

OFFICIAL 25¢ PROGRAM

# EAGLES ★ GIANTS

SHIBE PARK

NOVEMBER 11, 1945





# EAGLES GRID REVIEW

Official Publication of the Philadelphia Eagles. Published for, and on sale at all home games.

## PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

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Harry M. Thayer .. Vice Pres. and Gen. Mgr.  
Al Ennis ..... Publicity Director  
Don Hall ..... Program Manager

A. Earle Neale ..... Head Coach  
John Kellison ..... Assistant Coach  
Fred Schubach ..... Trainer

## New Faces

The 1945 Pro teams are definitely better than the squads that played in the National League competition during the three war years. All the clubs in the league have been working hard to balance their teams with returned veterans and first-year men. As the league play-off goes into the second half of the championship campaign, a decided change will be noted in the squad lists of all the teams.

The Eagles added several men to their list in order to strengthen their pass defense and give the squad that extra something it needs to regain a top position in league standing. Among these additions are Tommy Thompson, quarterback from Tulsa University. Thompson was recently released from the services and returned to the Eagles to take up where he left off before the war interrupted his grid career. This is his fourth year in National League competition. Gil Steinke, halfback from Texas A. & I., and Fred Meyer, end from Stanford, are both new additions to the Eagles squad, each with two years' league experience.

The Giants, erstwhile opponents of the Eagles here today, have also dipped heavily into the pool of returning veterans and Pro-Grid rookies. Steve Filipowicz, former Fordham triple-threat star, was the best of the freshmen backfield material at the start of the season along with Elmer Barbour, blocker from Wake Forest, and Ed Shedlosky, speedy hip-twisting carrier from Tulsa. The latest addition is Bill Paschal, who rejoined the squad recently after being relieved of his football duties with the First Air Force.

Now that more player material is becoming available through Army discharges, etc., league coaches will act quickly to correct any weaknesses that appear in their squads. Although there is only another month left for league play-offs, it is our guess that there will still be a great turn-over of players this year. Next year will find many new faces on the most powerful squads the National League Clubs have ever been able to field.

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**National Football League  
Schedule for 1945**

Date	Clubs	Scores
Sept. 23	Detroit at Chicago Cardinals	10 0
*Sept. 25	Pittsburgh at Boston Yanks	7 28
Sept. 30	Chicago Bears at Green Bay	21 31
" "	Chicago Cardinals at Cleveland	0 21
Oct. 7	Detroit vs. Green Bay (at Milwaukee)	21 47
" "	Chicago Bears at Cleveland	0 17
" "	Chicago Cardinals at Phila.	6 21
" "	Washington at Boston Yanks	20 28
" "	New York at Pittsburgh	34 6
Oct. 14	Chicago Cardinals at Chi Bears	16 7
" "	Cleveland at Green Bay	27 14
" "	Philadelphia at Detroit	24 28
" "	New York at Boston Yanks (Yankee Stadium, N. Y. C.)	13 13
" "	Washington at Pittsburgh	14 0
Oct. 21	Cleveland at Chicago Bears	41 21
" "	Boston Yanks vs. Green Bay (at Milwaukee)	14 38
" "	Chicago Cardinals at Detroit	0 26
" "	Pittsburgh at New York	21 7
" "	Philadelphia at Washington	14 24
Oct. 28	Chicago Cardinals at Green Bay	14 33
" "	Chicago Bears at Detroit	10 16
" "	Washington at New York	24 14
" "	Cleveland at Philadelphia	14 28
" "	Boston Yanks at Pittsburgh	10 6
Nov. 4	Green Bay at Chicago Bears	24 28
" "	Cleveland at New York	21 17
" "	Detroit at Boston Yanks	10 9
" "	Philadelphia at Pittsburgh	45 3
Nov. 11	Detroit at Chicago Bears	
" "	Green Bay at Cleveland	
" "	New York at Philadelphia	
" "	Chicago Cardinals at Pittsburgh	
" "	Boston Yanks at Washington	
Nov. 18	Cleveland at Chicago Cardinals	
" "	Detroit at New York	
" "	Pittsburgh at Philadelphia	
" "	Green Bay at Boston Yanks	
" "	Chicago Bears at Washington	
Nov. 22	Cleveland at Detroit (Thanksgiving Day)	
Nov. 25	Pittsburgh at Chicago Bears	
" "	Green Bay at New York	
" "	Washington at Philadelphia	
Dec. 2	Chicago Bears at Chi. Cardinals	
" "	Boston Yanks at Cleveland	
" "	Green Bay at Detroit	
" "	Philadelphia at New York	
" "	Pittsburgh at Washington	
Dec. 9	Boston Yanks at Philadelphia	
" "	New York at Washington	

\* The Boston Yanks and the Brooklyn Tigers have merged for the 1945 season, the club to be known as the Boston Yanks.

# The Amazing Growth of Pro-Football

Professional football has grown amazingly in the manner that giant oaks start from tiny acorns. Pro football is chiefly the National League. The ten-club National League expects to perform before approximately two million fans this season.

Pro football was born August, 1895, in Latrobe, a little mining town in Western Pennsylvania. The game was played on Saturday, unlike the current pro Sunday custom. The reason was the Latrobe team was managed and sponsored by the Young Men's Christian Association.

