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Great Players
in
New York Giants Football

This book begins with Players like Steve Owen,
It finishes with Eli Manning & Saquon Barkley

by
Brian Kelly





Great Coaches in New York Giants Football

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

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

The book first introduces the Giants as the great football team which they are. Purchased as a franchise by the Mara family, the Giants are still a valuable property in the Mara family, with grandson John sharing the reins with the grandson of John Tisch today. .

This book is arranged in time sequence by Giants coach but there is no doubt this book is about great Giants players even though the book may be arranged in coach sequence. We highlight over fifty of the top Giants players of all times. You may not remember them all but you'll love reading about them. You will find some of your most favorite players including Charley Conerly, Y.A. Tittle, Eli Manning, Sam Huff, Frank Gifford, Roosevelt Brown, Saquon Barkley, Lawrence Taylor, and Michael Strahan, and Phil Simms.

This book captures the Great Players in Giants Football. It takes the reader through stories about the teams put on the field by the Giants 20 coaches and we tell great stories about the 94 seasons worth of great games with a preponderance of great Championship and Super Bowl wins.

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

Great Players in New York Giants Football

Author:

Brian W. Kelly

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Brian W. Kelly

Publisher/ Editor,

Brian P. Kelly

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New York Giants Coaches Season Records from 1925 to 2019

Total Games 1370

Total Wins 716

Total Losses 621

Total Ties 33 * Prior to Overtime Rules

Stats from 1925 * Through Feb 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

Named NFL champions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Won NFL Championship v Bears—30–13

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

- Lost NFL Championship(at Lions) 26–7

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

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

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

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

- Won NFL Championship (Packers) 23–17

- Mel Hein (NFL MVP)

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

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

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

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

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

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

- YA Tittle NFL MVP

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

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

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

- Alex Webster(NFL COY)^l

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

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

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

- John Hicks (UPI NFC ROY)^l

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

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

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

John McVay (3-4)

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

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

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

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

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

- Lawrence Taylor (NFL DPOY)

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

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

- Lawrence Taylor (NFC POY)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bill Parcells 1987 5th 6 9 0 —

Bill Parcells 1988 2nd 10 6 0 —

Bill Parcells 1989 1st 12 4 0

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

Bill Parcells 1990 1st 13 3 0

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

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

Ray Handley 1991 4th 8 8 0 —

Ray Handley 1992 4th 6 10 0 —

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

Dan Reeves 1993 2nd 11 5 0

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

Dan Reeves 1994 2nd 9 7 0 —

Dan Reeves 1995 4th 5 11 0 —

Dan Reeves 1996 5th 6 10 0 —

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

Jim Fassel 1997 1st 10 5 1

- Lost Wild Card playoffs(Vikings) 23–22

Jim Fassel 1998 3rd 8 8 0 —

Jim Fassel 1999 3rd 7 9 0 —

Jim Fassel 2000 1st 12 4 0

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

Jim Fassel 2001 3rd 7 9 0

- Michael Strahan(NFL DPOY)[23]

Jim Fassel 2002 2nd 10 6 0

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

Jim Fassel 2003 4th 4 12 0 —

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

Tom Coughlin 2004 2nd 6 10 0 —

Tom Coughlin 2005 1st 11 5 0

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

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

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

Ben McAdoo 2017 4th (2-10) 3 13 0 —

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

Steve Spagnuolo(1–3) (2017)

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

Pat Shurmur 2018 4th 5 11 0

- Saquon Barkley(NFL OROY)^l

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

Giants totals from 1925 to Feb 2019

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

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

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

Dedication

I dedicate this book

To my wonderful brothers and sisters:

Angel Edward J. Kelly, Jr.

Carol & Amelia Kelly

Nancy "Ann" Flannery & Angel Jim Flannery

Mary A. Daniels & Bill Daniels

Joseph A. Kelly & Diane Kelly

I surely am a lucky person to have

Such a great family and a great wife, Patricia Piotroski Kelly

Mom & Dad—Edward J Kelly and Irene McKeown Kelly

Stanley (Smokey) Piotroski and Arlene (Skipipo) Piotroski

Acknowledgments:

I appreciate all the help that I have received in putting this book together as well as all of the other 198 books from the past.

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

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

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

In this book, I received some extra special help from many fine American patriots including Dennis Grimes, Gerry Rodski, Wily Ky Eyely, Angel Irene McKeown Kelly, Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Sr., Angel Arline “Skippo” Piotroski; Angel Stanley “Smokey” Piotroski, Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Jr., Ann Flannery, Angel James Flannery Sr., Mary Daniels, Bill Daniels, Angel Robert Gary Daniels, Angel Sarah Janice Daniels, Angel Punkie Daniels, Joe Kelly, Diane Kelly, Brian P. Kelly, Mike P. Kelly, Katie P. Kelly, Recent Angel Ben Kelly, and Budmund (Buddy) Arthur Kelly, who appears to own the premises.

Thank you all!

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References

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and perhaps it is also for some Giants' detractors who want to have command of the facts before they defend a point of view.

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

When the Giants play a team and they win or lose, that is a historical fact, but to discover such facts, it does not require fundamental or basic research. The NFL itself as well as the Giants and the Mara's copyright their original material but not public facts. They copyright so they can say "no" if somebody else's creativity affects the league or the franchise negatively. Even the NFL does not own publicly well-known facts that are readily available about legacies such as the coaches of the many NYG championship seasons.

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

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

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

Preface:

I am very pleased to write about The New York Giants. They are without a doubt, one of the most storied and successful franchises in NFL History. They are one of the few teams who can say they've been a part of the NFL since the beginning, 1920, with the Giants franchise beginning in 1925. There is certainly a huge piggy bank of great players to examine when researching the Giants even just for your own reading pleasure. You will find in examining this book that there are a ton of NY caliber defensive players that would sit at the top of any great player list. The Giants have been known for their great defensive players over the many years they have played football.

Great players have been around for a very long time. The Giants are one of the few teams that were so great, their first two years they were 8-4-x, and by the time they hit their third year, the pick of the early players brought them the franchise's first NFL championship. Way back in 1927. No, off the top of my head, I cannot recall the starting lineup but they were all Giants.

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

The book first introduces the Giants as the great football team which they are. Purchased as a franchise by the Mara family, the Giants are still a valuable property in the Mara family, with grandson John sharing the reins with the grandson of John Tisch today. Wouldn't any of us like to own the Giants, it would be a lot of fun and a lot of work to be around all that history.

This book is arranged in time sequence by Giants coach but there is no doubt this book is about great Giants players even though the book may be arranged in coaches' sequence.

We highlight over fifty of the top Giants players of all times. You may not remember them all but you'll love reading about them. You will find some of your most favorite players including Charley

Conerly, Y.A. Tittle, Eli Manning, Sam Huff, Frank Gifford, Roosevelt Brown, Saquon Barkley, Lawrence Taylor, and Michael Strahan, and Phil Simms.

This book captures many of the Great Players in Giants Football. We know we did not get them all but we got a lot of them. The book takes the reader through stories about the teams put on the field by the Giants 20 coaches and we tell great stories about the 94 seasons worth of great games with a preponderance of great Championship and Super Bowl wins. You don't have to read too long before you find a Giant team winning some game someplace.

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.

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

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

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

The team players since 1925 have won 8 NFL 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.

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

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

Looking back in history as we do often in this book, we find a ton of great players who made the Giants a great team..

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

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



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

Who is Author Brian Kelly?

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

Most of his early works involved high technology. Later, Brian wrote a number of patriotic books and most recently he has been writing human interest books such as *The Wine Diet* and *Thank you, IBM*. His books are always well received. If I could get the pen out of Dad's hand for just awhile, I might be able to write a few books of my own, but my editing chores at Lets Go Publish always come first.

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

The best!
Sincerely,

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

About the Author



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

Kelly is a former IBM Senior Systems Engineer. His specialty was problem solving for customers as well as implementing advanced operating systems and software on his client's machines. Brian is the author of 201 books, including 50 Sports Books, and hundreds of magazine articles. He has been a frequent speaker at technical conferences throughout the United States.

Brian was a candidate for the US Congress from Pennsylvania in 2010 and he ran for Mayor in his home town in 2015. Kelly loves the Giants and he became a big fan in the 1950's and 1960's watching games with his dad on Sundays on the family's new 21" Admiral B/W TV.

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

Chapter 1 Introduction to the NY Giants Players' Book

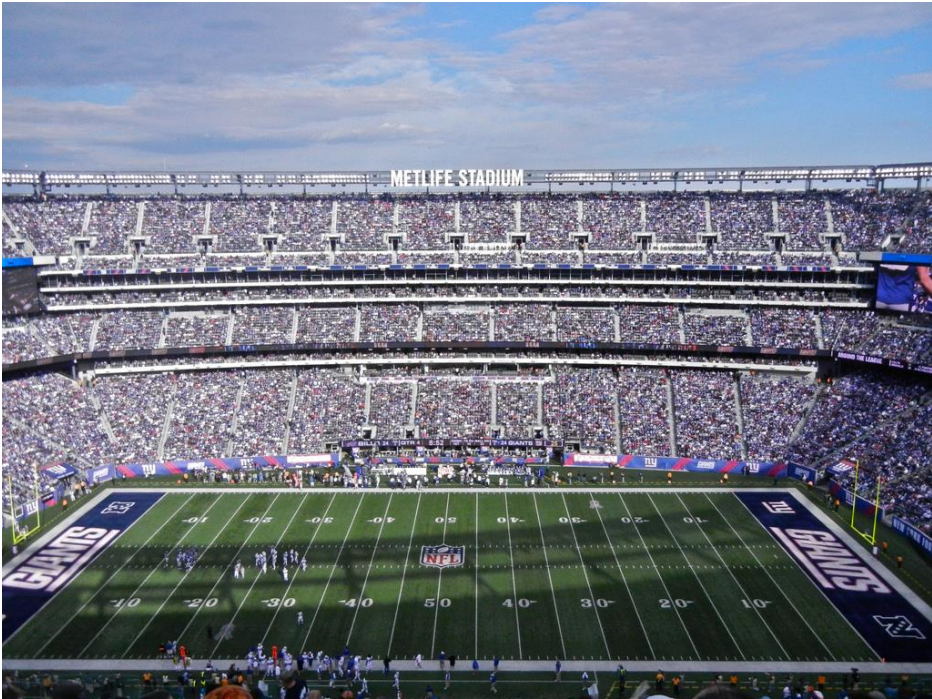
The Giants celebrate 95th year of football



Everybody loves the New York Giants!

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

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



NY Giants Current Stadium – Met Life Stadium

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

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

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

I have done my best to portray an accurate depiction of New York Giant Football History by telling the stories of the great Giants' coaches, displayed in a properly summarized format so that none of us are reading this book forever. There are about 300 pages to this

book and so there is more than enough to accompany you on those cold winter nights after the close of the football season.

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

Brief Overview

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

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

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

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

The very next season (1926), Grange and his agent formed a rival American Football League and placed their flagship team, the

Yankees, in New York to battle the Giants head-to-head. It proved to be a costly battle but the Giants and the NFL won. This first version of the AFL lasted only one year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

He still ranks twenty-first in all-time coaching victories. The Giants enjoyed some of their finest seasons during the Owen years. Beginning with the start of divisional play in 1933, the Giants won eight Eastern division titles in 14 seasons and NFL championships in 1934 and 1938. Ken Strong, a triple-threat halfback and a premier placekicker, and Mel Hein, a center-linebacker who didn't miss a game in 15 seasons, were Giants standouts through most of the 1930s and 1940s.

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

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

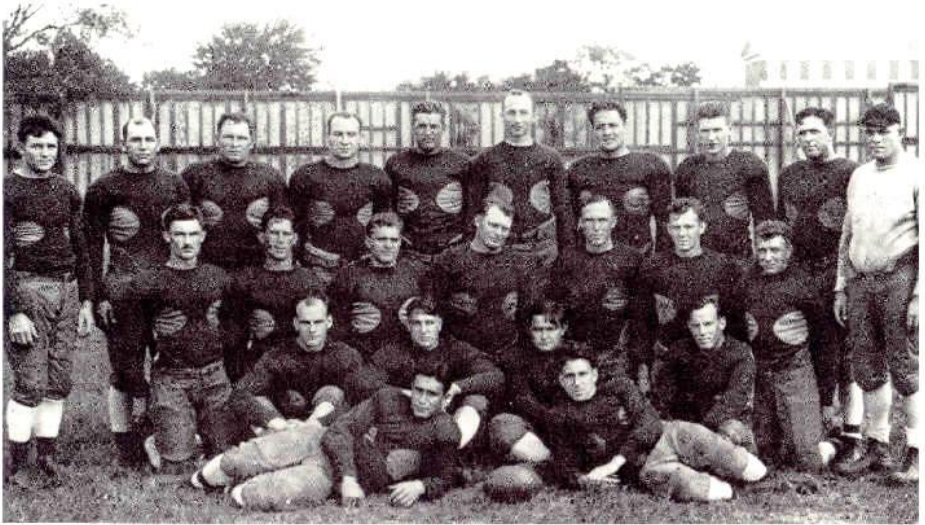
From the start, the Giants have been a family enterprise. Founder Tim Mara's sons, Jack and Wellington, succeeded him and Tim Mara II served for many years as the club's vice president. Wellington Mara and Preston Robert Tisch, who purchased 50 percent of the club in 1991, served as co-chief executive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

Chapter 2 Coach Bob Folwell Team 1925

Coach #1 Bob Folwell

Bob Folwell 1925 4th 8 4 0

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>PI</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

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 1987 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.

Chapter 3 Coach Doc Alexander's Team 1926

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

1926 Coach # 2 Doc Alexander



<< Coach Doc Alexander.

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

Joe Alexander was a three-time All-America choice, making it as a guard in 1918-19 and center in 1920. He was Syracuse captain two years and also captained the lacrosse team one season. Alexander graduated from medical school and began practicing medicine in New York City.

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

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

Alexander Award, given each year to a Syracuse player for excellence in football, scholarship, and citizenship. Alexander was born April 1, 1898, and died September 12, 1975.

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

1926-1933 Top Giants Players Steve Owen OL/DL

We like Steve Owen though most of us greys were still in high school when Stephen Joseph Owen was born on April 21, 1898 and he passed away a young man on May 17, 1964. He was labeled 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. Look below to see the coach doing his next favorite thing to playing – coaching.



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.

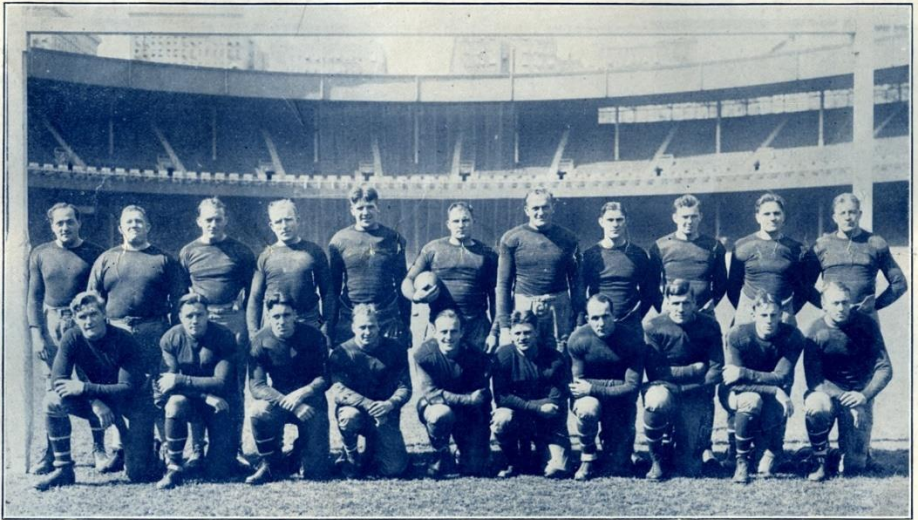
Oh wait, he didn't sign one. He and Tim Mara agreed he would become the head coach only on a hand shake. The agreement would last 24 years.

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.

Chapter 4 Coach Earl Potteiger's Teams 1927-1928

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



NEW YORK FOOTBALL GIANTS 1927

1927 NFL Champs New York Giants Team Picture

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

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

In the early chapters of this coaching book, from Bob Folwell up to and including Steve Owen, we have chosen to include more

information about the Giants and the NFL than you might expect in a book about Giants coaches. We hope you agree that this makes your reading much more enjoyable.

1927 Earl Potteiger Coach # 3



1927 Giants Champions



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

As noted, this was the franchise's 3rd season in the NFL but just the first under head coach Potteiger. It was a great season for sure and the Giants took all the marbles that could be gotten. The ants suffered their only loss and just on tie to the Cleveland Bulldogs. The team was ranked first in yards allowed, yards gained, and points allowed, and were second in points scored. Over the entire season, the Giants scored 197 points and allowed 20.

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

The 1927 Season wrap-up

Great Write-up to read

by Larry Schmitt for **BigBlueInteractive.com**

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

As you have already read in this book, the early attempts to organize professional football were no doubt sincere. However, it is also true that results were minimal. In hindsight, it's easy to see that trial-and-error was the guiding principal for many of the organizational efforts by the nascent National Football League (NFL). Even its original name, the American Professional Football Association (APFA),

required refinement. At least that was a quick-and-easy fix; many others were not.

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

1928 Earl Potteiger Coach #3

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

As noted, this was the franchise's 4th season in the NFL. It was nothing like the championship season of just a year before. The team finished a disappointing sixth with a 4-7-2 record after winning the NFL title in 1927. The Giants played two games against the Detroit Wolverines and failed to win either one (a 28-0 loss in Detroit and a 19-all tie at the Polo Grounds); at season's end, Giants owner Tim Mara used his pocketbook to strengthen the Giants. He bought the entire Detroit franchise (mostly to secure the services of star tailback Benny Friedman) and merged the two clubs under the Giants

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.

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, player--Left Tackle

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.

Early Giants 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".

