard field goal, then won on Alan Ameche's 1-yard touchdown in in what some people still consider to be pro football's most historic game.

"The Colts had a great team," Conerly would say years later. "I don't think we were as good as them, but it was a letdown to lose." In 1959, Conerly, then 38 years old, was the N.F.L.'s top-ranked passer, but the Giants lost the title game in Baltimore, 31-16. At age 40 in 1961, his final season, he was the backup to Y. A. Tittle, the bald quarterback who had been obtained from the San Francisco 49ers shortly before the season opened.

"I went to Charlie four times that year," recalled Allie Sherman, then the Giants' coach. "He brought us home each time."

During his 14 seasons, Conerly established Giants records for career touchdown passes (173), completions (1,418), passing yardage (19,488) and attempts (2,833). The only Giants record he still holds is one he would prefer not to have: most career interceptions, 167. But if quarterback sacks were recorded in his early seasons when the Giants seldom had good teams, he might hold the N.F.L. record for being tackled while attempting to pass.

In a 14-10 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles at the Polo Grounds in 1952, The Philadelphia Daily News reported that Conerly had been sacked 17 times. As the Giants struggled to a 3-9 record in 1953,

some Giants fans waved banners reading "Goodbye, Charlie," and "Get a New Quarterback." But in 1954 the Giants had a new coach, Jim Lee Howell, who hired Vince Lombardi from the Army staff for the job of what is now considered to be offensive coordinator.

"Lombardi put in a different offense," Conerly said. "And we got some better players."

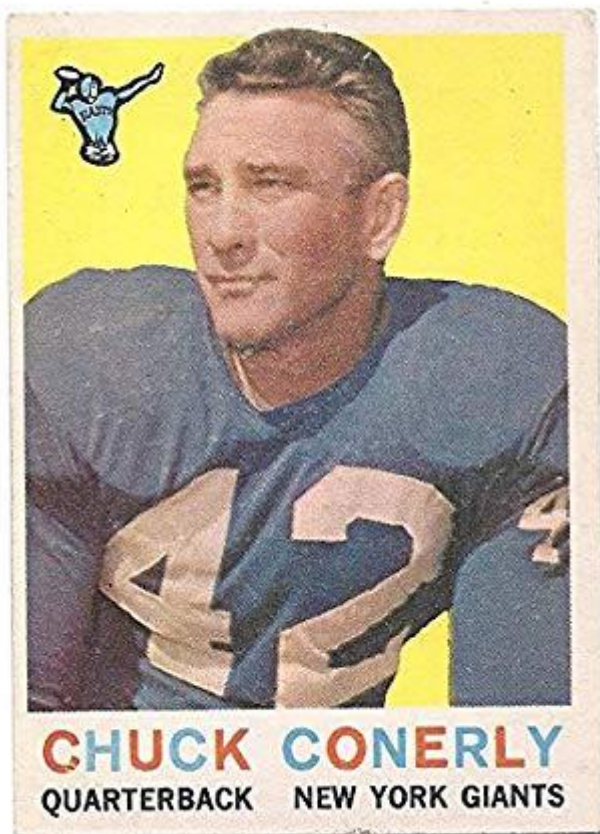
After having served in the invasion of Guam as a Marine corporal during World War II, Conerly was an all-America single-wing tailback at the University of Mississippi. When he joined the Giants in 1948, he was converted into a T-formation quarterback.

"Charlie is the best player who is not in the Pro Football Hall of Fame," Wellington Mara, the Giants' co-owner, has often said. "He has better numbers than some quarterbacks who are there." Conerly, whose No. 42 was retired by the Giants in 1962, owned a chain of shoe stores in Mississippi, but he occasionally returned to New York to attend the annual dinner of the College Football Hall of Fame, of which he was a member, and to attend Giants games.

Conerly was the definition of a field general, something he likely picked up while touring with the Marines in the South Pacific during World War II. His teammates went to battle with him and he led them to greatness.

It's a damn shame Conerly played in the era he did, overshadowed by his peers Otto Graham and perhaps Norm Van Brocklin, as well as by teammates Frank Gifford, Sam Huff, and Rosey Brown (whom all appear on the list higher than Conerly and played most of their career with him as their leader).

He would likely have garnered Hall of Fame honors if it weren't for those extenuating circumstances. Gifford constantly pleaded with voters to put Conerly in the Hall but to no avail; the Giants still rewarded him by retiring his No. 42 jersey at the end of his career.



Steve Jacobson wrote much of this piece on Charley Conerly. Besides Unitas, he was my favorite QB in the early years. And then came YA Tittle.

He Gave the NFL a Legacy of Class

STEVE
JACOBSON
NEWSDAY

You could see his face up there on the big billboard over Broadway. His pearly ten-gallon hat was tilted down over

his tanned and weathered face as he cupped his hands to light a cigarette. Charlie Conerly was tough as rawhide.

He was Gary Cooper, or John Wayne or Montgomery Clift in "Red River." He was, indeed, the Marlboro Man. His name never appeared; it was understood. He was quarterback for the New York Giants in the instant pro football came into the Golden Age, but mostly because he fit the part.

"He was a silent leader," said Sam Huff, whose violent-world defense gave Conerly's team the other ingredient for winning. "Charlie never talked to anybody. He came in, sat in front of his locker and read the paper. Some people thought he was grumpy; he just didn't talk."

Almost never. Huff came to Giants camp in 1956 as a rookie who played a lot of linebacker and punted some, too. Conerly was graying and 37. "I first thought he was a coach," Huff recalled. "I said, 'Hey, coach, where's the balls?' And he said, 'Ahm no damn coach, rookie.'" Some things a man never forgets.

"One word," recalled Jim Trimble, former Giants scout and a coach in the league when Conerly was at his best. "He was the toughest SOB at quarterback. You could never physically hurt Charlie; if you did, he was never going to let you know about it."

Chuckin' Charlie died Tuesday at the age of 74. He played in four NFL championship games in 14 seasons from 1948 to 1961, gallumphing around in his old high-top shoes. They were his team records that Phil Simms broke for completions, for touchdowns and for criticism. They were alike in so many ways.

For the purpose of introducing Conerly a few years ago at a misty-eyed dinner, Simms went to the trouble of reading the clips. "I had thought he was God up here," Simms said. "I started reading and I thought, 'Hey, this sounds like me.'"

There were times when Conerly was derisively named "Good Old Charlie," and fans cheered when he got hurt. "But you never heard one word of complaint," Wellington Mara, who ran practice patterns for Conerly in those formative years, said with admiration.

Conerly came to the Giants from Mississippi and played tailback in the A-formation when the T-formation was still newfangled. Actually, the Washington Redskins had drafted him when his class graduated in 1945, but he was away with the Marine Corps on Iwo Jima. When he finished at Mississippi, the Giants traded for him in 1948.

Steve Owen hired Allie Sherman to teach the T to the coaching staff and Conerly. "I met him, he was in bed reading a Western," Sherman said. "He looked up at me and said, 'OK, fine,' and went back to his book.

"I learned his span of attention was not much past 12 or 15 minutes, and he wasn't much for chalk. I'd tell him about 'flood to the left' and he'd go 'Yep,' and I'd worry. Then when he went on the field in an hour he was like a computer."

Conerly quarterbacked the Giants to three conference championships and a tie for another, and pulled out some games as a backup to Y.A. Tittle in another championship. He was the man when the Giants won the 1956 equivalent of the Super Bowl.

But the word that rings through the history of the Giants is not that he won but that he was "class." Mara recalled Tuesday that the way Conerly, in the twilight of his career, accepted the arrival of Tittle "was indicative of the type of player he was."

In 1961, Huff recalled, Wellington, who made the great trades, stood amid the defensive players and asked them: "We have a chance to get Y.A. Tittle, what do you guys think?" All they had to give up was a trivia answer named Lou Cordileone. There were 11 quick votes of yes.

And then came the test of what a man had inside his chest as well as in his head. "When you practice or play against a team, you watch how the quarterback reacts and whether he can bring that team up to capacity," said Andy Robustelli, who came to the Giants as a defensive end for the '56 championship season. "What I saw was the confidence he instilled in the huddle."

Sherman taught the lessons of the T to Conerly, went off to make his own name coaching in Canada and came back to replace Vince Lombardi when he went to Green Bay. The year Sherman became head coach was the year Tittle came from San Francisco. Of course, the Giants were cool to this outsider; they'd won with Conerly. Both Conerly and Tittle had been No. 1, and there was no sharing the job.

Two weeks before the opener, Sherman recalls he asked both men to come in early to camp at Fordham the next day. "We met in the girls' powder room of the gym," Sherman said. "I closed the door and said the coaches feel we can make a run at the championship

and there are three guys who can help us or hurt us most: the three of us."

He said he'd pick a No. 1 strictly on football; the guy he didn't pick would have the toughest test to stay sharp for the fifth game or the 12th or a game that may never come. "You both have a right," Sherman said, "to tell me to shove it, and if you want to go somewhere I'll help you.

"Charlie looked down, scraped his cleats and said, 'I've won and I want to win again; whatever you say goes.' And Tittle said, 'Shoot, I never won and I want to win, and whatever you say goes.'"

Conerly opened the season. Sherman went to Tittle in the second game. "Four games we were behind at the half and went to Charlie and won the game," Sherman said.

"He had this strength of character; all his life he's No. 1 with these teammates, he rides the bench and he pulls us out. He gave me chills."

Conerly was never named all-NFL. He led the league in passing once. Mara calls him the best player not in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Conerly was at quarterback in the four-week sequence in 1958 that created pro football. In the 11th game--they scheduled 12 then--the Giants beat defending champion Detroit with Bobby Layne and Doak Walker. Conerly was the holder when Pat Summerall's kick in the snow beat Cleveland to force a conference playoff. *I saw that kick as a kid! On our b/w Admiral TV*

With Huff playing shadow, the defense held Jimmy Brown to 8 yards, and the Giants won the conference. Then they played the overtime game with the Baltimore Colts, known as "The Greatest Game Ever Played." The world remembers Johnny Unitas picking the Colts downfield in sudden death; it should not forget Conerly passing the Giants to a lead in regulation.

He had a hand in the creation. In '58 the Giants sold 11,000 season tickets. By mid-'59 they were all sold, and have been ever since.

That's just some of Conerly's legacy.

What a great player!

1949 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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.

1951-1961 Top Giants Players Kyle Rote WR/HB



William Kyle Rote, Sr. was born on Oct 27, 1928 and he passed away on August 15, 2002. He was a great football player, a running back and receiver for eleven years in the National Football League (NFL) for the New York Giants.

He made All-American as a running back at Southern Methodist University and he was the first overall selection of the 1951 NFL Draft. That is quite a statement .

When he hung up his playing spikes, literally, Rote was the Giants backfield coach and he became a sports broadcaster for WNEW radio, NBC, and WNBC New York

Though originally drafted as a running back, he could do it all in college and the Giants mainly used his skills as a wide receiver.

He made four Pro Bowls with the Giants and was a part of the Giants 1956 NFL championship team. He and Frank Gifford were both elite targets for quarterback Charlie Conerly.

He totaled 5668 yards and 52 touchdowns in 11 seasons.

1950-1953 Top Giants Players Arnold Weinmeister DT



Arnie Weinmeister was a larger than life talent whose career was another one cut short by service in the army. Though he played only four seasons with the Giants, he absolutely dominated on defense during that time

In a time when over 5'9" 200 lbs. was considered a good-sized man, Weinmeister sat at 6'4", 240 lbs. He was elected to both the Pro Bowl and the All Pro team from 1950-1953 (his four years with the Giants and he remains one of the more

celebrated Canadian born players in NFL history.

Not only did Weinmeister wow fans with his incredible size, but he was widely considered the fastest lineman in his era. Can you imagine the biggest lineman in the league today also being the fastest? Picture Vince Wilfork running a 4.7 forty. I'll wait.

Ok now that your jaw has closed, let's continue.

Weinmeister combined his brute strength and size with his speed to be a defensive machine, both stopping the run and rushing the passer. There was little anyone could do when Weinmeister picked up a head of steam and was one of the first defensive players to really capture the excitement from the fans.

His six-year career is the shortest of any Hall of Famer in NFL history, which should tell you how dominant he was.

1952 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

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.

1952-1964 Top Giants Players Frank Gifford HB/WR



Francis Newton Gifford was born August 16, 1930 and he passed away on August 9, 2015. He was a fine American football player, actor, and television sports commentator. After a 12-year playing career as a halfback and flanker for the New York Giants of the National Football League (NFL), he was a play-by-play announcer and commentator for 27 years on ABC's Monday Night Football. He is well known for taking the big hit from the Eagles Chuck Bednarik. It put him out for a year but he came back.

Gifford won the NFL Most Valuable Player Award

from United Press International in 1956, the same season his team won the NFL Championship. During his career, he participated in five league championship games and was named to eight Pro Bowls. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1977. After retiring as a player, Gifford was an Emmy Award-winning sportscaster, known for his work on ABC's Monday Night Football, Wide World of Sports and the Olympics. He was married to television host Kathie Lee Gifford from 1986 until his death.



Although Tiki Barber stands alone with many of the Giants team rushing records, in terms of his greatness among his peers, he does not hold a candle to Frank Gifford.

Gifford was an offensive machine and a triple threat on offense. He could do it all; pass, run, catch, return kicks, and even played some very good defensive back.

Speaking to his incredible versatility, he made the Pro Bowl eight times and did so at three different positions—

running back, defensive back, and wide receiver (flanker as it was known then).

In his career, he amassed 10,573 yards from rushing, passing, receiving, and return yards as well as 92 total touchdowns. In 1956 he was the NFL MVP and the Giants won the NFL Championship that season.

1953 New York Giants Coach #6 Steve Owen

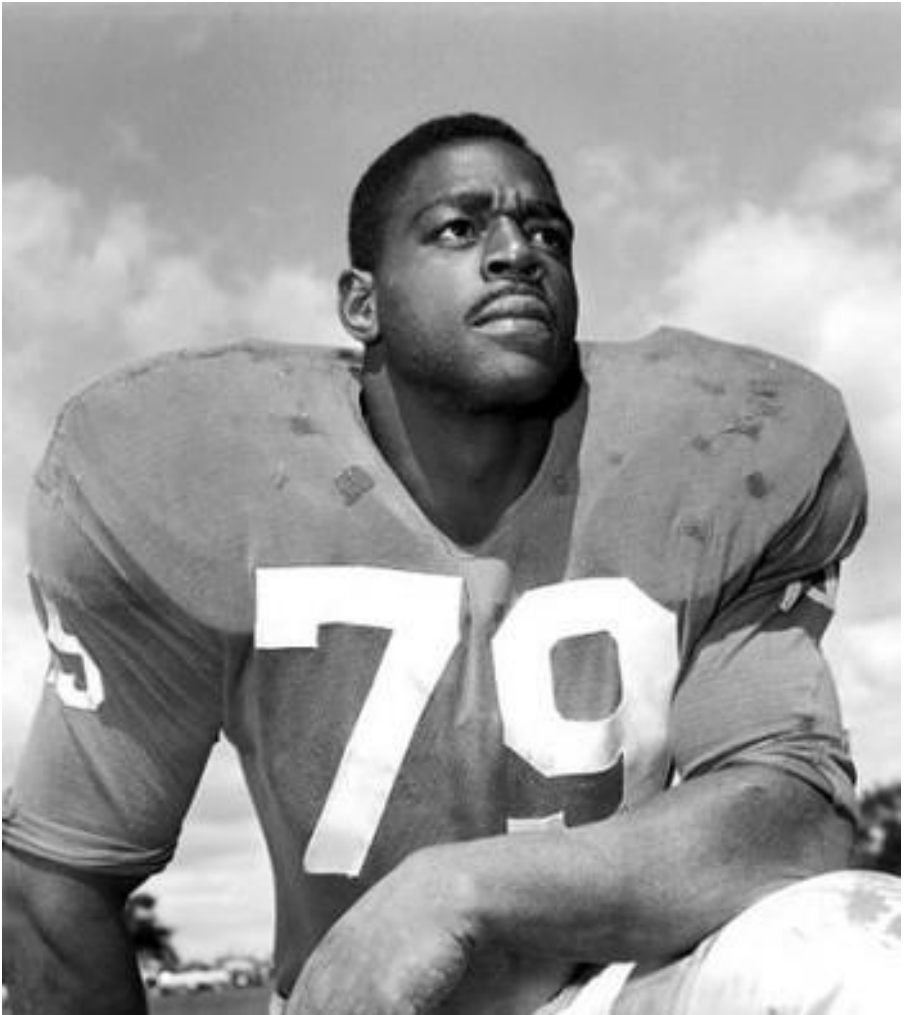
The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1953 professional football season. The 1953 New York Giants football team competed in their twenty-ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the American Conference. The team was led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

1953-1965 Top Giants Players Roosevelt “Rosey” Brown OL



Roosevelt "Rosey" Brown Jr. was born Oct 20, 1932 and passed away on June 9, 2004). "Rosey" was a great American football player, playing offensive tackle in the National Football League (NFL) for the New York Giants from 1953 to 1965. He had previously played college football for Morgan State University.

After being selected with the 321st pick in the 1953 NFL Draft, he appeared in 162 games for the Giants, missing only four games in a

13-year career. In his prime, between 1956 and 1963, he helped lead the Giants to six division championships and the 1956 NFL Championship Game. He was selected as a first-team All-NFL player eight consecutive years and was also selected to play in the Pro Bowl nine times.

After retiring as a player, Brown remained with the Giants as an assistant coach and later as a scout. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1974 and was named to the NFL's 75th Anniversary All-Time Team in 1994. He was also included on the NFL's 1950s All-Decade Team and The Sporting News' list of the 100 Greatest Football Players.

Easily the greatest offensive lineman in the New York Giants history, Rosey Brown led the way for many great offensive players, including Charlie Conerly, Y.A. Tittle, and Frank Gifford.

A center piece on the 1956 championship and a member of the Giants coaching staff/scouting for many years after his retirement, his career on and off the field is something to marvel at.

He made nine Pro Bowls and was named the 56th best player on the Sporting News' top 100 list. Brown was not necessarily the first great athlete to play offensive line, but he may have been the first most gifted athlete at his size. He was very quick with his feet and it was impossible to get around him, using those quick feet with his long arms to keep guys in front of him.

This is why many consider him to be the greatest pass blocker of his era. Charlie Conerly owes a lot of his success to the protection he received from Brown.

Brown is one of those guys that could have made it in any time period, and I truly believe that

Chapter 14 Giants Football 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)

1954 New York Giants Coach #7 Jim Lee Howell

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.

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.

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 (14-0) 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 New York Giants Coach #7 Jim Lee Howell

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.

1955-1962 Top Giants Players Roosevelt Grier DT

Roosevelt Grier (born July 14, 1932) is a little bit of everything or so it seems. He is an American actor, singer, Protestant minister, and former professional football player. He was a notable college football player for The Pennsylvania State University, earning a retrospective place in the National Collegiate Athletic Association 100th anniversary list of 100 most influential student athletes. As a pro player, Grier was a member of the New York Giants and the original Fearsome Foursome of the Los Angeles Rams. He played in the Pro Bowl twice.



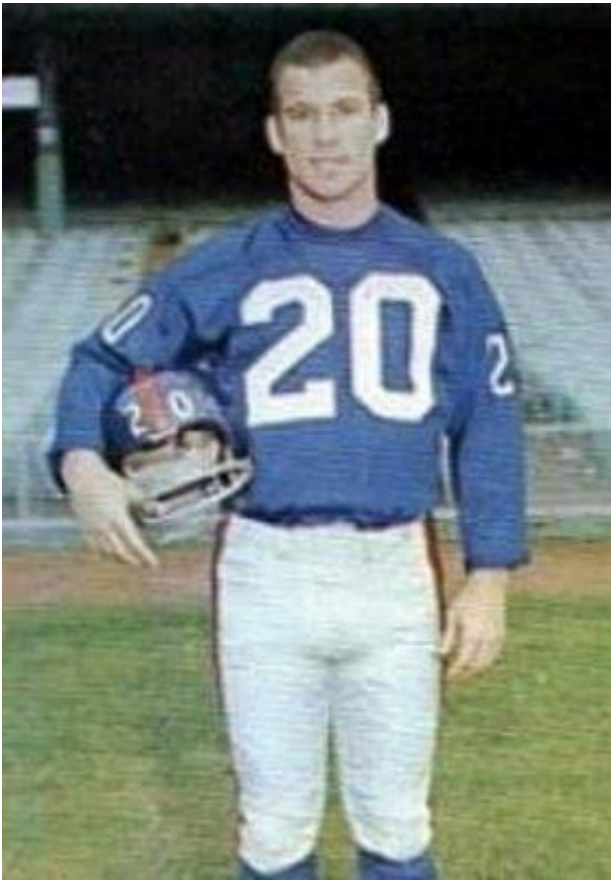
Roosevelt Grier was another incredible piece to the puzzle that allowed the Giants to win the 1956 NFL championship. He was a monster in the middle of their defense and was elected to the All Pro team as a defensive tackle five times with the Giants.

He would go on to have an interesting post-football life, including being a body guard for the Ethel and Robert Kennedy. He famously helped subdue the assassin who claimed Robert's life.

He also became a popular actor, Christian minister, author, and singer.

1955-1966 Top Giants Players Jimmy Patton S

The fact that Jimmy Patton and Emlen Tunnell only got to play together for four seasons is a travesty. Emlen Tunnell is one of the best safeties of all time and Patton is right behind him on the all-time list of Giants safeties.



Patton amassed 52 interceptions in 12 seasons with the Giants and made the Pro Bowl five times. He was part of six teams that made the NFL championship and a major piece to the 1956 championship team.

Getting the first information last, we now know that James Russell Patton was born on September 29, 1933 and he passed away on December 22, 1972. He was a great American football defensive back in the National Football

League (NFL) for the New York Giants. He claimed five-Pro Bowl selections and was five-time first-team All-Pro. Patton played his college football at the University of Mississippi and he was drafted in the eighth round of the 1955 NFL Draft.

1956 New York Giants Coach #7 Jim Lee Howell

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 Championships. 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.

1956-1964 Top Giants Players Andy Robustelli DE

Andrew Richard Robustelli was born on December 6, 1925 and he passed away on May 31, 2011. He was a great defensive end in the National Football League for the Los Angeles Rams and the New York Giants. He played college football at Arnold College and was drafted in the nineteenth round of the 1951 NFL Draft. Robustelli was a six-time First-team All-pro selection and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1971.



Andy Robustelli's career might have been a bit more exotic had the NFL kept quarterback sacks as a stat back in those days. As it stands, he's still one of the

best defensive ends to play the game and is a legend among Giants fans.

He is credited for being an emotional leader and the glue to the 1956 NFL Championship team, which was loaded with Hall of Famers.

His passing recently was a sad day for fans everywhere. He had an incredible work ethic; the Rams drafted him to catch passes in 1951, but already had star wide outs at the time so Robustelli dedicated himself to the defensive side of the ball. He is a hall of famer and made the Pro Bowl and All Pro rosters seven times each.

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Andy Robustelli
NEW YORK GIANTS END

Ht. 6'1"; Wt. 230; Born Dec. 6, 1926
College Arnold College
Home Stamford, Connecticut

Robustelli won Little All-American honors 3 years in a row, (1948-49-50) before entering the NFL as a member of the Los Angeles Rams. He was traded to the New York Giants in 1956 and has been on the All-Pro defensive squad every season and is also a regular selection to the Pro Bowl game. The acknowledged leader of the fine Giant defensive team, Andy also serves as an assistant coach.

Post

ACTUAL IMAGE

1956 -1963 Top Giants Players Sam Huff LB

Robert Lee "Sam" Huff was born on Oct 4, 1934. All my life I knew Sam Huff as the best linebacker that ever lived. . He is a former professional American football linebacker in the National Football League (NFL) for the New York Giants and the Washington Redskins. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1982. He played college football for the West Virginia Mountaineers football team and is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame.



If Antonio Pierce is the latest version of the storied history of Giants linebackers, Sam Huff started that history.

Huff started his career dominating for the Giants before joining the Redskins, but he definitely made a lasting impact on the Giants to say the least. He made five Pro Bowls in eight seasons with the Giants and was named the NFL's best linebacker in 1959.

His story is an interesting one. He was drafted as a guard out of college and the head coach at the time—Jim Lee Howell—had a difficult time finding a spot for Huff. Discouraged by this, Huff left for the airport and was chased down by an assistant coach who saw talent in him.

His name was Vince Lombardi, and he convinced Huff to return. Defensive Coordinator Tom Landry created the 4-3 defense, middle linebacker Ray Beck got hurt, and the rest is history.

1957 New York Giants Coach #7 Jim Lee Howell

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 New York Giants Coach #7 Jim Lee Howell

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 Championship. 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 New York Giants Coach #7 Jim Lee Howell

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.