College boys from adjacent Pennsylvania schools, returning home, conceived the idea of organizing the Latrobe team in the little Y. M. C. A. gym. The Latrobe team was a nondescript affair. Instead of helmets hair was worn long, which frequently was tackled by opponents. The pigskin warrior in that early period was vastly different in appearance from the present-day streamlined player.

Those were the days of the "flying wedge," the tackle and guards' back, five yards to go in three plays and no rules to protect kickers or the receivers of kicks. No forward passing was permitted. It was deemed too dangerous.

The first game played at Latrobe was against a team from Jeanette, an even smaller town about ten miles distant. The first pro contest was arranged especially to settle the seething rivalry between those two little Pennsylvania mining towns. Opposing contestants were mostly college players, who considered the fray a worthwhile adventure. John Brallier was the big star and highest paid member of the Latrobe team in that now historic game—\$10 and cakes. Latrobe won and thereby began a notable record of ten years with few defeats.

Gossip about the Latrobe-Jeanette football series soon seeped into Ohio. Canton was one of the first to field a club. So many other teams made their appearance that Ohio was erroneously called the "cradle" of pro football. The new sport had many tribulations, but continued to spread. Northern New York State was represented with teams around Syracuse.

Meanwhile, Pittsburgh was the hub of renewed activity for college players anxious to participate for thrills and few dollars. In the transitional period it was often difficult to dis-

tinguish between professionals and amateurs. Around 1900 there were a number of athletic clubs in and near New York, composed of well-known college men who played on club teams. These teams included the Manhattan Athletic Club, Orange Field Club in Jersey, Crescent Club in Brooklyn and the Staten Island Athletic Club.

Pittsburgh, the first big city to embrace pro football, shortly claimed the Pennsylvania State championship. That so riled Connie Mack, of baseball fame, that he promptly organized his Philadelphia Athletics. He challenged the high-riding Pitt team. Their first clash resulted in a scoreless deadlock.

In the early nineties pro elevens mushroomed throughout the Middle West. Many had short careers, but new ones bravely took the gamble. And so it went until 1921 when the late Joe Carr, striving to bring order out of chaos, organized the National League.

The National League turned the corner in 1925 when the New York Giants purchased a franchise and "Red" Grange, at the conclusion of his spectacular Illinois career, joined the Chicago Bears. The Grange game with the Giants in December of that year drew 73,000 to the Polo Grounds, which still stands as the all-time football attendance record for that stadium.

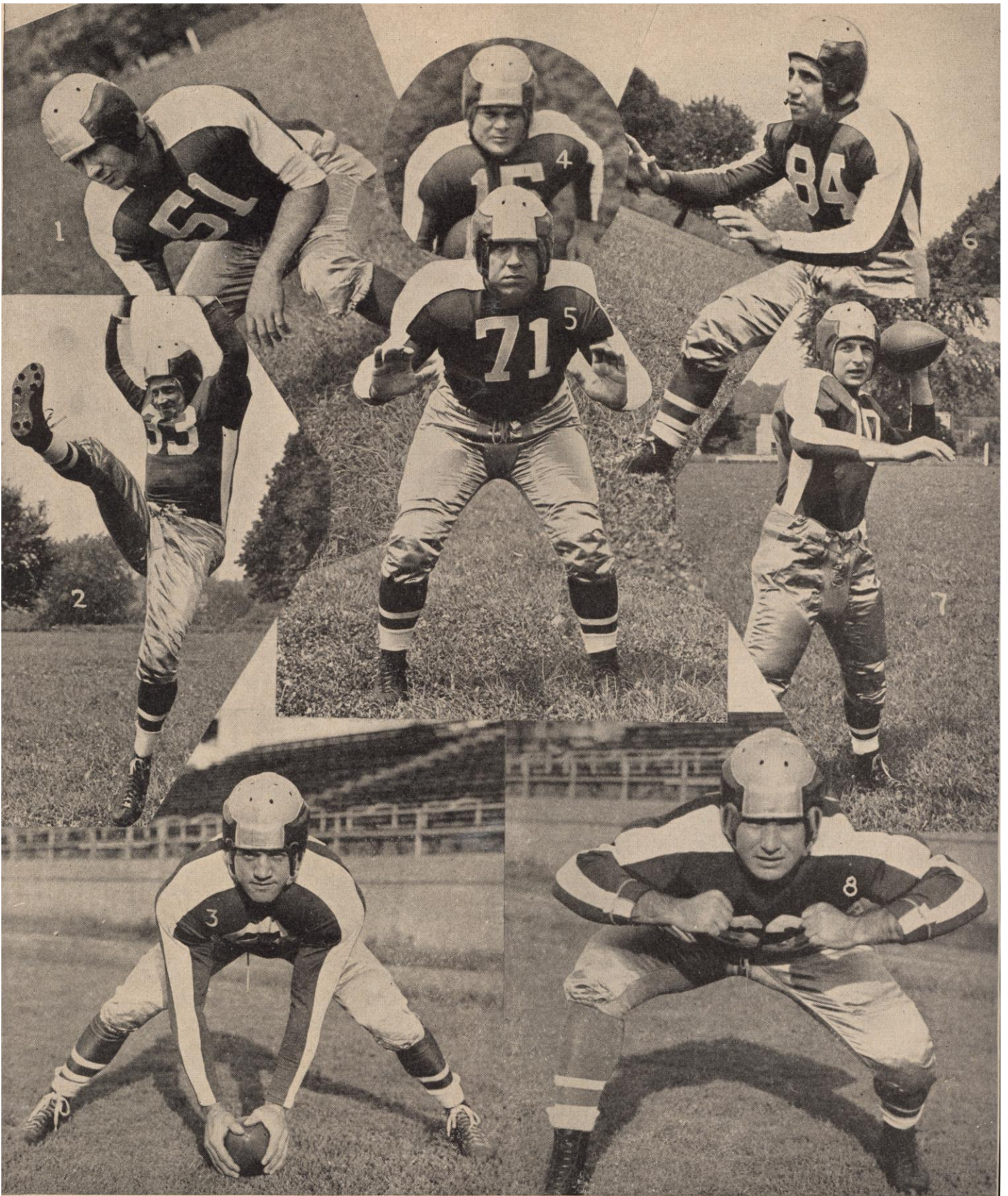
## NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDING