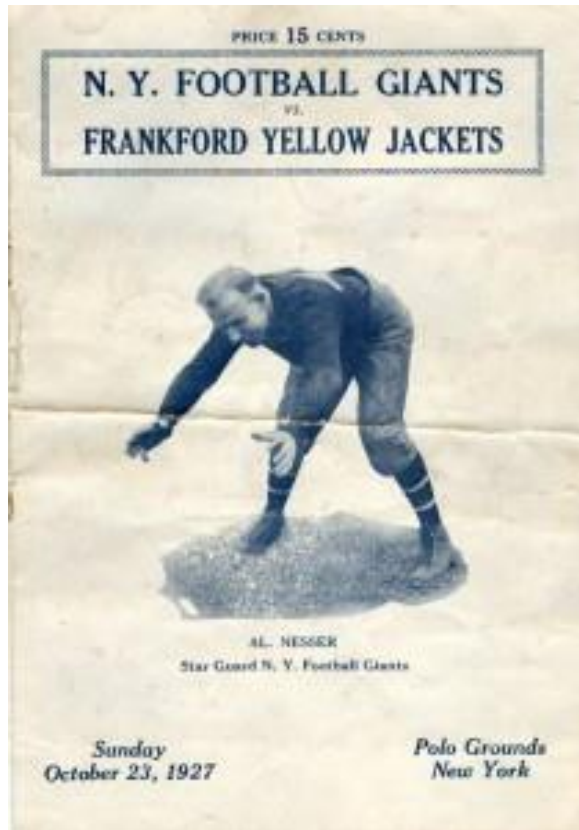
All of the pomp may seem excessive, but to his credit, Friedman lived up to the billing. Even as a rookie he was audacious in his play calling, throwing the ball on first down and from deep in his own territory when the common practice at the time would call for conservative line plunges or a punt. Although 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

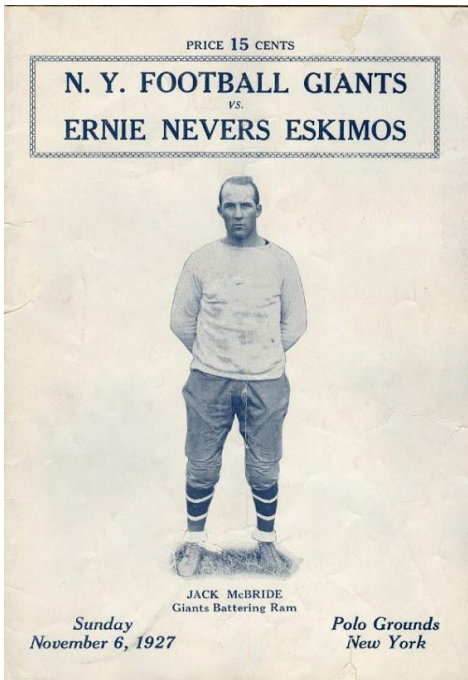
The infusion of relative youth and tangible athleticism was appreciably noticed during a home-and-home weekend against the defending-champion Yellow Jackets. As was their custom, Frankford played their home games on Saturday as Sunday spectacles were prohibited by local blue laws. Often they would follow 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 McMullen, 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

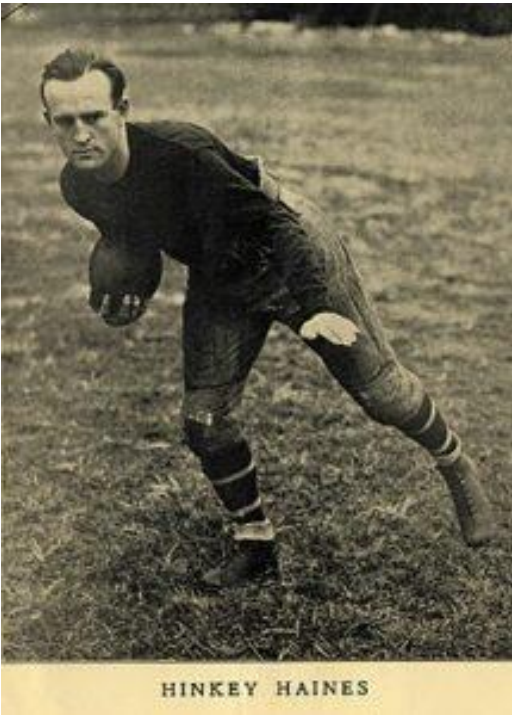
The Giants truly needed the full week off following their most important triumph in the franchise’s short history. They must have been relieved to not have any exhibition contests interrupt their recovery. The season-ending home-and-home matches with their neighboring Yankees were most likely anti-climactic 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-after, 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.

Chapter 5 Coach LeRoy Andrews' Teams 1929-1930

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



1929 Giants

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

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

Even more impressive was the fact that Friedman accomplished this with two different franchises. In his rookie season, Friedman and the

1927 Cleveland Bulldogs led the NFL in scoring. However, the financially strapped Bulldogs disbanded after the season. Friedman and several of his teammates signed on with the Detroit Wolverines (most player contracts were one-year deals anyway), where they led the NFL in scoring again in 1928. In those two years, Friedman and his rag-tag squads squared off with the defensive-minded Giants four times without a loss; the best New York managed was two ties.

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

1929 LeRoy Andrews Coach # 4

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



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



1929-1931 Top Giants Players Benny Friedman

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

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

In his incredible 1928 season, he led the league in passing touchdowns, rushing touchdowns, and extra-point kicks. It impressed Giants owner Tim Mara so much that he bought the Detroit Wolverines so he could secure Friedman's services.

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

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

1930 LeRoy Andrews Coach # 4

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

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

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

On Oct 26, the Giants defeated the Providence Steam Roller W (25-0). At home, at the Polo Grounds on Oct 30, the Giants clipped the Newark Tornadoes W (34-7). The Giants edged out the Staten Island Stapletons on Nov 2, W (9-7). Then, on Nov 5, at Portsmouth, the Giants defeated the Spartans W (19-6). On Nov 9 at Chicago, the Giants beat the Cardinals W (13-7). At home on Nov 16, the Giants shut out the Chicago Bears L (0-12)

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

Chapter 6 Coach Benny Friedman's Teams 1930

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

1930 Benny Friedman Coach # 5



<< Coach Benny Friedman.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Notre Dame Couldn't Beat Six-Year Old Giants

College football had a forty or more year start on pro football. By the end of the 1920s, Notre Dame was regarded as one of the best teams in college football with Knute Rockne as their famed coach. At the same time, the New York Giants were recognized as a top squad in the very young National Football League.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

THE YONKERS HERALD

YONKERS HERALD'S SPORTING NEWS

Notre Dame Leader And Players In Benefit Grid Game Tomorrow



KNUTE K. ROCKNE
Who Coached The Irish All Stars



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



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

The Associated Press
New York, Dec. 15.—The difference between professional and amateur athletes reached its apex tonight as Knute Rockne's Irish All Stars clash with the New York Giants at the National Metropolitan Football League. The game will be played at the Polo Grounds before a crowd of 25,000.

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

In 1929 this group of All Stars in fact and fact the Giants will do most of the Irish job which in the game, Henry Friedman, the manager of the Giants, will be making a major move in the Irish game, the Irish.

Knute Rockne and Army took the game is being played for the benefit of the unemployed.

The game threatens to be a money game which with a gate of \$100,000 and with a crowd not expected to be less than 25,000, it will attract a large percentage of football fans.

Tom Sheehy will handle out in a back field which includes Knute Rockne at 120 and other players off with head while, Henry Friedman and Chris O'Connor will be the main line backs.

Rockne will handle out in a back field which includes Knute Rockne at 120 and other players off with head while, Henry Friedman and Chris O'Connor will be the main line backs.

Knute Rockne will handle out in a back field which includes Knute Rockne at 120 and other players off with head while, Henry Friedman and Chris O'Connor will be the main line backs.

Rockne will handle out in a back field which includes Knute Rockne at 120 and other players off with head while, Henry Friedman and Chris O'Connor will be the main line backs.

The Mayor's committee has announced that on noon Sunday it will make \$100,000 worth of bonds to be used for the benefit of the unemployed.

The Mayor's committee has announced that on noon Sunday it will make \$100,000 worth of bonds to be used for the benefit of the unemployed.

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

Tommy Rockne will lead the team, which includes Fred Thompson, Hamilton, Hill, Crowley and Lawton, to the Polo Grounds to play Henry Friedman's Giants in the benefit game.

This game will serve to assist Knute Rockne in deciding the team's destiny whether or not a big team can still be expected to a complete organization.

Some of the team's leading quarterbacks will act as substitutes during the game.

John R. Law, who has led the Yonkers Irish through two seasons, will be the team's quarterback.

The Giants' schedule will be completed at Mount Vernon, Thursday, Saturday, Fairport, Fairport and Fairport.

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**YOU CAN HELP
SMASH THAT LINE!**



**NOTRE DAME
All Stars**

vs.

N. Y. GIANTS

POLO GROUNDS

DEC. 14, 1930 - 1³⁰ P.M.

BENEFIT N.Y. UNEMPLOYED

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

OFFICIAL
25 CENTS

ALL STARS BEATEN BY GIANTS, 22 TO 0

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

RECEIPTS TOTAL \$112,000

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

Notre Dame Media Relations

FRIEDMAN GOES OVER TWICE

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

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

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



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

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.

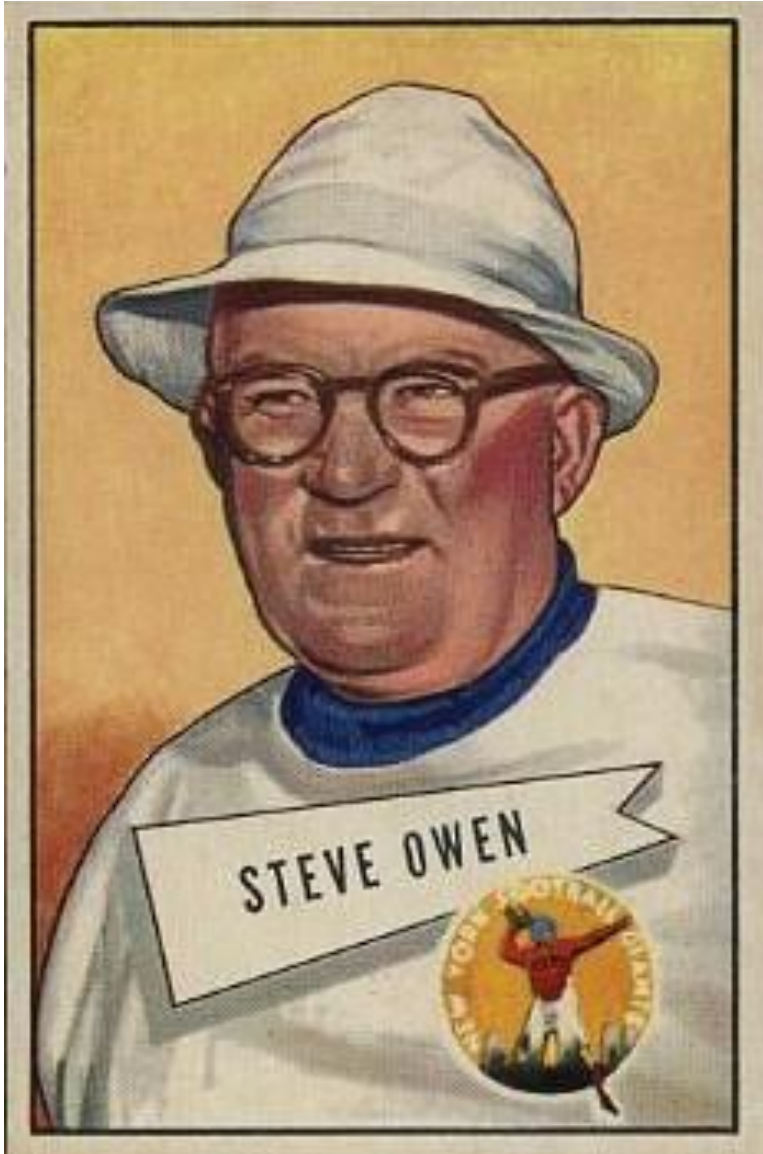
Incredibly, it took the NFL until 1933 before someone scored a touchdown in a championship game, and it was Red Badgro was the first to do it, catching a 29-yard touchdown.

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 7 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 at the Blackboard in 1939

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 Steve Owen Coach #6

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

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

1933 Steve Owen Coach #6

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

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

My wife and I just took a hard look at the picture of Ken Strong on the next page and she agrees with me that he looks like her dad, really—about the time he was getting out of the Navy after WWI service in Iwo Jimo. He loved the Giants.

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 Steve Owen Coach #6

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

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

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

1935 Steve Owen Coach #6

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

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

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

1936 Steve Owen Coach #6

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

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

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 Steve Owen Coach #6

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

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

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

1938 Steve Owen Coach #6

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

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

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.

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

1939 Steve Owen Coach #6

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

As noted, this was the franchise's 15th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a winning season for the

Giants in which they won the Division Championship and the NFL League Championship. At 9-1-1, New York came in 1st place in the Division, but they lost the NFL Championship Game to the Green Bay Packers L (0-27).

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.



1940 Steve Owen Coach #6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1940 professional football season. The 1940 New York Giants football team competed in their sixteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his eleventh of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

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

Chapter 8 Coach Steve Owen's Teams 1941-1953

Steve Owen Coach # 6



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

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

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

This Chapter Highlights 1941 through 1953

1941 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1941 professional football season. The 1941 New York Giants football team competed in their seventeenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his twelfth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

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

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.

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.

1942 Steve Owen Coach # 6

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

As noted, this was the franchise's 18th season in the NFL. Games were played in the Polo Grounds. It was a 50-50 season for the Giants. At 5-5-1, New York came in 3rd place in the Division.

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 Steve Owen Coach # 6

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

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

The Steagles

Pittsburgh and Philadelphia did not have the great backing of the Mara family and so they were scrounging to make ends meet for a good part of their early existence. The war affected teams working on a thin financial margin in a negative way. Pittsburgh and Philadelphia were two such teams so they decided to stay in business and combine their teams until the US won the war and they could get back to business as usual.

And so, the owners who knew each other well decided to merge and even though they had power issues and coaching issues, both teams continued to exist after their temporary merger. They called themselves the Steagles. This team was thus created by the temporary merger of two National Football League (NFL) teams, the

Pittsburgh Steelers and the Philadelphia Eagles, during the 1943 season. The teams were forced to merge because both had lost many players to military service during World War II. The NFL was young and decided to be very accommodating to help the US military and the league.

1944 Steve Owen Coach # 6

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1944 professional football season. The 1944 New York Giants football team competed in their twentieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Steve Owen in his fifteenth of twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

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

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

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

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

The Giants were not all D, however. QB Arnie Herber threw four interceptions in New York's 14-7 NFL title game loss to Herber's former team, the Packers. The 1944 Giants were a mere No. 5 in

scoring offense in the 10-team NFL. And, so they did everything but win the league championship.

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

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)

1945 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.

1946 Steve Owen Coach # 6

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

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

1946 NFL Championship Game

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

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

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

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

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

1947 Steve Owen Coach # 6

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

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

1948 Steve Owen Coach # 6

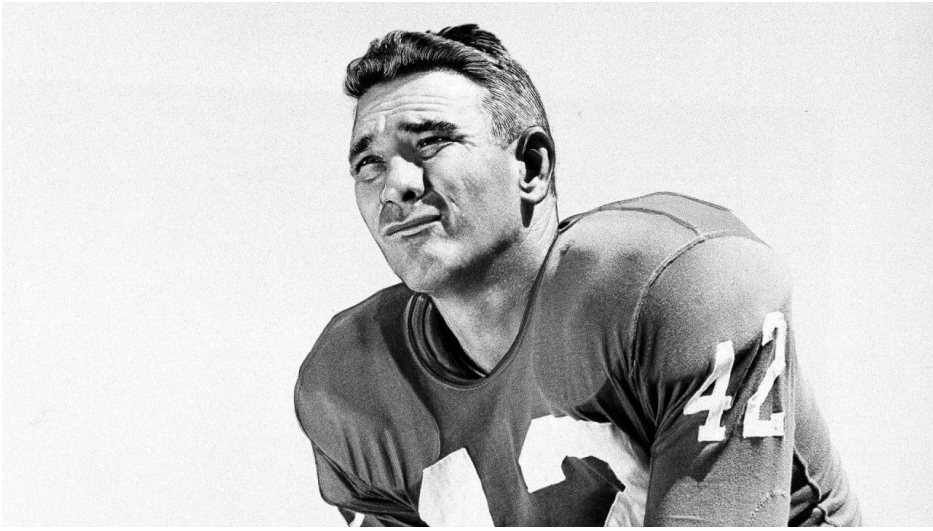
The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1948 professional football season. The 1948 New York Giants football team competed in their twenty-fourth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by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

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

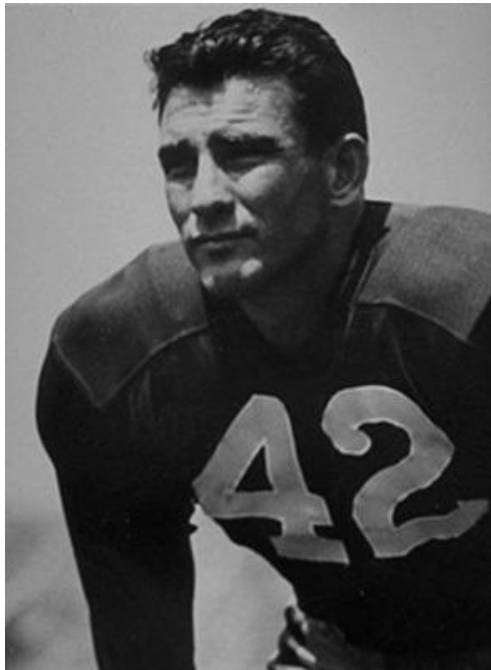
1948-1961 Top Giants Players Charley Conerly QB

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. Before Tittle, who my younger brother loved because he was a bald football player. All I ever heard my dad talk about in terms of QB's was Charley Conerly. He had it all.

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."