1959-1972 Top Giants Players Joe Morrison **HB / WR**

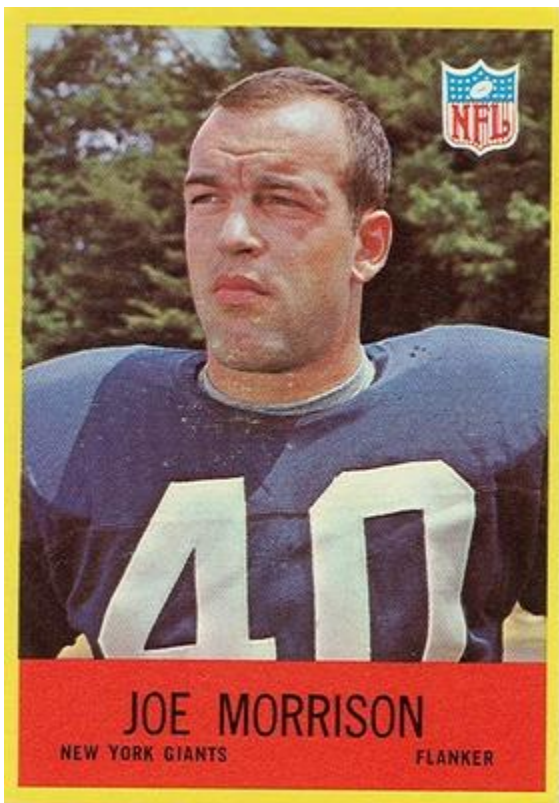
Morrison was born in Lima, Ohio and attended the University of Cincinnati where he played both halfback and quarterback and also played on defense during his three varsity seasons. Joe Morrison was drafted by the Giants in the third round of the 1959 NFL Draft, where he mostly played at the positions of running back and wide receiver.

He had a long career with the Giants, playing from 1959 to 1972. He is 3rd on the Giants' team record for receptions, with 395 catches, from seven different quarterbacks; over his career his plays gained 4,993 yards.

His jersey number (#40) has been retired by the Giants.

Morrison's best individual season as a receiver came in 1966 when the Giants won only one game. He caught 46 passes for 724 yards and scored six touchdowns. While the Giants fell on hard times, Morrison was one of the bright stars on the team. He also had five seasons of forty receptions or more between 1964 and 1971.

Because he played many positions as needed for the Giants, he was nicknamed "Old Dependable."



Despite playing for the Giants mostly in years of turmoil, Joe Morrison did enough in his career to have his No. 40 jersey number retired.

He was a fantastic athlete who excelled both running and catching the football. By the time he called it quits he gained 2,474 rushing yards, 4993 receiving yards, and 65 total touchdowns in his career.

He had three different seasons with 30+ receptions and 100+ rushing attempts; he was your do-it-all guy and he never complained about

it.

After playing with the Giants through three championship game losses in his first four years, the Giants never made it back to the post season with Morrison.

That doesn't take away from what he accomplished on the field, however.

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."

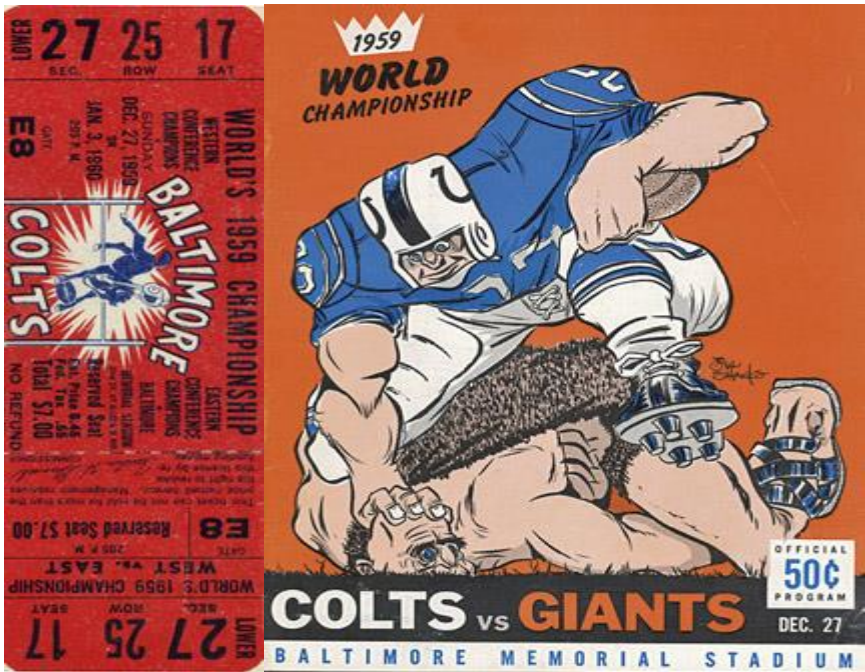
Dick Modzelewski: "We'll win because we have more confidence this year".

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 Unitas."

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:

Quarter 1



Marchetti rushes Conerly.

After the Giants punt, Unitas got the Colts going and eventually, he hit Lenny Moore who caught the ball in stride at the 35 and outran Lindon Crow and into the end zone. Colts 7 Giants 0 (10:05) The TD extended Unitas's streak of consecutive games with a TD pass to 39.



Unitas looks for a receiver.

When the Giants later made it to the 5 things clogged up. Triplett went up the middle on a draw play to the 10. Conerly pump-faked to the left, then connected with Bob Schnelker on a flare out to the right. Bob went out of bounds at the 5. 1st and Goal. Webster tried a run through LT but got only 2y. Facing a nine-man line, Conerly tossed a backward pass out to Gifford to the right. But LB Bill Pellington fought off a block and was waiting for Frank.

So he reversed field and meandered through defenders until being trapped back at the 8. Conerly went back to pass and, not finding anyone open, tried to run but was smothered by Lipscomb and then Marchetti on the 16. So, the Giants settled for the FG by Summerall from the 23. Colts 7 Giants 3 (1:44).

Summerall's kickoff was short to the 15, from where Mhyra returned 16 yards. The Colts declined the offside penalty on the Giants. Unitas handed to Moore who ran into a host of defenders at the 35. Unitas Mutscheller, who almost lost the ball as he was hit by Crow but regained control as he fell at the 40. Unitas threw a quick pass to Berry for the first down at the 44 despite DB Dick Lynch hanging all over him. Mike Sommer followed Ameche into the line for a gain of a yard. This was the END OF QUARTER 1: Colts 7 Giants 3



Summerall kicks FG.

In the second quarter, Mhyra lined up for a FG at the 42 with Ray Brown holding. But the boot went wide left.

Starting at the 20, Conerly faked a pitchout and handed to Triplett who went nowhere. Nothing positive happened. Sample returned Chandler's punt to midfield. After an offside, the Giants punted again to the 30. After a 3y run by King and two incompletions, Chandler booted to Sample, who signaled for a fair catch at the 22.

Trying to make something happen before the half, Conerly threw an incomplection and eventually the Giants got into FG position. So Summerall entered and put a 37y FG through the uprights. The fans booed lustily as the Colts surrounded referee Ron Gibbs protesting that the FG missed. Nonetheless Colts 7 Giants 6 (0:11). Smalltalk: Reporters who sat in the baseball press box at that end of the field all thought Summerall's kick missed and by a wide margin.

HALFTIME SCORE: Colts 7 Giants 6

Quarter 3

After several exchanges, Summerall kicked from the 23. His third FG tied a championship game record shared by three others. Giants 9

Colts 7 (7:39) The Giants dominated but not much scoring in Q3. Colts got just one first down. Giants 9 Colts 7

In Quarter 4, Unitas overthrew Mutscheller to bring up 3rd-and-8. Johnny rolled left and threw to Berry, who was tackled immediately by Lynch at the 47. After FB Pricer went up the middle for 4y, Unitas took a step back and fired to Moore. In a play reminiscent of the TD, Lenny broke the tackle of Crow and ran free down the middle until Lynch corralled him from behind at the 13.



Lynch brings down Moore with help from Huff.

With the crowd roaring, Pricer pushed to the 9. Then Unitas rolled right and threw short to Mutscheller who reached behind him to catch the low pass before being planted by Crow on the 4. With two FBs, Ameche (limping badly) and Pricer in the backfield, Johnny rolled right on an option play. But with the defenders playing the receivers, he ran into the EZ behind the screening block of Moore on Livingston. Colts 14 Giants 9 (12:18)



Unitas jumps into the EZ.

After an interception of Conerly Unitas was smelling blood. He , handed to Ameche to the 12. Then the crafty QB sent LE Berry into the EZ to draw off two defenders and threw underneath to TE Jerry Richardson, who caught the ball at the 8 and ran toward the pylon untouched into the EZ. Colts 21 Giants 9

Giants' Morrison fumbled the kickoff in the end zone, then ran out to the 17. On 2nd down, Conerly connected with Schnellker slanting over the middle to the 29. But with the Colts knowing the QB had to pass, tackles Donovan and Lipscomb sacked him on the 25. Trying to blunt the rush, Conerly handed to King on a draw play but gained only 2. Then disaster struck again. Conerly threw toward Gifford down the left sideline. But Sample, backing up his trash talk with action, ran across and snatched the ball out of the air at the 42. Johnny ran unmolested until encountering Roosevelt Brown at the 5. But he escaped the tackle and pushed through King into the EZ. So, Conerly, who threw only four INTs during the regular season, now had two in Q4. Colts 28 Giants 9 (5:19)

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 dippy-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 New York Giants Coach #7 Jim Lee Howell

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 Championships. 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 Oct 23, 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. 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 15 Giants 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.

1961 New York Giants Coach #8 Allie Sherman



<< Allie Sherman

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.

As November became December, New York sports writers felt that the lure of the Big Apple would be too much for Lombardi to pass up though it was clear that he was enjoying Green Bay.

Red Smith wrote in the New York Herald Tribune: "Lombardi has relished his success in Green Bay, has enjoyed being his own boss even though the double job makes heavy demands on his time. But he doesn't try to hide his homesickness ... They love Vincent in Green Bay. They would love him in New York."

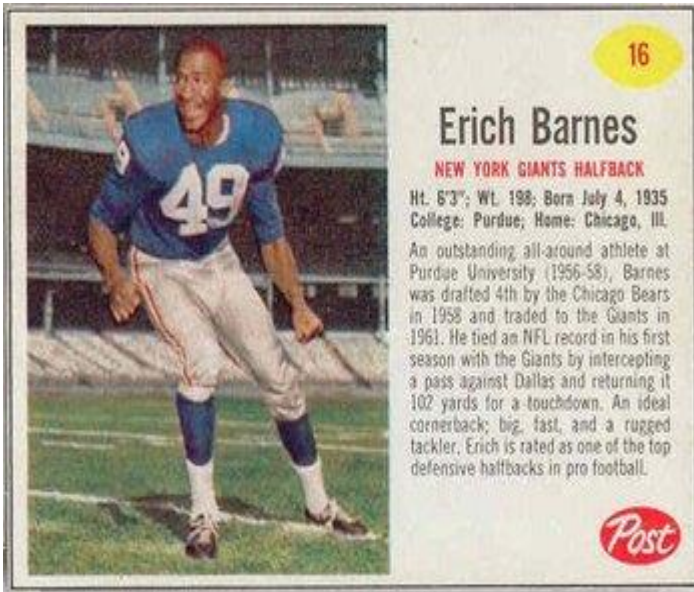
Lombardi's longtime friend Arthur Daley of the New York Times called him "a New Yorker a heart" and "always the Giants' boy." However, people Lombardi admired in the NFL, such as George Halas, Paul Brown, and, to a lesser extent, new Commissioner Pete Rozelle, urged him to stay in Green Bay. The talented coach had in effect saved that venerable franchise but, if he left, there was the strong possibility that it would fall back into danger again.

Lombardi took his time agonizing through the winter of 1961 about whether to ask the Packers for a release from his contract. He finally decided to remain in Green Bay with the Packers and fulfill the obligations he had incurred in Green Bay. Besides, he admitted that he enjoyed coaching "the damn good team" he had returning. After waiting for his friend's decision, Giants owner Wellington Mara needed to decide. So, he promoted offensive coordinator Allie Sherman to the head coaching position. Little did anyone know that the two men would meet for the NFL Championship the very next season—this season. And it would be exciting but not too happy for the Giants.

Under Howell's last year, the Giants had relinquished the NFL East title. 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.

1961-1964 Top Giants Players Erich Barnes CB/HB

Barnes was drafted in the fourth round by the Bears in the 1958 NFL Draft and traded to the Giants in 1961.



Though Erich Barnes was only on the Giants for four seasons, he made the Pro Bowl each year for the team and was a staple on a defense that led the Giants to the title game three years in a row from 1961 to 1963.

The Giants went through a period of down times in the late 60s and 70s, which was due mainly to them losing several of their defensive stars, and Barnes is included in that when the Giants traded him to Cleveland.

He had 18 interceptions in four seasons with the Giants and his 102-yard touchdown return on an interception tied an NFL record at the time.

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.

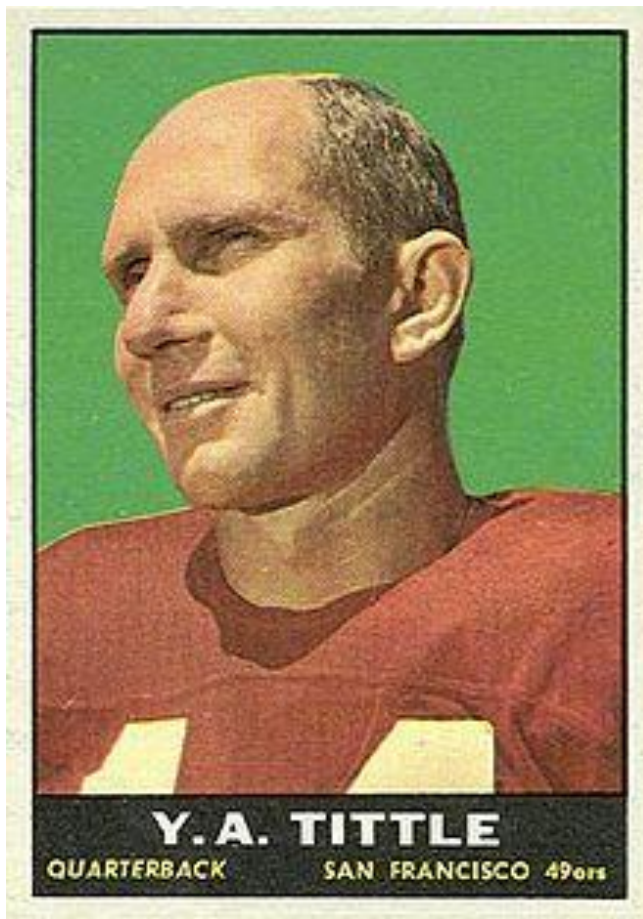
At Cleveland on Nov 26, the New York Giants beat the Browns W (37–21) before a packed house of 80,455. Then, on Dec 3, at Green Bay, the Vince Lombardi's Packers edged out the Giants L (17–20) before 47,012. At Philadelphia on Dec 10, the Giants edged out the Eagles W (28–24) before 60,671. Then, in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

1961-1964 Top Giants Players Y A Tittle QB

Yelberton Abraham Tittle Jr. was born on October 24, 1926 and he passed away on October 8, 2017). He was always better known as Y. A. Tittle. He was one of the finest professional American football quarterbacks that ever played the game. He starred in the National Football League (NFL) for the San Francisco 49ers, New York Giants, and Baltimore Colts, after spending two seasons with the Colts in the All-America Football Conference (AAFC).

Known for his competitiveness, leadership, and striking profile, Tittle was the centerpiece of several prolific offenses throughout his

seventeen-year professional career from 1948 to 1964. Y.A. Tittle made a name for himself for the San Francisco 49ers before joining the Giants in the twilight of his career, and nobody expected him to be as successful.



He led the Giants to the Eastern title in 1961, '62, and '63, winning the NFL MVP in some fashion in all three seasons. He first came to the Giants as a resented player who was replacing team favorite Charlie Conerly, but soon won over his teammates with his unbelievable play.

Although he made the title game with the Giants those three years, the title still eluded him and people point to that

as a reason why he's not in the conversation for greatest in that era.

He still holds the record, along with a couple others, for tossing seven touchdown passes in a single game. He is one of the few Giants to have his number retired.

Though the Giants only had Tittle's service for four seasons, he tossed 96 touchdowns and only 68 interceptions during those four years. That would be a great run even by today's standards.

1961 NFL Championship Game

The prelude

As we saw in this year's write-up, the Giants returned to the top of the East, nosing out the defending NFL champions from Philadelphia by just a half-game.

There was a big difference from 1960 in that the Giants had no problem beating the Sonny Jurgenson-led Eagles both times they played in '61 after losing both encounters with Norm Van Brocklin's gang the year before.

The top-notch Giants defense returned intact, giving up almost a touchdown less per game than in 1960 thanks in part to the NFL's best secondary. Dick Lynch (whose nine interceptions led the league), Jimmy Patton, Erich Barnes (with the most INT return yards in the circuit), and Joe Morrison combined to lead the league in INTs with 33 (four more than the Packers).

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.

Because of the big hit last year, HB Frank Gifford was missing from the Giants lineup for 1961. He had been a mainstay of their team for nine years, In February after recovering from the hit, Gifford announced his retirement from pro football. As we know, he missed the second half of the '60 season following the vicious hit by Chuck Bednarik of the Eagles. The event that clinched his departure was CBS offering him a long-term radio contract for nearly twice the pay he made as a Giant. Gifford still had a flare for the game but would not be playing in 1961.

Lombardi kept pushing his defending West champions even more. He was not ready to give anything to New York. The Green Bay offense functioned like a well-oiled machine, leading the league with 391 points, 23 more than the Giants. The order in points allowed was the opposite, NY edging the Pack 220-223.

After an unexpected loss to the Detroit Lions on opening day in Green Bay 17-13, the Packers came back with six straight wins and won ten of their next eleven to win the West division by 2.5 games over 8-5-1 Detroit.

Lombardi felt he had an even better team than the prior year with main additions to his lineup—DBs Willie Wood, in his second year, and rookie Herb Adderley. They were ably coached by veteran Emlen Tunnell not only in how to cover receivers but also how to be an African-American in an overwhelmingly Caucasian league.

Bart Starr was as good as it gets as the Packers QB. He had an incomparable offensive line and so Starr was able to set a franchise record for passing yards, and FB Jim Taylor pounded the line for 1,307 yards (trailing only Jim Brown of Cleveland) and 15 TDs (tops in the league).

Vince Lombardi might have ruled his team with an iron hand, but he couldn't control international affairs. When the Soviets constructed the Berlin wall late that summer, President John Kennedy activated thousands of military reservists and national guardsman. Three Packers received their call-up notices in October: Paul Hornung, Boyd Dowler, and Ray Nitschke.

Lombardi did his best to get these players back. He contacted Pentagon officials to get them to grant deferments to Hornung and Nitschke as "critical members of the team." Fans all over Wisconsin wrote letters on behalf of their heroes. With the Cuban Missile Crisis looming, the Pentagon brass couldn't justify deferring football players. However, Hornung got a break by being stationed at Fort Riley in Kansas where the commanding officer was a friend of Lombardi from the days when Vince coached at West Point. So, he approved Paul Hornung being allowed to join his other team on Sundays providing it did not interfere with his military duties.

Thus, the triple-threat HB played in 12 of the 14 games. He missed the Sunday before Thanksgiving as well as the annual Turkey Day game at Detroit. With his kicking ability, he led the NFL in scoring to win the league MVP award. Nitschke also missed two games while Dowler took the field in all 14.

The Giants and Packers 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

As the Packers prepared for the title game, they received good news about their army callups for the NFL Championship Game.

Hornung got a week's leave from the Army to be able to play in the game and he practiced with the team from Tuesday on. Paul said his weight, which had been 218 at the start of the season, had dropped to 202 while in the service but had been beefed up to 212.

Dowler and Nitschke were also on Army leave, giving Lombardi his full squad for practice for the first time in eight weeks.

Hornung was able to play thanks to intervention from on high. Here is the Paul Hornung story from his autobiography:

"I was supposed to begin a six-day leave the Tuesday after the championship game. I asked my captain if I could switch the leave to December 27-January 3 so I'd be able to play in the NFL title game. Much to my surprise, the SOB said no.

I immediately called Lombardi and told him we had a problem. He listened, then said, "Let me make a phone call and I'll call you back in twenty minutes." When he called back, he said, "I think your captain is about ready to get a phone call that will get you off to play."

Damned if he hadn't called President Kennedy. Sure enough, the captain got an immediate call from the White House. At first, he didn't believe it was really JFK on the line. Heck, everybody was impersonating Kennedy's Massachusetts accent back then. But when it dawned on the captain that it was, indeed, Kennedy, it wasn't long

before Private Hornung was on his way to Green Bay to play in the championship on December 31.

The Giants arrived in Green Bay the day before the game to find the thermometer registering 10°. As their bus drove to the hotel, they saw signs throughout the city proclaiming, WELCOME TO TITLETOWN, U.S.A.

LB Sam Huff joked that they had spelled "Tittle" wrong, and the visitors would turn the city into Tittletown.

Emlen Tunnell, the longtime Giant S, who lived at the hotel where the visiting team stayed, greeted his old teammates with You guys got here for the heat wave. It had been subzero earlier. The Giants were frisky and joking during their short workout.

They were more loose than usual, remarked NFL Coach of the Year Sherman. They've been loose like this before their best games this season. Allie declared he had no intention of "going conservative" and hinted that his HBs might throw the ball on pitchout plays.

With excellent receivers in Del Shofner (another key off-season acquisition), Kyle Rote, and Joe Walton, the Giants' passing game was rated superior to that of the Packers.

The only Giant not in the best of shape was all-pro OT Roosevelt Brown, who had been bothered by a knee injury for the past few games. However, he was expected to play. Obsessed with beating his former

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 4y 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

Agajanian kicked off for the fourth time and Wells made another nifty return to the 39. Sherman sent Charlie Conerly in at QB to see if he could mount a comeback. Conerly threw an incompleteness but got a first down on an offside penalty to midfield. The Giants didn't hesitate to go for it on 4th down. But the ball sailed high and off Kyle's hands. Green Bay got the ball on the 20 since the pass was incomplete in the EZ.

Hornung weaved through RT out to the 35. Hornung finished it off with a 17yard FG. Packers 24 Giants 0 (0:00). Hornung booted a FG to end the first half.



Hornung Kicks FG to end half

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

When the Packers got the ball back, Hornung ran through RT for 5 but the Packers had to punt.

The Giants defense continued to show some spunk as they dropped Taylor for a half-yard loss around LE. Eventually, Hornung fumbled but Green Bay recovered on the 15. Starr lobbed a pass toward Hornung swinging upfield to the right, but Barnes knocked it down. So Hornung lined up a FG attempt at the 22. Packers 27 Giants 0 (5:05).

When the Packers got the ball back, Starr reared back and hit RE Dowler who ran to the 32. 1st down. On a dive play at LG, Hornung advanced to the 26. Starr then threw a down-and-out to 6'5" Dowler who got his feet inbounds at the 13 as Barnes protested the call. With a defender at his feet, Hornung threw a pass too wide for McGee at the left edge of the EZ. Bart Starr then threw to Kramer who got loose from Joe Morrison in the same area for a TD. Packers 34 Giants 0 (2:48)

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.

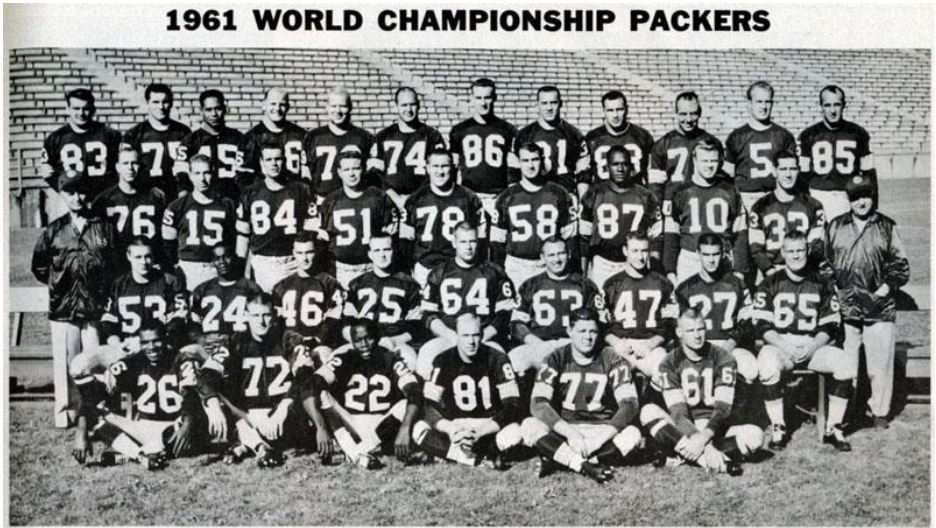


Ron Kramer snags a pass

Herb Adderley returns 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."