### Eastern Division

	W.	L.	T.	P.C.	Points	
					For	Agst
Washington ....	4	1	0	.800	106	77
Philadelphia ..	3	2	0	.600	132	75
Boston .....	3	2	1	.600	102	94
New York .....	1	3	1	.250	85	85
Pittsburgh .....	1	5	0	.167	43	138

### Western Division

	W.	L.	T.	P.C.	Points	
					For	Agst
Cleveland .....	5	1	0	.833	141	80
Detroit .....	5	1	0	.833	111	100
Green Bay .....	4	2	0	.667	197	125
Chi. Bears .....	1	5	0	.167	87	145
Chi. Cards .....	1	6	0	.143	57	142



## Philadelphia Players

(1) John Krovic, center; (2) Jack Banta, back; (3) Vic Lindskog, center; (4) Steve Van Buren, back; (5) George Fritts, tackle; (6) Larry Cabrelli, end; (7) Al Sherman, back; (8) Mike Mandarino, guard.

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### Philadelphia Eagles Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	College	Yr. in NFL
7	ZIMMERMAN, ROY	QB	6.02	200	San Jose State	6th
10	SHERMAN, AL	QB	5.10	200	Brooklyn College	3rd
11	THOMPSON, TOMMY	QB	6.02	199	Tulsa University	4th
15	VAN BUREN, STEVE	HB	6.02	200	L.S.U.	2nd
27	BUTLER, JOHNNY	HB	5.10	185	Tennessee	3rd
30	ERDLITZ, DICK	FB	5.11	180	Northwestern	2nd
32	ROGALIA, JOHNNY	FB	6.00	215	Scranton Univ.	1st
33	BANTA, JACK	HB	6.00	192	So. California	3rd
37	STEELE, ERNIE	HB	6.00	195	U. of Washington	4th
40	KARNOFSKY, SONNY	HB	5.11	180	Arizona	1st
41	STEINKE, GIL	HB	6.00	175	Texas A. and I.	2nd
44	KISH, BEN	FB	6.01	215	Pittsburgh	6th
49	BLEEKER, MEL	HB	5.10	192	So. California	2nd
50	MANZINI, BAPTISTE	C	5.11	195	St. Vincent's	2nd
51	CONTI, ENIO	G	5.11	205	Bucknell	5th
52	LINDSKOG, VIC	C	6.02	205	Stanford	2nd
60	MICHAELS, EDDIE	G	5.10	210	Villanova	7th
61	MARONIC, DUKE	G	5.09	200	Steelton H. S.	2nd
62	MANDARINO, MIKE	T	5.10	240	La Salle	2nd
63	BANDUCCI, BRUNO	G	5.10	205	Stanford	2nd
65	SUFFRIDGE, BOB	G	6.00	220	Tennessee	2nd
67	SANDERS, JACK	G	6.00	220	So. Methodist	4th
70	WISTERT, AL	T	6.02	215	Michigan	3rd
71	FRITTS, GEORGE	T	5.11	210	Clemson	1st
72	SHIRES, ART	T	6.02	220	Tennessee	1st
76	KILROY, FRANK	T	6.02	240	Temple	3rd
79	SEARS, VIC	T	6.03	225	Oregon State	5th
81	MCDONALD, DON	E	6.03	195	Oklahoma	2nd
82	SMITH, MILTON	E	6.03	185	U.C.L.A.	1st
83	FERRANTE, JACK	E	6.01	195	None	3rd
84	CABRELLI, LARRY	E	5.10	190	Colgate	5th
85	GAUER, CHARLIE	E	6.03	215	Colgate	3rd
89	MEYER, FRED	E	6.02	190	Stanford	2nd

Head Coach, EARLE NEALE, West Virginia Wesleyan  
Asst. Coach, JOHN KELLISON, West Virginia Wesleyan  
Trainer, FRED SCHUBACH  
Doctors, HARRISON F. FLIPPIN and FREDERICK A. BEALE

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### EAGLES

#### STARTING LINE-UP

LE	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	RE
Ferrante	Sears	Michaels	Lindskog	Banducci	Wistert	Cabrelli
83	79	60	52	63	70	84