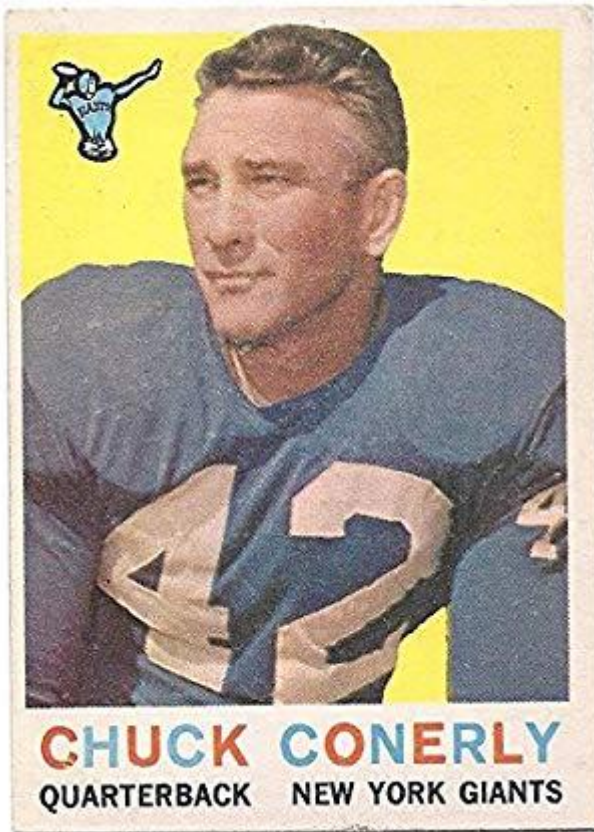
After having served in the invasion of Guam as a Marine corporal during World War II, Conerly was an all-America single-wing tailback at the University of Mississippi. When he joined the Giants in 1948, he was converted into a T-formation quarterback.

"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 Steve Owen Coach # 6

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

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

1950 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.

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.

1951 Steve Owen Coach # 6

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

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

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 Steve Owen Coach # 6

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

As noted, this was the franchise's 28th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in the Polo Grounds. The Giants had a great winning season. At 7-5-0, New York finished in second place in the American Conference as Steve Owen's Giants put forth another great team effort this year. The Giants lost the American Conference Championship because they had lost four close games plus they were

decimated by Pittsburgh in a blowout game L (7-63). Their poor but winning record was the root cause of their being eliminated from contention for the NFL Championship.

1952-1964 Top Giants Players Frank Gifford HB/WR

As a kid, I thought nobody else in the NFL ran the ball like Frank Gifford. Actually, when I think about it , I was right.



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 Steve Owen Coach # 6

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

twenty-four seasons as head coach of the Giants. This was coach Owen's last season.

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

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 9 Coach Jim Lee Howell's Teams 1954-1960

Jim Lee Howell Coach #7



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 Jim Lee Howell Coach #7

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1954 professional football season. The 1954 New York Giants football team competed in their thirtieth season of

Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Eastern Division. The team was led by Giants Great Head Coach Jim Lee Howell in his first of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

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

1955 Jim Lee Howell Coach #7

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

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.



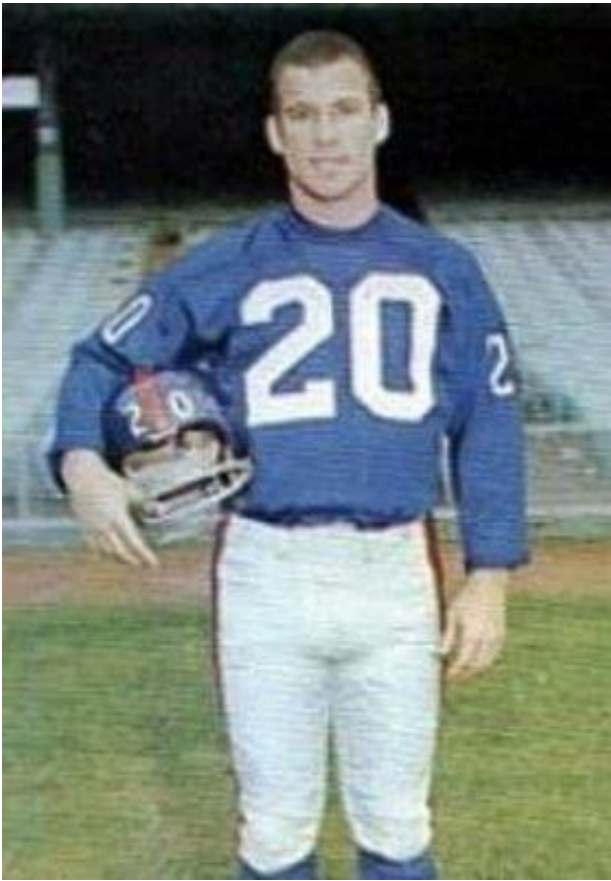
Roosevelt Grier was another incredible piece to the puzzle that allowed the Giants to win the 1956 NFL championship. He was a monster in the middle of their defense and was elected to the All Pro team as a defensive tackle five times with the Giants.

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 Jim Lee Howell Coach #7

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

As noted, this was the franchise's 32nd season in the NFL. Home games were now played in "THE" Yankee Stadium. The Giants had

a winning season. At 8-3-1, New York finished in first place in the Eastern Division. Jim Howell was in the third year of a seven-year tour of duty with the Giants that would render three Division Championships and one NFL Championships. This year he would get both the Division Championship and the NFL Championship.

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.



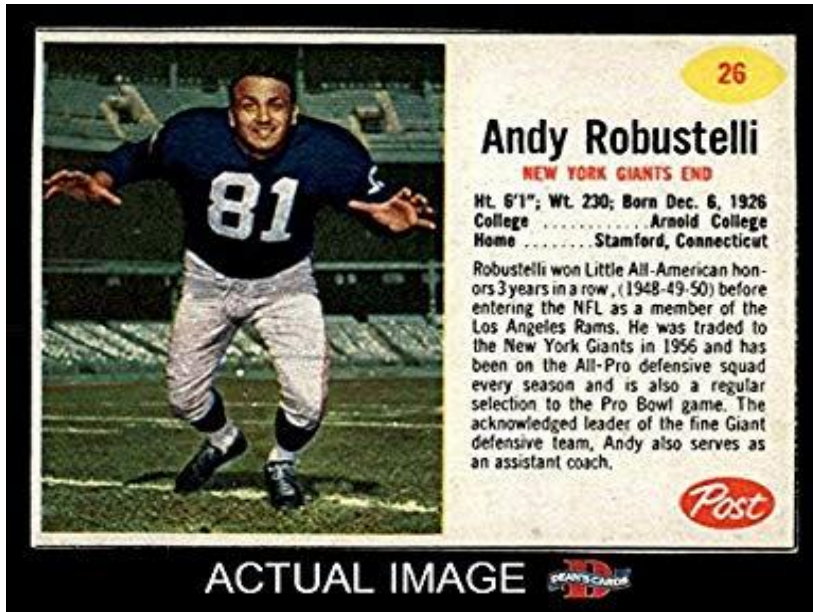
Andy Robustelli's career might have been a bit more exotic had the NFL kept quarterback sacks as a stat back in those days. As it stands, he's still one of the

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.



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.



Sam Huff was lots more than just huff & puff

(Continued from prior page) 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 Jim Lee Howell Coach #7

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

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

1958 Jim Lee Howell Coach #7

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



Gino Marchetti with broken leg waiting for stretcher in Championship Game

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

HALL OF FAMERS

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

Baltimore Colts

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

New York Giants

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

1959 Jim Lee Howell Coach #7

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

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

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

With Charley Conerly(8 games) and Don Heinrich (4 games) alternating at the QB slot, the Giants got off to a great start this season at Chicago by pounding the Cardinals W (37-7) before 21,923.

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, 4,993 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."

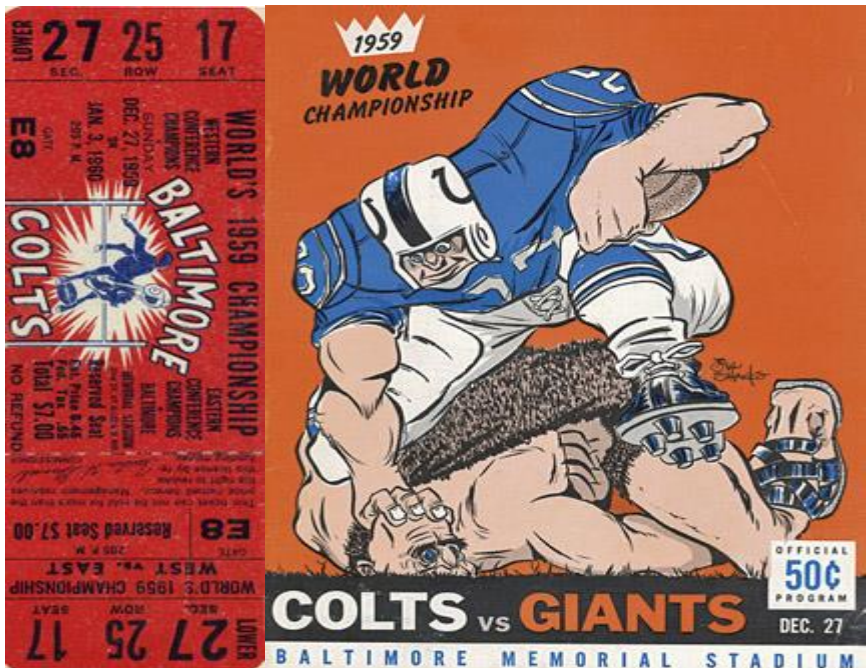
Dick Modzelewski: "We'll win because we have more confidence this year".

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

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



Marchetti rushes Conerly.

..



Unitas looks for a receiver.

When the Giants later made it to the 5 things clogged up. Tripletts 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 Schnelker 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 dipsy-do, faking to Gifford, then turning and throwing backwards to Frank in the right flat. The HB threw down the middle for Schnelker, but Sample struck again, returning the ball 27y to the NY 28.

Needing only to run some clock, Unitas handed to Pricer for 2y. Then he threw a slant to Berry who was hit by Lynch as he caught the ball on the 17. An incomplection 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.



After the Colts Victory

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

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

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

End of the first WOW NFL Championship Recap

1960 Jim Lee Howell Coach #7

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

As noted, this was the franchise's 36th season in the NFL. Home games were still played in Yankee Stadium. The Giants had a winning season. At 6-4-2, New York finished in third place in the Eastern Division. Jim Howell was in his final year of a seven-year tour of duty with the Giants that overall rendered mostly winning seasons; three Division Championships and one NFL 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.

As you know, the Giants were 6–4–2 this year, and the team finished in third place in the Eastern Conference. As a result, the Giants missed out on the post-season: the NFL Championship Game was won by host Philadelphia. The participants of the third-place bowl game were the second-place teams of the NFL's Eastern and Western conferences.

The third-place game in Miami, the first of the ten Playoff Bowls played in 1961 after the 1960 NFL Championship was won by Detroit at the Orange Bowl in early January. FYI, The Playoff Bowl (officially known as the Bert Bell Benefit Bowl) was a post-season game for third place in the National Football League (NFL), played ten times following the 1960 through 1969 seasons, all at the Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida.

Chapter 10 Coach Allie Sherman's Teams 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)

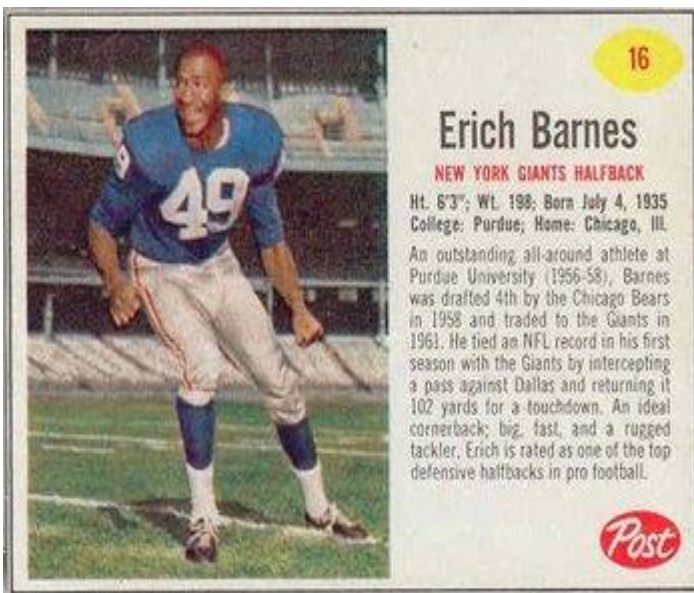


Allie Sherman was the eighth football coach in the National Football League (NFL) for the New York Giants from 1961 until 1968. He finished his career with the Giants as their head coach. Over his eight years of coaching, his Giant teams compiled a cumulative record of 57-51-4. During his entire coaching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

1961-1964 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.

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.



See pictures above: 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 go 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 go 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."

1962 Allie Sherman Coach #8

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

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

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 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?

Green Bay won the game, 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.

1963 Allie Sherman Coach #8

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

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

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

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 Tunnel 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.

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 Allie Sherman Coach #8

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

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

1965 Allie Sherman Coach #8

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

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

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

1965-1975 Top Giants Players Spider Lockhart

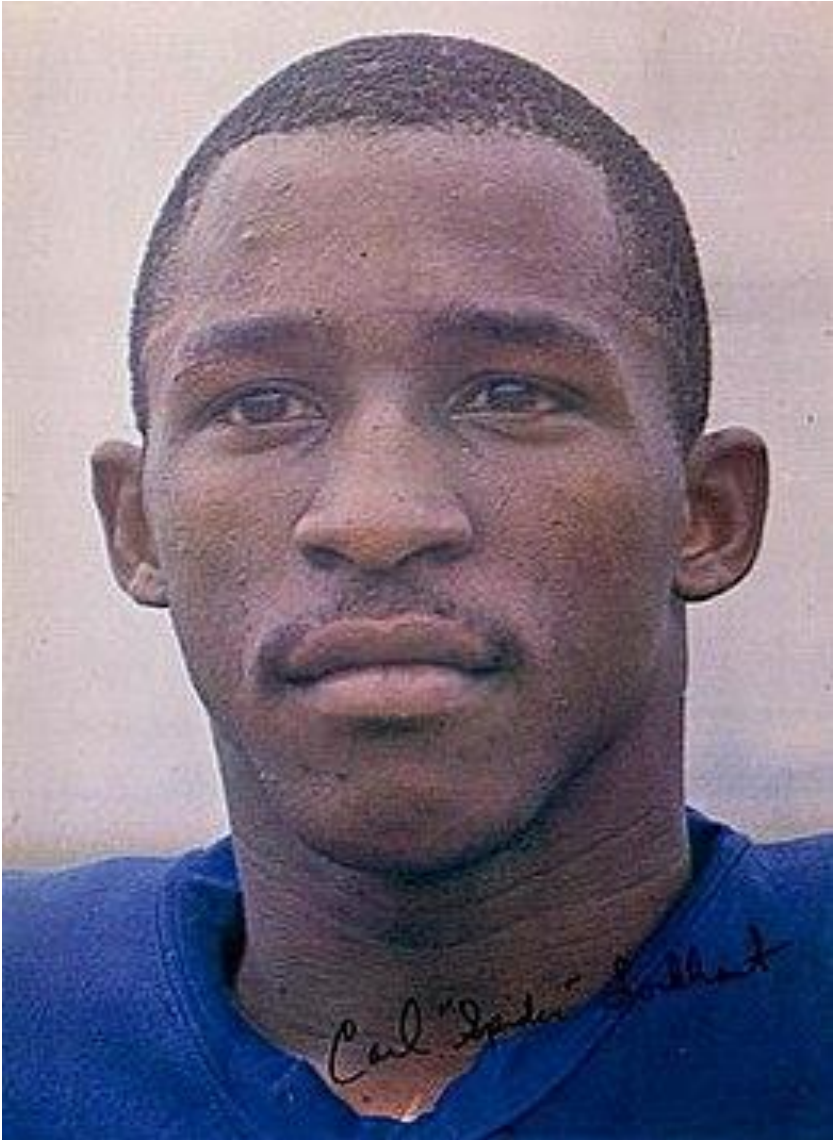
On arriving at Giants training camp, [Emlen Tunnell](#), their defensive backfield coach, gave Carl the nickname Spider. The popular and talented Spider spent his entire 11-year career with the Giants.

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.

Spider's pic is on the next page.



Mr. Spider

1966 Allie Sherman Coach #8

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

Allie Sherman in his sixth of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

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

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

The 1966 New York Giants season was the franchise's 42nd season in the National Football League (NFL). The season saw the Giants looking to improve on their 7-7 record from 1965. However, they finished in last place in the Eastern Conference with a 1-12-1 record, the worst in franchise history. The 12 losses set a single-season team record that was matched four times before being broken in 2017.

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

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

1967 Allie Sherman Coach #8

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

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

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 Allie Sherman Coach #8

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1968 professional football season. The 1968 New York Giants football team competed in their forty-fourth season of

Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They played in the Capitol Division. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Allie Sherman in his eighth and final year of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

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

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

The 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)

Chapter 11 Coach Alex Webster's Teams 1969-1973

Alex Webster Coach #9



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

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

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

Tell me about Alex Webster!



Alex Webster was a great Giants player and when he got too old to play, he agreed to be the Head Coach of the NY Giants. But a lot of years passed in-between.

All good beginnings also end. When the Jets beat the Giants in September 1969 and that was enough of Allie Sherman

for the Mara's, they remembered the ever-strong Alex Webster.