1961 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PACKERS
Top Row—Bill Quinlan, Forrest Gregg, Emlen Tunnell, Ray Nitschke, Dave Hanner, Henry Jordan, Boyd Dowler, Jim Taylor, Ron Kramer, Bill Forester, Paul Hornung, Max Mc Gee. *Second Row*—Bud Jorgenson, Trainer; Bob Skoronski, Bart Starr, Gary Knafele, Jim Ringo, Norm Masters, Dan Currie, Willie Davis, John Roach, Lew Carpenter, Dad Braisher, Equip. *Third Row*—Ken Iman, Willie Wood, Hank Gremminger, Tom Moore, Jerry Kramer, Fred Thurston, Jess Whittenton, John Symank, Tom Bettis. *Bottom Row*—Herb Adderly, Ben Davidson, Elijah Pitts, Lee Folkins, Ron Kostelnik, Nelson Toburen.

1962 New York Giants Coach #8 Allie Sherman

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.

As discussed, the 1962 New York Giants season was the franchise's 38th season in the National Football League. Giants quarterback Y. A. Tittle, who played few more than four seasons with New York had what fans would call a breakout season in 1962. Cold Hard

Football Facts offered: "It's safe to call Tittle a late bloomer. He enjoyed various degrees of success in his first 14 seasons with three teams in two different pro football leagues. But then in 1962, at the age of 36 and under second-year head coach Allie Sherman, Tittle exploded for a record 33 TD passes to lead the Giants to a 12–2 record." YA Tittle was a phenomenon for sure.

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, YA 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

This game was played on December 30, which is my son Michaels's birthday. Yes, it was held on December 30, 1962. The normal foes over the years had been the best teams in the league – the Giants and the Packers. Yes, it was the same Green Bay Packers coached by the immortal Vince Lombardi.

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.

Maybe, despite how great a coach was for the Giants, they might have been better off figuring out how to not have Vince Lombardi ever leave New York. Was it Jim Taylor, Paul Hurnung, or Vince Lombardi who brought Green Bay its championships. Will we ever know?

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 Giants played well overall but fumbled twice. Ray Nitschke recovered both fumbles for the Packers, while the Packers recovered all five of their own fumbles and intercepted a Giants pass. It was a close game for sure but the bounces favored the Green Bay Packers.

This was the third and final NFL title game played at Yankee Stadium; the others were in 1956 and 1958, with the Giants winning the first. There would not be another NFL title game in greater New York City for 51 seasons until Super Bowl XLVIII, which was played February 2, 2014 at MetLife Stadium and resulted in the Seattle Seahawks defeating the Denver Broncos 43-8. Previous championship games hosted by the Giants in New York were played across the Harlem River at the Polo Grounds in 1934, 1938, 1944, and 1946; the Giants won the first two. An additional title game was played at the Polo Grounds in 1936, hosted by the Boston Redskins and won by the Packers.

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 New York Giants Coach #8 Allie Sherman

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 call out 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

1963-1974 Top Giants Players Emlen Tunnel S

Emlen Lewis Tunnell was born on March 29, 1924 and he passed away on July 23, 1975. He was sometimes known by the nickname "The Gremlin." Tunnel was an American football player and coach. He had the distinction of being the first African American to play for the New York Giants and also the first to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Born and raised in the Philadelphia area, Tunnell played college football at the University of Toledo in 1942 and University of Iowa in 1946 and 1947. He also served in the United States Coast Guard from 1943 to 1946. He received the Silver Lifesaving Medal for

heroism in rescuing a shipmate from flames during a torpedo attack in 1944 and rescuing another shipmate who fell into the sea in 1946.

He next played 14 seasons in the National Football League (NFL) as a defensive halfback and safety for the New York Giants (1948–1958) and Green Bay Packers (1959–1961). He was selected as a first-team All-Pro six times and played in nine Pro Bowls.



Emlen Tunnell is another player who will last through the history of the NFL as one of the greatest defensive players ever. The first African American player for the Giants as well as the first African American player to be elected to the Hall of Fame, Tunnell was definitely influential off the field as much as he was on it.

In one year, Tunnell actually had more interception and kick return yards than the NFL's leading rusher. He was known as the "offense on defense" in the famed Umbrella defense.

He's on any sane person's list of the greatest players of all time, and rightfully so. He had 79 interceptions in his career, second only to the career leader Paul Krause who has 81.

Tunnell was one of the reasons Steve Owen's famed umbrella defense worked so well. It was designed to keep everything in front of four defensive backs whose job was to make life hell for opposing passers.

In his first 10 years in the league, Tunnell never had less than six interceptions in any one season. He made nine Pro Bowls and his 79 picks were a record at the time of his retirement.

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.

Other than in a heat spell in the summer, turning the phrase, "Think it's cold now in Chicago?" would get you the right reaction in the Windy City of Chicago. On December 29, 1963, it was 9 degrees at kickoff for the NFL championship game between the Chicago Bears and New York Giants at Wrigley Field, on a Sunday in 1963, when at the time this game was played was almost exactly 50 years ago.

It's tough to believe if you've grown up with the television-centric NFL of today, but before the AFL-NFL merger in 1970, pro football was still a secondary sport to baseball. It was thought by NFL owners that they had to "protect" home attendance -- still the source of the bulk of their income, before the huge TV deals of today -- so home games were blacked out in local markets.

Yes, even the NFL championship game. Can you imagine such a scenario today? Here were the Bears, playing a title game at home for the first time in 20 years (the 1946 and 1956 title games were both on the road), and Chicago fans couldn't watch it on local television.

Many of us still have a very strong and somewhat fond memory of our dads wrestling with the TV antenna on the roof of our house, adjusting it so we could watch the game via the local station that was carrying it. We did get the signal and we watched the Giants get beaten by the Bears 14-10. It was tough to take.

Tougher than a slap-loss, it was downright hurtful to still see victory when Richie Petitbon's intercepted Y.A. Tittle's pass in the end zone with only seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. It was the Bears' fifth interception of the game. Can you imagine a Super Bowl ending like that today? A game like that would be legendary.

45,801 jammed Wrigley Field for this game, but what was more interesting was the advent of closed-circuit theater television. I say "theater", but on this day, people gathered not at movie theater to watch the game, but at large arenas, as reported by the great reporters of NY and Chicago.

More than 26,000 pro football fans enjoyed the Bear game on closed circuit, theater television in McCormick Place, the Amphitheater in the stock yards, and the Coliseum. Sites like this were all over the country. For the Kelly's, it was our trusty 1956 Admiral B/W TV.

And the Bears have won just one championship, the Super Bowl following the 1985 season, since that frozen 1963 title game at Wrigley Field.

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 trailing 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.

1964 New York Giants Coach #8 Allie Sherman

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.

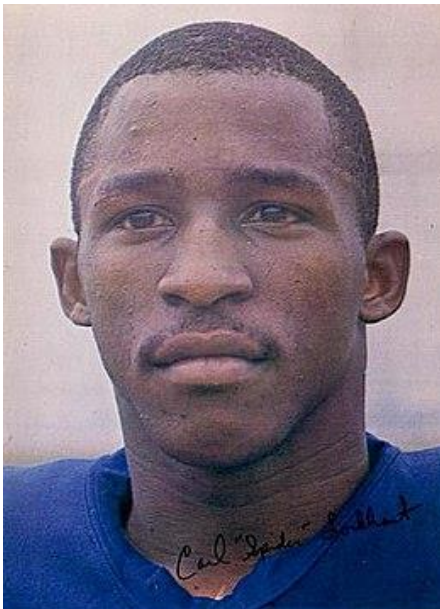
1965 New York Giants Coach #8 Allie Sherman

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.

1965-1975 Top Giants Players Spider Lockhart



On arriving at Giants training camp, [Emlen Tunnell](#), their defensive backfield coach, gave Carl the nickname Spider. The popular and talented Spider spent his entire 11-year career with the Giants.

Spider Lockhart played for the Giants in a time in which they were pretty awful as a franchise for the most part, but he was still a very talented safety well known for his big play ability.

He anchored the back end of the Giants defense for 10 seasons, amassing 41 interceptions and two Pro Bowl bids

You may remember the Spider patch worn by players during the 1986 season. He lost a battle with cancer that year and the Giants honored him by wearing the patch and won the Super Bowl that season.

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 New York Giants Coach #8 Allie Sherman

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, 1956 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 New York Giants Coach #8 Allie Sherman

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.



An aerial view of Yankee Stadium in 1967, before the New York Giants played the Cleveland Browns. Photo by AP Photo]

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.

1967 1971 Top Giants Players Fran Tarkenton QB

Fran Tarkenton's tenure with the Vikings spanned thirteen non-consecutive seasons, playing with the team for six seasons from 1961 to 1966, then for seven seasons from 1972 to 1978. In between his years in Minnesota, Tarkenton was a member of the New York Giants for five seasons. At the time of his retirement, Tarkenton owned every major quarterback record. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1986 and the College Football Hall of Fame in 1987.



Although Fran Tarkenton is most remembered for guiding the Minnesota Vikings to several Super Bowl trips, he spent five years with the Giants between his two stints in Minnesota, making the Pro Bowl four times.

His incredible career is considered one of the top 10 in NFL history, being the first quarterback who combined elite passing ability with the threat of the run to keep defenses honest.

He finished his career holding just about every passing record, though most believe he doesn't hold a candle to Johnny Unitas because Tarkenton never won a championship.

His passing numbers were as follows: 3,686 pass completions, 47,003 passing yards, and 342 touchdowns. That number of passing touchdowns stood 30 years before passed by Dan Marino in the 90s, and he is still fourth in the category and sixth in career passing yards.

1968 New York Giants Coach #8 Allie Sherman

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 Giants had no first-round selection in the 1968 NFL/AFL Draft; their first pick was Rich Buzin, taken in the second round with the 41st overall pick. New York got out of the season gates like wild fire with a four-game winning streak. After another four-game stretch in which they had three losses, the Giants went to Dallas and posted an upset victory, 27–21. With that win and a victory against the Philadelphia Eagles the following week, the Giants moved into contention for a Capitol Division championship. However, like their last few years, they could not toe the measure. They lost the final four games of the season. We have chronicled Allie Sherman's Eight Years with the Giants above and so we all know that the 1968 regular season was his last as head coach of the Giants; he was fired after the preseason in 1969.

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 Rans 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 16 Four Giants' Head Coaches From 1969 to 1982

Coach #9 Coach Alex Webster
 Coach #10 Coach Bill Arnsparger
 Coach #11 Coach John McVay
 Coach #12 Coach Ray Perkins



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

The four coaches & records

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)

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

1976 Head coach Bill Arnsparger (fired week 7, 0–7 record)
 John McVay (interim → 3–4)

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

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

1976-1978 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
Ray Perkins	1982	10th	4 5 0

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

Tell me about Alex Webster!

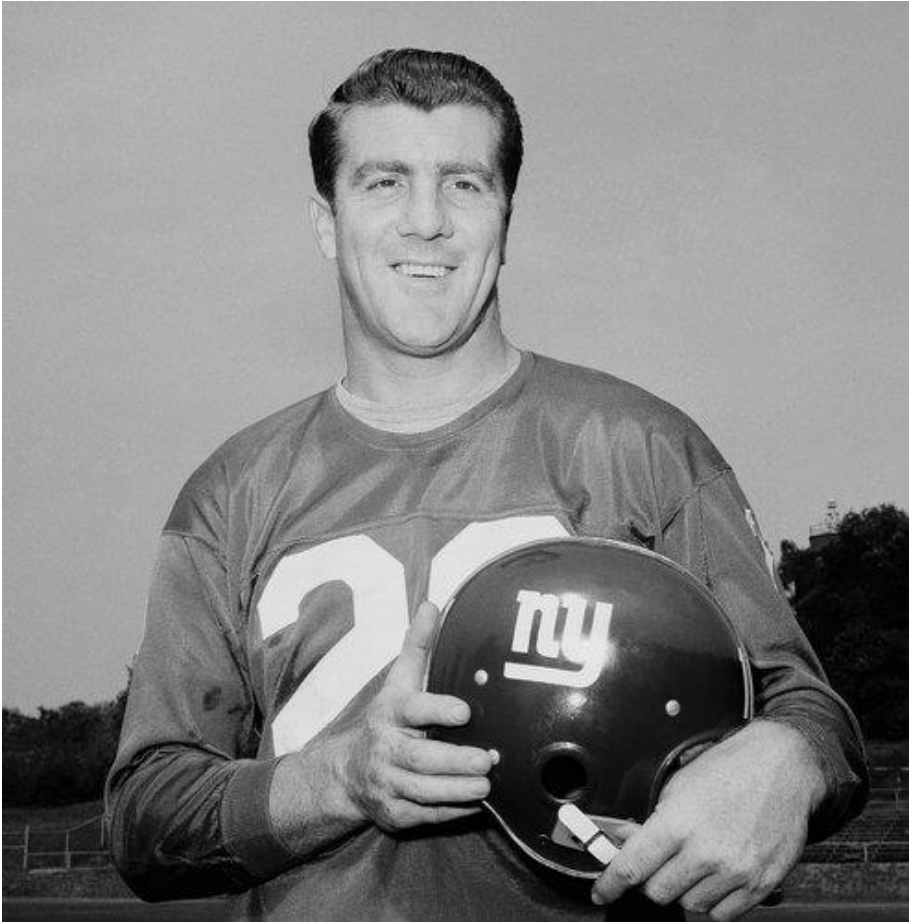


Alex Webster agreed to be the Head Coach of the NY Giants when The Jets beat the Giants in September 1069 and that was enough of Allie Sherman for the Mara’s. As a player, Webster was a powerful running back who helped propel the Giants to six division titles and a National Football League

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.



Alex Webster

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

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.

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 New York Giants Coach #9 Alex Webster

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 New York Giants Coach #9 Alex Webster

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 New York Giants Coach #9 Alex Webster

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.

For the future, the Giants selected Rocky Thompson in the 1971 NFL Draft, with the 18th overall pick. After another winless preseason, New York did not fire Alex Webster. However, they decided they had to work hard and began the regular season with a 2–1 record before eventually posting a 2–9 mark in its final 11 games.

Nobody likes to blame injuries because somehow the best coaches invigorate the teams to get over adversaries,

This team, nonetheless was affected by numerous injuries, including a thigh injury suffered by running back Ron Johnson, who had gained more than 1,000 yards rushing in 1970. The 1971 season was the last for quarterback Fran Tarkenton with the Giants; after he requested a trade.

Tarkenton was a great player who had not felt the winning attitude in NY much to his chagrin and my chagrin. The Giants dealt him to the Minnesota Vikings in 1972 for three players and a pair of draft picks. Fran Tarkenton remained a mainstay of the Vikings. What did NY give up? Some might say its future for the next seven years. That's all.

Fran Tarkenton was selected in the third round of the NFL draft in 1961 by the Vikings (1961-1966, 1972-1978). He was an instant star quarterback with 4 TD passes after coming off the bench to beat the Bears 37-13 in the 1st game in franchise history vs. Chicago (9/17/61). He was dealt to New York in 1967 and back to the Vikings in 1972 in stunning trades. He was named the MVP of the NFL in 1975.

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 New York Giants Coach #9 Alex Webster

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.

As you will see, things did not start well this season as the Giants lost twice to open things up. They then went on a four-game winning streak afterwards. In their 11th game, the Giants defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 62–10, setting the franchise record for the most points scored in a game; it was also an Eagles record for the most points allowed.

The victory put the team at 7–4 and in contention for a playoff berth. They could not sustain their fortune, however. Two losses ended their postseason chances, but New York did beat the Dallas Cowboys in the final game of the season to finish with 8 wins in 14 games. It wasn't bad but it was not like the unbeatable Giants of old.

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 New York Giants Coach #9 Alex Webster

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

This year, the Giants suffered one of their worst seasons in franchise history, winning only two games, while losing eleven, and tying one. The two wins were against the 1-13 hapless Houston Oilers and the 4-9-1 poor playing St. Louis Cardinals while the tie was against archrival Philadelphia, in what turned out to be the last game the Giants would ever play at Yankee Stadium. As noted, their final five home games were played at the Yale Bowl in Connecticut.

The Giants were on the move. In 1975, they went off for a year to Shea (Mets and Jets) Stadium in 1975 and then to Giants Stadium in 1976. The two wins this season by the Giants was the second fewest the team had ever posted in any season and it was their worst season since a dismal 1–12–1 record in 1966. 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. Arnsperger had a great NFL reputation and things were looking up.

1973-1983 Top Giants Players Brad Van Pelt LB

I



It's hard to keep track of the many great linebacker tandems the Giants had in the 70s and 80s, but Brad Van Pelt was part of the group called the "Crunch Bunch" who were known for punishing their

opponents with devastating hits.

That group consisted of Van Pelt, Lawrence Taylor, Harry Carson, and Brian Kelley.

Van Pelt's career was marred by team failure—the Giants made the postseason only once in his 11 seasons with the Giants and he suffered through four head coaches before playing with Bill Parcells.

He made five Pro Bowls and was named the player of the decade for the 1970s.

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

About New Coach Bill 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 New York Giants Coach #10 Bill Arnsparger

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 New York Giants Coach #10 Bill Arnsparger

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

1975 -1988 Top Giants Players George Martin DE

George Dwight Martin was born on February 16, 1953. He was a football defensive end who played his entire career in the National Football League for the New York Giants from 1975–1988.

Martin missed only six games in his 14-year playing career (not



counting games not played in because of strikes). He played college football at the University of Oregon in the then-Pacific-8 Conference and he was drafted by the Giants in the 11th round of the 1975 NFL Draft (262nd pick overall).

He was a part of the 1986 Giants team that won a franchise record 14 games. In January 1987, Martin was one of the team captains for the Super Bowl XXI champions; late in the second quarter, Martin sacked Denver QB John Elway in the

end zone for a safety, cutting the Broncos' lead to 10-9 where it held until halftime. They were the first two of twenty-six consecutive points scored by the Giants in the game

In November 1988, Martin became the NFL's all-time leader in touchdowns scored by a defensive lineman (DL), with 5, when he returned an interception for 56 yards against the St. Louis Cardinals. George Martin had previously been tied at 4 with the great former Dallas Cowboy defensive tackle Bob Lilly. In the following championship season, Martin became the league's career leader in TDs scored by a DL as a DL (at 6) when he returned an interception for 78 yards and 6 points in an early season home game against the same Broncos team they defeated in the Super Bowl. This was a feat which Giant head coach Bill Parcells has called the "greatest football play I've ever seen."

The New York Giants 3-4 defense of the 1980s may not have been possible were it not for the dominance of defensive end George Martin.

Though they still could have been good, a great defense does not function without great defensive line play.

Most people nowadays associate the 3-4 defensive end as mainly a run stopping specialist, but Martin could get to the quarterback as if he was playing in the 4-3. He is credited with an astonishing 96 sacks in his career with the Giants, as well as an incredible seven defensive touchdowns.

He was a big play machine and you could always count on Martin to make a big play when offenses took their eyes off him.

1976 New York Giants Coach #10 Bill Arnsparger; 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?

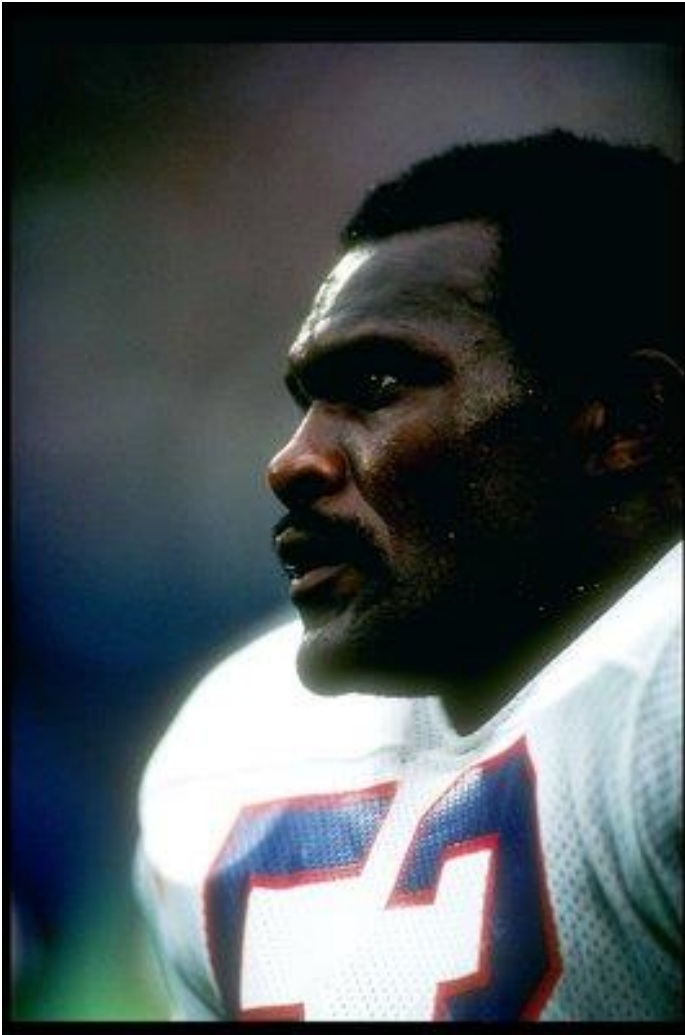
Games of the 1976 season

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

1976 -1988 Top Giants Players Harry Carson LB



What Harry Carson meant to the Giants during the Bill Parcells era is difficult to put in to words. While Lawrence Taylor was dominating during that time, it was no secret who was the leader and captain of that those teams.

To put it in perspective, I asked my Dad before one Christmas if he could choose between getting a Carson or Taylor jersey, he spoke the name Carson before I could even

finish the question, and the No. 53 jersey now sits in his closet.

Carson played the game with reckless abandon and rarely missed games due to injury. He was the most dominant when the moment was greatest, signifying the characteristic of a truly great player.

He was part of two great linebacker groups, first playing with Taylor, Brad Van Pelt, and Brian Kelley in what was known as the "Crunch Bunch."

Carl Banks, Taylor, Carson, and Gary Reasons were arguably the greatest linebacker crew to ever suit up, getting dubbed the "Big Blue Wrecking Crew" in 1986. The Giants went 14-2 that year and only allowed 23 points in three playoff games en route to the title.

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 New York Giants Coach #11 John McVay

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 New York Giants Coach #11 John McVay

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.

Giants Coach Ray Perkins

Coach Ray Perkins 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 New York Giants Coach #12 Ray Perkins

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

1979 -1993 Top Giants Players Phil Simms QB

Phillip Martin Simms was born on November 3, 1954. He is a former American football quarterback who spent his entire 15-year professional career playing for one team—the New York Giants of the National Football League(NFL). He is still in the game but not as a player. He currently is a television sportscaster for the CBS network.

After playing college football at Morehead State University, Simms was drafted in the first round by the New York Giants of the National Football League (NFL) with the number seven selection overall in the 1979 NFL Draft. Simms was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) of Super Bowl XXI, after he led the Giants to a 39–20

victory over the Denver Broncos and set the record for highest completion percentage in a Super Bowl, completing 22 of 25 passes (88%), a record which still stands. He also was named to the Pro Bowl for his performances in the 1985 and 1993 seasons.

Simms finished his career with 33,462 passing yards and as noted, he has since moved on in life to be a career broadcaster of NFL games—first as an analyst for ESPN, then as an in-game color commentator with NBC, and currently with CBS. He is the father of former NFL quarterback, assistant coach, and current college football analyst Chris Simms, as well as AAF quarterback Matt Simms.



Phil Simms didn't get the stats of some of his peers during the 1980s boom era of quarterbacks, but he did exactly what his coach expected of him, which is the trait of a great player.

He certainly had the capability of letting it loose and being a gun slinger, but Bill Parcells turned him in to a game manager and that is all that team needed to win titles.

And win they did.

He was great at protecting the ball and rarely made mistakes that costed his team a game. His performance in the Super Bowl against the Denver Broncos is legendary. In that game he went 22/25 for 268 yards and three touchdowns—a 150.9 near perfect QB rating.

The performance proved that the moment was never too big for Simms and when his team needed him in big moments he would perform.

1980 New York Giants Coach #12 Ray Perkins

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.

1980-1985 Top Giants Players Mark Haynes CB



Mark Haynes was born November 6, 1958. He was a cornerback in the National Football League. He played for the New York Giants and the Denver Broncos from 1980 until 1989. Haynes made three Pro Bowls while playing for New York and he appeared in all three of Denver's Super Bowls in the 1980s.