#### QB

Zimmerman 7

#### LHB

Van Buren 15

#### RHB

Bleeker 49

#### FB

Rogalla 32

#### SQUAD LIST

7 Zimmerman, qb	44 Kish, fb	70 Wistert, t
10 Sherman, qb	49 Bleeker, hb	71 Fritts, t
11 Thompson, qb	50 Manzini, c	72 Shires, t
15 Van Buren, hb	51 Conti, g	76 Kilroy, t
27 Butler, hb	52 Lindskog, c	79 Sears, t
30 Erdlitz, fb	60 Michaels, g	81 McDonald, e
32 Rogalla, fb	61 Maronic, g	82 Smith, e
33 Banta, hb	62 Mandarino, g	83 Ferrante, e
37 Steele, hb	63 Banducci, g	84 Cabrelli, e
40 Karnofsky, hb	65 Suffridge, g	85 Gauer, e
41 Steinke, hb	67 Sanders, q	89 Meyer, e



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### NEW YORK GIANTS

#### STARTING LINE-UP

LE	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	RE
Fox	Cope	Grate	Hein	Sivell	DeFilippo	Weiss
70	36	17	7	33	10	11

QB  
Sulaitis 37

LHB  
Pugh 2

RHB  
Cuff 14

FB  
Filipowicz 34

#### SQUAD LIST

2 Pugh, b	20 Herber, b	36 Cope, t
4 Shaffer, b	22 Liebel, e	37 Sulaitis, b
5 Shedlosky, b	24 Livingston, b	38 Klotovich, b
6 Barbour, b	26 Carroll, t	39 Kane, t
7 Hein, c	27 Springer, e	42 Barker, b
10 De Filippo, c	28 Adams, e	43 Marrows, b
11 Weiss, e	29 Piccolo, c	50 Strong, b
12 White, g	30 Wynne, e	55 Tomaini, t
14 Cuff, b	31 Visnic, g	69 Umont, g
17 Graves, g	33 Sivell, g	70 Fox, e
18 Martin, b	34 Filipowicz, b	Doolan, b

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### New York Giants Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	College	NFL
2	PUGH, MARION	B	6.01	185	Texas A. & M.	2nd
4	SHAFFER, LELAND	B	6.01	205	Kansas State	10th
5	SHEDLOSKY, ED	B	5.11	190	Tulsa	1st
6	BARBOUR, ELMER	B	6.01	202	Wake Forest	1st
7	HEIN, MEL	C	6.04	232	Washington State	15th
10	DE FILIPPO, LOU	C	6.02	230	Fordham	2nd
11	WEISS, JOHN	E	6.03	195	None	2nd
12	WHITE, ARTHUR	G	5.08	216	Alabama	6th
14	CUFF, WARD	B	6.03	193	Marquette	9th
17	GRAVES, CARL	G	6.00	215	Georgia	1st
18	MARTIN, FRANK	B	5.11	185	Alabama	3rd
20	HERBER, ARNIE	B	6.00	210	Regis	13th
22	LIEBEL, FRANK	E	6.02	215	Norwich	4th
24	LIVINGSTON, HOWARD	B	6.01	190	Fullerton	3rd
26	CARROLL, VICTOR	T	6.04	230	Nevada	10th
27	SPRINGER, HAROLD	E	6.04	212	Central State Okla.	1st
28	ADAMS, VERLIN	E	6.01	205	Morris-Harvey	3rd
29	PICCOLO, WILLIAM	C	5.11	188	Canisius	3rd
30	WYNNE, HARRY	E	6.04	205	U. of Arkansas	2nd
31	VISNIC, LARRY	G	5.11	195	St. Benedict's	3rd
33	SIVELL, JAMES	G	5.08	215	Auburn	5th
34	FILIPOWICZ, STEVE	B	5.08	200	Fordham	1st
36	COPE, FRANK	T	6.03	232	Santa Clara	8th
37	SULAITIS, JOE	B	6.02	215	None	3rd
38	KLOTOVICH, MIKE	B	5.09	183	St. Mary's Calif.	1st
39	KANE, HERBERT	T	6.00	220	E. C. Teachers	2nd
42	BARKER, HUBERT	B	5.11	190	Arkansas	4th
43	MARROWS, JOHN	B	5.08	170	Mississippi	1st
50	STRONG, KEN	B	6.01	210	N. Y. U.	12th
55	TOMAINI, A.	T	5.11	245	Catawba	1st
69	UMONT, FRANK	G	5.11	220	None	3rd
70	FOX, SAM	E	6.03	219	Ohio State	3rd
	DOOLAN, JACK	B	5.11	185	Alabama	1st

Head Coach, STEVE OWEN, Phillips University; Assistant Coach, RICHARD SMITH, Notre Dame; Line Coach, BILL OWEN, Phillips University; Backfield Coach, MIKE PALM, Penn State; Trainers, GUS MAUCH and CHARLEY PORTER; Physician, FRANCIS J. SWEENEY, M.D.