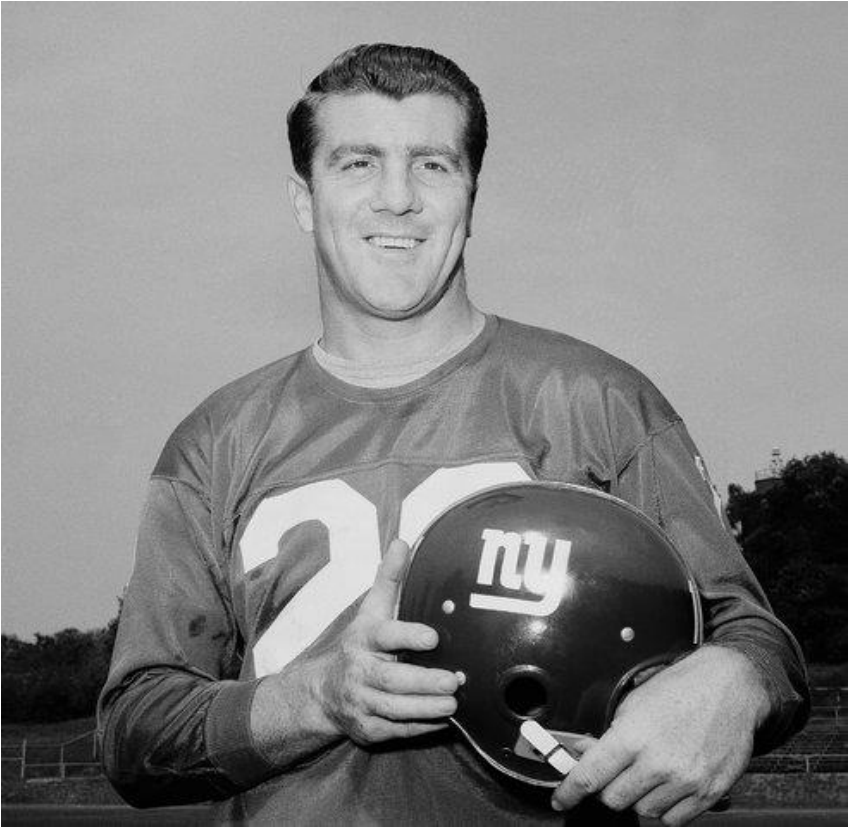
As a player, Webster was a powerful running back who helped propel the Giants to six division titles and a National Football League championship in the late 1950s and early '60s. In this employment, he would become the Giants coach for the next five seasons.

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

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

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

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



Alex Webster

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

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

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

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



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

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

1969 Alex Webster Coach #9

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1970 Alex Webster Coach #9

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1970 professional football season. The 1970 New York

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

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

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

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

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

The Philadelphia game at Franklin Field was more memorable for the antics in the broadcast booth, where Howard Cosell did the unspeakable—he vomited on Don Meredith's cowboy boots. Cosell took a taxi back to the hotel at halftime, leaving Meredith to finish

the game with Keith Jackson. The spirits had apparently captured Cosell along with many others in the ball park.

The Saints finished with the NFL's second-worst record at 2–11–1 (the Giants beat the NFL's worst team of 1970, the 2-12 Boston Patriots); the Eagles were barely better at 3–10–1. The Giants also lost at home to the 6-8 Chicago Bears. Nobody was smiling.

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

1971 Alex Webster Coach #9

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

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

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

1972 Alex Webster Coach #9

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

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

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

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

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

1973 Alex Webster Coach #9

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1973 professional football season. The 1973 New York

Giants football team competed in their forty-ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by Giants Head Coach Alex Webster in his fifth and last of five seasons as head coach of the Giants.

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

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

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.

Chapter 12 Coach Bill Arnsparger's Teams 1974-1976

Bill Arnsparger Coach #10

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

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

Coach Arnsparger



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

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

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

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

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

1974 Coach Bill Arnsparger Coach #10

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

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

1975 Coach Bill Arnsparger Coach #10

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.

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 Coach Bill Arnsparger Coach #10

1976 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?

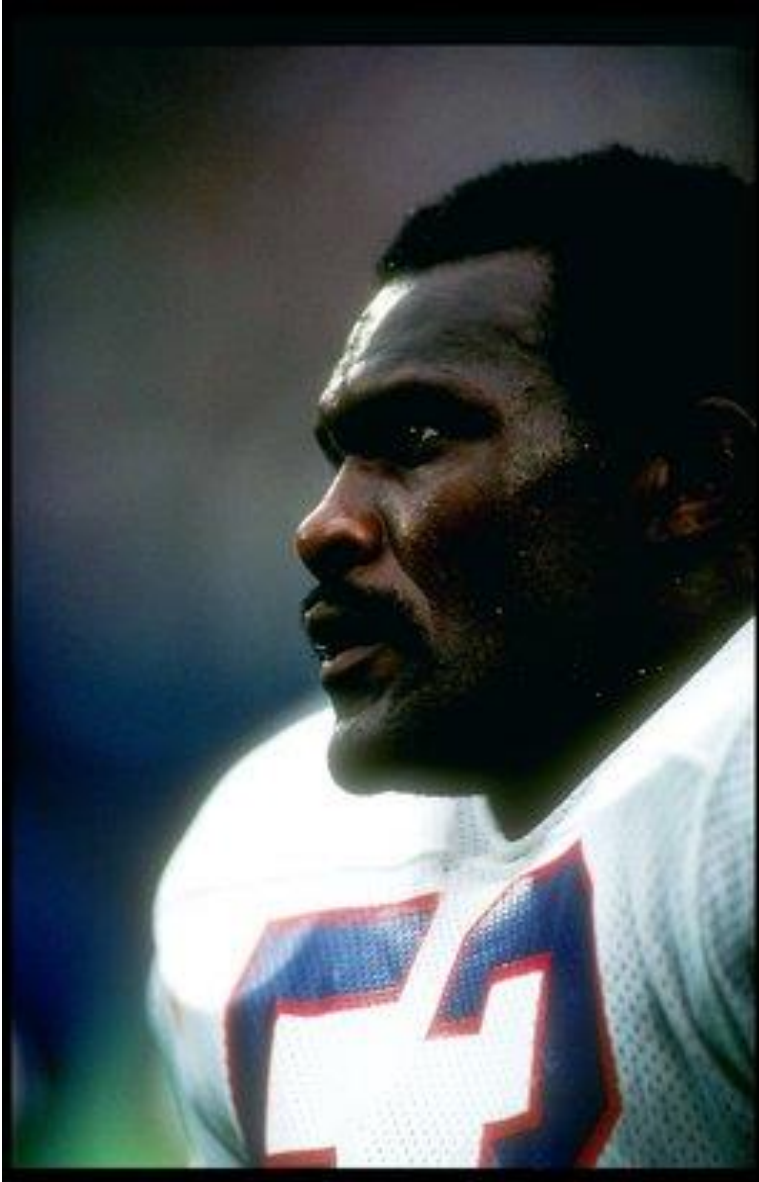
1976 -1988 Top Giants Players Harry Carson LB

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 line-backer 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.

Chapter 13 Coach John McVay's Teams 1977-1978

John McVay Coach #11

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

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

Coach John McVay; New York Giants

Replaced Bill Arnsparger mid-season in 1976



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

went on to play college football at Miami University, starring as a center.

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

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

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

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

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

As vice president/director of football operations, John McVay presided over five Super Bowl-winning seasons. He was named NFL Executive of the Year in 1989. He became a fixture with the 49ers in their finest football period, retiring from San Francisco in 1996. But when the franchise was transferred from Eddie DeBartolo Jr. to his

sister, Denise, the York family wanted a steady hand like McVay's in the front office during the transition. McVay agreed to come back in 1998 and stayed for another five more years. That's how talented he was.

1977 John McVay Coach #11

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

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

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

Offensively, New York's season total of 181 points was lower than all but four of the 27 other NFL teams. Joe Pisarcik started 11 of the Giants' 14 games in 1977 and threw for 1,346 yards, but had 14 passes intercepted and only four touchdowns. Bobby Hammond led

the Giants in rushing with 154 carries for 577 yards. Doug Kotar and Larry Csonka also rushed for more than 450 yards each.

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

1978 John McVay Coach #11

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1978 professional football season. The 1978 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-fourth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 11th Giants Head Coach John McVay in his second of two seasons as head coach of the Giants.

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

Chapter 14 Coach Ray Perkins' Teams 1979-1982

Ray Perkins Coach #12 1979-1982

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

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



Giants Coach Ray Perkins

Coach Ray Perkins (top left in the picture above) is the consummate football coach. It seems he was always in the coaching business. He practiced his trade at the pro and college levels for nearly 40 years. Ray is best known among college football fans as the man to succeed Bear Bryant as head coach at the University of Alabama. Nobody

could have pleased Alabama but Perkins came close. He coached at Alabama for four seasons from 1983-1986 and accumulated a record of 32-15-1 during that time, including a 3-0 record in bowl games. Perkins eventually left Alabama following the 1986 season and signed a lucrative contract to take the head coaching job with the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1990.

Walter Ray Perkins

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



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

national championships in both 1964 and 1965, and Southeastern Conference championships in 1964, 1965, and 1966. During his senior year, he was named team captain. He was also selected as an All-American in 1966.

Ray Perkins suited up in the NFL for the Baltimore Colts as a wide receiver from 1967–1971, under coach Don Shula. Perkins caught a 68-yard touchdown pass from Johnny Unitas in the 1970 AFC Championship Game to lead the Colts to a 27–17 victory over the Oakland Raiders and a berth in Super Bowl V. That was a while ago but Ray always had a long memory.

He began coaching in the NFL as an assistant for New England (1974–1977) and San Diego before becoming the head coach of the New York Giants from 1979 to 1982. Though he did not reap a lot of the benefits for the Giants he helped build the team that his successor, Bill Parcells would use to win two Super Bowls in 1986 and 1990.

Perkins hired future NFL head coaches Parcells, Bill Belichick and Romeo Crennel as young assistants. He was ready to turn the Giants around.

At Alabama, Ray Perkins held the distinction of being the only head coach to lead the Crimson Tide to a victory over the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame for nearly thirty years. There was controversy from unsatisfied boosters and alumni at Alabama, and a lucrative contract offer from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers led Perkins to leave Alabama for a second chance in the NFL after the 1986 Alabama season.

Perkins was the head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1987 to 1990. Some of his former college players got a chance to play for him in the NFL: QB Mike Shula, Kurt Jarvis, and linebacker Keith McCants. His career coaching record in the NFL was 42–75. He was fired midway through the 1990 season, and replaced by Richard Williamson. Williamson, like Perkins, was an Alabama alumnus. Perkins returned to college coaching at Arkansas State University in 1992. After just one year, Perkins became the offensive coordinator of the New England Patriots, serving under Bill Parcells from 1993 to

1996. He also spent 1997 with the Oakland Raiders as an offensive coordinator.

On December 20, 2011, he was introduced as the new head football coach at Jones County Junior College (JCJC) in Ellisville, Mississippi. Perkins resigned from JCJC on December 24, 2013. He has resided in Hattiesburg, Mississippi for years. In 2014, he was said to be taking a volunteer coaching role with Oak Grove HS. Perkins loves football.

1979 Ray Perkins Coach #12

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1979 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.

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.

1980-1985 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.

1980 Ray Perkins Coach #12

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1980 professional football season. The 1980 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-sixth Professional National

Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 12th Giants Head Coach Ray Perkins in his second of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 56th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. The Giants had another losing season with just four wins, twelve losses and no ties. At 4-12, New York finished in fifth place in the NFC East.

1981 Ray Perkins Coach #12

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1981 professional football season. The 1981 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-seventh Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 12th Giants Head Coach Ray Perkins in his third of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 57th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. The Giants finally had a winning season with nine wins, seven losses and no ties. At 9-7, New York finished in third place in the NFC East.

Things were happening this year—what they were, weren't exactly clear. But the Giants were a proud team over there, Ray Perkins made it seem easy because he had been shaping the team structure and the psychology since he had arrived. Good teams do not just happen. They are coached.

This was a big deal for the Giants New York had qualified for the playoffs for the first time in 18 years with a 9–7 record. Nobody gave Ray Perkins the wins because they liked him or they liked Bar Bryant or Alabama. Ray put a team together that could win and they won.

The Giants' effort placed them third in the National Football Conference East Division. They qualified for the postseason thanks to an overtime victory over the Dallas Cowboys in the last game of the season, coupled with a loss by the Green Bay Packers. There was

the normal amount of luck in football but by and large, it was tough orchestrated play. Ray Perkins was the conductor.

In the Wild Card playoffs, the Giants got over their inability to win when it counted, and the Perkins' team defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 27–21 in Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium. New York's season ended in the next playoff game with a 38–24 loss to the San Francisco 49ers in the Divisional round. They did not mean to lose to San Francisco. They planned to win. But, they did not. Like grown men, there were some disappointments but no tears.

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.



<< LT

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.

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. The 18 years of losing finally came to an end in 1981, thanks to a legendary, devastating fumble three years earlier and a gruff character wearing 1950s-style browline eyeglasses named George Young.

The triggering event was The Fumble — or if you're an Eagles fan, the Miracle at the Meadowlands.

A disastrous botched handoff between Joe Pisarcik and Larry Csonka in the waning seconds of a 1978 game resulted in a Herm Edwards 26-yard fumble return touchdown for the Eagles and a nearly-impossible Giants defeat. Philadelphia was the clear favorite, having reached the Super Bowl in 1980. The Giants had snuck into the playoffs at 9-7, after winning their final three games behind a stout defense.

Divisional Playoffs San Fran 38 v New York 24

The 1981 Football Season Divisional Playoffs between the 49ers and the Giants were won handily by San Francisco. The Giants had to go home. From this point on after the 20-year drought, the Giants were a different team. Thankfully.

1982 Ray Perkins Coach #12

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1982 professional football season. The 1982 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-eighth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 12th Giants Head Coach Ray Perkins in his fourth and last of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 58th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. After the 1982 winning season, there were expectations but Ray Perkins did not meet them this year. But, he set the stage for future years. The Giants had a respectable outing in this strike-shortened season. They 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.

Chapter 15 Coach Bill Parcells's Teams 1983 to 1990



There himself, folks in the center of the picture in 1983 at the top of his game

Bill Parcells	1983	5th	3 12 1
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawrence Taylor (NFC POY)
Bill Parcells	1984	2nd	9 7 0
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Wild Card playoffs(at Rams) 16–13 • Lost Divisional playoffs (at 49ers) 21–10
Bill Parcells	1985	2nd[G]	10 6 0
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Divisional playoffs(Rams) 19–13 (OT) • Ottis Anderson(NFL CPOY)
Bill Parcells	1990	1 st	13 3 0
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Divisional playoffs(Bears) 31–3

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

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

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.

From dead last in 1983, Parcells brought the Giants to 2nd place in the NFC East in 1984 with a 9-7 record. . This year his Giants won the Wild Card playoffs at the Rams, 16-13, and then lost the Divisional playoffs at the 49ers, 21-10.

In 1985, Parcells brought in another second place with a better record of 10-16. The Giants again won the Wild Card playoffs v the 49ers, 17-3, and then the lost the Divisional playoffs at the Bears L 0 -21. This year, the Parcells starting QB, Phil Simms was the Pro Bowl MVP. Good things were happening to the Giants.

In 1986, Parcells led his first Giants team to the Division Championship. Each year, the Giants under Parcells became more powerful and more dominant in the NFC East. This year the Giants got a bye in the Wild Card Playoffs as the won a clean first place finish with a 14 2 record. They then picked up the Divisional playoffs over the 49ers in a blowout W (49-3). They then shut out the Redskins for the NFC Championship W 17-0 and they whooped the

Broncos in Super Bowl XXI W (39–20). In addition to the team honors, Coach Parcells was named NFL Coach of the Year and Phil Simms was named Super Bowl MVP.

In 1987, Parcells' Giants finished in 5th place with a 6 9 0 record. There were hold outs in training and the Giants lost their first two games in the 1987 season. Then there was a 57-day player work stoppage that resulted in canceled games and replacement player. The Giants played with a ragtag group of players hastily organized by general manager George Young, Parcells' replacement team lost to the 49ers, Redskins and Bills. By the time the entire team returned from the strike, the Giants were 0-5. They never recovered that year.

Bill Parcells brought the team back in 1988 with a second-place finish and a 10-6 season. There were no big accolades. In 1989, the Giants played even better with a 12-4 record winning 1st place in the Eastern Division. They qualified for the playoffs without a Wildcard week. Then, they lost to the Rams in OT L (13-19) in the Divisional Playoffs. Ottis Anderson grabbed comeback player of the year (CPOY) honors.

In 1990 Bill Parcells pulled an even better record with the Giants with a 13-3-0 season. His Giants won the Divisional Playoffs v the Bears W (31–3). They then won the NFC Championship at 49ers W (15–13) and followed that up with Parcells 2nd Super-Bowl Victory. They won Super Bowl XXV vs. Bills W (20–19). Ottis Anderson was the Super Bowl XXV MVP.

Bill Parcells first "retired" from football coaching after 1999 season with New York Jets. However, he nearly unretired for 2002 with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He chose against coaching the Bucs, but for 2003 he did accept the job as coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

He did not win any Super Bowls for Dallas but during his final season as Cowboys head coach (2006), he had a big enough issue with Terrell Owens that he might have left for that reason alone. He showed his disdain for Owens so much that during press conferences, he would only refer to him as "The Player" instead of saying his name. He would often appear visibly frustrated when media members would ask questions about Owens.

Bill Parcells received many honors including being inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in 2013 for his services to sports.



Parcells 2013 Hall of Fame Speech

1983 Bill Parcells Coach #13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1983 professional football season. The 1983 New York Giants football team competed in their fifty-ninth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his first of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 59th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. When Parcells was hired, after the 1982 season, there were major expectations but Ray Perkins did not meet them and Bill Parcells did not meet them but they did get things going. The Giants had a poor season in Parcells' first year but they would get better in 1984 and would not lose many times after that. At 3-12-1, New York finished this year, in fifth place in the NFC East.

Yes, in his first year the Giants finished in fifth which was last place in the National Football Conference East Division with a 3–12–1 record. It was the team's worst record since 1976.

Parcells knew how to draft new players. In the 1983 NFL draft, the Giants selected defensive back Terry Kinard in the first round, with the 10th overall pick. As we now know, the 1983 season was the first for the Giants under Bill Parcells, who had been offered the position after previous head coach Ray Perkins resigned before succeeding Bear Bryant as the coach for the University of Alabama.

Parcells named Scott Brunner the team's starting quarterback, ahead of Phil Simms and Jeff Rutledge. Upset with the decision, Simms requested a trade at one point during the season. New York was 2–2 in their first four games of the season, before a three-game losing streak that left the club at 2–5. Against the Philadelphia Eagles in their sixth game, the Giants inserted Simms into their lineup in place of Brunner; shortly afterward, Simms suffered a season-ending injury.

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.