Mark Haynes looked like one of the best defenders in the game for three years in the early 80s. He was arguably one of the best cover corners at that time and made both the All Pro and Pro Bowl from 1982-1984. However, he would not finish his career with the Giants, leaving after the 1985 season to join the Broncos in 1986.

In his final great season in 1984, he had seven interceptions and many felt he would be around for a while, but injuries derailed him in

1985 and his career would fall off from there. He only had four interceptions in four seasons with the Broncos.

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 Sep28, 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 womped 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 New York Giants Coach #12 Ray Perkins

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

1981 -1993 Top Giants Players Lawrence Taylor OLB

Lawrence Julius Taylor was born on February 4, 1959). His nickname is "L.T.", He is a great former American football player. Taylor played his entire professional career as a linebacker for the New York Giants (1981–1993) in the National Football League (NFL).

He is considered one of the greatest players in the history of American football, and has been ranked as the greatest defensive player in league history by former players, coaches, media members, and news outlets such as the NFL Network and Sporting News.

After an All-American career at the University of NC, (UNC) (1978–1981), Taylor was drafted by the Giants second overall in the 1981 NFL Draft. Although controversy surrounded the selection due to Taylor's contract demands, the two sides quickly resolved the issue.

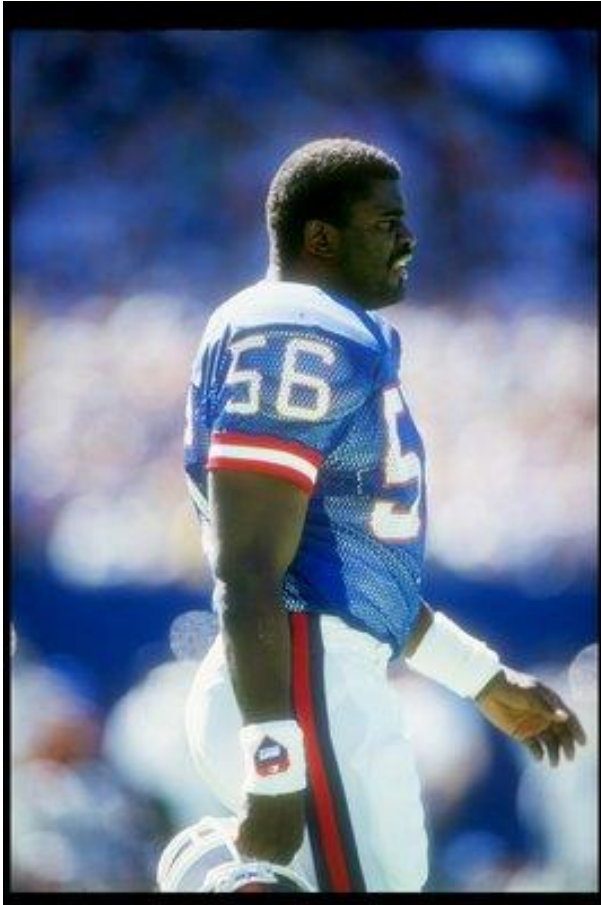
Taylor was immediately known as a great one. He won several defensive awards after his rookie season. Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, Lawrence Taylor was a disruptive force at outside linebacker, and is credited with changing the pass rushing schemes, offensive line play, and offensive formations used in the NFL.

He produced double-digit sacks each season from 1984 through 1990, including a career-high of 20.5 in 1986. He also won a record three AP NFL Defensive Player of the Year awards and was named the league's Most Valuable Player(MVP) for his performance during the 1986 season. Lawrence Taylor is one of only two defensive players in the history of the NFL to have ever won the NFL MVP award (the other one being Alan Page in 1971) and no defensive player has won since him.

There are many pundits who have LT as the best player in Giants history and they challenge all comers/ They say it isn't even close. “Anyone who doesn't have Lawrence Taylor as the greatest player in Giants history is kidding themselves.”

Not only that, but he is arguably the greatest defender and player to ever play the game. He is one of only two defensive players that have won the AP NFL MVP award, won Defensive Player of the year three times, made 10 Pro Bowls, 10 All Pro selections, and won two Super Bowls with the Giants.

For a team most known for their defensive prowess, L.T. set the bar higher than anyone had before and no one has come even close to reaching that height since.



<< LT

The 3-4 defense was created for him specifically so he could showcase his abilities and tenacity. Not only could he defend the pass and run with the best of them, but he was unbelievable at rushing the passer. He was truly one of those players that just couldn't be stopped.

To say offensive coordinators had nightmares on Saturday nights is an understatement.

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.

It was a run of futility that was almost as difficult to write as it was to read. But, it was tougher to play and coach and watch as a dedicated NY Giants fan in the stands. It had stretched on for so long, co-

owner John Mara would later admit that the Giants had become “the laughingstock of the NFL.”

They had not reached the playoffs since 1963.

Those 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 first sign that the new era — the George Young era — would bear fruit came in this Wild Card game upset of the arch-rival Eagles.

But the road to reach that playoff game was long and seriously bumpy.

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.

More importantly, the debacle and an ensuing fan uprising forced meaningful and irrevocable change within the Giants organization after decades of ineptitude. The fans had decided they were not going to take it anymore.

Fans burning tickets in the Giants Stadium parking lot became common place . Fans even got together and had a plane flown over the Meadowlands hauling the banner, “15 Years of Lousy Football — We've Had Enough.”

It sent a message loud enough to reach the commissioner's office, and Pete Rozelle heard them.

In 1979, he suggested to Wellington Mara and Tim Mara, who could not agree on the time of day, that they hire Young as general manager to revamp the wayward franchise.

Of all the decisions that preceded the 1986 and 1990 Super Bowl seasons — including the hiring of Bill Parcells, the drafting Lawrence Taylor and the reinstating of Phil Simms as starter after he was benched in 1983 — the addition of Young might have been the most important.

After all, it was Young who drafted Taylor and Simms and hired Parcells.

“I’ll always revere him for what he did, because he took us from being the laughingstock of the NFL to the top of the mountain,” Mara told *Newsday* in 2014 about Young, who died in 2001 at age 71.

“The effect he had on us made us a better organization for years to come after he left. I’ll always appreciate that.”

Hope finally arrived in 1981 at Veterans Stadium in front of 71,611 fans.

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.

But they made a statement in the upset, taking leads of 20-0 in the first-quarter and 27-7 at halftime.

Scott Brunner threw three first-half touchdown passes, despite completing just 9-of-14 attempts for 96 yards.

Rob Carpenter — who Young acquired in October from Houston — helped the Giants eat the clock with 161 of their 183 rushing yards. And Mark Haynes recovered a fumbled kickoff in the end zone for a touchdown.

The Giants would not make the playoffs again for another three years. They were hardly a perennial power. Not yet. But the foundation was set.

Parcells (then the defensive coordinator) and Bill Belichick (linebackers and special teams’ coach) were only just beginning to show their genius in 1981 under head coach Ray Perkins.

The defense was starting to build an identity as a physical unit behind Harry Carson, just as the 1950s-era team did behind Sam Huff. Taylor was making quite an impression as a rookie, registering 9.5 sacks (even if it wasn't an official NFL stat until the next season).

But it was Young who was the architect, changing the organization's culture and fortunes from behind the scenes — and from behind those browline glasses.

“I don't know if there's a day that goes by when somebody in our office doesn't quote George Young or refer to him in some way,” Mara told *Newsday*. “Some of them are repeatable. Some of them are not.”

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. There was a lot of scoring. In the 1st quarter for example, the 49ers scored when Charley Young caught an 8-yard pass from Joe Montana and Ray Wersching added the kick. (0-7). Then, the Giants scored on an Earnest Gray reception of a 72-yard pass from Scott Brunner. Joe Danelo added the kick. (7-7).

In the 2nd, 49ers Ray Wersching popped a 22-yard field goal (7-10). Then the 49ers Freddie Solomon caught a 58-yard TD pass from Joe Montana and Ray Wersching added the kick—making it (7-17). 49ers were at it again with a 25 yd Ricky Patton 25-yard TD rush and a Ray Wersching kick. (7-24). The Giants got on the board with a Joe Danelo's 48-yard field goal made (10-24). Next came the Giants' Johnny Perkins receiving a 59-yard pass from Scott Brunner and Joe Danelo adding the kick making it a one score game (17-24).

In the 4th Quarter, 49ers Bill Ring was sprung on a 3-yard rush and Ray Wersching kicked the point (17-31). 49ers Ronnie Lott then intercepted and scored on a 20-yarder and Ray Wersching kicked the point (17—38). The Giants fired up a bit as Johnny Perkins hauled in a 17-yard pass from Scott Brunner with a Joe Danelo kick (24-38)

and like all games, time eventually ran out giving the 49ers the win and kicking the Giants out of Super Bowl contention. Joe Montana's San Francisco 49ers went on to win the Super Bowl as played on 1982.

From this point on after the 20-year drought, the Giants were a different team. Thankfully.

1982 New York Giants Coach #12 Ray Perkins

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, one season after 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.

1982-1988 Top Giants Players Joe Morris RB

Joseph Edward Morris was born on September 15, 1960. He was a football running back in the National Football League. Morris played for the New York Giants from 1982 to 1988. Initially he was noted



for his diminutive stature just — 5' 7." But he was tough as nails. He was a key member of the Giants team that won Super Bowl XXI in 1987. He rushed for 67 yards, caught four passes for 20 yards, and scored a touchdown in that game.

Joe Morris was your prototypical running back during the 1980s era. He was overshadowed by a great quarterback but never under appreciated by fans or his coach.

He had three 1000-yard seasons with the Giants and was a great asset on offense to the 1986 Super Bowl team. In 1985 he

had over 1300 yards and led the league with 21 touchdowns. He then exploded in the 1986 season with over 1500 yards in 15 games, averaging 101 yards per game and had 14 rushing touchdowns.

He was great in his seven years with the Giants. He made two Pro Bowls as well as led the franchise in rushing after he retired.

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:

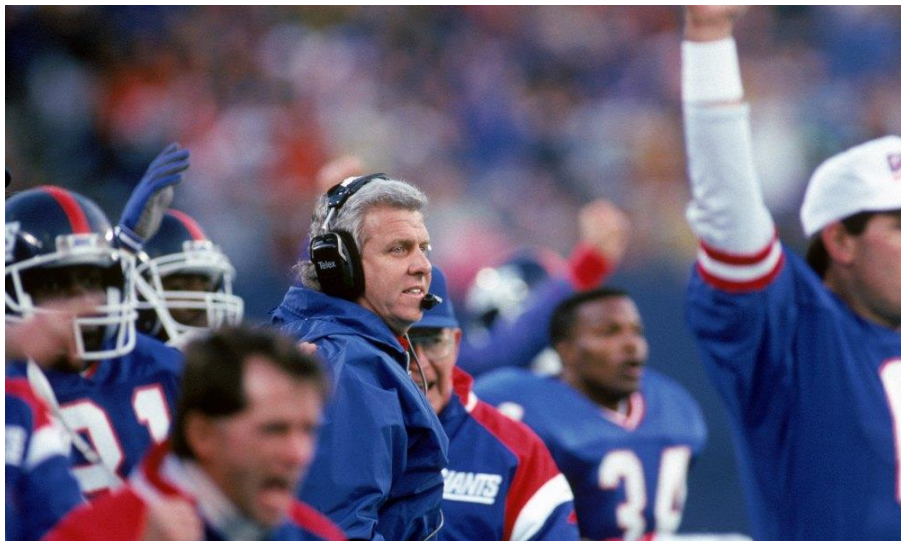
- ✓ Sep 26 Pittsburgh Steelers
- ✓ Oct. 3 at Dallas Cowboys
- ✓ Oct. 10 St. Louis Cardinals
- ✓ Oct. 17 Cincinnati Bengals
- ✓ Oct. 25 at Philadelphia Eagles (Postponed)
- ✓ Oct. 31 Dallas Cowboys
- ✓ Nov. 7 at Cleveland Browns
- ✓ Nov. 14 at Los Angeles Rams

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 17 Coach Bill Parcells 1983 to 1990

Coach #13 Coach Bill Parcells



There he is folks in the center of the picture in 1983 at the top of his game

- | | | | |
|---------------|------|-----------------|--|
| 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 | 2 nd | 10 6 0 |
| Bill Parcells | 1989 | 1 st | 12 4 0 |
| | | | • Lost Divisional playoffs(Rams) 19-13 (OT) |
| | | | • Ottis Anderson(NFL CPOY) |
| Bill Parcells | 1990 | 1 st | 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 Bill Parcells final record (74-49-1)

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.

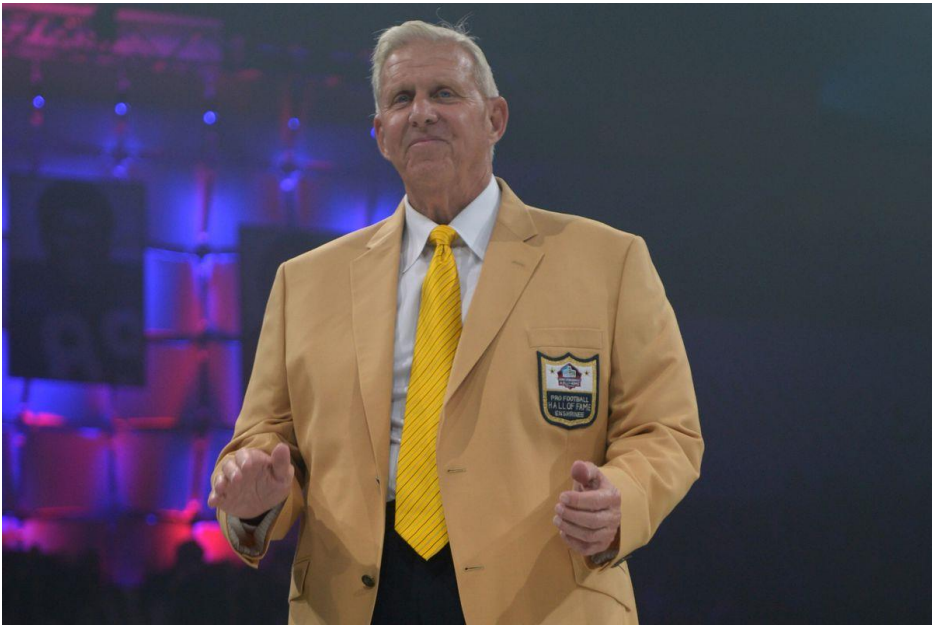
Bill Parcells brought the team back in 1988 with a second-place finish and a 10-6 season. There were no big accolades. In 1989, the Giants played even better with a 12-4 record winning 1st place in the Eastern Division. They qualified for the playoffs without a Wildcard week. Then, they lost to the Rams 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 New York Giants Coach #13 Bill Parcells

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.

Making history, the St. Louis Cardinals hosted the Giants in a matchup on October 24 that the New York Daily News' Gary Myers later called the worst game in the history of Monday Night Football. The Giants had lost a lead late in the fourth quarter and the game went into overtime. The Cardinals missed three field goal attempts in the extra OT period, including two in the final 1:06, and the contest ended in a 20–20 tie.

The Giants lost the following three games before a victory in Philadelphia, which was their final win of the season. Losses to the Los Angeles Raiders, St. Louis, Seattle, and Washington left the team's final record at 3–12–1. It was a bad year.

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 New York Giants Coach #13 Bill Parcells

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.

1984 – 1995 Top Giants Players Carl Banks LB



Carl E. Banks was born August 29, 1962. He was a football linebacker in the National Football League. He played from 1984 to 1995 for the New York Giants, the Washington Redskins and the Cleveland Browns.

Carl Banks was perhaps overshadowed by Lawrence Taylor to the common fan, but Giants fans everywhere will tell you Banks was an incredibly talented guy.

He played with heart and determination, not unlike most of the late 1980's and early 90's defense for the Giants.

Not such a bad pass rusher himself, Banks played opposite LT and racked up 39.5 sacks of his own during his career while making one Pro Bowl.

Wild Card Playoffs 1984 Giants v Rams

The scene was set in Anaheim for this game. It was to be Eric Dickerson of the Rams v the Giant Defense and it played out that way. The MO on the Giants was that they win games when they make big plays. They made all they needed on Christmas Eve 1984. It was a great Christmas present for Giants fans—especially those extending the holiday on the West Coast.

Dickerson did his job 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. As of this game, the Giants were hanging west and planning to beat the 49ers the following Saturday afternoon in San Francisco. There was a lot to be concerned about as the 49ers (15-1) had the best regular-season record among the National Football League's 28 teams. In 1981, after the Giants made the playoffs and won their wild-card game, the 49ers beat them in San Francisco. Nobody from out East wanted a replay.

In a prelude to the game, Bill Parcells offered a pearl to the fans: "You can't back us in the corner, and not expect us to fight." The Giants fought the Rams hard in the Wild-Card and won.

There were two key fumbles in the game. Coming in, the Giants were 5-point underdogs against the Rams, and their offense gained only 192 yards, with just 40 of that on the ground. Almost all of Phil Simms's passes were short, and he completed 22 of 31 for only 179 yards.

But the Giants were steady eddy. They took leads of 10-0 in the first quarter and 13-3 in the third and most of all, they held on. Bill Currier's recovery of Dickerson's first-quarter fumble set up Rob Carpenter's 1-yard touchdown run, and Ali Haji-Sheikh made all three of his field-goal attempts - from 37, 39 and 36 yards.

Dickerson's fumble and Jeff Kemp's fourth-down fumble with two minutes left in the game resulted from crushing tackles by Lawrence Taylor, the Giants' all-pro outside linebacker. They Giants came to play and played.

For the year, Dickerson tormented all the D's that he faced, but NY got the best of him. He had run for 2,105 yards, breaking the N.F.L. single-season record of 2,003 by O.J. Simpson of the Buffalo Bills in 1973. Here, before an Anaheim Stadium crowd of 67,037 that seemed as frustrated as Dickerson, the Giants held him to 107 yards in 23 carries. In the first half, Dickerson carried 12 times for only 37 yards.

The prognosis had been bleak. "You can't stop him," said Bill Belichick, the Giants' linebacker coach. "You just try to keep him under control."

Touchdown by Dickerson—not the words to hear

As Taylor put it, "You have to say to him, 'Go ahead and get your yardage. We're going to stop the 10 other guys.'"

"We had to attack his offensive line," said Curtis McGriff, the Giants' defensive end, "and we did." They sure did!

Still, Dickerson gave the Giants problems in the second half. His 14-yard touchdown run in the third quarter closed the Rams' deficit to 13-10, and his fourth-quarter running almost put the Rams ahead.

On Dickerson's touchdown play, Carl Banks, the Giants' strongside outside linebacker, had man-to-man coverage on Mike Guman, who is mostly a blocking back. When Banks followed Guman to the inside, Gary Reasons, the inside linebacker, moved to the outside. That was all according to plan. But when the tight end James McDonald's block swept Reasons off his feet, Dickerson ran wide to the left and cruised into the end zone for the touchdown. The conversion point cut the Rams' deficit to 13-10 with 8 minutes 35 seconds gone in the third quarter.

The Giants worked their lead to 16-10 about five minutes later on Haji-Sheikh's got his last field goal. Then, Dickerson enjoyed the best part of his day. On first down from the Rams' 42-yard line, Dickerson jumped over a fallen McGriff and broke away for what appeared to be a touchdown. But Terry Kinard, the Giants' free safety, grabbed him from behind and pulled him down by the right foot after a 24-yard gain. That was it. That was the game.

"When he runs the ball that many times," said Kinard, "he's going to break one."

Kemp then passed to McDonald for 7 yards, and on the next three plays Dickerson ran for 8, 8 and 4 yards. That gave the Rams a first down on the Giants' 7, and the game was there to be won or lost.

A big run was wiped out

On first down, the Rams came at the Giants with you know who—Dickerson. He took a pitchout and ran 3 yards. On second down, Leonard Marshall, the Giants' defensive end, knifed between two Rams' linemen and threw Dwayne Crutchfield, the fullback and former Jet, for a 3-yard loss. On third down, Kemp's pass to Henry Ellard gained only 2 yards.

The Rams faced a fourth down.

That left the Rams with fourth down and goal to go from the Giants' 5. Mike Lansford then kicked his second field goal of the day, this one from 22 yards, and the Giants led by only 16-13. The Rams thought they would be back banging on the door but they could not get there.

There was plenty of time -- 7:02 seconds remaining, enough for an awful lot to happen.

After the kickoff, it took just four plays when Joe Morris of the Giants broke away for a 61-yard run before Vince Newsome pulled him down from behind on the Rams' 3. But the play was wiped out when Kevin Belcher of the Giants was called for holding.

"I saw the flag at my feet," said Simms, "and I was so frustrated I stopped watching the run."

"I don't think I held," said Belcher. "I didn't have any cloth in my hands. I felt like the loneliest man in the world. I didn't want to go to the sideline. When I did, the first thing Coach Parcells did was take off his headphones and look dead at me. I was praying the defense would hold."

What's next?

Belcher's praying began when the Rams regained possession on their 26 with 2:48 left. Would time run out with the score the same?

Kemp passed to Ron Brown for 3 yards, Dickerson took a pitchout for a yard and Kemp passed to David Hill, who dropped the ball. That left the Rams with a fourth and 6 on their 30, and they had to try something to crack pay dirt.

As the Giants broke their defensive huddle before that play, George Martin, the Giants' defensive end, turned to Taylor.

"He said to meet him at the quarterback," said Taylor. "I said, 'See you there.' "

Kemp dropped back to pass, but he had uninvited company. Taylor smashed into him high. A split second later, Martin hit him low. The ball popped loose, and Andy Headen recovered for the Giants on the 33. The Giants then ran out the clock with the help of the 10th penalty of the day against the Rams.

"Did Kemp fumble the ball?" said Taylor with a big smile. "I didn't know that. I thought it was a sack. He really fumbled? That's great."

Hoping to stay back and get another win, the Giants, instead of flying home after the game and cleaning out their lockers, were still alive. They flew the short distance to Fresno the following Monday and trained there until Friday, when they move to Berkeley for the night before the game. On Saturday, they planned to win another game. That was the plan.

"The Giants are not going home for Christmas," Taylor announced. "We are sending someone else home."

Bravo!

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 while he threw 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 the Giants

secondary let 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. 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 49ers over the Giants. Both teams went home early as there was no scoring in the second half.

1985 New York Giants Coach #13 Bill Parcells

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 Giants figured this season, they would improve on their 9–7 record in 1984, which had been enough to qualify the team for the playoffs as the second wild-card team, and to return to the playoffs. They got their wish this year for the second consecutive year under third-year head coach Bill Parcells. The Giants managed to do both, finishing with 10 victories for the first time since 1963 when the team won 11 games and finishing as the first wild-card team which earned the Giants a home playoff game at Giants Stadium.

They defeated the San Francisco 49ers 17–3 in that Wild Card game, avenging their loss to the 49ers in the previous year's divisional playoffs. However, it was as far as the Giants could get this year as

they were shut out by the eventual Super Bowl champion Chicago Bears in the divisional round at Soldier Field 21–0.

Bill Parcells stated in "America's Game: 1986 Giants" that the game the Giants played against the Bears in the playoffs that "an honest evaluation of it, we could have probably beat that team one out of ten times. But that day was one of the days that that could have happened." The Giants were ultimately undone partly by a whiffed punt from legend Sean Landeta.

It was an aghast moment as the ball flew out of the air when he went to punt it from a burst of wind coming off Lake Michigan. The Bears were quick to recover the ball for a touchdown from less than 5 yards from the end zone. That was not the marking of victory but it did not help the Giants. Chicago ended up winning 21-0. The Giants had a hard-fought year as Bill Parcells was driving the team to greatness. At the time, the team set a record for most rushing yards in one season by a Giants team.

1985-1993 Top Giants Players Bart Oates



Bart Steven Oates was born on December 16, 1958. He was a football player in the National Football League for the New York Giants and San Francisco 49ers. He played center for the Giants

from 1985–93 and he played with the 49ers from 1994–95. He was a member of the Giants teams that won Super Bowls XXI and XXV and he played on the 49ers team that won Super Bowl XXIX.

Bart Oates was a fixture on both of their Super Bowl championship teams. It's not a coincidence that every Giants championship team has had a great center, from Mel Hein to Shaun O'Hara.

Oates made three Pro Bowls with the New York Giants before making two more as a member of the San Francisco 49ers. He won three Super Bowls (two with New York and one with San Francisco) and is one of the most underrated players in Giants history.

1985-1990 Top Giants Players Mark Bavaro TE

Mark Bavaro was born on April 28, 1963. Mark was a former NFL tight end who played for the New York Giants (1985–1990), Cleveland Browns (1992), and Philadelphia Eagles (1993–1994) in the National Football League (NFL). Bavaro was selected to the Pro Bowl for his performances in the 1986 and 1987 seasons and he was an important member of the Giants teams that won Super Bowls XXI and XXV.