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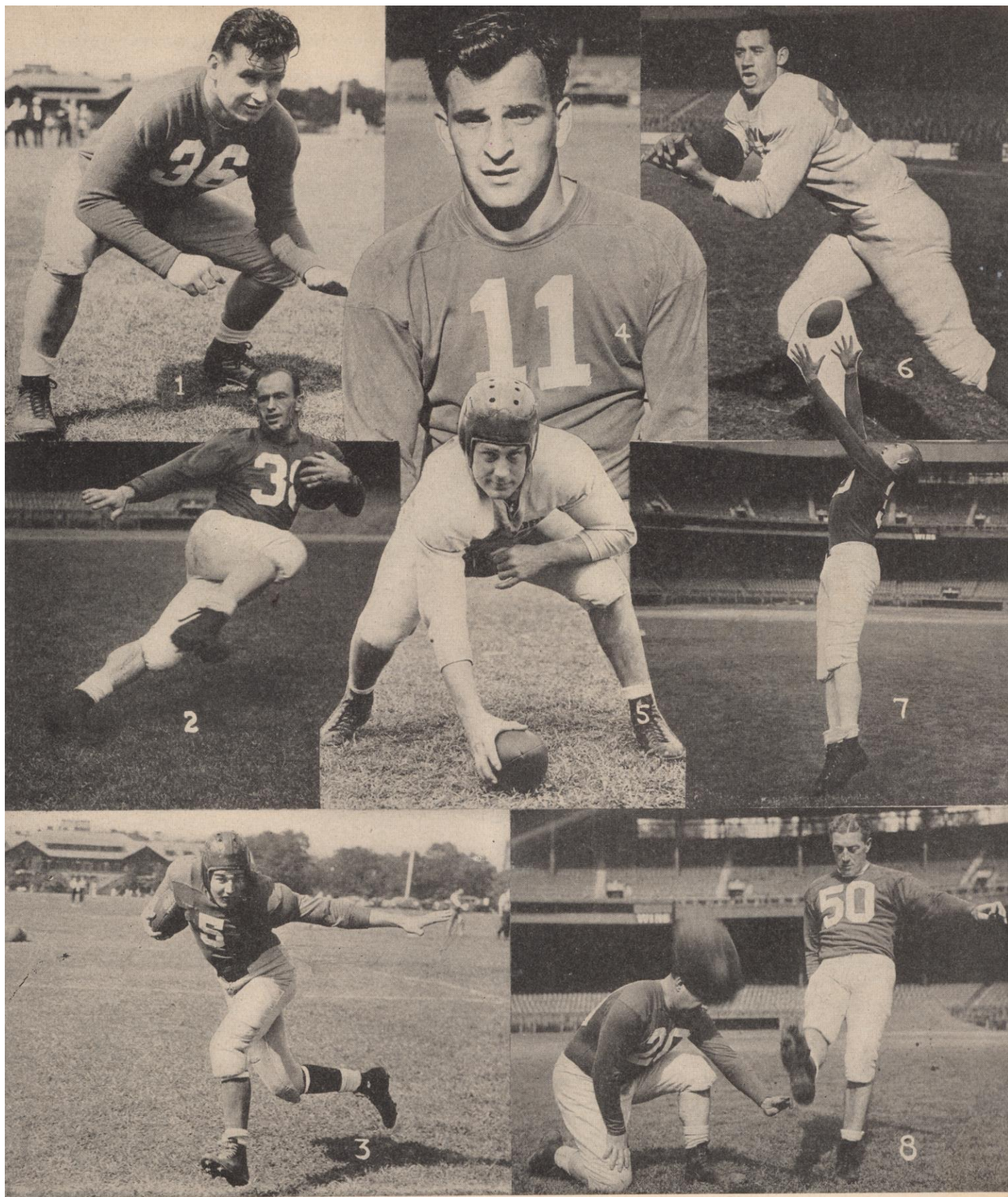
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## New York Giants Players

(1) Frank Cope, tackle; (2) Mike Klotovich, back; (3) Ed Shedlosky, back; (4) John Weiss, end; (5) Mel Hein, center; (6) Liebel, end; (7) Harry Wynne, end; (8) Ken Strong, back.

# Thumbnail Sketches of New York Giants

## ADAMS, VERLIN (SPARKY)—End

Morris-Harvey College. Third season with Giants. Twenty-seven, six feet one inch. Weight 205. Fine all-around wingman, especially a smashing defender on defense. Football, baseball, basketball in college. Married.

## BARBOUR, ELMER—Back

Wake Forest, 1942-44. First season with Giants. Twenty-one years, six feet one inch. Weight 200. Blocking back of Wake Forest formidable 1944 eleven. Number one selection on Giants' 1945 player draft. Home—Washington, D. C.

## BARKER, HUBETH (DEADEYE)—Back

Arkansas U., 1940-42. Fourth season with Giants. Twenty-six, five feet eleven inches. Weight 200. Effective line cracker. Strong blocker and line backer-up. Birthplace and home—Welch, Ark.

## CARROLL, VICTOR—Tackle

Nevada U., 1934-36. Third season with Giants. Thirty-one, six feet three inches. Weight 230. Joined club in 1943, coming from the Washington Redskins with whom he played every line position for seven years. Football, basketball, boxing, swimming in college. Married. Two children. Home—Bellflower, Calif.

## CUFF, WARD—Back

Marquette, 1935-37. Ninth season with Giants. Thirty-one, six feet one inch. Weight 196. One of the National League's greatest all-time backs. Giants' all-time high scorer with 319 points representing 20 touchdowns, 100 extra points, 33 field goals. Two years won the league's field-goal kicking championship although he never kicked in college. Cuff is the best all-round athlete on the New York squad. His accomplishments range from ping-pong to fishing. Married. Two children. Home—Milwaukee. Plans to make physical education and coaching his life's work.