1984 Bill Parcells Coach #13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1984 professional football season. The 1984 New York Giants football team competed in their sixtieth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his second of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 60th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, Bill Parcells would break the win barrier with a 9-7 season. New York finished in a tie for second place in the NFC East.

The Giants qualified for the playoffs. In the Wild Card round, New York traveled to Anaheim Stadium in California and defeated Los Angeles Rams 16-13 to advance to the Divisional round. Instead of traveling across the country back to New York, the Giants spent the week in Fresno, California. They used the facilities at Fresno State to prepare for the San Francisco 49ers game. However, the team lost to the San Francisco 49ers 21-10.

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

Christmas Eve 1984 was a great Christmas present for Giants fans—especially those extending the holiday on the West Coast.

Dickerson did his job for the Rams but the Giants' defense did not let him do his job well enough. They made a goal-line stand in the last quarter and enough other big plays, mostly against Dickerson, and it was the D that squeezed out the 16-13 upset victory.

This was all from a Giants team that barely had a 3-12-1 team record last year and a 9-7 record this year.

"The Giants were are not going home for Christmas," Taylor announced. "We are sending someone else home."

1984 Divisional Playoffs Giants v 49ers

The Giants lost. That's all we really need to know but it was a respectable game.

The skinny was that Phil Simms did not throw any TD passes but he did throw two interceptions. He had a pretty good night but not good enough with 25 completions out of 44 attempts. He was not the difference maker for the Giants. The difference was that the Giants secondary let Joe Montana throw three TDs, though they also stole three passes via interception.

Montana was 25 for 39 but his passes mattered for more than Phil Simms' completions. Montana also outrushed Joe Morris. He had 3 rushes for 63 yards while Morris tried seventeen times and he got 46 yards. Z. Mowatt snagged 5 passes for 49 yards and D Clark picked up 9 for the Giants for 112 yards and a TD.

The bottom line is all that counts in football and the home team 49ers won the game and New York lost the game. That's all she wrote. Final score 21-10 with the 49ers getting the victory over the Giants. Both teams went home early for there was no scoring in second half.

1985 Bill Parcells Coach #13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1985 professional football season. The 1985 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-first Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his third of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 61st season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, Bill Parcells would break the win barrier with a 10-6 season. New York finished in a second place in the NFC East.

The 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.



Mark Bavaro # 89

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.'

Playoffs: 1985 Bring on the Chicago Bears.

In the Wildcard Game, the Giants prevailed 17-3 against the San Francisco 49ers. The Giants won on their magnificent defensive play. Their offense, especially the O-line, did almost everything it had to do. The result was a 17-3 thrashing of the San Francisco 49ers in the National Conference wild-card playoff game.

1985 Conference Championship Bears v Giants

The Giants were on a high after beating the World Champs and the Bears were well rested after a bye week. When the game was played, the Chicago Bears knocked the New York Giants out of the playoffs in the divisional round with a dominating defensive performance in a 21-0 victory.



1986 Bill Parcells Coach #13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1986 professional football season. The 1986 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-second Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his fourth of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 62nd season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, Bill Parcells would break the Super Bowl barrier with a 14-2 record a trip the full distance to the ring. New York finished in first place in the NFC East and won right through to the big Super Bowl.

The New York Giants, playing in the National Football Conference (NFC) of the National Football League (NFL), won their fifth NFL championship—and first Super Bowl—in franchise history during the 1986 season. They were led by consensus league Most Valuable Player (MVP) linebacker Lawrence Taylor and Super Bowl MVP quarterback Phil Simms.

As noted, the Giants posted a 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.

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

NFC Divisional Playoffs: vs. San Francisco 49er

The Giants had the best record in their division, conference and the league going into the playoffs. The Giants defeated the San Francisco 49ers 49–3 in their opening playoff game.

NFC Championship: vs. Washington Redskins

The game at Giants Stadium was played on January Giants were ahead 17–0 at halftime. There would be no more scoring for the game. Giants moving to Super Bowl.

Super Bowl XXI: Giants v Denver Broncos

After winning the Conference, by the time two weeks later in January came, the Giants were in Pasadena California ready for the big game. Bill Parcells had them 100% ready. The Giants were not about to go home without a ring.

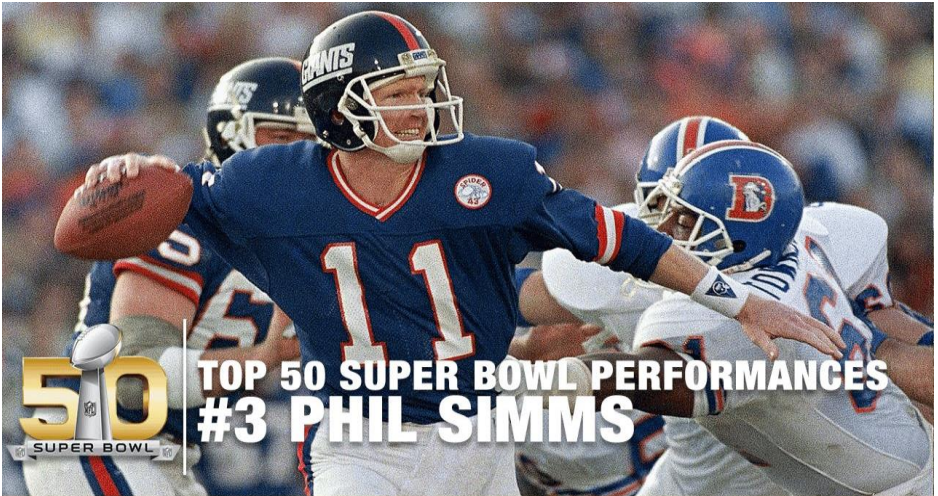
It was January 25 and after playing at home in the cold for the prior two playoff games, it was a treat for sure to be in Southern California before a capacity crowd of 101,063. The entire nation or so it seemed anticipated the Super Bowl Kickoff. Whatever his secret, Coach Parcells had the team ready.

From kickoff to the final whistle, the Giants played the Denver Broncos full-steam in Super Bowl XXI in front of 101,063 fans at the Rose Bowl. After the Broncos' Rich Karlis kicked a 48-yard field goal on the game's opening drive, the Giants took the lead back quickly with a 78-yard touchdown scoring drive, led by quarterback Phil Simms's 6-for-6 passing.

The Broncos were not finished and they came right back and scored on a 4-yard quarterback draw by John Elway to make the score 10–7 at the end of the first quarter.

Although the two teams quarterbacks combined to complete all 13 passes attempted in the second quarter, the only score came when Giants' defensive end George Martin sacked Elway in the endzone for a safety to make the score 10–9. The Giants were down by one point and they played like there was an emergency someplace—because there was. The turning point of the game came on the first possession of the second half. The Giants took the second half kickoff, and led a short drive. But, that drive stalled at their own 47-yard line. What to do?

On fourth and 1, the Giants lined up in a punt formation before shifting to a traditional set. Second string quarterback Jeff Rutledge then looked over to Parcells for a signal as to whether he should try to draw the defense offside or run a play. After a nod of approval from Parcells, he ran a quarterback sneak for a first down. The Giants scored on the drive, and built a 39–13 lead before a late touchdown by the Broncos made the final score 39–20.



Simms threw touchdown passes to Mark Bavaro and Phil McConkey to give him three on the game, and Joe Morris and Ottis Anderson each rushed for one touchdown. The Giants' defense ruled the day and limited the Broncos to only two net yards and 10 offensive plays in the third quarter.

The 30 second half points set a Super Bowl-record for points in a half, and Simms was named MVP after completing 22 of 25 (88%) of his passes—a Super Bowl record which still stands. Giants fans all over the world were smiling with good reason. Bill Parcells had turned the program around so far, with the help of a determined team, he got the fans a Super Bowl and he got the players a nice ring with which to memorialize their victory over the Broncos and their NFL Championship.

1987 Bill Parcells Coach #13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1987 professional football season. The 1987 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-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.

The 1987 New York Giants season was the franchise's 63rd season in the National Football League. The Giants entered the 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 0–5, becoming the first defending Super Bowl champion to lose their first 5 games. Ultimately, the Giants never recovered from their 0–5 start, and fell to a 6–9 finish which placed them last in their division and out of the postseason. No playoffs this year!

1988 Bill Parcells Coach #13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1988 professional football season. The 1988 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-fourth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his sixth of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 64th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, Bill Parcells squad still did not fully recover from the great year in 1986 but they decided not to have a losing season. This year, they picked their record back up to 10-6 and their placement from fifth to second. Though the Giants played hard, they were not able to play hard enough to win another ring. But, they were as close as one can get to contention. They would be back.

As we know, the Giants came into the 1988 season with a 6-9 record with one game canceled. They were the prior defending Super Bowl champion but had failed to qualify for the playoffs.

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 Elliott 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 Elliott was drafted in 1988, the number of sacks allowed by the Giants offensive line dropped dramatically.

Parcells loved Elliott so much that he made sure to bring him along when he returned to

coaching with the New York Jets in 1996.

1989 Bill Parcells Coach #13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1989 professional football season. The 1989 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-fifth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his seventh of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 65th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants had a fine year with a 12-4 record. They came in first in the NFC East Division. After going 10-6 the prior year and suffering a heartbreaking final-day elimination from playoff contention in 1988, the team went 12-4 and won the NFC East. The Giants lost to the Los Angeles Rams in the NFC Divisional playoffs.

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 Bill Parcells Coach #13

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1990 professional football season. The 1990 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-sixth Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 13th Giants Head Coach Bill Parcells in his eighth and last of eight seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 66th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants had a fine year with a 13-3 record. They came in first in the NFC East Division. Then they won all the way to the Super Bowl where they became world champions again. After going 6-9, the comeback was next with a 10-6 record, followed last year by a 12-4 and this year, with a Super Bowl 13-3 first place finish in everything,

The Giants of course play in the Eastern Division of the National Football Conference (NFC) of the National Football League (NFL). In this year 1990, they won their sixth championship and second Super Bowl. Led by all-everything linebacker Lawrence Taylor (LT) and quarterbacks Phil Simms and Jeff Hostetler, the Giants posted a 13-3 record before defeating the Chicago Bears and the two-time defending Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers in the NFC playoffs.

In Super Bowl XXV, the Giants defeated the Buffalo Bills in a nail-biter 20-19 in Tampa Stadium against a patriotic backdrop inspired by the recently started Gulf War.

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.

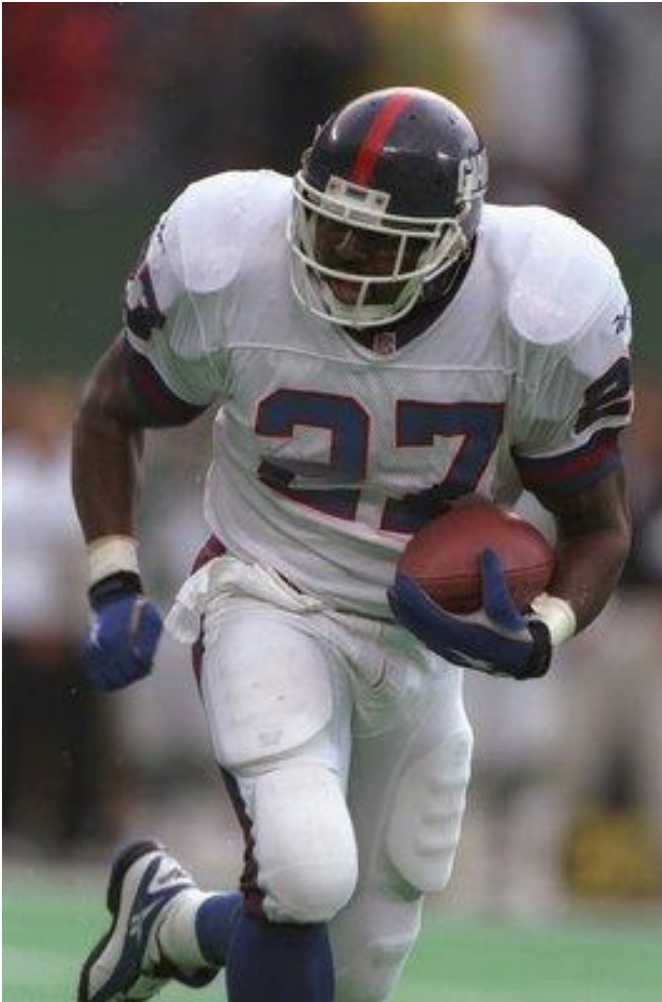
In 2007, ESPN.com looked back to 1990 and ranked the 1990 Giants' defense as the sixth-greatest in NFL history. They documented that the team "allowed only 13.2 points a game against a very tough schedule – they played against seven playoff teams during the regular season."

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 mediocre seasons in 1996 and 1997 and would retire after appearing in just two games in the 1997 season.

NFC Divisional Playoff: Giants V Chicago Bears

In the third quarter, Hostetler got a first down on fourth down again—his third of the day. He finished the drive with a 3-yard touchdown run, putting his team up 24-3. Chicago responded with a drive to the Giants 5-yard line but could not finish it off.

In the fourth quarter, Giants defensive back Everson Walls returned an interception 37 yards to the Giants 49. The Giants then went on a grueling 51-yard drive consisting of 16 running plays, the last a 1-yard touchdown plunge by fullback Maurice Carthon, that ate up a staggering 10:30 of play time. That was the game, 31-3.

NFC Championship Game: 49ers v Giants

Bahr's fifth successful kick of the game, which was a 42-yarder, was made with no time left on the clock. The Giants won 15-13. They scored no touchdowns but played one heck of a game on the field.

Super Bowl XXV, Buffalo Bills (19) NY Giants (20)

Just like the Conference championship between the 49ers and Giants was anybody's game, won in the last seconds of the game; so also was the January 27, 1991 Super Bowl extravaganza. Bill Parcells did not have his team ready for defeat.

The game was played in pleasant Florida weather at 73 degrees. The Giants managed three points in the fourth quarter to take the game by a fingernail bite W (20-19). The Super Bowl XV game was played

in Tampa Bay Florida amidst a background of war and patriotism in front of 73,813 fans at Tampa Stadium.

The total elapsed time period 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.

Chapter 16 Coach Ray Handley's Teams 1991 & 1992

Ray Handley Coach #14

Coach	Year	Place	Record
Ray Handley	1991	4 th	8 8 0 —
Ray Handley	1992	4 th	6-10-0 —

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



Coach # 14 Ray Handley instructing during Giants game

Coach # 14 Ray Handley—not a bad coach!

The Ray Handley Era at the New York Giants did not have a long duration. It came and went and not too many today remember it.

After just two years, the NY Times wrote that “The Ray Handley era ended today.” When they wrote about it, it had ended. So, here we are at the beginning of the Ray era and nobody is sure despite good signs but this tells you it did not go well. Two years from the Bill Parcells era, to no one's surprise, the Giants chucked their head coach after two non-Parcells seasons marked by player-coach

controversies, confrontations with the news media, poor play and, most galling to the team's supporters, a lousy record. Ray Handley was stubborn like Parcels to a fault as his decisions were not as wise.

I think George probably did the right thing by letting Ray go," Taylor said. "The question now is, will he do two right things in a row. Will he get Bill Parcels to coach this team and bring us back a championship?"

"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'

1991 Ray Handley Coach #14

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1991 professional football season. The 1991 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-seventh Professional National Football League (NFL) football season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 14th Giants Head Coach Ray Handley in his first of two seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 67th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants had an OK rebuilding year with coach Handley and an 8-8-0 record. They came in fourth in the NFC East Division.

On February 2, 1991, shortly after Super Bowl XXV, Tim Mara announced he had sold his family's stake in the team to businessman Bob Tisch, the co-founder of Loews Corporation and former United States Postmaster General. Tisch did not take an active role in the operations of the team, instead choosing to focus on the team's finances; this enabled the Maras to keep control of the football side of the team and allowed Wellington Mara's son John to take a more active role with the Giants.

1992 Ray Handley Coach #14

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1992 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.

Coach Ray Handley departed at the end of the season.

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.

Coach Ray Handley departed at the end of the season.

Chapter 17 Coach Dan Reeves' Teams 1993-1996

Dan Reeves Coach #15

Coach	Year	Place	Record
Dan Reeves	1993	2nd	11 5 0
Dan Reeves	1994	2nd	9 7 0 —
Dan Reeves	1995	4th	5 11 0 —
Dan Reeves	1996	5th	6 10 0 —

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

Coach Dan Reeves

Born in Rome, Georgia, Dan Reeves grew up in Americus, Georgia where he attended Americus High School. Dan Reeves was an exceptional athlete in football, baseball and basketball.



Dan Reeves, a great coach

Your typical head football coach in the NFL would most often come in and have to get the team in shape before he could make any headway on creating a positive record. Dan Reeves was the opposite. He would come in and be the best coach there ever was and then watch as his record would get worse over time. For example, he was

11-5 in his first year with the Giants and in his last two years, he was 5-11 and 6-10 respectively.

During his coaching career, Reeves won the NFL's Coach of the Year award two times, most recently in 1998 after guiding the Falcons to a 14-2-0 record and a berth in the championship game. During his time as head coach and offensive coordinator he coached multiple players to outstanding seasons.

Three players have received awards at the end of the season under Reeves' coaching. As the head coach for the Broncos, for example, John Elway won Most Valuable Player and Mike Croel won AP Defensive Rookie of the Year. As the offensive coordinator for the Cowboys Tony Dorsett won AP Offensive Rookie of the Year

1993 Dan Reeves Coach #15

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1993 professional football season. The 1993 New York Giants football team competed in their sixty-ninth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 15th Giants Head Coach Dan Reeves in his first of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 69th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants came back from their 6-10 finish and had a very nice 11-5 season record. and came in second place in the NFC East Division.

As one of his first official acts on duty, head coach Dan Reeves immediately released Jeff Hostetler and named Phil Simms as the team's starting quarterback. 1993 turned out to be the final season for both Simms and all-time Giants great linebacker, Lawrence Taylor. This would also turn out to be the first season for future Hall-of-Famer Michael Strahan.

Phil Simms started all 16 games in 1993, being one of only seven quarterbacks to do so, and he led the Giants to a resurgent 11-5 season including a victory over the Minnesota Vikings in the playoffs.