Bavaro is easily the greatest tight end in Giants history, despite only having six productive years with the team. He still holds records for

most yards in a single season and is tied with Jeremy Shockey for most receptions in one season.

He may not have as many yards or receptions as Shockey does, by a long shot, but he did score more touchdowns and had a reputation as one of the toughest players in the NFL.

On a particular play against the San Francisco 49ers, he carried at least seven defenders for 20 yards, including All Pro and known big hitter Ronnie Lott.

The play defined Bavaro, who's also known as 'Rambo.'

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.

In the Nov 18 game, it was a game changer for Washington. The Washington Redskins' Joe Theismann's career ended that day on November 18, 1985, when he suffered a gruesome comminuted compound fracture of his leg while being sacked by New York Giants linebackers Lawrence Taylor and Harry Carson during a Monday Night Football game telecast.

Theismann was not looking to win this award but his injury was voted the NFL's "Most Shocking Moment in History" by viewers in an ESPN poll, and the tackle was dubbed "The Hit That No One Who Saw It Can Ever Forget" by The Washington Post.

At the time in the game, the Redskins had been attempting to run a "flea-flicker" play. The Giants' defense, however, was not fooled, and they tried to blitz Theismann. Taylor sandwiched Theismann into Carson and inadvertently landed his hip on Theismann's lower right leg, fracturing both the tibia and the fibula. Football is a dangerous sport though it is a lot of fun for players and fans.

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.

This was the Giants' first playoff game at home since 1962. The victory on this chilly afternoon put them into the conference semifinals next Sunday against the mighty Bears in Chicago. The Bears at 15-1) had the best record this season of the National Football League's 28 teams. If the Giants had beaten them, they would have moved into the conference championship game the following Sunday against the Los Angeles Rams or the Dallas Cowboys. The winner of that game will advance to Super Bowl XX on Jan. 26 in New Orleans.

Giants fans loved Parcells moving their Giants to so many victories. Even though the Giants were not in the Super Bowl yet, their great performance before an cheering crowd of 75,842 at Giants Stadium had its own a Super Bowl quality.

The Giants and the 49ers had finished the regular season with 10-6 records. Still, the Giants, even though while playing at home, were 3-point underdogs. Why? Well, it was partly because the 49ers had beaten them five straight times in the last five years. The Giants had all it took to win but history was not on their side.

Two of those games were in the playoffs - in 1981 and 1984 -and each time the 49ers went on to win the Super Bowl. 141 Yards by Morris This time, Phil Simms passed for both Giants' touchdowns - 18 yards to Mark Bavaro and 3 yards to Don Hasselbeck. Joe Morris carried 28 times for 141 yards, the most yardage any runner has made against the 49ers in one game this season. Eric Schubert, who had not kicked a field goal in three games, kicked a 47-yarder, his longest as a Giant, but then missed from 43, 36 and 39 yards.

Continue reading the main story

All week long, the defensive players had talked of the need to attack the 49ers, to do unto the opposition before the opposition did unto them. The defense did exactly that.

The Giants “D” sacked Joe Montana four times, harried him many other times and intercepted one of his passes. The 49ers dropped nine passes, many as a result of that hammering or prospective hammering. Their offense failed to score a touchdown for the first time in 40 games.

The Giants well understood that they had to stop Roger Craig, who this year became the only player in league history to gain 1,000 yards rushing and 1,000 yards receiving in the same season. They held Craig to 23 yards on nine runs and 18 yards on two catches, and they watched him drop one pass in the third quarter and four in the fourth.

There was a lot of praise for the Defense.

"I thought our defense did as good as it ever did," said Coach Bill Parcells of the Giants. "Those were the world champions. Somebody had to get rid of them. I'm glad we did."

"It was by far our best defensive game this year in terms of intensity," said Kenny Hill, the Giants' strong safety. "We did things technically wrong, but I think the intensity made up for it."

"We had a pass rush," said Herb Welch, who played cornerback late in the game when Elvis Patterson and Ted Watts were injured. "Montana had to pass off his back foot."

"That was the best I've ever seen our defense play, the most aggressive," said Simms.

The turning point of the game may have been the 49ers' scoring drive. The Giants were leading, 10-0, midway through the second quarter when the 49ers held the ball for 7 minutes 58 seconds. In that time, they ran 15 plays and were helped by three penalties against the Giants. With all that, they were stopped on the Giants' 3-yard line and settled for Ray Wersching's 21-yard field goal.

On that drive, everything that could go wrong for the Giants went wrong. On the second play, said Leonard Marshall, the Giants' Pro Bowl defensive end, Bubba Paris, the 49er who tried to block him all day, hit him after the whistle.

"So I punched him," said Marshall. "The officials saw me and not him." The result was a 15-yard penalty against the Giants for unsportsmanlike conduct. Three plays later, Marshall sacked Montana. Casey Merrill, playing defensive end, also hit Montana. Merrill was penalized 15 yards for a late hit, so the 13-yard sack became a 2-yard gain.

"I didn't think it was late," said Merrill. "But the ref said that just before I hit him, Montana sat on his hip, and that made him down. I didn't even hit him as hard as I could."

Nine plays later, the 49ers were on the Giants' 14-yard line, with third down and 8 yards needed for a first down. Montana's pass to

Mike Wilson misfired, but Watts was called for holding Wilson and the 49ers had a first down on the 9. When the Giants held, the 49ers had only a field goal to show for all that.

The 49ers fought to the end. With 4:46 remaining in the game, the Giants held on downs on their 26. Parcels was grinning on the sideline. Marshall and Lawrence Taylor walked off the field arm in arm.

The 49ers tried again. With 2:16 remaining, Montana passed 13 yards to John Frank for an apparent touchdown, only to have the play nullified when John Ayers was called for holding Marshall. On the next play, Montana hit Carl Monroe in the end zone for an apparent touchdown, only to see Monroe drop the ball.

At that point, the Giants were "down to four defensive backs," said Hill. "We were getting worried."

The last score of the game was Tim Hasselbeck's touchdown catch early in the third quarter. Hasselbeck lined up as a wingback to the right, George Adams as a wingback to the left. Adams went in motion to the right, and when the ball was snapped, Hasselbeck cut over the middle and was alone.

"We run that every day in practice," said Simms, "but I've never thrown that pass to Hasselbeck before."

"I wasn't expecting it," said Hasselbeck. "I think I was the third receiver, and there were only three in the pattern. They probably thought, 'That big goon isn't going to do anything.'"

After the game, reminded everyone that this game was only part of something bigger. "We've got a big game next week," said the coach. "It's down to eight teams now, and we're one of the eight."

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.

Playing their first home playoff game in the Super Bowl era, the Chicago Bears looked nothing less than sensational in knocking off the Giants, who would capture the Super Bowl title the following year. The offense racked up 363 yards against a very good Giants defense, while holding the New York offense to less than 200 total yards.

Quarterback Phil Simms threw for almost 3,900 yards in the season, good enough to lead the NFC in passing yardage. Running back Joe Morris ran for more than 1,300 yards and 21 touchdowns. The defense, led by Hall of Famers Lawrence Taylor and Harry Carson, finished fifth in points and second in yards allowed. They also led the league in sacks, with Taylor tallying 13, Leonard Marshall 15.5 and the whole team a whopping 68. Plus, the Giants beat the defending Super Bowl Champions in the Wild Card Match.

The bottom line is that while the Giants defense played reasonably well, they were undone by the utter failure of the Giants' offense to produce any success against the dominating Bears defense.

Both started the game sputtering. The Giants, following initial success on the ground, fumbled after Simms hit fullback Rob Carpenter for a first down. Starting at midfield, the Bears ran Payton three times into the line for eight yards before punting.

The three-and-out contest continued, as each team failed to get first downs on their next possessions. The Giants, took over at their own 21 later in the first quarter, went backwards, with Richard Dent – playing the best game of his career – sacking Simms, setting the Giants up with a fourth and 17 at their own 12. Pay attention to this next play.

Punter Sean Landeta, in one of the more bizarre plays in NFL history, didn't shank the punt – he just whiffed on it, with the ball barely grazing his foot. Watching the play, some say Landetta was either scared of the Bears or that the wind blew the ball away from his foot.

“As soon as I dropped the ball, it started to go to the right. That's happened before, and it happened later in the game, but at least I got a piece of it. This time, I didn't. I've never experienced anything like that. It's something you can't explain. But I don't think that was the determining factor in our loss,”

Whatever the cause, the ball glanced off Landetta's foot, with defensive back Shaun Gayle scooping the ball at the Giants' five-yard-line and running it in for the score.

Neither team would threaten to score again until late in the second quarter.

By the time the Giants took over on their final possession of the first half, they'd had absolutely no success moving the ball. Their running game was stagnant — they finished with 30 rushing yards in the first half — and they'd thrown for zero net yards. The Bears went into halftime up 7-0.

The third quarter is when the Bears put the game away. One long drive ended in Butler's third missed field goal, but the defense again held the Giants without a first down, setting the offense up with great field position at the New York 41. Three runs by Matt Suhey pushed the ball to the 23-yard line, and two plays later McMahon hit Dennis McKinnon for a touchdown, pushing the lead to 14-0.

Later in the quarter, McMahon hit tight end Tim Wrightman for 47 yards, setting the Bears up at the Giants' 20. On the next play, McMahon threw to McKinnon for his second touchdown, completing the scoring at 21-0.

Meanwhile, the defense held the Giants to negative yards in the third quarter and forced three three-and-outs.

The fourth quarter was a formality, as the Bears ran out the clock and the Giants chocked up garbage time yards, with Simms throwing for more than 120 yards in the fourth quarter.

By the time the game ended, the domination by the Bears defense was complete.

The Bears would move on to the NFC Championship Game, in which they'd host the Los Angeles Rams and Eric Dickerson, a team that beat them in 1984.

1986 New York Giants Coach #13 Bill Parcells

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 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.

After making the playoffs in 1984 and 1985, the Giants entered the 1986 season as one of the favorites to win the Super Bowl. They began the season with 31–28 loss to the Dallas Cowboys, before winning five consecutive games. After losing 17–12 to the Seattle Seahawks in week seven, the Giants won their final nine regular season games. Following the regular season, coach Bill Parcells won the NFL Coach of the Year Award, and eight Giants were named to the Pro Bowl. The Giants' defense, nicknamed the Big Blue Wrecking Crew, finished second in the league in points and yards allowed.

The 1986 Giants had been ranked as one of the greatest NFL teams of all time by fans, and members of the media. It was this Giants team that popularized the practice of the "Gatorade shower", which

entailed the players dousing members of the coaching staff with Gatorade near the end of a victorious game.

1986-1992 Top New York Giants Players Pepper Johnson LB

He played in the National Football League for 13 seasons, the first seven of which were for the New York Giants.

Though not the flashiest player in the world, Pepper Johnson was a solid player that flourished in the shadow of future hall of fame linebackers Lawrence Taylor and Harry Carson. When Harry Carson retired in 1988, it opened the door for Johnson who was a smart, savvy player who rarely made mistakes.



In essence, he was the perfect fit for Bill Belichick's 3-4 defense.

He also had 25.5 sacks; as a blitzer he was able to utilize the attention LT would receive and put pressure on the QB up the middle. He has won five rings in his career—two as a player with the Giants and three more as an assistant coach for Belichick's Patriots.
1966 Top Giants Players

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. Looking at the Giants season, you see

a team that overpowered the opposition but in most cases they did not blow the opposition away. Instead, they won by five points or less eight time during the season and when it was more points than five, it was rarely more than a touchdown or a touchdown and a field goal. What does this say about the Giants? It says they were a darn tough team. It also says that in most games, Bill Parcells had to coach for all four quarters with little time to take a relaxing break. Parcells was up to it. Winning was what he was all about. The players respected his winning attitude and they came to play for him

The Giants defeated the San Francisco 49ers 49–3 in their opening playoff game. They were favored by only three points, but the Giants caught a break when 49ers WR Jerry Rice fumbled an apparent touchdown catch-and-carry off his knee early in the game. From then on, they dominated the Niners the rest of the way. Their defense held the 49ers to 29 yards rushing, 184 yards in total offense, and 2 of 14 on third-down conversions.

The Giants did not commit a turnover and totaled 216 rushing yards. Jim Burt knocked 49ers quarterback Joe Montana out of the game in the second quarter, hitting him as he threw a pass which Lawrence Taylor intercepted and returned the pick 34 yards for a touchdown. The Giants defense also held the 49ers to only nine first downs, and 15 of 37 passing for zero touchdowns and three interceptions.

NFC Championship: vs. Washington Redskins

Just because the Giants did not have an especially high scoring season and their game winning differentials were nothing to write home about did not mean the opposition were able to prepare for an easy game. Just look at the divisional playoffs in which the Giants clobbered San Francisco and Joe Montana in his hey-day by the score of 49-3. Bill Parcells had the Giants ready for victory all the way and this team had the mettle and the talent to pull it off and they did.

The game at Giants Stadium was played on January 4, 1987 at 12:30 p.m. EST. The attendance was a whopping 76,034. The weather

could have been worse at 31 degrees F with 67% relative humidity. The steady wind was at 15 mph and the wind chill was 20 °F. There was more to the weather picture but at least it was Giants Stadium.

The wind gusts were more than double the steady winds topping 33 miles per hour (53 km/h). This gave the coach a choice. Coach Parcells chose to take the wind when his team won the opening coin toss of the Giants NFC Championship Game against the Washington Redskins.

With the wind at their backs the Giants scored 10 first quarter points while the 'skins managed only two first downs. The Redskins' punting team got a lot of work in the First Quarter—forced to punt three times in the quarter. Moreover, the wind limited those punts to 23, 27, and 24 yards. The Wind was a good choice for Coach Parcells.

The Redskins launched a drive behind Jay Schroeder's 48-yard completion to wide receiver Art Monk in the second quarter. However, after the Redskins botched the field goal snap on a 51-yard attempt, the Giants drove for a touchdown with the wind in their face to make the score 17–0 at halftime. There would be no more scoring for the game.

The Giants defense dominated the second half, and both teams went scoreless to make the final score 17–0. Schroeder completed only 20 of 50 passes for a meager 3.8 yards per attempt. Keys to the victory were tackle Brad Benson's neutralizing of Redskins pass rusher Dexter Manley, who had 18.5 sacks on the season, and the team's defense.

After the game, John Madden remarked: "Last year, I thought the Bears had the best defense I had ever seen. But in the last two weeks, I feel these Giants have as good a defense as has ever played in this league." And that friends, as you know is "Praise from Caesar." When the Giants played good ball, there was none played better anywhere. Giants fans were alive with excitement.

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.

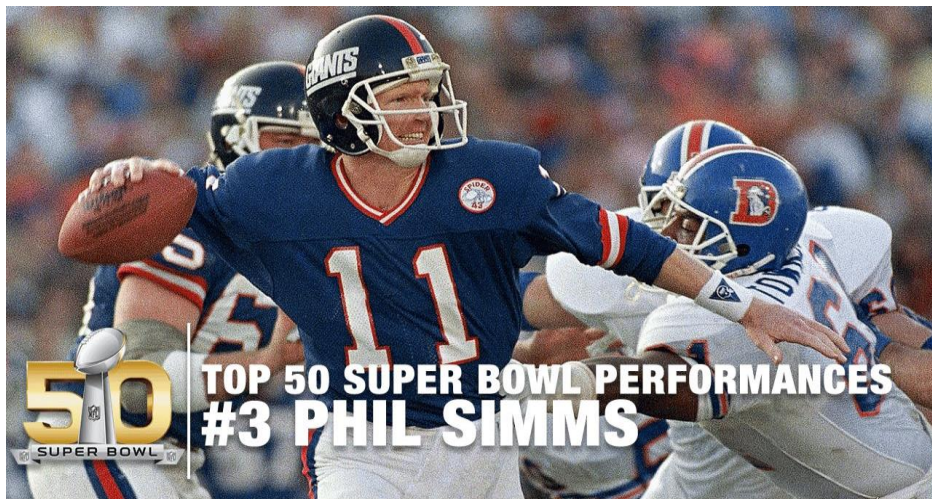
From kickoff to the final whistle, the Giants played the Denver Broncos full-steam in Super Bowl XXI in front of 101,063 fans at the Rose Bowl. After the Broncos' Rich Karlis kicked a 48-yard field goal on the game's opening drive, the Giants took the lead back quickly with a 78-yard touchdown scoring 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 New York Giants Coach #13 Bill Parcells

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 New York Giants Coach #13 Bill Parcells

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.

1988-1985 Top New York Giants Players

Jumbo Elliot OL



John Stuart "Jumbo" Elliott (born April 1, 1965) is a retired American football player.

Elliott played 14 years as an offensive tackle in the National Football League (NFL) with the New York Giants from 1988 to 1995 and the New York Jets from 1996 to 2000 and 2002.

Though recognized for his great play with only one Pro Bowl, Jumbo Elliot was certainly a favorite of fans and Bill Parcells alike.

Known for his incredible size and athleticism, he could handle any opposing team's leading pass rusher, allowing Phil Simms to have a wonderful end to his career. After Elliot was drafted in 1988, the number of sacks allowed by the Giants offensive line dropped dramatically.

Parcells loved Elliot so much that he made sure to bring him along when he returned to coaching with the New York Jets in 1996.

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 New York Giants Coach #13 Bill Parcells

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)

The Rams beat the Giants with quarterback Jim Everett's 30-yard touchdown pass to Flipper Anderson. The game had been tied and went into overtime. With 1:06 gone in overtime, LA scored the winning TD.

New York had jumped to a 6-0 lead in the first quarter with two field goals by kicker Raul Allegre. With 17 seconds left in the first half, Anderson caught a 20-yard touchdown reception from Everett giving LA a 7-6 lead. In the third quarter, Giants running back Ottis Anderson scored on a 2-yard touchdown and it looked like the Giants were on their way. But in the fourth period, Los Angeles kicker Mike Lansford made two field goals to tie the game, the second one coming with 3:01 left in regulation.

The overtime score iced the game for Los Angeles.

1990 New York Giants Coach #13 Bill Parcells

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.

We know that after making the playoffs in 1989, the Giants entered the 1990 season as a Super Bowl favorite, and they disappointed nobody. Though most believed the Giants had little chance of stopping the 49ers, for many they were the favorite.

The season began with a close 27-20 win over the Philadelphia Eagles. Then, the Giants won their next nine games before losing the rematch to Philadelphia 31-13 in Week 12. Their two other losses were close games—one to the 49ers on the road and the other to the Bills at home in the regular season.

New York defeated both teams in playoff rematches. In the Week 15 game against Buffalo, starting quarterback Phil Simms was injured and ultimately lost for the season with a broken foot. He was replaced by Jeff Hostetler, who filled in quite ably.

The Giants' defense led the NFL in fewest points allowed (211), and the team set an NFL record by committing only 14 turnovers in the regular season. After the season, the Giant talent pool showed up with six Giants selections to the Pro Bowl.

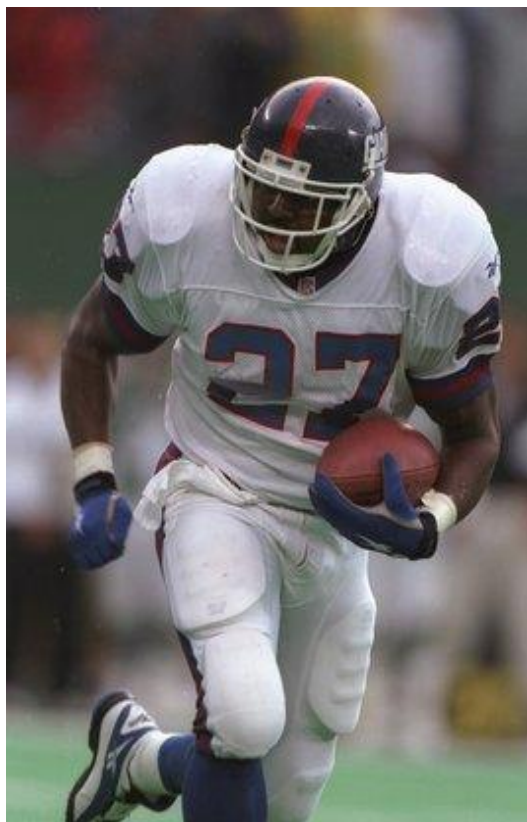
In 2007, ESPN.com looked back to 1990 and ranked the 1990 Giants' defense as the sixth-greatest in NFL history. They documented that the team "allowed only 13.2 points a game against a very tough

schedule – they played against seven playoff teams during the regular season.”

In this year’s playoffs, the Giants were well led by Hall of Fame outside linebacker Lawrence Taylor and First Team All-Pro inside linebacker Pepper Johnson. New York's came through for Bill Parcells in the playoff games, holding the Bears to just three points in the divisional playoff game.

The Giants then held a tough 49ers offense to just two field goals and one touchdown, and set up the game-winning score by both forcing and recovering a late Roger Craig fumble involving NT Erik Howard and OLB Lawrence Taylor to win the NFC Championship Game 15–13.

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."



1990-1997 Top Giants Players Rodney Hampton RB

Rodney Craig Hampton was born on April 3, 1969). He was a professional football player who was drafted by the New York Giants in the first round of the 1990 NFL Draft. He was a starting running back for the 1990 New York Giants who finished the year at 13-3 during the regular season while winning Super Bowl XXV on January 27, 1991.

Drafted as the next great running back in the first round of the 1990 NFL

Draft, Rodney Hampton would become one of the best at the position in Giants history.

He was an integral part of the 1990 Super Bowl team, spelling Super Bowl MVP Otis Anderson on occasion, and took over the starting job the very next year.

In the next five years, Hampton had five-straight 1000-yard seasons and never rushed for fewer than five touchdowns. He made the Pro Bowl twice in that span.

He was a workhorse and the years began to weight on him. He had two medicore seasons in 1996 and 1997 and would retire after appearing in just two games in the 1997 season.

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

After the Wildcard playoffs were completed, the winners played the top divisional teams. On Sunday January 13 at 12:30 PM at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ, the Divisional Playoff game was held

In this first game on the playoff road to the Super Bowl, the Giants crushed the Chicago Bears 31–3 at home in the NFC Divisional playoff game on January 13, 1991. Ottis Anderson took the rushing honors by piling up 80 yards on 21 carries. All the Giants combined rushed for 194 yards overall, dominating time of possession; with more than 38 minutes on offense.

Bill Parcells, at the suggestion of assistant coach Bill Belichick, used a four-man defensive line most of the game—as opposed to the Giants' traditional 3-4 defense. This strategy confused the unprepared Bears, who had trouble with their blocking assignments.

The Giants executed 4-for-4 on fourth-down plays and converted 6 of 14 third downs. The Giants' defense stopped the Bears on the goal line on a fourth-down attempt in the second quarter and held the Bears quarterback Mike Tomczak to 17-completions of-36 attempts passing for 205 yards and two interceptions. The threat of Bears running back Neal Anderson was kept to a minimum and a season-low 19 yards on 12 carries. Jeff Hostetler threw for two touchdowns and ran for a third.

Giants fans thanked their defense because they dominated the game, allowing only 27 rushing yards and three points. This was the lowest amount of rushing yards Chicago had gained in a game since 1967. Their previous low for the season was 100. Giants quarterback Jeff Hostetler, who played because starter Phil Simms suffered a season-ending injury, completed 10 out of 17 passes for 122 yards and two touchdowns, while also rushing for 43 yards and another score.

The action started early. On Chicago's second possession of the game, Giants defensive back Mark Collins intercepted Mike Tomczak's pass after it bounced out of the hands of Dennis Gentry. Collins returned it 11 yards to set up a 46-yard field goal by Matt Bahr. The came back with the next kickoff and got to the Giants 27. However, on fourth and 12, coach Mike Ditka decided "no field goal." The 13 mph headwinds made the probability low.

On Chicago's conversion attempt, Anderson caught a pass from Tomczak, but was stuffed after a short gain. The Giants then turned the momentum around and drove 75 yards. The drive included a 6-yard fourth down conversion catch by reserve tight end Bob Mrosko, to go up 10-0 on Hostetler's 21-yard completion to Stephen Baker.

When in the second quarter, Hostetler lost a fumble during a sacked by Steve McMichael, the Bears lineman Dan Hampton recovered the ball. Chicago went all the way to the Giants 1-yard line. But on a fourth down conversion attempt, Giants defensive end John Washington plowed through Jim Covert's block attempt and tackled fullback Brad Muster for a loss.