## DeFILIPPO, LOU—Center

Fordham 1938-40. Second season with Giants. Twenty-eight, six feet two inches. Weight 230. Regular center on the strong 1941 Giant squad. Joined the Navy late that year. Long combat service in the South Pacific. Came from Philippines to join Giants nine days before the current championship season. Won All-America center mention at Fordham. Home—New Haven.

## FILIPOWICZ, STEVE (FLIP)—Back

Fordham 1940-42. First season with Giants. Twenty-five years, five feet eight inches. Weight 195. Triple-threat backfield ace at Fordham. Unusually long, accurate passer. Powerful ball carrier, strong backer-up. Participated in 1941 Cotton Bowl game against Texas A. & M., '42 Sugar Bowl game against Missouri and '43 East-West Shrine game at San Francisco. Joined Marines in '43. After medical discharge played baseball with Jersey City Little Giants and New York Giants. Birthplace—Kultmont, Pa.

## HEIN, MELVIN J. (MEL)—Center

Washington State, 1929-31. Fifteenth season with Giants. Thirty-six years, six feet four inches. Weight 234. Joined Giants in 1931. Starting in 1932 named National League No. 1 center eight consecutive years. Played in 156 championship

league games, plus numerous all-star and exhibition contests. Never missed a game in the National League or four years each in college and high school. Took time-out only in two games. Never made a poor pass from his position. Football's greatest center, one of the sport's most illustrious ironmen. Married, has two children. Now attached to the faculty of Union College, also football coach. Birthplace—Redding, Calif.

## HERBER, ARNOLD (ARNIE)—Back

Regis, 1930. Second season with Giants. Thirty-four, six feet. Weight 205. Played 11 years with Green Bay Packers, stopping in 1941 to devote full time to his soft-drink business in that Wisconsin town. Herber broke numerous passing records and with the incomparable Don Hutson formed the gridiron's foremost passing battery. The veteran also called signals for the Giants. Married. One child. Home—Green Bay.

## KLOTOVICH, MICHAEL JOS. (MIKE)—Back

St. Mary's, Calif., 1941-43. First season with Giants. Twenty-eight years, five feet 10 inches. Weight 186. First-rate ball carrier, passer and picker. Very fast and shifty in open field. One of the Giants' best freshmen. Birthplace—San Francisco.

## LIVINGSTON, HOWARD (HOWIE)—Back

Fullerton Junior College, 1942. Second season with Giants. Twenty-three, six feet one inch. Weight 190. Played one season with Hollywood Pro Bears before joining New York club last year. Starting late last year made brilliant progress, especially when he outplayed the great Don Hutson. The young California rookie intercepted a pass from Hutson's hands and raced 36 yards to a touchdown. Another interception resulted in another T. D., which helped the Giants to beat the favored Packers by a record 24-0 score. Livingston is a very promising triple-threat. Home—Los Angeles, Calif.

## PICCOLO, WILLIAM (BILL)—Center

Canisius, 1941-43. Third season with Giants. Twenty-four, five feet ten inches. Weight 184. Picked on Giants' draft because of outstanding college showing. Able player in league of huge centers. Home—Buffalo.

## PUGH, MARION C.—Back

Texas A. & M. 1939-41. Second season with Giants. Twenty-six years, six feet one inch. Member 1941 Giant squad. Entered the Army that year. Recent dischargee. One of the nation's foremost passers in college. Big factor in team's post-season victory over Fordham. Birthplace—Fort Worth, Texas.

## SHAFFER, LELAND—Back

Kansas State, 1931-32-34. Tenth season with Giants. Thirty-five years, six feet two inches. Weight 205. Returned to club this season as blocking back after one year's absence. Farmer in off-season. Birthplace—Minneola, Kansas.

## SIVELL, JAMES (HAPPY)—Guard

Auburn, 1938-40. Second season with Giants. Twenty-seven, five feet eight inches. Weight 215. Secured from the Brooklyn Tigers in 1944. A relentless contestant, but seldom loses his jovial disposition. Star college athlete, especially on the

(Cont. on P. 32)

# Owen Reveals Attack

By STEVE OWEN

*Coach, New York Football Giants*

I have been asked to say something about the in-and-out workings of the A-Formation, the Giants' basic attack. The A-Formation is original with the Giants just as the T-Formation is with the Chicago Bears or the Double-Wing back was with the teams coached by Pop Warner.

Most shifts or deployment of men in any formation are started by some player in practice doing his assignment different from that first outlined by the coach. When this maneuver is carried out wrong the coach may immediately see the value of a split in the line or a back in motion and thus a new formation or set of plays originates.

The idea of the A-Formation really started with me when playing tackle for the Giants against Link Lyman, a great tackle for the Bears. Lyman on the offensive used to line up in his tackle position at times with a yard split between himself and the guard. I found this put a great deal of pressure on the defensive tackle as to his position and direction of the charge.

However, this started the thought it could be worked into a formation to great advantage and I began to experiment with it. I plagued every coach who would listen for ideas on a backfield alignment that could function with it. We experimented two years in practice, but something was always wrong.