However, after the season, Simms underwent shoulder surgery after the 1993 NFL Season to repair a torn labrum. The surgery was successful, and team doctor Russell F. Warren's prognosis for recovery was excellent, and Simms was expected to be ready in time for training camp. However, during his recovery time before training camp. Simms was released by the Giants, and he then decided to hang up his spikes for good.

That explains why the record was not as good in 1994. The Giants offense had come off a sub-par 1992 season, so Dan Reeves and offensive coordinator George Henshaw added and adjusted schemes. The emphasis continued to advocate running the football ball as the coaches installed the Full House and Power I formations.

It was a good year for players as Rodney Hampton and Phil Simms both made the pro bowl. Those two were the driving force behind the offense. The Defense returned to its dominant ways; allowing an NFL-best 12.8 points per game, or 205 points all year.

Lawrence Taylor would join Simms in retirement after the season, ending an era of great offense and great defense. The Giants finished the 1993 season first in overall defense and rushing offense.

The Giants qualified for the playoffs on December 12 with a win at Giants Stadium against the Colts, 35 years after the two teams met in "The Greatest Game Ever Played". We will cover this game after we look at the games of the 1993 season.

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.

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. They scored enough to win the Wild Card and move on with a 17-10 victory.

The NFL Divisional Playoffs

NFC: San Francisco 49ers 44, New York Giants 3

With 59-degree weather, there was no outside force in the way of a Giant victory other than the San Francisco 49ers. The game was played in ideal conditions on January 15, 1994 at 4:00 PM EST in Candlestick Park to a packed house of 67,143. The Giants faced a lot more than they expected this day from the 49ers.

It was 49ers running back Ricky Waters and then Ricky Watters and then Ricky Watters again as the fleet-footed tough back rushed for 118 yards, caught five passes for 46 yards, and scored an NFL playoff record five touchdowns as San Francisco literally crushed the Giants, 44-3. There is no reason to report more.

1994 Dan Reeves Coach #15

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1994 professional football season. The 1994 New York Giants football team competed in their seventieth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 15th Giants Head Coach Dan Reeves in his second of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 70th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants did not match their 11-5 finish but had an OK and

had an OK 9-7 season record. and came in second place in the NFC East Division.

The Giants failed to improve on their 11–5 record from 1993 and finished 9–7 in 1994.[They were second in the National Football Conference East Division, three games behind the Dallas Cowboys.

1995 Dan Reeves Coach #15

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1995 professional football season. The 1995 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-first professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 15th Giants Head Coach Dan Reeves in his third of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 71st season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants did not match their 9-7 finish but had an OK and had a poor 5-11 season record. and came in fourth place in the NFC East Division.

1996 Dan Reeves Coach #15

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1996 professional football season. The 1996 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-second professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 15th Giants Head Coach Dan Reeves in his fourth and last of four seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 72nd season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants improved by one game over their 5-11 finish and had a poor 6-10 season record. and came in last place in the NFC East Division in 1086.

The Giants' first game of the season was at home against the Buffalo Bills, and the Giants lost 23–20 in OT. After defeating the Cowboys,

the Giants' record entering December stood at 5–7. They ended the season by losing three of their last four games. The Giants had enough of Dan Reeves and fired him after the season, and they hired Jim Fassel as his replacement.

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.

Chapter 18 Coach Jim Fassel's Teams 1997-2003

Jim Fassel Coach #16

Jim Fassel	1997	1st	10 5 1
Jim Fassel	1998	3rd	8 8 0 —
Jim Fassel	1999	3rd	7 9 0 —
Jim Fassel	2000	1 st	12 4 0
Jim Fassel	2001	3rd	7 9 0
Jim Fassel	2002	2nd	10 6 0
Jim Fassel	2003	4th	4 12 0 —

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



Jim Fassel takes the Big Reins at the NY Giants

When the NY Giants stumble, they most often fall. Dan Reeves was a great coach at Denver and had moments of brilliance with the Giants but he lacked consistency. Perhaps with more time, he would have made the Giants long-time contender list, but... It is a perhaps that would never be answered as the team found a new coach, Jim Fassel.

Known across the league as a quarterback guru, Jim Fassel was named the New York Giants' coach, accepting the tall task of bringing back to life the NFL's worst offense and developing Dave Brown, a QB with prospects into a bona fide quarterback.

Fassel, 47, took over the team that we have been following in this book. The Giants have missed the playoffs the last three seasons and that has made the postseason once since Bill Parcells resigned after the Super Bowl XXV party victory in January 1991.

1997 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1997 professional football season. The 1997 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-third professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his first of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 73rd season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants came back from their 6-10 finish under Dan Reeves and had a very nice 10-5-1 season record. This was under Jim Fassel, and the Giants came in first place in the NFC East Division.

1998 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1998 professional football season. The 1998 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-fourth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his second of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 74th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants did not do as well as their 10-5-1 finish in 1997 but

had an OK 8-8 season record. The Giants came in third place in the NFC East Division. The 1998 Giants also missed the playoffs.

1999 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 1999 professional football season. The 1999 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-fifth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his third of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 75th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants did not do as well as their 8-8 finish in 1998. They lost one more game and finished at 7-0 for the season. The Giants came in third place again in the NFC East Division. The Giants won only seven games and missed the playoffs for the second straight season.

2000 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2000 professional football season. The 2000 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-sixth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his fourth of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 76th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants were tops in the AFC East. The Giants came in first in the NFC East Division at 12-4. The Giants won twelve games and made the playoffs for the first time in four years. They made it to the Super Bowl.

In the playoffs, they defeated the Philadelphia Eagles in the Divisional round 20-10, then they shut out the Minnesota Vikings in

the NFC Championship game 41–0, making it to the Super Bowl. They ran out of steam against the Baltimore Ravens in the Super Bowl who defeated the Giants L (7–34).

The Playoffs

Divisional Playoffs

This is the year that might have been and should have been. The Giants stopped winning one game short of a Super Bowl Ring. In the divisional playoffs, the Giants beat the Eagles along with their MVP runner-up Donovan McNabb. In the game rookie WR Ron Dixon returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown, and Jason Sehorn intercepted a McNabb pass for a touchdown. The win was the third by the Giants over the Eagles for the season. Giants fans always love a few good victories over the Eagles

NFC Championship

In the NFC Championship against the favored Minnesota Vikings, this year's hero QB Kerry Collins threw five touchdowns. These included two TDs to Ike Hilliard. The Giants moved on to the franchise's 3rd Super Bowl by demolishing Minnesota 41–0.

Combined with the Giants only other NFC championship game played at home (1986), the Giants have outscored their two opponents 58–0 in home NFC championship games. My guess is that Jim Fassel would have liked to save some of those points for the Super Bowl.

Super Bowl XXXV Giants v Ravens

In the Super Bowl, playing against what many pundits were calling the greatest defense in history, the Giants were dominated and lost control of the outcome of Super Bowl XXXV. The Ravens dominated and knocked off the Giants 34-7.

Instead of four touchdowns, Kerry Collins was off and he pitched four interceptions instead, including one that was returned for a score. The Giants got their only TD on a Ron Dixon 97-yd second-half kickoff return. It was the Giants' only Super Bowl loss—EVER!. There were no offensive or defensive scores for the Giants.

At the end of the long and arduous 2000 football season with sixteen regular season games and three sets of playoff games, the teams had been selected by match play and this year's Super Bowl XXXV (35) game was played on January 28,2001 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Florida. The contestants were the champions of the (AFC) champion Baltimore Ravens and the National Football Conference (NFC) champion New York Giants.

The prize was the National Football League (NFL) championship for the 2000 season. In this game, The Ravens got the best of the Giants by a score of 34–7. This game margin came in as a tie for the seventh largest Super Bowl margin of victory with a game that had not been played yet Super Bowl XXXVII.

Both the Ravens and the Giants finished the regular season at 12-4. The Ravens needed to play a Wild-Card game to win their division. keep They became the third wild card team to win the Super Bowl and the second in four years.

Baltimore held the Giants to only 152 yards of offense. This was the third-lowest total ever in a Super Bowl. They recorded 4 sacks, and they forced 5 turnovers. All 16 of the Giants' possessions even their lone TD (came on a Kickoff Return scored by Special Teams) ended with punts or interceptions, with the exception of the last one, which ended when time expired in the game.

New Yorkers grabbed just one TD -- a 97-yard kickoff return that was quickly answered by Baltimore on an 84-yard touchdown return on the ensuing kickoff. The Giants became the first team since the Cincinnati Bengals in Super Bowl XXIII to not score an offensive touchdown and the fifth overall (joining the Bengals as well as the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IX, the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl VII, and the Miami Dolphins in Super Bowl VI, and subsequently the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl LIII.) Baltimore

linebacker Ray Lewis, who made 3 solo tackles, 2 assists, and blocked 4 passes, was named Super Bowl MVP.

In the First Quarter, both defenses dominated early as the first five possessions of the game ended in punts. On the fifth punt, Ravens kickoff/punt returner Jermaine Lewis took the ball 33 yards to the New York 31-yard line. Baltimore took only two plays to score as QB Trent Dilfer struck on a 38-yard scoring strike to wide receiver Brandon Stokley.

Early in the second quarter, holding nullified a Giant interception. Jessie Armstead had a 43-yard interception return for a touchdown that would have tied the game but he did not get it. Later in Q2, Dilfer tossed a 44-yard completion to Qadry Ismail which set up a 47-yard field goal by Ravens kicker Matt Stover. Baltimore was up 0-0. After Tiki Barber's 27-yard run, the Giants got to the Ravens' 29-yard line, but Baltimore defensive back Chris McAlister intercepted a Kerry Collins pass from quarterback Kerry Collins to keep NY scoreless at halftime.

The Giants forced the Ravens to punt in the third Q on the opening drive of the second half. Five plays later, Ravens intercepted Collins again and they advanced to the 24-yard line, and Stover missed a 41-yard field goal attempt. Punts were exchanged then Duane Starks intercepted a pass from Collins and returned it 49 yards for a touchdown. This set off a major chain of events unseen in Super Bowl history. Three touchdowns were scored on three consecutive plays in 36 seconds.

On the ensuing kickoff, Ron Dixon returned the ball 97 yards for the Giants' first and only score of the game. Then, Jermaine Lewis took the next kickoff 84 yards for a touchdown, making the score 24-7 for the Ravens. This was the first time in history two kickoffs were returned for touchdowns in the same Super Bowl game, and on back-to-back kickoffs.

In the fourth quarter, the Giants got the ball four more times and they were able to muster just one first down on their final four possessions. They were never able to move the ball into Baltimore

2001 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2001 professional football season. The 2001 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-seventh professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his fifth of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 77th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants were tops in the AFC East. The Giants came in third in the NFC East Division at 7-9. The Giants won seven games and after making the playoffs in 2000, did not repeat this year in 2001.

The 2001 Giants were returning as Super Bowl runners-up from the 2000 season after losing Super Bowl XXXV to the Baltimore Ravens. The Giants tried to improve on their 12-4 record from the previous year, but instead they went 7-9 and they missed the playoffs for the first time since 1999. Nobody likes to miss the playoffs.

2002 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2002 professional football season. The 2002 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-eighth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his sixth of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 78th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants improved upon their previous season's 7-9 were second in the AFC East at 10-6. The Giants won ten games and after not making the playoffs in 2001, they played in the Wild Card game this year.

It was a good year but a disappointment. The team won ten games and returned to the playoffs for the second time in three years, ended

the 2002 season a four-game winning streak. The team went through a mid-season slump after which, head coach Jim Fassel stripped offensive coordinator Sean Payton of play calling duties, and the Giants went on a tear that would carry them to the playoffs.

They had the Wild Card Playoff Game won with a lead of 35–14 in the third quarter at San Francisco, when it started. Jeremy Shockey dropped a touchdown pass forcing a field goal to make the score 38–14. Fassel decided to rest starting running back Tiki Barber to save him for the next round, but the 49ers gained momentum, and the Giants did not score again, losing the game by a scant point 39–38. Following the season, Payton was not retained. He learned some lesson that year as he came back and won the Super Bowl seven years later as the head coach of the New Orleans Saints.

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.

Playoffs

Wild Card: Giants 38 @ San Francisco 49ers 39

January 5, 2003: 1:45 PM; at 3Com Park, San Francisco, California

The Giants began to build their big advantage during the final minutes of the first half. Collins & Company drove down on the next drive for another touchdown, Kerry Collins again connecting with Amani Toomer for an 8-yard touchdown with 2:49 to go in the first half. After an interception of Jeff Garcia, Collins threw yet another

touchdown to Toomer for his third of the game, and the had a commanding 28-14 lead at the half.

Out of nowhere, after three minutes, with 14:55 to go in the game, the Giants were only leading by one score 38-30. The Giants were flat like they had nothing left.

The 49ers were still playing while the Giants were going through the motions. They drove 68 yards down the field, with Garcia finding Tai Streets on a 13-yard touchdown toss with just 1:05 to go. The Giants were now losing a game they had been winning by 24 points. They looked like an “I can’t” team losing at the time 39-38. The Giants could not regain their composure.

The 2002 Wild Card against the 49ers is among the most devastating losses in Giants history—not only for its comeback and ending, but also because of the impact on the team. The following season, the Giants fell to 4-12 and tied for last place in the entire league. They were clearly heart-sick.

The next year Jim Fassel was fired and Kerry Collins was traded to Oakland, while many key defensive starters left. The team had basically frittered away. As a result, the Wild Card against the 49ers would retrospectively be seen by Giants fans as the beginning of the end of the Jim Fassel era. The Tom Coughlin era was around the corner.

2003 Jim Fassel Coach #16

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL’s 2003 professional football season. The 2003 New York Giants football team competed in their seventy-ninth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 16th Giants Head Coach Jim Fassel in his seventh and last of seven seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 79th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants were at the bottom of their game with a 4-12 season record down from their previous season's 10-6. They came in fourth

place in the AFC East. The Giants did not make the playoffs in 2003. Some say they gave up in 2002!

2003- 2012 Top Giants Player Osi Umenyiora DE



He was born
Ositadimma "Osi"
Umenyiora on

<<< Osi

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.

Pundits often see Justin Tuck and Osi Umenyiora as perfect compliments to each other—Tuck being the better run defender and tackler and Osi being the better pass rusher.

It is a perplexing thought as to who one would take If they 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.

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's Teams 2004-2015

Tom Coughlin Coach #17



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)

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.

2004 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2004 professional football season. The 2004 New York Giants football team competed in their eightieth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his first of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 80th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants finished in second place in the NFC East with a 6-10 season record up from their previous season's 4-12. The Giants did not make the playoffs with Tom Coughlin's first year at the helm in 2004.

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.

2005 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2005 professional football season. The 2005 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-first professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his second of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 81st season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants finished in first place in the NFC East with an 11-5 season which was a big improvement over the prior year's 6-10 record. The Giants made the playoffs but lost to the Carolina Panthers in the NFC Wild Card Playoff Game.

Looking to improve the team in the draft and any way they could, the Giants acquired former Steelers' wide receiver Plaxico Burress as a free agent. Also, during the 2005 Draft, the Giants used their first pick on Louisiana State cornerback Corey Webster. They then used their next pick on Notre Dame defensive end Justin Tuck. The rest of their picks included Southern Illinois running back Brandon Jacobs and Florida State defensive end Eric Moore.

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.

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 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2006 professional football season. The 2006 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-second professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his third of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 82nd season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants finished in first place in the NFC East with an 11-5 season which was a big improvement over the prior year's 6-10 record. The Giants made the playoffs but lost to the Carolina Panthers in the NFC Wild Card Playoff Game.

The Giants under Tom Coughlin began the season with the team trying to improve on their prior 11-5 record from 2005. You remember that the Giants in 2005 saw them win the NFC East. In this year, 2006, their record slipped to 8-8.

They did not win the NFC East or improve on that 11-5 record, even after beginning the season at 6-2. 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 acquire 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 Pehrah, 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.

Wildcard Playoffs

The Giants lost L (20-23). This match was a close one played on January 7, 2007 at 4:39 PM EST in 52 degree. There were almost ideal weather conditions of partly cloudy. The Giants lost against the Philadelphia Eagles in Lincoln Financial Field. 69,094 saw the game in person.

Burress got the final third down. Then, Manning threw a bullet pass to Burress for the touchdown to tie the score. Then, the Giants failed to stop Westbrook. On safe passes and runs until David Akers got in position for the game winning kick as the clock ran out.

2007 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2007 professional football season. The 2007 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-third professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his fourth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 83rd season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants finished in second place in the NFC East with a 10-6 regular season which was a big improvement over the prior year's 8-8 record. The Giants made the playoffs and won all the way out capturing the first Tom Coughlin / Eli Manning Super Bowl

The 2007 Giants qualified for the playoffs as a wild-card team. They were a #5 seed. 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.

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

2007 NFC Wild Card Game

Giants v Tampa Bay Buccaneers

The Giants made the playoffs for the NFC Wild Card game on January 6, 2008 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Florida. Over 65,620 attended the game in balmy 70-degree weather for the 1:00 PM kickoff time. The Giants prevailed 24–14 over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers ending their end of season slide. Eli Manning came of age in this game as he won his first career playoff game. Tom Coughlin won his first playoff game with the Giants.

2007 NFC Divisional Game

Giants at Dallas Cowboys^[edit]

The Giants made the playoffs for the NFC Divisional Championship game on January 13, 2008 at Texas Stadium in Irving, Texas. Over 63,500 attended the game in balmy 59-degree weather for the 4:30 PM kickoff time. The Giants prevailed 21–17 over the Dallas Cowboys ending the Cowboys season.

The second half was all about defense as both teams totaled 10 points in the second half.

Though Dallas dominated the game statistically, outgaining the Giants 336-230 and controlled the ball for 36:30 compared to the Giants 23:30, they also committed 11 penalties compared to just three by the Giants. Romo outgunned Manning through the air, Manning's QB rating for the game was 132.4 compared to Romo's 64.7. The Giants were off to Green Bay after the Game for the NFC Championship

2007 NFC Championship Game

Giants v Green Bay Packers

At 1 degree it is safe to say it was a freezing night in which the Giants faced the second-seeded Green Bay Packers. T

The Packers defense shut the Giants' passing game down so the Giants settled for a second Tynes field goal at 11:41 left in the half.