The Bears managed good starting field position into a 33-yard field goal by Kevin Butler. But before the end of the half, the Giants were up 17-3 after an 80-yard, 11-play scoring drive. Hostetler started it all by scrambling away from a Bears blitz and then he rushed for 11 yards. Later on, he converted a fourth and 1 at the Bears 32 with a 10-yard burst. The agile QB finished the drive with a 5-yard touchdown pass to tight end Howard Cross.

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.

The NY Giants scored on drives of 75, 80, 49 and 51 yards, which lasted nine, 11, 11 and 16 plays. In total, New York held the ball for 38:22, compared to Chicago's 21:38. The only negative thing for New York was the loss of running back Rodney Hampton, who suffered a broken leg in the first half and would be out for the next two games, including the Super Bowl.

NFC Championship Game: 49ers v Giants

It was not an easy game playing for the Conference Championship on Sunday, January 20 at Candlestick Park in San Francisco, California. The Giants finally got six points in a quarter in Q4 and that was enough to bring home the victory for New York.

The Giants had advanced to face the two-time defending champion San Francisco 49ers in the NFC Championship game on January 20, 1991, in front of 65,750 fans at Candlestick Park. The game was a rematch of the 7-3 49ers win one month earlier. So, the 49ers were favorites. Alternating field goals was the order of the day for both teams in the first and second quarter and so the score was 6-6 at halftime.

With just five minutes gone in the third quarter, 49ers quarterback Joe Montana threw a 61-yard touchdown pass to receiver John Taylor to give San Francisco a 13-6 lead. A Giants field goal made the score 13-9 at the end of the third quarter. Each team had three scores. Both teams were blanked out until there was 9:42 remaining in the game. Leonard Marshall started the hoorah by sacking and injuring Joe Montana, who immediately left the game.

The Giants got the ball back, but were stopped quickly on a key third down and one. On fourth down, Parcels decided to let it go and he called a fake punt. Fortunately for New York, the 49ers were

penalized. They had only 10 men on the field. On the next play, the Giants got a long run from Gary Reasons to set up another Giants field goal, making the score 13–12.

The 49ers, ahead by one point played to run out the clock. However, Giants nose tackle Erik Howard made a key play, fighting through a double-team to knock the ball out of running back Roger Craig's possession. Howard got his helmet on the football. Then Lawrence Taylor fought through a block at the line of scrimmage applied by tight end Brent Jones and a subsequent block by fullback Tom Rathman to position himself at Craig's location along the line of scrimmage to catch Howard's forced fumble right in in mid-air.

This gave the ball back to the Giants at their own 43-yard line. Hostetler completed passes to Bavaro and Baker to move the team, taking the Giants to within Matt Bahr's field-goal range. Bahr's fifth successful kick of the game, a 42-yarder, was made with no time left on the clock. This gave the Giants a 15–13 victory with no touchdowns scored but 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. 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 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 spoke four months after winning his second Super Bowl at a crowded news conference. The Giants would no longer have Bill Parcells. My brothers were upset. 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 be the head honcho by following Parcells' advice. .

Stellino made a point of suggesting that Parcells could not talk himself out of leaving but he talked Handley into staying. Parcells 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 has no deal with the network and said the possibility of going into television played no role in the decision. Maybe even Bill Parcells did not know why Bill Parcells did what Bill Parcells 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 Parcells' 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 Parcells should go for it. Looks like in 1991, Parcells 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 Parcells' 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 ©

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Chapter 18 Coaches Handley, Reeves & Fassel: 1991 to 2003

Coach #14 Ray Handley1

Coach #15 Dan Reeves

Coach #16 Jim Fassel

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)

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)

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)



Coach # 14 Ray Handley instructing during Giants game

Coach # 14 Ray Handley

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 Parcells 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 Parcells, 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 Parcells. The pundits seemed to believe that Young was a Tom Coughlin advocate. Coughlin who had his time as a Giants assistant under Parcells was at the time the head coach at Boston College.

It was well known that Lawrence Taylor, the infamous LY wanted Parcells Back. Taylor was so good and so smart on the field that Parcells 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 Parcells.

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 Parcells 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-react 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'

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.

The Giants entered the season with a new coach after one of the best ever had resigned. They were the defending Super Bowl champions but they had lost the chutzpah of Bill Parcells with the change in coaches. They failed to qualify for the playoffs. They were the eighth team in NFL history to enter a season as the defending Super Bowl champion and miss the playoffs.

They became the first organization in NFL history to do so twice. The Giants missed out on the playoffs a season after winning Super Bowl XXI as well. The first time this happened with Bill Parcells the "after" coach. Would this have been the same if Parcells had stayed on? After all, Coach Handley brought in a better record than 6-9 after the Super Bowl. Who knows?

The 1991 season marked the first season that the Mara family did not have total ownership of the Giants. Wellington Mara's nephew Tim, who had inherited the half-stake in the team that his grandfather and namesake had given to Tim's father Jack, decided that he no longer wanted to be involved with the team after twenty-six years, most of which had been spent feuding with his uncle over the team's operations.

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. Bill Parcells decided to retire following the Super Bowl victory and general manager George Young chose to promote Ray Handley, the team's running backs coach, to the position instead of promoting defensive coordinator Bill Belichick; Belichick would leave the Giants soon after to become head coach of the Cleveland Browns. We all know what might have happened to the Giants if they had selected Bill Belichick. Had the old Giants, poor decision makers in the front office, returned to New York.

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. Hostetler led the Giants to 6 wins in his eleven starts, but broke his back during a week 13 win against Tampa Bay. Simms returned to finish the game, but went 2–3 as Giants starter the remainder of the year and the Giants fell out of the playoffs.

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 New York Giants Coach #14 Ray Handley

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.

Injuries had a major role in marring the Giants' season, especially at quarterback. Phil Simms won his starting QB position back but he fell hard with a season-ending elbow injury in Week 4. With Simms out the team once again turned to Jeff Hostetler, who also was a fine QB. Hostetler had been the Giants' original 1991 starter and winner of Super Bowl XXV.

This year, Hostetler had his own troubles with injuries including a broken back that ended his 1991 season. He soon found himself out of the lineup after suffering a concussion in Week 12. It was rookie tryout time after that and the rookies did poorly. Kent Graham and Dave Brown, got their chance. Graham became the 3rd QB to be injured when he suffered from elbow and shoulder problems, and then Brown suffered a broken right thumb. Thankfully for the Giants, after the concussion protocol, Hostetler returned for the final two games of the season that resulted in a win over the Kansas City Chiefs and a loss to the Philadelphia Eagles.

Pundits believe that the most catastrophic injury for the Giants in 1992 was the torn Achilles' tendon suffered by future Hall of Fame linebacker Lawrence Taylor in Week 10. The Giants won just once more after the injury. You can't just dismiss these injuries as part of the game as they were devastating for the Giants. But, Handley had no backup plan so he paid the price.

It was the second consecutive year that an injury to Taylor ended his season prematurely (a sprained knee in Week 13 of the 1991 season forced Taylor to miss the final game of the regular season and a previous game against the Cincinnati Bengals). The Giants troubles would be inherited by a new coach the following year.

1992-2003 Top New York Giants Players Keith Hamilton DE



Just as Osi Umenyiora has Justin Tuck, Michael Strahan had Keith Hamilton playing across from him. Hamilton was drafted by the Giants and played all 12 seasons with them, though 11 of them were overshadowed by the dominance of Strahan.

Hamilton's presence made it impossible for teams to double team and neutralize Strahan. The moment you slept on Hamilton is the moment he made you pay. He only made the Pro Bowl team once, but it he definitely had a long and good career with Big Blue.

Selected in the 1992 NFL Draft. Hamilton spent his entire 12-season career with the Giants and recorded 63 sacks, placing him fourth on the team's career sack list since sacks became an official statistic in 1982. "Hammer," as he was known, played in 173 games in a Giants uniform, tying him with Harry Carson for sixth on the franchise's all-time list.

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.

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 New York Giants Coach #15 Dan Reeves

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".

1993 -2007 Top Giants Players Michael Strahan DE

Michael Anthony Strahan was born November 21, 1971. He is one of the greatest football defensive ends who ever played the game. He spent his entire 15-year career with the New York Giants of the National Football League(NFL). Strahan set a record for the most sacks in a season in 2001, and helped the Giants win Super Bowl XLII over the New England Patriots in his final season in 2007.

After retiring from the NFL, Strahan became a media personality. Strahan was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2014.

He is currently a football analyst on Fox NFL Sunday, and co-host of ABC's Strahan and Sara. He was previously on the syndicated daytime talk show Live! with Kelly and Michael with co-host Kelly Ripa from 2012 to 2016, where he was a two-time Daytime Emmy Award winner. In 2014, he became a regular contributor on morning show Good Morning America, and in 2016 the network announced that Strahan would be leaving Live! to join GMA on a full-time basis.

It's amazing the amount of great pass rushers the Giants have had over the years. From Andy Robustelli all the way to Michael Strahan, there has always been someone to carry the torch.

Strahan is the Giants All-Time leader in sacks, was defensive player of the year in 2001 and 2003—setting the single season record for sacks in '01 with 22.5—and made the Pro Bowl seven times



He is leaving his mark off the field seemingly as much as he did on it. He joined FOX NFL Sunday's crew after he retired in 2008, he had a short-lived stint on FOX with his own sitcom, and is a candidate to replace Regis Philbin on his famed television show *Live with Regis and Kelly*.

That said, he'll probably never become as popular as an actor as when he was dominating on the football field.

1993-2001 Top Giants Players Jesse Armstead LB

Jessie Willard Armstead was born on October 26, 1970. He was a football linebacker in the National Football League (NFL) who played for eleven seasons with the New York Giants and the Washington Redskins between 1993 and 2003. He played his college football at the University of Miami.



The many great linebackers in the 1980s and early 90s passed the torch to Jesse Armstead, who continued to exude excellence from the position.

He was elected to the Pro Bowl five times with the Giants and led them to the Super Bowl in 2000. That Giants defense was ranked number two in the NFL and it was due in large part to the leadership and play of Armstead.

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.

1994 - 2002 Top New York Giants Players

Jason Sehorn



Jason Sehorn has a solid, yet unspectacular career with the Giants, mainly because he severely injured his knee in the preseason of 1998, his fifth season in the NFL. He was never the same

and remained with the Giants through the 2003 season.

It was surprising to see a white player like Sehorn play so well at a predominately black position, but Sehorn was every bit as good as most starters in the NFL prior to his knee injury.

In the 1996 and 1997 seasons—his first two as the full-time starter—he had five and six interceptions and a touchdown returned in each season. He was also an accomplished punt and kick returner. If only he didn't suffer that knee injury he could have been one of the best corners of his era.

Jason Heath Sehorn (born April 15, 1971) is a former American football cornerback who played professionally in the National Football League (NFL) for the New York Giants from 1994 to 2002 and St. Louis Rams in 2003. He played college football at the University of Southern California (USC).[1]

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.

Starting the game with the wind at their back from the whistle did not help the Giants score touchdowns. However, it did help kicker David Treadwell's 26-yard field goal on the Giants opening drive. In the second quarter, New York had another chance to move the ball and score, but receiver Mark Jackson dropped a sure pass on third and 2 from the Vikings 17 and then Treadwell drilled another 34-yard field goal attempt but he pulled it wide left.

Jim McMahon was able to connect putting the Vikings up 7-3 on a 40-yard pass to wide receiver Cris Carter. Near the end of the half, Giants quarterback Phil Simms threw a third down pass to Dave Meggett that lost nine yards, giving the Giants fourth and 19 from the New York 23. On the next play, Giants punter Mike Horan shanked his punt which went into the back of teammate Greg Jackson, who was a blocker in the backfield.

The Vikes took over on the Giants 36 with 29 seconds left in the half and they got a 10-3 halftime lead when Fuad Reveiz nailed his franchise postseason record 52-yard field goal. The Giants needed some medicine for the second half.

The Wind was the Giants friend again in the third quarter. On their first drive, Hampton scored on a 51-yard rushing touchdown, which was the longest run in Giants postseason history. Then Harry Newsome punted a dinker—just 21 yards to the Minnesota 26-yard line. Hampton got it going and converted a fourth and 1 situation with a 2-yard run and then rushed for five yards on third and 2 as the team drove to another touchdown on his 2-yard score.

Having it go your way does not assure it will stay that way as on the extra point attempt, the snap sailed right through Horan's hands and went right into the arms of Treadwell. Bad does not always stay bad as the kicker was able to sneak the ball into the end zone for a successful two-point conversion, giving the team a 17-10 lead. The Vikings needed one score for a tie and with a two-point conversion, they had the game. Plus, they held the wind advantage again during the final quarter. It did no good as the Giants defense managed to shut them down to preserve the victory.

The Vikings did have a great chance to tie when Carter caught a deep pass from backup quarterback Sean Salisbury and appeared to be on his way to a sure touchdown. However, safety Myron Guyton outran him and knocked the ball out of his hands. Jackson recovered it for the Giants on the Vikings 15-yard line and that was the game. Hampton finished the game with 33 carries for 161 yards and two touchdowns, along with six receptions for 24 yards. The old Giants were back again.

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 as 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. In this shellacking, the 49ers racked up 413 yards of offense, with an average of 6.4 yards per play. At the same time, they held the hapless Giants to just 194 yards. Worse than that, the Giants gave up three turnovers. San Fran also sacked quarterback Phil Simms four times in the contest to add to the anguish.

The 49ers began the action with an 80-yard drive in which Steve Young successfully tossed his first four passes, including a 31-yard completion to John Taylor. The next action was a 1-yard touchdown run by Watters. On a day where the 49ers could do nothing wrong, they found something. Kicker Mike Cofer missed the extra point. However, little else would go wrong for San Francisco for the rest of the game.

Following a Giants punt, San Francisco went up 9-0 on Cofer's 29-yard field goal. Then linebacker Bill Romanowski touched a Simms pass and “guided it” into the arms of defensive back Tim McDonald, who returned the ball four yards to the Giants 41. Eight plays later, Watters scored again—this time a 1-yard TD run. The 49ers were up 16-0.

After a Giants punt, the 49ers drove 92 yards, featuring a 43-yard reception by Taylor. They scored on Watters' third touchdown of the day, this one from two yards out. New York eventually got a field goal cutting the score to 23-3 at halftime as kicker David Treadwell popped one in from the 21-yard line. This would be the Giants only score.

Watters crossed the goal two more times in the second half. He actually had a chance to score a sixth touchdown, but he was taken out of the game early in the fourth quarter with the ball on the Giants 11-yard line. Instead, he got to sit on the bench while teammate Marc Logan scored the 49ers final points on a 2-yard run.

Dan Reeves knew his team was beaten badly. "There was no question who was the best team out there today, I'm disappointed

that we came in and played this way. It hurts; it leaves a bad taste in your mouth. The 49ers took us out of our element very quickly. They struck quickly and repeatedly, and took the running game away from us. said Giants coach Dan Reeves. "

Although he didn't throw any touchdown passes, Steve Young was near-perfect in the game, completing 17 of 22 passes for 226 yards, and rushing for 17 yards on the ground. The game was also worthy of note in that it would end up being the final game in the storied career of New York linebacker Lawrence Taylor, and the great QB Phil Simms as well.

1994 New York Giants Coach #15 Dan Reeves

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.

New York began the 1994 season with a three-game winning streak, defeating the Philadelphia Eagles, Arizona Cardinals, and Washington Redskins. The Giants' first loss came in their fourth game, as the New Orleans Saints defeated them 27–22. They then hit a six-game losing streak. When the Cardinals nosed them out 0–9 in week 11, New York's record was a dismal 3–7.

When they played the Houston Oilers, the Giants snapped their seven-game losing streak by winning 13–10 and then they won their next four games, placing them in postseason contention. They

wrapped up the season with a second win over Philadelphia followed by a five-point win against the defending Super Bowl champion Cowboys. To make the playoffs in 1994, the Green Bay would have to lose. However, the Packers won their last game; ending the Giants' season and sending them home with no wild card.]

Rodney Hampton had a great year with 1,075 yards and six touchdowns during the season. Came in seventh in rushing yards in 1994.

The Giants' leading receiver Mike Sherrard, caught 53 passes for 825 yards and six touchdowns. Dave Brown started 15 of 16 games at quarterback, and threw 12 touchdown passes and 16 interceptions. Defensively, Keith Hamilton and Erik Howard each had 6.5 sacks to lead the Giants, while John Booty and Philippi Sparks each had a team-high three interceptions. It was a close year but no cigar.

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 New York Giants Coach #15 Dan Reeves

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. They had a poor 5-11 season record. and came in fourth place in the NFC East Division.

A piece of trivia for the ages occurred at the end of the season, in a home game against the San Diego Chargers. Giants fans threw snowballs onto the field throughout the contest. The fan actions at the "Snowball Game" resulted in the ejections of 175 fans from Giants Stadium and 15 arrests; San Diego evaded enough snowballs to post a 27–17 victory.]

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 New York Giants Coach #15 Dan Reeves

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 1986.

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.

There was no Phil Simms this year but quarterback Dave Brown started all 16 games for the Giants in 1996, throwing for 12 touchdowns and 20 interceptions. New York's leading running back was Rodney Hampton, who took the ball 254 times and gained 827 yards.

Wide receivers Chris Calloway and Thomas Lewis led the Giants with four touchdowns and 53 receptions each; Calloway had a team-high 739 receiving yards. Defensively, Chad Bratzke and Michael Strahan turned in the most sacks among Giants players with five apiece. In the interception category, Jason Sehorn picked five to lead the team.

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.

1996 -2008 Top Giants Players Amani Toomer WR

Amani Askari Toomer was born on September 8, 1974. He was a football wide receiver and punt returner in the NFL who played his entire pro career for the New York Giants of the National Football League(NFL). Toomer gained over 1,000 receiving yards each season from 1999 to 2003. He helped teams win. For example, he was a member of the 2007 Giants team that won Super Bowl XLII. He holds the Giants' club records with 9,497 receiving yards, 668 receptions and 54 receiving touchdowns. He also returned 109 punts for 1,060 yards and three touchdowns. As a rookie in 1996, he led the NFL with an average of 16.6 yards on 18 punt returns. His name is well recognized as one of the great ones.

Although it seems highly likely that Amani Toomer will have most of his records shattered by either Steve Smith or Hakeem Nicks, if both stay healthy, there is no denying that Toomer is one of the best receivers the Giants have ever had.



He's never been an outstanding player and never considered one of the elites in his own time, but he had a long, steady career and was always there when his quarterback needed him.

He famously became Eli Manning's security blanket in desperate situations, rarely dropping a ball that he absolutely had to come down with.

Most people don't respect what Toomer accomplished mainly because his stats don't jump off the page, but that

shouldn't matter. He still holds every major Giants receiving record and that should be enough.

1997 New York Giants Coach #16 Jim Fassel

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 record improved astronomically when a new coach was brought in to fulfill the Giants legacy. The Giants improved upon their previous season's output of 6-10, winning ten games including a tie against the Washington Redskins, it was the first tie for the Giants since 1983. They qualified for the playoffs for the first time in four seasons. In the playoffs, the Giants lost to the Minnesota Vikings in the Wild Card Game 23-22. How about a first team finish in the Eastern Division of the NFC?

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.

1997-2006: Top Giants Players Tiki Barber RB

Atiim Kiambu "Tiki" Barber[1] (/ˈti:ki) was born April 7, 1975. He served as a running back for the New York Giants of the National Football League (NFL) for ten seasons. Barber played his college football for the University of Virginia.

He was drafted by the Giants in the second round of the 1997 NFL Draft, and he played his entire professional career for them. Barber retired from the NFL at the end of the 2006 NFL postseason as the Giants' all-time rushing and reception leader. Barber was inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.



Though not the most popular guy off the field now, you can't ignore all the records that Tiki Barber shattered in his time with the Giants.

It took a few years for him to really etch his name among the NFL's best running backs, but when he did he put to bed any notion of him being only a third down running back.

Among many other records, he's the Giants leader in rushing attempts, yards,

and touchdowns—the three major categories.

He also, more amazingly, had over 5,000 receiving yards and joins only Hall of Famers Marshall Faulk and Marcus Allen as guys who rushed for over 10,000 yards and also had 5,000 receiving yards.

In the opinion of many pundits and sports people, Barber is the greatest running back to put on a Giants uniform, though another player is on the list later because of his sheer versatility.

1998 New York Giants Coach #16 Jim Fassel

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 most memorable moment of the 1998 season according to many took place during week 15, when the Giants defeated the previously undefeated Denver Broncos on a late touchdown pass from Kent Graham to Amani Toomer.

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, 1st 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 New York Giants Coach #16 Jim Fassel

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 7-9 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 New York Giants Coach #16 Jim Fassel

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. 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).

Jim Fassel had his act together this year with key positions being bolstered up. Fassel was ready and the Giants began the 2000 season hoping to get over the challenge of coming up way short during the past several seasons. The Giants enjoyed representing the NFC in Super Bowl XXXV.

Kerry Collins was revived and ready to go at QB and so the Giants' passing game improved from what had been a previously mediocre

attack. The running picked up to average 256.5 yards per game and the Giants backfield earned the nickname the "thunder and lightning" backfield with Ron Dayne and Tiki Barber rushing the ball. The defense allowed just 246 points, with its greatest strength being against the run allowing a second best 3.2 yards per carry. Early in the season the Giants' were playing at a rate of 7–2 and they were coming off two double digit wins.

Then, luck changed and they lost two straight home games , declining to 7–4. Not pleased, Head Coach Jim Fassel made a bold move and publicly stated in the postgame press conference: This team is going to the playoffs. This became the defining moment of the season, and the Giants won their next five games to become the #1 seed in the NFC playoffs. Will it and it shall be done. Too bad Fassel did not make a Super Bowl prediction. The Giants needed some magic in the final game of the post season.

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

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

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.

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. There were no offensive or defensive scores for the Giants.

Divisional Round Giants v Philadelphia Eagles (Sunday January 7th, 2001):

The Giants got their choice and received the opening kickoff. Fleet footed kickoff receiver Ron Dixon took the opening kickoff and literally blew past the entire Eagles coverage unit untouched for a 97-yard kickoff return touchdown. Moving to the second quarter on the first play, Brad Daluiso's field goal made the score 10-0 Giants.

Late in the second quarter, the Eagles were working the ball deep in their own territory, putting together what looked like a two-minute drill to change the game. McNabb took the snap and dropped back before throwing an out pattern to receiver Torrance Small. Out of nowhere, Jason Sehorn jumped in front of the pass and broke it up. While he dove, the ball stayed in the air, and Sehorn got back up and intercepted McNabb's pass, taking it 32 yards for a touchdown. A field goal by Ace Akers made the score 17-3 Giants at the half.

Hardly anything worth writing home about occurred in the second half as both teams struggled to move the ball. The Eagles scored their only touchdown late in the game, when they blocked a punt to set up a 10-yard touchdown pass from Donovan to Torrance Small with 1:56 left. But the game had long been decided by this point.

This was a great game for the Giants who held the Eagles to just 186 yards of total offense. Donovan McNabb, the #2 vote getter for MVP this 2000 season, was held to just 20 completions out of 40 attempts. and just 17 yards rushing. Michael Strahan performed a yeoman job leading the defense with 2 sacks as they felled McNabb 6 times.

NFC Championship Giants v Minnesota

(Sunday January 14th, 2001)

The game would go on at 12:30 P.M. on Jan 14, at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. The Giants would battle it out in this prelim game against the Minnesota Vikings, who finished the regular season 11-5.

The Vikes had a high-flying offense featuring first-year starting quarterback Daunte Culpepper, running back Robert Smith, wide receivers Randy Moss and Cris Carter, and tackles Korey Stringer and Todd Steussie. It did not matter. They went down in a big way as the unexpected winner—the Giants expected more from themselves than anybody else expected.

The critics claimed that in order for the Giants to win, they would have to rely heavily on the ground game to control the clock and keep the Vikings' offense off the field. Humph!

However, the Giants were not planning to emulate their scouts' plans. They played a completely different game. Offensive Coordinator Sean Payton would not be beaten. He studied footage of the Vikings' defense and was so appalled at their secondary (particularly starting corners Robert Tate and Wassawa Serwanga) that he boldly stated at the Giants' first meeting before the game that they would throw for over 300 yards in the first half. This set the stage for one of the most lopsided games in NFC Championship history. It was as it was and he said it would be as it was. That which is, is!

The Giants won everything including the toss and elected to receive, and then immediately picked the Vikings' secondary apart.

Kerry Collins was at the helm for NY. He began the game by hitting Amani Toomer, who had hardly practiced all week due to an injury, on a slant pattern for 16 yards. After a 10-yard pass to Toomer and a running play, Collins found a wide-open Ike Hilliard on a four verticals play for a 46-yard touchdown. The score was quickly 7-0 just five plays into the game.