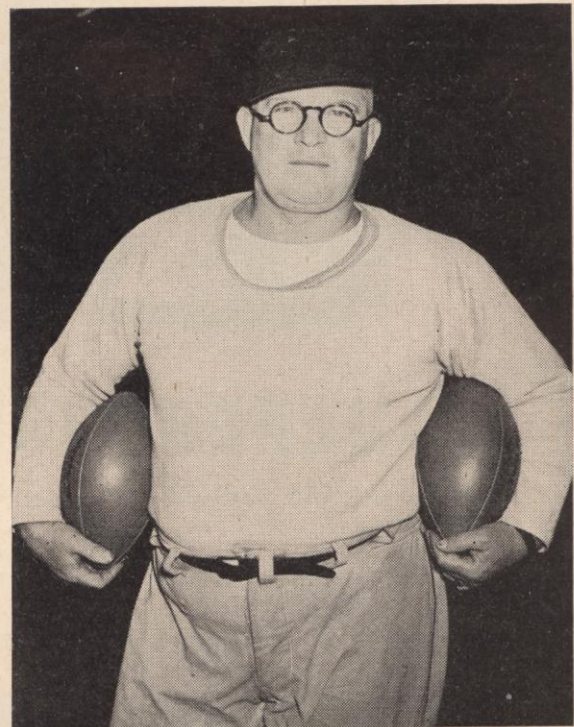
On a scouting trip to Oklahoma, I showed the formation to one of my former teammates. He suggested we lineup with our backs one way and our line unbalanced or strong the opposite. This seemed to be the solution so we worked on it for another season before it really took form. He adopted it in 1937 for an early season surprise attack against the Washington Redskins. This was that lineup: Left end one yard from tackle. Tackle same distance from center. Left guard shifted to right of center and alongside right guard. Right guard one yard from tackle, who was one yard from the end.

Good running back took position behind the left end. Blocking back behind left tackle and center. Further back the other two backs behind center and right guard. The idea was to spiral and set up good angles for all blocks. The gaps in the front wall meant about the spacing of a nine-man line. That set-up, with

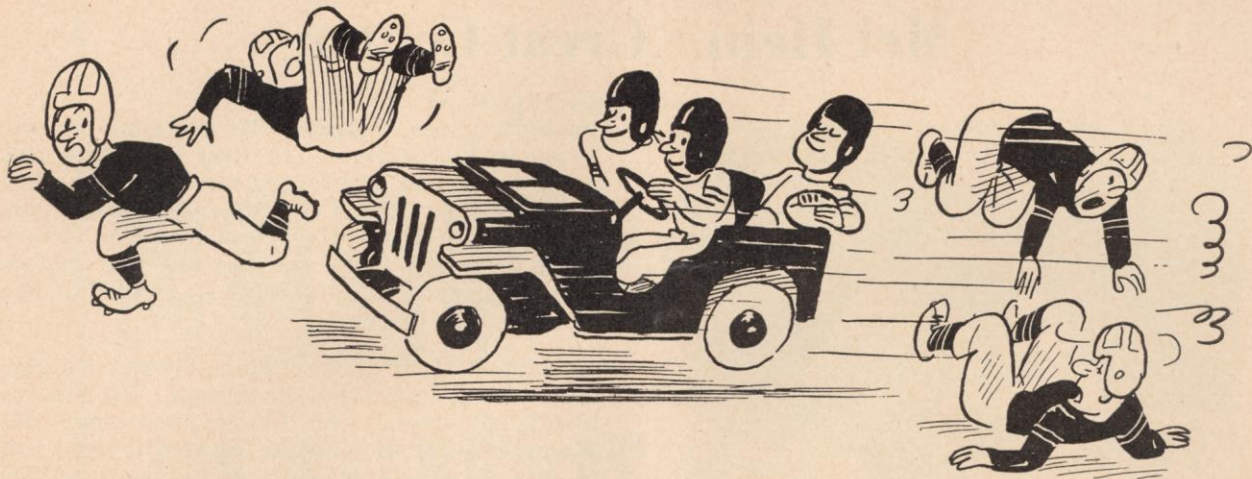
a man in motion and with the quick handling of the ball, gave us deception as well as a balanced attack. It also was a good passing formation.

The A-Formation was successful from the start. The boys rolled up 365 yards with it in our first game. They were crazy about it and that was a big help making it go. It embodies most of the features of the T. and has given backs like Paschal and Cuff great ground gaining records. It has wonderful possibilities. We try to improve it every season.

The A-Formation, then, can be attributed to an opposing tackle out of position, but who did a good job while shifted from his guard and also gave me some of my worst days on the gridiron.



*Stout Steve Owen, shown above, invented the A-Formation, which has been successfully employed as the New York Giants' base offense. To confuse the Eastern Champions' enemies more the veteran head coach this season installed a neat portion of the "T," made famous by the Chicago Bears.*



## The "T" in Post-War Football—by Sid Luckman

In some of my talks with servicemen they have frequently asked what type of football I think will emerge after the war. Will the T-Formation go on to newer and greater heights or will it die out like a flash in the pan? What about the single-wing and power-play formations? Will they be passé or not?