The Giants got the ball first in the 3rd quarter, and scored on a drive that ended with Brandon Jacobs bulling-in on a 1-yard TD run. The Giants led 13–10. Then Brett Favre threw a 12-yard TD pass to tight end Donald Lee. The Packers led 17–13.

The Giants came back to the four-yard line after a 23-yard reception by Amani Toomer Manning then handed off to Ahmad Bradshaw, who went off tackle right but got caught at the one-yard line.

After a Pack field goal, the Giants were ready but Lawrence Tynes missed the 43-yarder. With the game tied, The Packers' next two drives were three-and-out before they punted to the Giants with 2:30 left, Ahmad Bradshaw broke through the Packers' defense for what appeared to be a 48-yard touchdown run, but the play was nullified due to a holding penalty. Undaunted, Manning found Steve Smith for completions of 14 and 11 yards before the Giants killed time for Lawrence Tynes to attempt a game-winning 36-yard field goal. The kick was wide left as time expired. OT

The Packers won the coin toss and got the ball first. Going down the field, Favre dropped back, and in a bonehead play that helped to define his legacy as a "gunslinger," he threw the ball straight towards Webster, who intercepted the pass, making up for an earlier miscue of his end he went five yards before the Packers Donald Driver dragged him down. On this drive, Tynes made up for his miss with 12:29 left in OT.

Before Tynes attempt, no kicker had made a field goal of over 40 yards with the game time temperature below freezing. His attempt first looked wide of the right goalpost, but the wind hooked it left and the kick went just over the crossbar for the game-winning field goal, and the Giants became the 2007 NFC Champions. The Giants beat the Packers, 23–20.

2007 / 2008 Super Bowl XLII Giants v New England Patriots

The Giants made the Super Bowl to decide the NFL Championship between the AFC and the NFC. The game was played on February 3 at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale Arizona. e on January 20, 2008 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Over 71,100 attended the game in balmy seventy-one-degree weather for the 6:31 PM kickoff time. The Giants prevailed 17–14 over the new England Patriots putting the first blemish on the Pats 18-0 season and sending them home without a ring. The Giants won all the marbles.

After the traditional two-week wait after the Conference battles, the AFC and the NFC were ready to butt heads. The Giants had beaten the Packers and the flew to the University of Phoenix Stadium for Super Bowl XLII against the undefeated AFC Champions, the New England Patriots, it was in essence a rematch of Week 17. That game ended with the Patriots on top in a very close contest after a comeback. It would be a sign of things to come in this game, but with a reverse ending.

The Giants started the game with the longest opening drive in Super Bowl history. Manning kept the ball moving for 16-plays and gained 77-yards while consuming clock time of 9 minutes, 59 seconds. The

drive featured four third-down conversions, which was the most ever on a Super Bowl opening drive. The Patriots said “enough” at their own 14-yard line, where New York delivered the first punch with kicker Lawrence Tynes perfectly nailing a 32-yard field goal for the only score of the First Quarter.

In Q2, the Pats came back with RB Laurence Maroney bulling in with a 1-yard TD run for the only score of the period. The Patriots were up 7-3. There was nothing doing in the scoreless third quarter but the Giants came back strong in the fourth.

They regained the lead when QB Eli Manning completed a 5-yard TD pass to WR David Tyree. New England got the lead bac, when QB Tom Brady completed a 6-yard scoring toss to WR Randy Moss. Afterwards, with only 2 minutes and 40 seconds left, Manning brought the Giants all the way back from their own 17-yard line to the Patriots' 13-yard line. The drive featured a 4th down conversion (a one-yard run by Brandon Jacobs on 4th and inches).

There was also a close call with Eli escaping a sure sack and following through to complete a 32-yard pass to Tyree. From there, Manning hook up with WR Plaxico Burress for the game-clinching TD pass. The Giants defense after that TD did not allow even a single yard. They plagued Brady with one sack and forced three incomplete passes. The Patriots coughed the ball up on downs.



The Giants visiting the White House in honor of their Super Bowl victory on April 30, 2008.

With the win, the Giants finished their championship season with an overall record of 14–6. They became the third team (after the 1993 Cowboys and 2001 Patriots) to win the Super Bowl after beginning the season 0–2 and were the first NFC Wild Card to win the Super Bowl. The victory also gave them their 11th-straight road win (an NFL record).

Eli Manning was named the game's MVP after completing 19 of 34 passes for 255 yards, 2 touchdowns, and an interception; a majority of his offense came in the decisive fourth quarter, completing nine of

14 passes for 152 yards and both touchdowns. The defense had a stellar performance, sacking Patriots QB Tom Brady five times.

Coach Tom Coughlin became the third oldest head coach to win the Super Bowl (61 years and 156 days). Punter Jeff Feagles was the oldest player to play in a Super Bowl, let alone win one.

Eli and Peyton Manning became the first brother QBs to become back-to-back Super Bowl winners and Super Bowl MVPs. Isn't that great! I bet Archie and the family are very proud of both young men. So are we!

2008 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2008 professional football season. The 2008 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-fourth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his fifth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 84th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants finished in first place in the NFC East with a 12-4 regular season which was a nice improvement over the prior year's 10-6 record. The Giants made the playoffs and lost the Divisional Championship and that's all she wrote. No Super Bowl repeat!

They were so good in the 2008 regular season that the Giants finished with the #1 seed in the NFC playoffs for the only time in the Tom Coughlin era. Despite a franchise best 11-1 start and clinching the number 1 seed for the first time in eight years, the Giants lost four of their last five games and got in the mood to lose. The losses included their first playoff game against the Eagles, ending their season. That was a bad mood to catch.

The team Giants qualified for the postseason for the fourth consecutive year, marking the first time in club history that they had accomplished that. This was also the first time that the Giants made the playoffs the year after making the Super Bowl. They missed the

playoffs in 1987 with Bill Parcells (following win in Super Bowl XXI). They missed the playoffs in 1991 again with Bill Parcells (following win in Super Bowl XXV), and 2001 with Jim Fassel (following loss in Super Bowl XXXV).

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.

Post Season

2008 NFC Divisional Round

Giants v Philadelphia Eagles

The Giants made the playoffs for the NFC Championship game on January 11, 2009 at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. Over 79,100 attended the game in football weather at 30 degrees weather for the 1:00 PM kickoff time. The Giants lost the game 11–23 over the Philadelphia Eagles ending the Giants Season 'til the Fall.

The Giants were top seed in the playoffs due to their fine regular season record. Their postseason would begin at home in the NFC Divisional round against their NFC East rival, the #6 Philadelphia Eagles, in Round 3 of 2008's series.

2009 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2009 professional football season. The 2009 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-fifth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC

East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his sixth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 85th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. This year, the Giants finished in third place in the NFC East with an 8-8 regular season which was a lot less than the prior year's 12-4 record. The Giants did not make the playoffs for the first time in five years,

This was the team's final season in Giants Stadium; In 2010, the Giants would move what was named the New Meadowlands Stadium. In 2009, this year, the Giants were hoping to improve upon their fine first-place 12-4 record, and they were hoping to avenge their divisional round loss to the Eagles and of course they hoped to make the playoffs for the fifth straight year. It did not happen.

Despite starting 5-0 to begin the season, they hit a losing mood and went 3-8 in their next 11 games and finished 3rd in the NFC East. This poor record eliminated them from playoff contention for the first time since 2004 in Week 16.

2010 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2010 professional football season. The 2010 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-sixth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his seventh of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 86th season in the NFL. Home games were played in New Meadowlands Stadium. This year, the Giants finished in second place in the NFC East with a 10-6 regular season which was a lot better than the prior year's 8-8 record. The Giants did not make the playoffs for the second time in five years,

This was the team's first season in New Meadowlands Stadium which replaced Giants Stadium. In 2011, the name was changed to MetLife Stadium. Like Giants Stadium, the facility is in East

Rutherford, NJ. It is one of the largest NFL Stadiums in existence with 82,500 seats. It is used by both the Jets and the Giants for football and hosts over 20 NFL games each year as well as other events. When the new stadium was used for the first time in 2010, the old Giants Stadium, which was close by was demolished.

2011 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2011 professional football season. The 2011 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-seventh professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his eighth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

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

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 Dixon and Darius Reynaud registered to one and two-year extensions, respectively. And for all of that, they lost one more game than in 2010—but, they won the Super Bowl. I'd sure take that any day.

2011/2012 Playoffs at a Glance

The Giants played their Wild Card round on January 8 at 1:00 p.m. EST against Atlanta. They beat the Falcons W (24–2) in MetLife Stadium.

In the Divisional round, on January 15 at 4:30 p.m. EST at Green Bay, the Giants defeated the Packers W (37–20) in Lambeau Field

The Giants flew out to San Francisco for the NFC Championship game which they won on January 22 at 6:30 p.m. EST against the 49ers W (20–17) in OT in Candlestick Park.

In another close game, the Giants won the Super Bowl XLVI for their fourth playoff victory in 2011 in a row on February 5 at 6:25 p.m. EST against the perennially great New England Patriots W (21–17) in Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis Indiana.

Recap of the 2011 Playoff Games

NFC Wild Card Game

New York Giants (24) v Atlanta Falcons (2)

In the third quarter. Tynes kicked a 22-yard field goal at the 4:47 marker. Then, Manning caught up with Nicks again with a spot-on 72-yard touchdown pass and another straight-through Tynes extra point.

In the fourth quarter Atlanta was shut out again and Eli Manning connected with Mario Manningham on a nice 27-yard pass. Tynes kept his record clean for the afternoon with a perfect kick at 5:38 remaining in the game. That was all she wrote.
op passers

NFC Divisional Game

NY Giants v Green Bay Packers

January 15 2012

Once the playoffs began, the NY Giants got on a roll that would not stop until everybody on the team had a ring. They orchestrated a second consecutive playoff upset of the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field, knocking out the No. 1 seed, 37-20, to advance to the NFC championship game. It came on the passing of quarterback Eli Manning, and a great performance by wide receiver Hakeem Nicks and an ever-ready defense.

Manning's final scoring throw for four yards went to wide receiver Mario Manningham with less than seven minutes to play to put the game completely out of reach, 30-13. Green Bay did manage a touchdown shortly thereafter, when Rodgers found wide receiver Donald Driver in the end zone with 4 minutes 46 seconds left, but it was far too little and way too late.

The Giants were off to San Francisco for the right to represent the NFC in Super Bowl XLVI next week. They had last come to Lambeau Field during the playoffs after the 2007 season and that time they rallied for a 23-20 overtime victory on their way to winning Super Bowl XLII.

See you in San Francisco

2011/2012 NFC Championship Game

NY Giants (20) v San Fran 49ers (17)

After the NFC Championship and actually well before, the Giants were ready to take off to the Super Bowl. They were chanting "Super Bowl XLVI," here we come! That, of course, happened because the New York Giants defeated the San Francisco 49ers, 20-17, in the NFC Championship Game at Candlestick Park on January 22.

After a 9-7 season, the Giants were tickled to still be engaged yet there was an expectation in their step that good things were about to happen. And, as of this game, they were happening. In a season of last-minute thrills, and a few spills, the Giants of course took this one to the end. In fact, past the end, winning this game in overtime on a 31-yard field goal by Lawrence Tynes. San Francisco was already home so they could cry in their beer without a plane ride home.

This great victory sent the Giants to their fifth Super Bowl, and capped an improbable run. Reflecting, we recall the Giants at 7-7 and having lost five of six. Giants players had not given up and they said this was still possible -- but I am not sure how many people still really believed.

Super Bowl XLVI: **Patriots (17) v Giants (21)**

The Giants competed in Super Bowl XLVI on February 5, 2012 at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, Indiana. Candlestick Park in San Francisco California. Over 68,000 attended the game which was played indoors with the retractable roof closed in to make sure it was comfy. It was all set for the 6:30 PM EST kickoff time. The Giants upset the Patriots 21-17 punctuating the Patriots high flying season with a period that meant a big loss.

The Giants had a number of firsts in their 2012 Super Bowl engagement. They became the first team to have won Super Bowl games broadcast on all four U.S. national networks (CBS, ABC, Fox, and in 2012, NBC), as well as the first team to win Super Bowls in four different decades. The Giants-Patriots game was the 11th time that there was a rematch in a Super Bowl.

In doing so, the 2011 Giants became the first team with fewer than 10 wins (9 wins – 7 losses) in the regular season to win a Super Bowl. Besides that, Super Bowl XLVI marked just the second time in Super Bowl history that opening score of the title game occurred with a safety when Justin Tuck pressured Tom Brady, and he was called for intentional grounding;

The first such instance was Super Bowl IX, when Pittsburgh registered a safety on Hall of Fame coach Bud Grant's Vikings. Eli Manning won his second Super Bowl MVP award in four years after orchestrating another game-winning touchdown drive in the game's final moments. Bravo NY Giants.

Super Bowl XLVI eventually came to an end. Once again, the New York Giants had beaten the New England Patriots, by the final score of 21-17.

There were a lot of memorable moments throughout the course of the day, and anybody part of that day would not be forgetting any of those moments any time soon.

Kelly Clarkson sang my favorite song. The pressure was on Kelly Clarkson to best Christina Aguilera's rendition of the national anthem from the prior Super Bowl. She did great!

Few bet that the first scoring play of Super Bowl XLVI would be an intentional grounding safety. It was. The Patriots started their first drive on their own 6-yard line, and it lasted just one play. Brady took the snap, and dropped back into the end zone to pass. He was rushed hard and he fired the ball deep down the field. No Patriots player was in the stadium area. Intentional grounding in the end zone is a safety. Giants 2, Patriots, 0.

The Giants first big play made the safety seem small. After taking the free kick, the Giants drove right down the field, making it inside the red zone with ease. It looked for a moment that the Patriots had scored a key turnover, but it was called off because they had 12 men on the field. A couple plays later, Eli Manning hit Victor Cruz in the end zone. He juggled the ball initially, but he managed to hang on for the touchdown. 9-0 Giants.

With the Giants up 9-3 in the second quarter, the game's first major injury occurred. Giants tight end Travis Beckum was jammed by a Patriots defender and was seen clutching his knee after he hit the deck. He had to be helped off the field – torn ACL. Out for six months if not more. .

The Patriots finally weaseled into the end zone just before the end of the half. It was a tough score. Pats started inside their own 5 with just about four minutes to go in the half. After a 14-play drive, Brady capped it off with a 4-yard pass to Danny Woodhead. The drive ended with a mere 11 seconds on the clock. The Pats had gained a 3-pointer earlier in the half. The extra point put the Patriots up 10-9.

Madonna performed for World Peace. Let me keep my feelings to myself on that. If you're a fan of Madonna, her halftime performance was the best in Super Bowl history. If you're not a fan of Madonna, her halftime performance was the worst in Super Bowl history.

Tom Brady came alive as the Patriots started the second half the same way they ended the first half. They drove the length of the field and punched it in for a touchdown. Not good for the Giants to let Brady loose on the field. All told, it was an eight-play, 79-yard drive capped by a 12-yard touchdown pass. The extra point made it 17-9 Patriots.

Nobody looks for injuries to help win a game. It took until the third quarter for the Giants to record their first sack of the game. Justin Tuck was the one who got it, and Tom Brady was shaken up big-time on the play.

Team doctors were checking him out once he got there. Back-up quarterback Brian Hoyer started warming up. However, thankfully for the sport of the game, Brady was able to return to the game in the next series. The Patriots avoided disaster. It did not help the Giants but it was a good feeling.

The Giants lost Travis Beckum to a torn ACL in the first half, and then in 3Q, they had to watch Jake Ballard go down with a knee injury. Not good!

Ballard wanted to tough it out and did his best to get warmed up on the sidelines after he was helped off the field. However, cameras caught him sinking to the ground in pain. ESPN's John Clayton announced that Ballard was ruled out of the game with a left knee injury. His exit left the Giants with one healthy tight end. Would that be enough while behind?

Getting down to the wire as the game moved on, the Giants took over with less than four minutes to play in the fourth quarter and after coming back somewhat, they had a 17-15 deficit to overcome.

On the first play of the drive, Eli Manning, known for some excellent play, uncorked a throw from inside his own 10-yard line and found Manningham deep down the left sideline. It was ruled a catch at first, and an instant replay confirmed it. Manningham got both feet down and possession.

The catch set the Giants up at midfield. Could it be? There was a moment four years prior in which David Tyree's brilliant catch was followed by a game-winning touchdown pass from Eli Manning to Plexico 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 fewer long fingertips.

Manning put up 40 passes during the game and completed 30 of them for 296 yards and a big touchdown. Just as he did four years prior, Eli Manning came up clutch when it mattered, making several key throws in New York's final drive.

Naturally, he was named Super Bowl MVP for the second time for a great effort. At the time of the final whistle, Eli Manning had achieved as many Super Bowl MVPs as Tom Brady and one more than his talented older brother Peyton.

It was a great year watching Tom Coughlin, a Bill Parcells protégé and Bill Belichick, a Bill Parcells protégé battling it out for football supremacy. It was also nice to see two of the finest QBs in football, Tom Brady and Eli Manning doing the same on behalf of their talented coaches and teams. For my money in this game, I was pleased to see the Coughlin and Manning combo bring a big victory home for New York. Bravo again to the Giants!

2012 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2012 professional football season. The 2012 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-eighth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his ninth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 88th season in the NFL. Home games were played in Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. This year, the Giants finished in 2nd place in the NFC East with a 9-7 regular season record which was the same as the prior year's

record. The Giants did not make the playoffs at 9-7 even though their 9-7 in 2011 got them a Super Bowl Championship.

This is the third season that the Giants played their home games at MetLife Stadium. The Giants were the defending 2011 Super Bowl Champions for the fourth time in their history. By 21-17, they beat the New England Patriots. It was their second Championship victory over the Patriots. The Giants finished 9-7 again -- for the second straight year, and they failed to make the playoffs with the same record as last year. Unfortunately for readers looking for a positive message, this would be the last time the Giants had a winning record until the 2016 season.