Then came the kickoff which was very poor, but Vikings running back Moe Williams misplayed the bouncing ball and he fumbled. The Vikings thus goy first shot at the ball, but the Giants' Lyle West recovered the ball at the Vikings' 18 yard line. Then, Collins went for the end zone again for seldom-used fullback Greg Comella, and Comella caught the pass while falling into the end zone for another Giants touchdown.

The scores were amounting to the Giants account and the dividends they were ready to pay. With a few minutes 2:13 into the game, the Giants led 14-0. They liked the feeling.

The Vike's two best chances to score came later in the first quarter when Troy Walters returned the kickoff 24 yards to give the Vikings good field position at the 39 yard line. However, a false start penalty pushed them out of field goal range and they punted.

Then when Collins was in charge, the threw an interception to Robert Tate, and the Vikings attempted to capitalize with Daunte Culpepper throwing to the end zone Did not happen as Emmanuel McDaniel stole the pass from Carter for an interception.

On the first play from scrimmage in the second half, Shaun Williams sacked Daunte Culpepper and forced him to fumble, and the ball was recovered by Cornelius Griffin at the Vikings' 29 yard line. Kerry Collins then found Amani Toomer in the back of the end zone for a 7-yard touchdown to complete the scoring, 41-0. That's about as much as anybody wants to know. The Giants completely dominated on both sides of the ball, outgaining the Vikings 518-114. They outgained the Vikings 380-60 in net passing and held the ball for 42:22 to 17:38 for the Vikings.

Kerry Collins was on the mark at 28 of 39 and 381 yards and 5 touchdowns. Wow!

On defense, the Giants completely shut down the Vikings' star players. Daunte Culpepper was held to just 78 yards passing with 3 interceptions, Randy Moss was held to 2 catches for 18 yards, and Cris Carter was held to 3 catches for 24 yards.

With this win, the Giants earned the right to go to Super Bowl XXXV two weeks later in Tampa. After this game concluded, the Baltimore Ravens defeated the Raiders in Oakland to earn the right to face the Giants. The Giants would once again be underdogs against the Ravens' dominant defense in their quest for a Super Bowl championship.

Super Bowl XXXV Giants v Ravens

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. 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 York's 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 territory.

2001 New York Giants Coach #16 Jim Fassel

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. 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 outsluged 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 New York Giants Coach #16 Jim Fassel

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.

2002 - 2007 Top Giants Players Jeremy Shockey TE



Jeremy Charles Shockey was born August 18, 1980. He was a football tight end in the NFL. He was drafted by the New York Giants 14th overall in the 2002 NFL Draft. He had played his college football at the University of Miami.

He was the winner of the first-ever Diet Pepsi NFL Rookie of the Year Award in 2002 and in the NFL, he earned four Pro Bowl

selections in his career and received Super Bowl rings with the Giants in Super Bowl XLII and with the Saints in Super Bowl XLIV. He was quite a football player.

Jeremy Shockey was supposed to be the next Mark Bavaro. Though not as big and supposedly not as tough, Shockey was an elite blocking prospect who also had the speed to kill defenses. He played with a mean streak and looked to punish defenders at any given moment.

In essence, he was the perfect weapon.

However, his attitude and luxurious lifestyle quickly turned him off among fans. Though many loved him on the field, many grew tired of hearing stories of him partying in Panama during the off seasons and hearing that he complained to Eli Manning he didn't get the ball enough.

Though Shockey holds some records for a tight end with the Giants (receptions, yards), most agree he doesn't hold a candle to Bavaro because of the way he left.

It's a shame he left the way he did because it's pretty well known how close he was to the Mara family. Shockey was one of the people Wellington Mara requested to see prior to his death.

But that's who Shockey was, it was mostly about him and fans will not forget the way he parted.

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

Nobody likes to blow a big lead—especially a lead in which you take out starters because you have the game tucked away. The 2002 Giants season ended just that way featuring a blown 24-point lead and a catastrophic finish featuring both an epic special teams blunder and a controversial officiating call. The bottom line is that the Giants lost and it should not have been. After the Giants had made the game a rout, the 49ers came back and won the game.

The Giants got on the board with 18 seconds left thanks to a Collins to Amani Toomer completion for a 12-yard touchdown to tie the score 7-7 at the end of the first quarter. The Giants snagged another score early in the second quarter with a 2-yard touchdown pass from Collins to Jeremy Shockey claiming their first lead of the game, 14-7. The 49ers tied it up with 6:05 left in the first half. RB Kevan Barlow scored a rushing TD.

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.

After the 2nd half kickoff, the 49ers faced a 4th and 1 when Dhani Jones stopped 49ers fullback Fred Beasley for no gain. The Giants scored again, with Tiki Barber running in for a 6-yard touchdown. Next, the Giants made it to the 49ers' 3-yard line for a goal-to-go situation. On 3rd and Goal, Collins threw a pass directly to Jeremy Shockey. Shockey muffed the pass and the Giants settled for a 21-yard Matt Bryant field goal. The Giants did not know it but that was the beginning of the end. New York was way up, 38-14 with 4:27 to go in the 3rd quarter, but Shockey had sucked their momentum away with the muff. The pundits call this the turning point in the game.

A little more than two minutes later, the 49ers started their momentous comeback. There were 2:10 to go in the third quarter, when Jeff Garcia found caught Terrell Owens for a 26-yard TD pass and the 49ers added a two-point conversion. After a poor punt by Matt Allen and a sloppy unnecessary roughness penalty on Dhani Jones, the 49ers had great field position. They began their next pay dirt march on the Giants' 27, cashing in with Garcia running in for a 14-yard touchdown and another two-point conversion from Garcia to Owens.

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. After a Giants three-and-out, the 49ers put the ball in the end-zone again with a chance to tie the game. The Giants finally held and the 49ers settled for Jeff Chandler's 25-yard field goal with 7:52 to go. The Giants seemed to cough up the bad hair ball and finally got a drive going after the play.

This put them into field goal range with 3:06 to go when their special teams began to unravel. Long snapper Trey Junkin, who had signed with the Giants just few days earlier, centered a low snap into the dirt

and Matt Bryant missing the 42-yard field goal attempt wide left. The Giants had forgotten how to play football.

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.

Shaun Williams got into a confrontation with Owens, resulting in offsetting unsportsmanlike conduct penalties. There was no time for such shenanigans and each ploy seemed like another nail in the Giants’ coffin.

Still New York had one more chance to save their season. Kick returner Delvin Joyce returned the 49ers kickoff 32 yards to give the Giants good field position at their own 48-yard line. Kerry Collins found Ron Dixon for 10 yards, then after his next pass was nearly intercepted by cornerback Ahmed Plummer, he found Dixon for 19 yards. With 9 seconds left, the Giants ran a quick out to Amani Toomer for 5 more yards. This set up a 40-yard field goal attempt on the last play of the game of the game.

Not to happen. Trey Junkin passed back a lousy snap into the dirt. Holder Matt Allen could not even get the ball down. Realizing that Bryant could not kick the field goal, Allen rolled out and threw a Hail Mary towards Rich Seubert, an offensive lineman who checked in as an eligible receiver for the play. As the ball neared, 49ers defensive end Chike Okeafor dragged down Seubert, which should have resulted in a pass interference against the 49ers and one more attempt for Bryant, since the game cannot end on a defensive penalty.

However, the refs not only did not call pass interference on Okeafor, but instead called ineligible receiver downfield on Seubert, even though he in fact was an eligible receiver. As a result, the game was over. When things bad happen; things bad happen. When she wrote this passage in this game; that is all she wrote.

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 New York Giants Coach #16 Jim Fassel

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!

2003- 2012 Top Giants Player Osi Umenyiora DE

He was born Ositadimma "Osi" Umenyiora on November 16, 1981. He was an English sports pundit and Football defensive end. Osi played in the National Football League (NFL). He also played college football for Troy University and was drafted by the New York Giants in the second round of the 2003 NFL Draft.

Umenyiora was a two-time Pro Bowl selection and he holds the Giants franchise record for most sacks in one game. He is one of five British-born players to have won a Super Bowl, joining Marvin

Allen, Scott McCready, former Giants teammate Lawrence Tynes, and Jay Ajayi.

It is often argued who is the better defensive lineman on the Giants, no more so then when LeSean McCoy and Osi Umenyiora exchanged hurtful comments towards each other, which McCoy started by tweeting Osi was the third best defensive lineman on his team.



I happen to be of the mindset that Justin Tuck and Osi Umenyiora are perfect compliments to each other—Tuck being the better run defender and tackler and Osi being the better pass rusher.

If I had to take one guy, it would be Tuck, but it really isn't a bad choice either way.

Osi has led the Giants in sacks in all but two seasons—his rookie year and the year his missed due to injury.

<<< Osi

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]
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) ¹			
Tom Coughlin	2015	3rd	6 10 0 —

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

2004 New York Giants Coach #17 Tom Coughlin

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.

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 Gibril 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-present Top Giants Players Eli Manning QB

Elisha Nelson Manning (Eli) was born January 3, 1981. He is a football quarterback for the New York Giants of the National Football League (NFL). He played his college football at the University of Mississippi from 2000 to 2003. Drafted first overall in the 2004 NFL Draft by the San Diego Chargers, he did not want to play for San Diego and was immediately traded to the Giants. New York in return gave up a package, highlighted by fourth overall selection Philip Rivers. Manning has become quite a player as expected being the son of former NFL quarterback Archie Manning

and the younger brother of former NFL quarterback Peyton Manning.

Eli Manning has his own set of Giants franchise records . For example, he is tops in passing yards, touchdown passes, and completed passes in a career. In 2012, in a 41–34 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, he threw for a whopping 510 yards, 3 yards short of Phil Simms' record of 513. He led the Giants to victory in Super Bowls XLII and XLVI, defeating the New England Patriots both times. Manning was named Most Valuable Player in both Super Bowls, becoming one of five players to have multiple Super Bowl MVP awards (Bart Starr and Terry Bradshaw also have two, Joe Montana, three and Tom Brady four).



There are still great expectations for Eli Manning. For example, pending an injury, Eli will likely go down as the leader in most of the Giants passing categories. He led the Giants to the most improbable Super Bowl championship ever, beating the New England Patriots who were favored by as many as 14.5 points.

Manning won the Super Bowl MVP after leading the Giants on two 80-yard touchdown drives in the fourth quarter, famously hooking up with Plaxico Burress for the game winning score.

He has had his ups and downs in his Giants career, sometimes causing otherwise loyal fans to turn on him. However more recently he's improved to that of a top 10 quarterback and will likely end his career as the greatest QB in Giants history. Don't tell Phil Simms.

2004-2013 Top Giants Players Chris Snee OL



Chris Snee gave up his final year of college eligibility to make himself eligible for the NFL Draft. The New York Giants selected Snee in the second round—that's 34th overall in the 2004 NFL Draft.

The New York Giants' head coach, Tom Coughlin, was Snee's father-in-law at the time of the draft.

Snee made his NFL debut against the Philadelphia Eagles, where he helped Tiki Barber rush for 125 yards on nine carries, including a 72-yard score. He missed the final five games of the season after waking up the morning of the game against the Washington Redskins with an inflamed gland just beneath his jaw. He arrived at the stadium early, but there was no progress in his condition prior to the time the Giants had to submit their list of inactive players. The condition did not

improve enough for him to play again in the 2004 NFL season. But, he got well enough to finish the 2013 season

Chris Snee is one of the best guards in the NFL and when this was written it appeared he would be one for the next several years. He was only 29 at the time and he' had made the last three Pro Bowls and All Pro rosters.

He moved up this list as his career came to a close and was one of the most celebrated linemen in Giants history.

Snee has been the model of consistency.

Thrusted in to the starting lineup as a rookie, he's only missed five games in his entire career, those coming in the final five of that season. He's started in every game since the 2005 season and doesn't look to relinquish his spot as the starter any time soon.

2004 to 2010 Top Giants Players Shaun O'Hara OL

Shaun O'Hara was born June 23, 1977. He was a football center who played in the National Football League for eleven seasons. He played college football for Rutgers University. He began his professional career as an undrafted free agent with the Cleveland Browns, and he spent the majority of his NFL career with the New York Giants. He was a three-time Pro Bowl selection—quite a player.

Shaun O'Hara has been a staple on the Giants offensive line for several years and is slowly becoming one of the better centers they've ever had. I'm not sure he'll ever be on the level of Mel Hein historically, but he's certainly made a case for No. 2. He anchored the Giants offensive line en route to the 2007 Super Bowl championship, a team known for its great defensive play and the ability to tire defenses with their running attack.



Shaun O'Hara

The way the Giants milked the clock in the Super Bowl against the Patriots was nothing short of brilliant, and O'Hara leading the way for the lineman was a huge part of that.

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 New York Giants Coach #17 Tom Coughlin

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.

2005-2013 Top Giant Players Justin Tuck DE



Justin Tuck has emerged in the last couple of seasons as one of the best defensive ends in the NFL. He had 79 tackles and 11.5 sacks, and six forced fumbles in 2010 and was named to the second team All-Pro team and the Pro Bowl. He accomplished that same feat in 2008.

He and Osi Umenyiora are one of the best

tandem's at defensive end in the NFL. Tuck is one of the leaders on defense that leads by example.

His quiet, soft spoken nature goes away when game time rolls around.

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.

The Coughlin Wildcard Summary for 2005 / 2006

After being in the doldrums as only the Giants can fall, New York most certainly exceeded expectations in 2005. However, the surprise came at the cost of key players that suffered injuries over the course of the long season. An underwhelmed Giants squad were not fully intact when they lost 0–23 to the Carolina Panthers in the wild card round. The Fans were not really upset; just disappointed. If the Fans could have gotten the Giants a bit more rested for the game, we would have done so for sure.

Instead, Tom Coughlin with a newly spirited pack of Giants were ready to take on the world of the future in the ten more seasons in which Coach Coughlin brought his expertise to the game for the Giants. What a great coach.

2006 New York Giants Coach #17 Tom Coughlin

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. However, head coach Tom Coughlin became the first Giants head coach since Bill Parcells to lead the team to consecutive playoff berths as the team qualified as

one of two NFC wild card teams. They lost to the Eagles L (20-23) Additionally, this was Tiki Barber's final season in the NFL.

Prior to the 2006 season, the Giants were able to acquired 3-time Pro Bowl linebacker LaVar Arrington as a free agent. After previously playing for six seasons with the Redskins, Arrington was ready to bolster the Giants "D." The team also hired cornerback Sam Madison. He was a seasoned veteran with nine seasons with the Dolphins. He was Pro-Bowl from 1999–2002. Other folks brought in to help the team included free safety Will Demps from the Ravens, cornerback R.W. McQuarters from the Lions, and linebacker Brandon Short from the Panthers.

The Giants were also active in the draft. First pick was DE Mathias Kiwanuka. Then, they got WR Sinorice Moss. The rest of their better picks are as follows: Georgia Tech LB Gerris Wilkinson, Northwestern University DT Barry Cofield, East Carolina OT Guy Whimper, Alabama Safety Charlie Peprah, and Maryland CB Gerrick McPhearson.

The Giants were ready as indicated by their preseason 4-0 record but they lost it later in the year finishing at 8-8.

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.

The Giants started off winning and at the end of 1Q, they were ahead 7-0. But, by the end of the first half, they were behind until the Giants tied it up in the fourth before a late FG by the Eagles gave them the game.

Yes, I hate to say it but the Giants were defeated on a last second, 38-yard field goal by the Philadelphia Eagles' David Akers in their first-round playoff game to finish them off for the 2006 season.

Eli Manning looked better and offered great hope for future Giants teams despite an 0–2 postseason record Manning got off to a fast start against the Philadelphia Eagles in this game but it was not enough.

He took the opening kickoff, used some strategic passing and strategic Tiki Barber running to move right down and score on a 67-yard drive that hit pay dirt on a 17-yard strike from Manning to Plaxico Burress. Unfortunately for the Giants, after the opening

drive, the offense misfired on several cylinders and failed to break the game open in the first half even though the Giants “D” stuffed the Eagles' attack, giving them consistently good field position. Three separate times the Giants started at their own 47 or better, but could not get any more points.

The Eagles got their train running in the second quarter as Brian Westbrook scooted 49 yards to tie the game at 7–7. Philadelphia then got a short Akers field goal after the Giants defense tightened up at the goal-line.

New York responded with an 11-play drive to get inside the Philadelphia 5-yard line, Jay Feely's field goal tied the game at 10–10. The Eagles were in gear and moved 80 yards in 10 plays to take a 17–10 halftime lead. Jeff Garcia who was held in check for most of the game, hit Donte' Stallworth on a 28-yard pass to score the touchdown.

In the third quarter, the Eagles went up 20–10 with an Akers' 48-yard field goal in the third quarter. Then, the Giants fired off a 65-yard drive to cut the lead to 20–13. However, after getting inside the 10 again, Feely was summoned for the kick. The Giants had a tough time getting the ball past the goal line. Tough all day, the Giants' defense, stopped Philadelphia again and then Eli Manning led a tremendous 13 play, 80 drive with a long overdue TD to tie the game at 20–20. On the drive, the Giants converted three third downs, including a 3rd 12 after the Giants had 1st and 30.

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.

Checking the stats for this well-played game, we find that Manning completed 16 of 27 passes for 161 yards, 2 touchdowns and an interception. Barber in his final game rushed for 137 tough yards and Burress led the Giants with five receptions for 89 yards in the postseason defeat as the Giants finished their season with an overall record of 8–9. Wait 'til next year! Really!

2007 New York Giants Coach #17 Tom Coughlin

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. In the regular season, they beat the #4 seed Tampa Bay Buccaneers (9–7), the top-seeded Dallas Cowboys (13–3), as well as the #2 seed Green Bay Packers (13–3) to become the National Football Conference representative in Super Bowl XLII. There, they defeated the heavily favored and previously undefeated 18–0 New England Patriots and spoiled their perfect season. It was a thing of beauty for the Giants who had just become a great team again with Tom Coughlin at the helm to defeat the “greatest” from Bill Belichick and Tom Brady.

The Giants won the Super Bowl without having won the Division in the regular season. They came in second. That made them the 9th wild card team in NFL history to reach the Super Bowl and the 5th wild card team to win the Super Bowl, and the very first NFC wild card to accomplish the feat. They had a lot of other feats this year also such as being the third team in history to win three road playoff games on the way to a Super Bowl and the Giants set a league record for most consecutive road wins in a single season (11), though the Super Bowl is played on a neutral field rather than an opponent's stadium.

For the Giants it had even more special meaning as it was their 7th league championship season and their first since they won Super Bowl XXV in 1991. This season would also put a period at the end of

the long paragraph of greatness for defensive end Michael Strahan's NFL career. Strahan retired after the Giants' Super Bowl victory. After playing 14 years for the Giants and appearing in 2 Super Bowls with them (the other being Super Bowl XXXV), Strahan soon became a media personality, becoming a host of Fox NFL Sunday and co-hosted ABC's Live! with Kelly and Michael with Kelly Ripa from 2012 to 2016.

This was the third consecutive season that the Giants made the playoffs, which was only the second time that had happened since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970 (New York accomplished this feat in 1984, 1985, and 1986 and won the Super Bowl in the last of those three years). Tom Coughlin joined Bill Parcells (who led the team to the playoffs five times), Steve Owen, and Allie Sherman as the only head coaches in the history of the team to lead the Giants to the postseason three consecutive years. Coughlin still had a lot of years left.

Based on their regular season performance, the 2007 New York Giants were the worst team to ever reach a Super Bowl. Ironically, this feat was surpassed when the 2011 New York Giants won Super Bowl XLVI to become the first team with a negative point differential to win a Super Bowl. The Giants will never give any of those Super Bowls back because they fought hard for them all. That's what great teams do.

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) at University of Phoenix Stadium

Highlights of the 2007 Post Season

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. It was a rough start for the Giants in this game down 0-7 in the first quarter. In the 1Q, the Giants had amassed a negative two yards and needed a wakeup call. The quarter ending with them losing was that call,

In the second quarter fully awake, the Giants responded with a pair of touchdowns, taking a 14–7 lead into halftime. The Giants got a break as the 2nd half began when Michael Spurlock of the Bucs fumbled the kickoff return. It was recovered by Corey Webster. The Giants got a field goal off the drive, extending their lead to 17–7. Later in the quarter, Webster intercepted a pass from Jeff Garcia in the end zone. In the fourth quarter, Manning tossed a strike to Amani Toomer in the end-zone for a 24–7 lead.

It was not quite over as Garcia would lead the Bucs down the field on their next possession for a touchdown, but the damage had been done as the Bucs lost the game 24–14 when Garcia threw another interception late in the fourth quarter. Manning's had a great day with 20 of 27 for 185 yards, 2 touchdowns and no interceptions. Next was the Divisional Game v Dallas.

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 Giants found themselves in the NFC Title Game for the first time since 2000 with a 21–17 victory over the top-seeded Dallas Cowboys. Having come the Wild Card route, the Giants were not expected to win, or even give the Cowboys a tussle. Dallas had beaten the Giants twice in the regular season. In addition to a tough team, the Giants would have to deal with a hostile crowd as Cowboys with the best record in the NFC had gained home field advantage throughout the playoffs. The Cowboys also had an extra week's rest having won the East cleanly.

Additionally, making it worse for the Giants, the Cowboys had #1 receiver Terrell Owens back after two missed games due to an injury, and the Cowboys also had #3 receiver Terry Glenn playing just his second game of the season after undergoing knee surgery.

Dallas was ready for the Giants. They played ball control. They succeeded in winning the battle for time of possession, for far longer than the Giants. Nonetheless, the Giants scored quickly and thus were able to overcome very long, time consuming drives by the Cowboys for the win. Eli Manning was like a seasoned pro with a great game, completing 66% of his passes with 12 out of 18 passes for 163 yards and throwing 2 touchdowns and no interceptions. Both of his TD passes were caught by veteran receiver Amani Toomer.

Manning started it off after the Giants received after three Brandon Jacobs runs that netted 20 yards, with a strike to Amani Toomer on a crossing route towards the left sideline. Toomer got past cornerback Anthony Henry and then outran the Dallas safeties Ken Hamlin and Roy Williams down the sideline clocking in with a 52-yard touchdown just 2:58 into the game.

Then the Cowboys went on a 20 play, 90-yard drive where they converted 5 third downs. Barber capped off the drive with a 1-yard touchdown plunge to make it 14-7 Cowboys with 1:01 to go in the first half.

The Cowboys dominating the game at this point besides the Giants' opening touchdown. The Giants needed to score a field goal in order to keep themselves in the game. Rookie receiver Steve Smith got the Giants going with two receptions for 33 yards. Then, Manning found Kevin Boss on a 19-yard corner route—putting the Giants at the 4-yard line with 17 seconds left in the half. On the next play, Manning found Toomer on a crossing route, and he literally flew into the end zone for the TD with 11 seconds left in the half. The score was even-seven at the half.

The second half was all about defense as both teams totaled 10 points in the second half. However early on, it looked to be more of the same from the Cowboys as they entered the red zone again on an extended 14 play drive taking up over 8 minutes of the clock. This time, the Giants stopped the Cowboys after a miscue. On 3rd and 12 from the Giants' 16-yard line, Tony Romo found an open Terrell Owens crossing over the middle of the field, but he threw poorly, resulting in Dallas settling for Nick Folk's 33-yard field goal making the score 17-14 Dallas.

Giants returner Domenic Dixon took the kickoff 45 yards, but due to a sack by DeMarcus Ware, the Giants had to punt. The Cowboys then made their worst play of the day. Ironically receiver Patrick Crayton had been bragging pre-game that the Cowboys would blow by the Giants and be off to the Super Bowl. But...on a third down play, Romo was chased by the Giants pass rush and avoided them before finding a wide-open Crayton. But, Crayton dropped the football. The play likely would have gone for a big gain had Crayton caught the pass, but instead, the Cowboys were forced to punt.

Veteran corner R.W. McQuarters returned the punt 25 yards, and this time, the Giants made good use of their field position. Manning went 3-4 to lead the Giants inside the 10-yard line, and then Giants bruising running back Brandon Jacobs scored the winning touchdown, overpowering a goal line stand by the Cowboys defense.

It didn't look like it would be the winning touchdown, as there was still more than 13 minutes left and the 4-point lead was slim. The rest of the 4Q was a clock killing scoreless battle of opposing defenses. Bending without breaking, the Giants were hounding Tony Romo constantly to rush throws. Romo became so rattled he committed an intentional grounding penalty with four minutes left, forcing a punt. That was a killer mistake,

The Cowboys got the ball back with a final chance to win. Romo took Dallas down the field for a potential game-winning drive with a minute and a half left in the game. He got them to scoring position. They needed a TD. On third down play, Romo was chased out of the pocket, but he tossed the ball to tight end Jason Witten for an 18-yard gain putting Dallas at the 22.