2013 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2013 professional football season. The 2013 New York Giants football team competed in their eighty-ninth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his tenth of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 89th season in the NFL. Home games were played in MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. This year, the Giants finished in 3rd place in the NFC East with a 7-9 regular season record which was the reverse of the prior year's record of 9-7. The Giants did not make the playoffs at 7-9, even though their 9-7 in 2011 got them a Super Bowl appearance and championship. What a difference a year and a few wins make.

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.

2014 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2014 professional football season. The 2014 New York Giants football team competed in their ninetieth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his eleventh of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

It is surely much more fun and exciting to be winning games.

2015 Tom Coughlin Coach #17

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2015 professional football season. The 2015 New York Giants football team competed in their ninety-first professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 17th Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin in his twelfth and last of twelve seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 91st season in the NFL. Home games were played in MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. This year, the Giants finished again in 3rd place in the NFC East with the same exact 6-10 regular season record as 2015. The Giants did not make the playoffs with such a poor showing.

As noted, Tom Coughlin returned for his 12th and final season as the team's head coach. It would have been a good sendoff for the Giants

to have a better record but, c'est la vie. 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.

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 a piece of 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 had 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.

Chapter 20 Coach Ben McAdoo's Teams 2016-2017

Ben McAdoo Coach #18

Coach	Year	Conf	Place	W-L-T
Ben McAdoo	2016	NFC East	2nd	11-5-0
Lost Wild Card playoffs(at Packers) 38-13				
Eli Manning (Co-NFL WPMOY)				
Ben Mc (2-10)	2017	NFC East	4th	3 13 0 —
2016-2017 Ben McAdoo final record (13-15)				



Coach Ben McAdoo with Eli Manning from the sidelines.

Ben McAdoo

From nfl.com January 14, 2016

The Giants found a new head coach inside their own building.

New York announced Thursday that the team will promote Ben McAdoo to head coach. NFL Media Insider Ian Rapoport first reported the news Wednesday before the press conference. McAdoo, 38, had been the team's offensive coordinator for the past two seasons. The team introduced him at a special press conference at 10:30 a.m. ET on Friday January 11.

McAdoo was seen as a favorite for the job after Tom Coughlin stepped down following a 12-year run with the franchise. The Giants went 6-10 this season, their fourth straight season without a playoff berth.

McAdoo's promotion provides continuity for Eli Manning and the Giants' offense. Rapoport reported that Manning paid a visit to ownership to vouch for a McAdoo promotion. Some in the Giants' organization have compared McAdoo to a "young Andy Reid", according to Rapoport.

"Ben is an outstanding young coach who has great experience and has done a good job as our offensive coordinator these past two years," Giants owner John Mara said in a team statement. "We were all impressed with his energy, his enthusiasm, his vision and his desire. Ben has been preparing for this opportunity since he started coaching, and he has earned his stripes every step of the way.

"Some have suggested he may not be ready, and as I said last week, we want a coach who feels like he has something to prove."

Rapoport additionally reports that Steve Spagnuolo is expected to remain the team's defensive coordinator. The Giants had one of the worst defenses in football last season, though a lack of quality personnel played perhaps the biggest role in the struggles. Expect that to be a major area of focus this offseason as Spagnuolo gets another chance to improve the unit.

The Giants planned to interview Hue Jackson on Thursday, but Jackson surprised Big Blue brass by taking the Browns' job on Wednesday. The Eagles were also very interested in McAdoo, which likely played a role in New York's decision to act when Jackson came off the board.

New York interviewed Spagnuolo, Lions defensive coordinator Teryl Austin, former Bears offensive coordinator Adam Gase, former Bills coach Doug Marrone and former Falcons coach Mike Smith. Gase was named the Dolphins' new coach last week.

This is a sensible move by a Giants team that has established a well-earned reputation for its organizational stability. There is much to do on the defensive side of the ball, but McAdoo will continue to oversee an offense that will score points with Manning and Odell Beckham Jr. involved. This was a desirable job, and McAdoo should have an opportunity for extended run.

2016 Ben McAdoo Coach #18

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2016 professional football season. The 2016 New York Giants football team competed in their ninety-second professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 18th Giants Head Coach Ben McAdoo his first of two seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 92nd season in the NFL. Home games were played in MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. This year, the Giants finished in 2nd place in the NFC East with an unexpectedly fine 11-5-0 regular season record as of 2016. They made the playoffs but lost in the Wildcard match.

This was the first year under head coach Ben McAdoo. The team began 2–0 before falling into a three-game losing streak to the Redskins, Vikings and Packers. New York then rebounded and went on a six-game winning tear for the first time since 2010. In Week 13, they ended the streak by falling to the Pittsburgh Steelers. They came back and upset the 11–1 Dallas Cowboys in Week 14 to improve to 9–4. With their Week 14 win over the Dallas Cowboys, the Giants clinched a winning season for the first time since 2012 and they also swept the Cowboys for the first time since 2011.

Ben McAdoo's Giants were surprising everybody and they were not done yet. The Giants got their 10th win in Week 15, giving them

their first 10-win season since 2010. They had magnificent 7–1 record at home--their best since MetLife Stadium opened in 2010.

Despite a loss to the Eagles in Week 16, the Buccaneers' loss to the New Orleans Saints assured the Giants of a playoff trip for the first time since their last Super Bowl season in 2011.

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.

Chapter 21 Coach Steve Spagnuolo's Team 2017

Steve Spagnuolo Coach #19



NY Giants Coach Spagnuolo doing his job

Steve Spagnuolo was at one time in the right place at the right time. When the Giants were so frustrated with Ben McAdoo even though a full season had not passed since he had completed a fine season—the Giants were ready to fire him. At that precise time, Steve Spagnuolo was there ready and willing to take his place. Maybe if he had won just two games (one more) in his four-game stint, we would be talking about him rather than Coach Shurmur for 2019.

The Steve Spagnuolo we care about in this book is a four-game head football coach in the National Football League (NFL) working as an interim for the New York Giants. He later became the defensive coordinator for the Kansas City Chiefs. He held this position since 2019. Prior to this season, he coached for twenty-one seasons for the Washington Redskins, San Diego Chargers, Philadelphia Eagles, New York Giants, St. Louis Rams, New Orleans Saints, and

Baltimore Ravens. His most recent outing had been with the Giants as their interim head coach/defensive coordinator. It would have been tough for Spagnuola to be at his best during this period when the Giants were at their worst.

During his career, Coach Spagnuola was also the head coach of the St. Louis Rams from 2009 until the 2011 season. The Rams went 10-38-0 during their three seasons with Spagnuolo as head coach. During the 2010 season as the head coach of the St. Louis Rams he coached Sam Bradford to the AP Offensive Rookie of the Year. His credits are few and the list of plaudits is short but like most NFL head coaches, he was a fine coach and a great player before that.

2017 Ben McAdoo Coach #18 (2-10)

2017 Steve Spagnuola Coach #19 (1-3)

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2017 professional football season. The 2017 New York Giants football team competed in their ninety-third professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 18th Giants Head Coach Ben McAdoo in his second of two seasons (12 games) as head coach of the Giants. Coach Steve Spagnuola (#19) finished up the last four games of season for Ben McAdoo. It was Spagnuola's only time as a Giants head coach.

As noted, this was the franchise's 93rd season in the NFL. Home games were played in MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. This year, the Giants finished in 4th place in the NFC East with an unexpectedly poor 3-13-0 regular season record as of 2017. The Giants did not make the playoffs this year.

Coming fresh off a fine 11–5 season, the Giants had high hopes of a Super Bowl Championship and were an expected playoff contender by many critics. However, things quickly fell apart after key injuries and controversial decisions regarding the team.

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 AFC 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.

Chapter 22 Coach Pat Shurmur's Teams 2018-2019

Pat Shurmur Coach #20

The pundits say Pat Shurmur was named the 18th head coach in Giants history on Jan. 22, 2018. I say he was named the 20th head coach and I beg you to go back in this book and check the numbers.

Though Shurmur looks like a kid compared to Parcels and Coughlin, he is no kid. Patrick Carl Shurmur as 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 Parcels.

Twelve of the Giants' 16 games in 2018 were decided by seven or fewer points, tying them with Philadelphia and Pittsburgh for the most in the NFL. The Giants were 4-8 in games decided by seven or fewer points. The eight losses in such games were an NFL high. The Giants held a fourth-quarter lead in four of those games.

2018 Pat Shurmur Coach #20

The New York Football Giants represented the City of New York in the NFL's 2018 professional football season. The 2018 New York Giants football team competed in their ninety-fourth professional National Football League (NFL) season. They were still in the NFC East. The team was led by the 20th Giants Head Coach Pat Shurmur in his first of an unknown # of seasons as head coach of the Giants.

As noted, this was the franchise's 94th season in the NFL. Home games were played in MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. This year, the Giants finished in 4th place in the NFC East with an expectedly poor 5-11-0 regular season record as of 2018. The Giants did not make the playoffs for the second straight year.



The Giants entered the season looking to improve on their 2017 campaign, which had seen the team finish with a 3–13 record, their worst since the adoption of a 16-game regular season. Despite starting 1–7 for the second consecutive year, the Giants managed to improve on their 3–13 campaign by gaining a 30–27 victory over the

Chicago Bears. Then, after Shurmur's squad lost a 17–0 shutout to the Titans in Week 15, they were sure of missing the playoffs for the second straight season. T

The Shurmur team was trying to improve on the McAdoo and Spagnuola mini-era but the improvement was negligible in 2018 with much more expected in 2019. The season was marred by blown fourth-quarter leads much like in 2015. The Giants were in 12 one-possession games and lost eight games by seven points or fewer. They could have gone either way but they went the wrong way and that is not good.

The Giants finished up at 5–11 and they had sole possession of last place in the NFC East for the second straight year. Despite the 5–11 record, the season was highlighted with a great former PSU rookie running back named Saquon Barkley who won many awards including Pepsi Rookie of the Year, FedEx Ground NFL Player of the Year, AP NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year and Barkley was named to the PFWA All-Rookie Team and AP All-Rookie teams. If he can stay healthy and the Giants can improve a bit of the rest of their game, Shurmur may be dancing with the NFL stars before too long. We sure hope so.

Coach Shurmur is looking for a lot more W's in the 2019 season. So am I and I bet, so are you!

2018 → Top Giants Players

Saquon Barley RB

John Healy wrote a great article on April 28, 2018 for the New York Daily News about Saquon Barkley and his NFL journey—beginning with family. Moving from New York for a better life, Healy begins by saying

Barkley is back to make the family and the Giants very proud.

This top Giants Players tribute is based on that article and it includes many direct passages. Thank you to the New York Daily News. Saquon Barkley is now a New Yorker.

Living about 130 miles from University Park, PA, in addition to Notre Dame, all members of the Kelly family are avid Penn State Fans—major rooters. Saquon Barkley immediately become a favorite. Your author wrote five books about Penn State and one of them is called Great Players in Penn State Football. Here is a brief excerpt from a section of the book, written when Mr. Barkley was just a sophomore:

In the post Paterno years, Penn State's avid supporters have second guessed the AP's decisions on All Americans. For some it was thus surprising that the AP selected Barkley as an All-American for the 2016 season. He played great for sure. He is just a sophomore so we may need an edition of this book each year to update his phenomenal stats.

In the beginning, Saquon Barkley stepped onto the stage in the auditorium at the Quest Diagnostics Training Center in East Rutherford on a Saturday morning to the sound of cameras clicking and lights flashing as the No. 2 overall pick was officially being welcomed to the Giants.

Standing six-foot tall and weighing in at 233-pounds, the 21-year-old kid from Coplay, Pa is nobody to mess with on the football field and I would bet anyplace else. He is either a mobilized brick or a big hunk of granite ready to fly at a moment's notice. In front of all the lights, Barkley held up a blue No. 26 jersey in front of his all-black suit with an ear-to-ear grin on his face. Moments later, he was alone in front of the podium when he leaned into the microphone and he announced for the first time in public:

"I'm Saquon Barkley, running back of the New York Giants, and I'm just so happy to be a part of the Giants."

The kid known as "Little Barry Sanders" in the Lehigh Valley is finally in the NFL, but it was a journey that may not have been possible if not for a sacrifice Barkley's parents made when he was about five years old.

Alibay Barkley and Tonya Johnson, Saquon's parents, grew up in the South Bronx and resided together at Lyman Place on Prospect Ave. and 169th St.

It was a dangerous neighborhood and a place where Saquon's father said he was prone to "bad decisions."

Alibay had struggled with drug addiction and had multiple arrests, which included a year in jail on Rikers Island for a gun charge. As he and Johnson began to raise a family together, moving away from the city was a chance to escape those "bad decisions," and giving their children a better place to live became a priority.

"There were a lot of factors," he told the Daily News. "It wasn't like it was a dire situation. Just a better opportunity."

T

hat opportunity was in Pennsylvania, where Johnson's grandmother lived and they would visit often. It was there that Johnson wanted to raise her kids.

"The environment, the kids would have fun," she said. "I wanted them to have this. To be able to do this. When you go to the park and you're able sit there and just constantly watch them all the time like — there was more grass out there. The air was better and Saquon had asthma when he was a child. Every time he went out there he didn't need the pump. He didn't need the machine. So it was just a better environment."

That better environment also helped Saquon discover his love and passion for football.

Growing up in the inner city, it would have been difficult to find a youth football team for Saquon. Alibay said they did not really start to have inner city youth football programs until around 1998-99 and that most of the opportunities were really in Westchester.



Saquon Barkley poses for photos holding his No. 26 Giants jersey. (Julie Jacobson/AP)

Yet when they moved to Pennsylvania, "they had it everywhere, and he saw it."

Football had always been on Saquon's mind as a child. At a young age, Alibay would sit with Saquon and watch their favorite team, the Jets, on TV together. Alibay even has a Jets tattoo on his elbow. But before there was football, he tried to get Saquon into his true passion: boxing.

Boxing blood runs deep in the Barkley family.

Alibay was an amateur boxer, competing in the Daily News Golden Gloves tournament from 1991-93, but an arm injury prevented him from further competition.

Alibay's uncle and Saquon's great-uncle, Iran Barkley, was a professional boxer who was a three-weight world champion, holding the WBC middleweight title in 1988-89, the IBF super middleweight title from 1992-93 and WBA light heavyweight in 1992.

Boxing never caught on with Saquon, though.

"I tried (to get him in)," Alibay said. "I had a (punching) pad. I still got that stuff now."

Instead it was football that Saquon fell in love with and his parents noticed it the moment they signed him up for a flag football team while living in Allentown, Pa.

"He was very excited, elated, ecstatic, joyful," said Alibay. It did not take long to learn Saquon had a special talent on the gridiron.



Saquon Barkley's parents, Tonya Johnson (l.) and Alibay Barkley left New York City to make a better life for their family. (Julie Jacobson/AP)

When he was about 8 or 9 years old Alibay made a bet with his son. He told him if he scored 15 touchdowns in the season he would give him \$100.

"Just before the 15th touchdown, he was running and I was on the sideline going like this," Alibay said, waving his arms as if to say stop. "And he was smiling because he knew he was going to get that \$100 but they called a flag. He put his head down and walked back.

"They pushed them back a few yards. They gave him the ball again and took off," Alibay said as he smacked his hands together. "He got the \$100 on the very next play."

The legend of Saquon Barkley began to grow throughout the Lehigh Valley and he was soon generating buzz before he took the field for the varsity team at Whitehall High School.

"In youth football, they called him Little Barry Sanders," Whitehall head coach Brian Gilbert told the Daily News.

Gilbert was impressed with Saquon's athleticism, but as a freshman he felt the running back was undersized, too skinny and not as talented as the upperclassmen.

It was not until the end of his sophomore year when the running back ahead of him on the depth chart got hurt and they had to turn to Saquon for the last game and playoffs.

"The first touch we gave him he took it 55 yards for a touchdown," Gilbert said. "I remember saying to one of my assistants on the headset, 'maybe we should have played this kid sooner.'"

Whitehall would win the league title that season and again in Saquon's junior year.

Saquon would further his legend at Penn State where he became an instant star and shattered school records.

He finished as Penn State's leader in career rushing touchdowns (43) and total touchdowns (53). He also surpassed Larry Johnson's program record of 5,045 career all-purpose yards with 5,538.

7 (Tim Heitman/USA TODAY Sports)

He was a rock star on a football-frenzied campus that was thwarted back into the national limelight after struggling through the aftermath of Jerry Sandusky.

Gilbert was most proud of the way Saquon carried himself through it all.

"Penn State is a big platform," he said. "He could have gotten a big head, but he stayed level-headed."



Now he is in New York — the biggest media platform in the world — and about to sign a lucrative rookie contract that comes with high expectations and scrutiny of everything he does on and off the field.

Saquon sounds up for the challenge, too, and does not plan on being content with just reaching the NFL.

He wants to be the best and win titles.

"I had a lot of family and fans in my section and to be able to see that put a smile on their face and not just saying we made it because we didn't make it," he said. "That's not the goal and the dream to make it to the NFL draft. The goal and the dream is to win championships, be a dominant player — (the draft) is just a stepping stone."

It is also not lost on him that he is back to where it all began, the city he was born in and the one his parents left so they could give him and his four siblings a better life.

While his focus lies on what is ahead, he could not help but realize how things have come full circle and took a moment to acknowledge his parents for carving out the path to help him reach the stepping stone to launch his NFL career.

"The impact definitely looking back on it — the sacrifice that my mom and my dad made not only for myself but for my siblings, and that's why that night, that draft night, was so special," he said. "To be able to walk up on that podium and receive that jersey, and thankfully it's a New York Giants jersey and be able to have my parents see that and let them know that the sacrifice and everything they made for the family and the way that they taught me and being a little kid and the way that they raised me is all coming together. "I'm going to continue to try to do the right things and make not only my mother and father, but my brothers and sisters, proud."

John Healy

CONTACT: John Healy is a general assignment sports reporter with a focus on covering the NFL and Giants. He has worked at the Daily News since 2013 originally as an Online Sports Editor. He graduated from Quinnipiac University in 2012 with a BA in Journalism.

That's a nice way to end this book. Go Giants!

Other Books by Brian W. Kelly: (amazon.com, and Kindle)

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