After a false start by Cowboys tackle Mark Colombo, a completion for 4 yards, and an incomplete pass, the Cowboys had 3rd and 11 at the 23-yard line with 21 seconds left with two chances to score a game-winning touchdown. Patrick Crayton made another poor play.

On third down, Romo threw incomplete for Crayton. While the pass appeared to be overthrown by Romo, replays showed that on the down, out, and up pattern that Crayton was supposed to run, he stopped on the "out" part of the route, then restarted for the "up" portion of the route. This combination resulted in the overthrown pass. On fourth down, Romo threw over the middle for Terry Glenn, and his pass was intercepted by R.W. McQuarters with 9 seconds remaining. Manning knelt on the next play, winning a huge unexpected upset of the heavily favored #1 seed Cowboys.

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

The Giants made the playoffs for the NFC Championship game on January 20, 2008 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Over 72, 700 attended the game in frigid one-degree weather for the 6:30 PM kickoff time. The Giants prevailed 23–20 over the Green Bay Packers ending the Packers season.

At 1 degree it is safe to say it was a freezing night in which the Giants, after traveling to Lambeau Field faced the second-seeded Green Bay Packers. The win-chill was minus 23 degrees. All week long the Giants were steadily gaining respect throughout the league after they upset the Cowboys. Despite the newfound respect, the analysts and pundits were still mostly predicting the Packers to win and represent the NFC in the Super Bowl.

When the game began, the Packers received the opening kickoff. The Pack moved the ball on two Brett Favre completions but then were forced to punt. The Giants opened up with Brandon Jacobs plowing into cornerback Charles Woodson on a five-yard run. After three receptions by receiver Plaxico Burress, the Giants were in the red zone and then got on the board first with kicker Lawrence Tynes getting a 29-yard field goal. The Giants kept the ball for most of the 1st quarter, leading 3-0 at the beginning of the 2nd quarter.

The Packers defense shut the Giants' passing game down so the Giants settled for another Tynes field goal at 11:41 left in the half. After a muffed kickoff, and a Packer recovery at the ten, the Giants looked good. But, then Brett Favre pump-faked, then tossed a 90-yard TD strike to Donald Driver, who outran safety Gibril Wilson down the right sideline, and the Packers led 7–6.

After a punt exchange, the Packers had great field position at the Giants' 47-yard line. With a 3rd and 8 from the Giants 19-yard line. Favre found looked like he found an opening for a score but the receiver was tackled Green Bay settled for kicker Mason Crosby making a 36-yard field goal to give the Pack a 10–6 lead with 1:34 left in the half. On the Giants' next drive, Manning found Burress deep for a 32-yard pass on his 7th reception of the day, but an A.J. Hawk

sack on fourth down prevented the Giants from scoring. The Packers led 10-6 at 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. This drive nearly ended with an interception with Al Harris intercepting another Eli Manning pass intended for Burress, but he committed pass interference to make the interception, so the play was nullified. In the next Packers drive, 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. Before the whistle, right tackle Kareem MacKenzie grabbed Bradshaw and dragged him into the end zone with him, resulting in a touchdown. The Giants led 20-17 with 2:12 left in the 3rd quarter.

The Giants made a lot of mistakes after this or they would have put the game away sooner. Brett Favre then avoided the Giants rush but threw an interception to R.W. McQuarters, but McQuarters never went down and was fumbled upon being tackled. The loose ball was caught by offensive lineman Mark Tauscher at the 19 yard line. The Giants defense held, and with 11:46 left in the game, Packers kicker Mason Crosby hit a 37-yard field goal to tie the game at 20-20.

On the Giants' next drive, with the count 4th and 5, the Giants failed to convert. But, a Packers penalty gave them the 1st down. The Giants mowed down to the Packers' 28-yard line. The Giants then went for a field goal, but with 6:49 left in the game, Lawrence Tynes missed the 43-yarder.

The Packers' next two drives were three-and-out before they punted to the Giants with 2:30 left. Packers punter kicked the ball only 31 yards to the Packers' 48-yard line, but R.W. McQuarters fumbled the punt return, with Dominic Dixon saving a turnover by recovering the ball at the 48-yard line. On the next play, Ahmad Bradshaw broke through the Packers's 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.

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.

After failing to get a first on third down, the Giants decided to go for the field goal. Although he had missed his previous two attempts, Tynes, like Webster before him, wanted to make up. He sprinted straight onto the field for a 47-yard attempt 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. The Giants victory was the first championship win over the Packers since 1938. Eli Manning's stats were not too great but not too bad as he hit 21-40 for 251 yards. It was generally agreed by critics after the game that Manning outplayed Favre, making another instance where he outplayed a quarterback considered far superior to him in the lead-up to the contest. Jacobs added 67 yards on 21 carries with a touchdown, while Ahmad Bradshaw ran 16 times for 63 yards and a touchdown. Plaxico Burress caught 11 passes for 151 yards, one of his greatest games ever as a receiver.

During the game, Giants coach Tom Coughlin caught frostbite. His increasingly red face due to the freezing conditions and frostbite received considerable attention from TV cameras during the game. In two weeks, the Giants would be playing in the Super Bowl in 71-degree weather in Arizona.

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 New York Giants Coach #17 Tom Coughlin

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).

Brandon Jacobs (1,089) and Derrick Ward (1,025) yards had banner years. They were so unusually good that the 2008 NY Giants were only the fifth team in NFL history with two players to rush for more than 1,000 yards:

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—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.

New York got going early in the 1Q as kicker John Carney got a 22-yard field goal. The Eagles responded quickly with QB Donovan McNabb scoring on a 1-yard touchdown run. The Giants responded in Q2 as their defense forced McNabb into an intentional grounding call in his own endzone. This was a safety. Afterwards, Carney gave NY the lead with a 34-yard field goal. However, the Eagles got the halftime lead as David Akers popped a perfect 25-yard field goal.

The Giants regained the lead in the game in 3Q when Carney made a 36-yard field goal. The Eagles rebounded and got the lead back. Then, Akers knocked off another field goal (35 yards). In 4Q, the Eagles McNabb completed a 1-yard touchdown pass to tight end Brent Celek, and then Akers nailed a 20-yard field goal. The Giants tried to come back but the Eagles' defense shut down their last attempts at a comeback.

With the loss, the Giants' were done. With this playoff loss, the Giants season ended with an overall record of 12–5. The Philadelphia Eagles became the first team to beat the Giants twice in the same season in Giants Stadium. The Giants were 7–2 at home this season and both losses were to the Eagles. This was the first game in NFL history. The final score was 23–11. For such a fine year overall, fans expected the Giant's magic to continue. It did not.

2009 New York Giants Coach #17 Tom Coughlin

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.

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 New York Giants Coach #17 Tom Coughlin

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.

As we noted above, the Giants were looking to improve on their 8–8 finish in 2009 and to return to the playoffs after missing the postseason. Although New York was able to improve on their record and finish 10–6, the team was eliminated from postseason contention on this regular season's final day. The biggest low point was a devastating Week 15 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles in which the Giants threw a 31-10 lead and allowed a punt return for a touchdown on the final play. How could they? It is amazing that a few plays can make or break a season. A good coach cannot win every game or every season but New York having Tom Coughlin, a Bill Parcells

protégé to take the team for a few more years after this sure was a good thing.

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 Dallas, 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 Nov 28. 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 New York Giants Coach #17 Tom Coughlin

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.

As noted, this was the franchise's 87th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. This year, the Giants finished in 1st place in the NFC East with a 9-7 regular season record which was not as good as the prior year's 10-6 record. The Giants did not make the playoffs at 10-6 but came in first place in the NFC East with a 9-7 record and then chased the Super Bowl Ring all through the playoffs and snagged the ring in the big game. What a year!

At 10-6 the prior year, they did not make the playoffs; that's why this year was so special. The Giants qualified in another glass-slipper scenario like what they did in 2007 winning Super Bowl XLVI. This was the fourth time in team history that the Giants won a Super Bowl. The Big Tuna opened that can first in 1987

The analysts and pundits did not predict big things for the Giants in 2011. Despite the odds, and despite a not so great 9-7 season, New York returned to the playoffs for the first time since 2008, and they won all the marbles in the jar. Back in 2008, the Giants took the NFC East and finished the season as the NFC's #4 seed. Last year, the Giants were 10-6 in 2010 but they did not get into the post-season party.

The 2011 Giants had a negative point differential which does not show up in wins and losses. They were minus 6 (-6) having scored 394 points and having given up 400 points. So, in the luck category, they were the first team in history to reach the coveted Super Bowl without a positive point differential. Their 9-7 record was not spectacular and in fact, added to the luck factor as the Giants became just the third NFL team to win fewer than 10 games in a 16-game season, and nonetheless reach the Super Bowl. Beating that mark, the Giants were the first of the three teams to win the Super Bowl. The

point is this was not even close to a sure thing this year but they did it anyway. They can count their lucky stars. Somebody up there besides Giant fans likes Tom Coughlin

If we are given so much gas to get us by in life, the Tom Coughlin Giants of 2011 used up all their gas with the Super Bowl win of 2011 with a “lousy” 9-7 record. To prove that this season was the last time the Giants qualified for the playoffs under Coughlin, and they would not reach the playoffs again until the 2016 season. So, Giants fans, let’s enjoy the write-up of the 2011 Giants because there is no question this year was a special year for New York.

Ironically, the Giants thought they needed to bolster the team even after the 10-6 season and the draft and the open trading season. So, New York went about signing some “road free agents” and some former members of their last-year’s practice squad to bolster their 2011 roster. They did a lot of this in the first week of the offseason

In early March the team signed potential free agents to contract extensions. For example, on March 2 running back D.J. Ware signed a two-year extension and on March 3 wide receivers Domenik Hixon and Darius Reynaud registered to one and two-year extensions, respectively. And for all of that, the lost one more game than in 2010—but, they won the Super Bowl. I’d sure take that any day.

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)

The Giants made the playoffs for the NFC Wild Card game on January 8, 2012 at MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, New Jersey. Over 79,900 attended the game in 44-degree F partly cloudy weather for the 1:00 PM kickoff time. The Giants prevailed 24–2 over the Atlanta Falcons ending the Falcons season. The Giants would be in Green Bay's Lambeau Field the following week.

The game did not get going until the second quarter as the first quarter was scoreless. ATL scored first when Eli Manning passed to nobody to avoid being sacked bringing on an Intentional Grounding Penalty on Manning in end zone for a Safety. Later in the quarter, the Giants scored a TD when Manning threw a 4-yard pass and Tynes slammed it through the uprights for the extra point.

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.

op passers

Atlanta's Matt Ryan had a productive day passing with 24 completion for 41 tries and 199 yards and no TDs..

For his part, New York's Eli Manning had a better and less frustrating day than Ryan with 23 completions of 32 attempts and 277 YDS with three touchdowns.

Michael Turner was top rusher for Atlanta with 15 carries and 41 yards. Brandon Jacobs for the Giants had 14 carries and 92 yards For Atlanta, Julio Jones had 7 receptions for 64 YDS while Hakeem Nicks hauled in 6 receptions for 115 YDS and 2 TDs.

Curtis Lofton was the day's top tackler with 9 tackles and 3 assists for Atlanta. For the Giants Antrel Rolle clocked in with 6 tackles and 3 assists while Jason Pierre-Paul also pulled down 6 players and had 2 assists.

NFC Divisional Game

NY Giants v Green Bay Packers

January 15 2012

The Giants competed in the NFC Divisional Game on January 15, 2012 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay Wisconsin. Over 79,000 attended the game in 31-degree F sunny weather (balmy for Green Bay) for the 4:30 EST kickoff time. The Giants upset the Packers 37-20 ending the Green Bay Packers' Falcons season. The Giants would be in San Francisco's Candlestick Park for the NFC Championship the following week.

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.

Aaron Rodgers a fine quarterback himself was outplayed and Manning completed 21 of 33 passes for 330 yards and three touchdowns. Two of those three went to Nicks, whose 37-yard reception in the end zone as the first half ended placed the momentum squarely in New York's corner and it was tough going for Green Bay from then on. Nicks piled up 165 yards on seven catches.

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. It was just moments earlier that safety Kenny Phillips jarred the ball loose from running back Ryan

Grant, one of the three fumbles the Packers lost, and Giants linebacker Chase Blackburn returned it to the 4-yard line.

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 picked up the onside kick and put an emphatic stamp on their fourth straight win when running back Brandon Jacobs galloped in for another TD—this one a 14-yarder with 2:36 to play.

“The way Eli controlled the ball and threw it around and never put it in harm’s way, that tells me right there that we were going to win,” Jacobs said. “He does a phenomenal job, and we do a good job of protecting him. That tells it all. We played against a great football team, and we were the ones who finished, and we wanted it more.”

The Giants are 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.

The Giants and the Packers played earlier this year and so the big victory in the Super Bowl avenged the close 38-35 loss to Green Bay on Dec. 4. This gave the Packers just their second defeat after a franchise-record 15 wins in the regular season.

Rodgers had a great season posting MVP-worthy statistics, but on this day the Giants kept him to a worthy 26-of-46 passing for 264 yards with two touchdowns and an interception but it was not enough to win.

“Oh, it’s real,” Rodgers said. “We got beat by a team that played better tonight. That’s the reality of this league.”

Trailing 20-10 in the third quarter, the Packers cut into the deficit with Mason Crosby’s 35-yard field goal. The Giants responded with a 35-yard field goal by place kicker Lawrence Tynes for a 23-13 lead before Grant’s big-time miscue.

As the game went on, Green Bay safety Charlie Peprah tried to knock down Nicks, rather than wrap him up after a completed pass. The strong, 6-foot-1, 208-pound Nicks bounced off Peprah and won the footrace to the end zone for a 66-yard touchdown.

But Tynes misfired and booted the kickoff out of bounds, giving Green Bay the ball at its 40-yard line and re-energizing the crowd. Nine plays later, Rodgers completed an eight-yard touchdown pass to fullback John Kuhn to knot it at 10 on the first play of the second quarter.

The Giants got the lead back on Tynes' 23-yard field goal with 1:51 until intermission, and it appeared that's how the half would end. The Giants had other ideas, with Bradshaw picking up gains of nine yards on a reception and 23 yards on a run to the Packers 37. On the next play, Manning heaved the ball into the end zone, where Nicks shielded cornerback Charles Woodson and Peprah for the catch and a 20-10 lead as the half expired.

"I didn't even see who was around me," said Nicks, who couldn't recall another completed Hail Mary in his career at any level. "All I saw was the ball. Once I saw the ball, I said, 'I've got to jump and get it.' "

See you in San Francisco

2011/2012 NFC Championship Game

NY Giants (20) v San Fran 49ers (17)

The Giants competed in the NFC Championship Game on January 22, 2012 at Candlestick Park in San Francisco California. Over 69,000 attended the game in 52-degree F rainy weather. (balmy for Green Bay) for the 6:30 PM EST kickoff time. The Giants upset the 49ers 20-17 ending the San Francisco season. The Giants would be in Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis Indiana in two weeks for the one and only Super Bowl XLVI against Bill Belichick, Tom Brady, and the perennial best New England Patriots.



Game Images

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.

The game was tough. It was a defensive struggle. With the rain, it became a real heavyweight slugfest in sloppy conditions -- the kind of game in which unlikely heroes emerge for the winners, and someone

ends up as the goat for the losers. Fortunately for the Giants, Devin Thoma emerged as their hero. Punt returner Kyle Williams ended up as the goat for the 49ers. One mistake separates a hero from a goat. Two mistakes becomes a legacy.

Williams muffed two punts, one in the fourth quarter with the Giants trailing and one in overtime. Thomas was there to recover both, leading to a fourth-quarter touchdown and Tynes' game-winning field goal.

For the second straight playoff week, the Giants put down a foe with a superior record who had beaten them during the regular season. The previous week it was the 15-1 Green Bay Packers. This time, it was the 14-3 49ers. Each beaten by the 9-7 NY Giants.

Eli Manning threw 58 passes in this game, completing 32 for 316 yards. He was never intercepted, but he took a brutal beating from San Francisco, being sacked six times. Victor Cruz caught 10 passes for 142 yards. The Giants may be smiling ten years later after this one but they saved a few smiles for the Super Bowl which was about to happen in two weeks against the New England Patriots.

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.



Tractor Trailer above honoring the Giants for being in the Super Bowl

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.

There is nothing like winning a Super Bowl / NFL Championship. When I first started out in sports when I was just getting accustomed to the various shaped balls to deal with each sports season. I found

myself playing for People's Laundry in the St Therese's Minor League. I was eleven years and the other eleven-year-old boys had been in the league for a few years so at the time, nobody knew me. I knew I was a good player from playing with the High Street gang, but I did not make the Little League. Nonetheless, I sure loved the Minor League.

I was one of the few guys on the team who could throw a ball hard so I was made a pitcher. Because I could not pitch every game, in my second game, they put me at short stop. There were no rules about batting around and I was on a great team—minor league. I bet we could have beaten a few Little League teams. Anyway, thinking I was a good player after pitching the first game, in the first inning of the second game, when I came to bat—thinking I was Ernie Banks—I knocked the ball over the center field fence. Even I was surprised.

My second time up that inning, I hit one over the left field fence. My third time up in the same inning, (no kidding) I hit the fence on one bounce with a hard line-drive.

The game went on forever as did most games in which we played as our guys knew how to play baseball and we were well coached. We won the Championship and I got a T-Shirt that said St. Theresa's Minor League Baseball Champions 1961. The letters filled my shirt. Two years later, my mother threw the shirt away because there were so many holes between all the letters on the shirt. One day it just was not there.

So, why do I tell you this? At eleven years old, that was my lifetime moral equivalent to a Super Bowl victory. I played football and baseball in High School and baseball in College, but I never experienced a Super Bowl moment like that 1961 Little League Championship and the picnic at Kirby Park where our team got the shirts and the trophies and ears of corn before season. Wow!

I never played in a real Super Bowl but I saw each and every one of them from the moment they created that one-of-a-kind championship game. I watched Joe Namath make the game what it is today.

I bet the Giants in this game are still licking their chops and savoring that season and savoring that victory.

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?

In 2008, David Tyree had made a brilliant catch to save the Giants' bacon in the fourth quarter. This year, in 2012, it was Mario Manningham.. He is a crackerjack player.

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 Burress. 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 less 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 New York Giants Coach #17 Tom Coughlin

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 New York Giants Coach #17 Tom Coughlin

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.

The Giants worked hard to get on the mark after attempting to gain a playoff berth after failing to do so in 2012. They had hoped to be the first team to play the Super Bowl on their own home field, which they shared with the New York Jets.

However, not all things that ought to—come to be. The Giants failed to improve on their 9–7 record. Not only that but they were eliminated from playoff contention after their Week 14 loss to the Chargers. This season marked the first time the Giants went 0–6 in their first six games since 1976. The best we can say is that they did not mean to do so. Two years after a super Bowl and the team seemed to be discombobulated. It was a strange

What we got was a team, the first team in NFL history to have a five-year era in which they won the Super Bowl in the third year of the era but missed the playoffs in all other years. How could that happen was not deniable as it had happened.

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 New York Giants Coach #17 Tom Coughlin

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.

As noted, this was the franchise's 90th 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 a 6-10 regular season record. The Giants did not make the playoffs at 6-10.

This was the Giants fifth season playing their home games at MetLife Stadium. They would have this and next season for Coach Tom Coughlin to complete his tenure with the team. The Giants did not improve on their 2013 7-9 mark from 2013, finishing at 6-10.

It was a big year—the Giants' ninetieth anniversary. To help celebrate, the team wore a special patch on their jerseys. In addition, they wore white pants instead of gray for the two home games against the Indianapolis Colts in Week 9 on Monday Night Football and then two weeks later against the San Francisco 49ers. On November 30, with their loss to the Jaguars, New York sealed its second consecutive losing season. It is surely much more fun and exciting to be winning games.

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 New York Giants Coach #17 Tom Coughlin

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*. This was an attempt to secure a playoff berth for the first time since their 2011 season, which concluded with their victory in Super Bowl XLVI. To honor the recently passed great Frank Gifford and Ann Mara, both of whom died earlier in 2015, the Giants placed a number 16 decal on their helmets and special patch for Gifford and Mara respectively.

The Giants got off to a poor start at 0-2 for the third straight season. In so doing, they were the first team in NFL history to go 0–2 while holding double digit leads in the 4th quarter in both games. Such is the nature of poor luck.

However, they did rebound a bit to win their next three games before losing to their nemesis Philadelphia Eagles. The 2015 season was plagued by their inability to finish games well, as they lost 6 games in which they held leads or were tied within the final 2 minutes of the games.

These losses included their opening game in Dallas, their home opener against the Falcons, a road loss in New Orleans and 2 home defeats against the Patriots and the Jets. If the Giants had won these games, they would have finished at 11-5 and they would have won the NFC East. Such is the nature of wins and losses.

After the Redskins defeated the Eagles on the day after Christmas, during a Saturday Edition of Thursday Night Football, the Redskins clinched the division title of the NFC East, thereby eliminating the Giants from playoff contention for the fourth consecutive year. This officially ended the Coughlin/Eli Manning era in New York. Both had made the playoffs 5 times and both had won two Super Bowls, and both times, they won against one of the best teams in football, the New England Patriots.

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," Parcells 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 Parcells' 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 Giants' Coaches McAdoo, Spagnuola, & Shurmur

Coach #18 Ben McAdoo

Coach #19 Steve Spagnuola

Coach #20 Pat Shurmur

<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 —
<u>2016-2017 Ben McAdoo final record (13-15)</u>				

Steve Spagnuolo(1–3) (2017 with Ben McAdoo)

2017-2017 Steve Spagnuola final record (1-3)

Pat Shurmur	2018	NFC East	4 th	5 11 0
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saquon Barkley(NFL OROY)

2018-2018 Pat Shurmur final record (5-11-0)



Coach Ben McAdoo with Eli Manning from the sidelines.

2016 Ben McAdoo #18

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 New York Giants Coach #18 Ben McAdoo

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. The 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.

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 at the same time.

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.

Steve Spagnuola 2017 Interim Giants Coach



NY Giants Coach Spagnuola doing his job

Steve Spagnuola 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 Spagnuola 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 Spagnuolo to be at his best during this period when the Giants were at their worst.

During his career, Coach Spagnuolo 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 New York Giants Coach #18 Ben McAdoo (2-10)

2017 New York Giants Coach #19 Steve Spagnuolo (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 Spagnuolo (#19) finished up the last four games of season for Ben McAdoo. It was Spagnuolo'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.

They suffered a disastrous and unexpected 0–5 start to their season (their second in 5 years). Add to the miserable start or blame the miserable start on injuries to the team, there was no denying it impacted the health of the Giants program.

The absence of star wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. helped the Giants turn in a franchise worst 3–13 record. By Week 10, after losing to the previously winless 49ers, the Giants were at 1–8—their worst record since 1980. They were officially eliminated from playoff contention on November 26, 2017 when the Falcons defeated the Buccaneers 34–20 and the Panthers beat the Jets 35–27 and the Eagles knocked off the Bears 31–3. All of that happening kicked the Giants out of contention.

When it was announced on November 28, that Geno Smith was to start at QB against the Raiders, snapping Eli Manning's 210 consecutive games started streak, the longest in the NFL at the time, it brought on controversy to say the least.

Present and former teammates, opponents, fans, executives, and TV and radio show hosts came to Manning's defense. The benching of Eli also led to speculation that he would possibly leave the Giants to join the Jacksonville Jaguars. This would have reunited him with former Giants coach Tom Coughlin, who worked for the team at the time as their executive vice president of football operations.

With that move, the Giants became the last team in the NFL to have started an African-American quarterback in at least one game. After a 24–17 loss to the Raiders in Week 13, with the team standing at 2–10, the Giants brass fired both Ben McAdoo and General Manager Jerry Reese. With four games left, Steve Spagnuolo was declared the interim Head Coach and Kevin Abrams as the interim General Manager. These were the first mid-season staff firings since the 1976 season. The Manning rumors then ceased as Eli was then made the starter for the Week 14 game against the Cowboys. Nothing was about to help a team falling apart.

The 30–10 loss to the Dallas Cowboys in Week 14 put the Giants at 2–11. This gave the team the most losses in the Eli Manning era with ten. (2004, 2014, and 2015). With the 34-29 loss to the Eagles in Week 15, the Giants tied the record of losses they had set before (12) falling to 2–12. However, after a 23–0 loss to the Cardinals in Week 16, the Giants fell to 2–13, setting a new record for most losses in a single season in franchise history. This eclipsed the previous record of 12, done five times in franchise history: 1966, 1974, 1980, 1983 and 2003. It was the worst season using a 16-game schedule format. The Giants in the season finale beat the Redskins thus finishing this lousy season at 3–13.

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

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 Parcells 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.



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 New York Giants Coach #20 Pat Shurmur

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!

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