Those who argue for the future ascendancy of the T-Formation point to the fact that already in the history of the game numerous so-called systems have been supplanted by other schools of football, more or less as the tone of the times changed. They state that it was a quirk of fate which originally submerged the first exponents of the T-Formation. Strangely enough, the basic principle of the T-system (although not all its modern variations) was known and employed very early in the life of the sport, but the pre-eminence of Glenn (Pop) Warner and his Warner System caused the "T" to slip into oblivion until it was rescued from the scrap-heap and modernized by George and Ralph Halas and Clark Shaughnessy. Now the T-addicts assert dogmatically that a new era is dawning and the single wing is due to be consigned to the dust pile. How much truth is there in these predictions?

There are certain straws in the wind we can examine, both on the wider world front and the domestic scene. It is not too much to expect that post-war football will place increased emphasis on attack. The successful conclusion of the European war has popularized such terms as "tactical surprise," "breakthrough," "infiltration," and "coordination of all arms." That the use of such expressions and the accompanying attitudes are bound to have a profound effect on the home-front is already presaged in the revolutionary change recently adopted by the Football Rules Committee of the N.C.A.A.—the legalization of forward passes anywhere behind the line of scrimmage. To borrow Army terminology, the new regulation permits "the increased use of short-range bombing from advanced bases."

To illustrate, for instance, the obvious impact of military expressions already upon American football thinking let us examine the few terms listed above. It seems to be in tune with the times to compare a quick opening play in the T-Formation to the use of "tacti-

cal surprise," the exploding of a speedy back into the clear to a "breakthrough," the employment of the man-in-motion to "infiltration," and the increased tie-up between running and passing to "coordination of all arms." Many say that the easy transfer of thinking between war terms and those of the T-Formation attack will tend to render the single-wing obsolete.

If the emphasis is to be on attack, then the post-war era will probably see a great expansion of the usages and variations of the T-Formation. The new forward pass rule, making for greater integration of running and passing, already sets the trend.

But, let's not sing the swan song for the single-wing too hastily, as many people were inclined to do after the Army-Navy game last year, regarding Army's triumph as symbolic of the ascendancy of the "T." If an offense depends on surprise and timing, it also depends on power and material. It's all right to get there, but you've got to have what it takes when you're there. The Germans caught us for a moment in their December counter-offensive, but we wore them down by endurance and material.

It is upon this very question of material that the frenzied promoters of any system most often stub their toes. Any football coach, no matter how great he is or how beautiful a system he has worked out and perfected, must adapt his plays and strategy to his basic human material. Even the most brilliant set of plays cannot rise above the men who are carrying out the assignments and will bog down in the hands of inferior players. Furthermore, some very good men may be far better adapted to one type of play than another. So, it looks like there will always be room for "T-totallers"!

Perhaps the 1944 Michigan-Ohio State game was a far better indication of what is in store for us in post-war football than was the Army-Navy game. The two Midwestern titans employed both the T-Formation and the single-wing, displaying remarkable versatility in shifting from one to another. Since the players proved adept in the use of both systems, maybe the great college team of 1950 will not use either the T-Formation or the single-wing but numerous varieties and combinations of both!

## Mel Hein • Great Center



*It makes no difference to Mel Hein, above, whether he uses one or two hands. The former Washington State All-American never made one poor pass from center during fourteen years with the New York Giants. Mel's equally famous as an ironman. Twenty-two years on the gridiron, high school, college and the pros, and the durable veteran never missed one game.*

Mel Hein deserves to be ranked as football's all-time No. 1 superman. The New York Giants' famed pivot is that good. Mel's record is unmatched in the game's long history. Outstanding in high school, All-American at Washington State, ten years selected the top center in the National League, Hein long ago set the model for playing his position.

The New York center never made a poor pass. Intuitively, Mel was at the right place at the right time. Especially on the defense where his deployment was simply uncanny. A natural leader, the Pacific Coast giant always furnished inspirational strength to his teammates.

Hein's ironman achievements are even more phenomenal than his playing record. Now thirty-six, the big blond fellow has performed the amazing total of twenty-two seasons on the gridiron, fourteen in the National League, four each in college and high school. He never

missed a game. Durable Mel had time out only twice in his career. The first time was 1938 when a head injury forced him out in the first half, but the grizzled veteran came back to help stem a late Green Bay challenge for victory. Mel's ironman feats are particularly impressive because football is the most rugged of contact contests.

Six feet, four inches, Hein always weighed about 232 pounds with the Giants. He was tremendously strong, even for his great size. Mel needed only to stick out his powerful right arm to stop many enemy ball carriers dead in their tracks. A tireless practice worker, Mel never refused the many who sought his advice.

The veteran's biggest thrill came on Dec. 1, 1940, when over 50,000 admiring fans attended Mel Hein Day at the Polo Grounds. His biggest accomplishment was being named the National League's leading center eight consecutive years, 1932-'39.

Of the thousands of plays in which he was a participant Hein describes this one as the most unusual: It was the 1933 Giants-Bears game in Chicago. Mel passed the ball to Ken Strong, who started an end run. Seeing he was going to be tackled, Strong lateralled to Harry Newman. Newman faded back and forward passed to Strong, who had kept on going down the field. Strong carried over for a touchdown.

Hein was born in Redding, Calif. He married a classmate at Washington State. They honeymooned across the continent in a small car purchased from money advanced by the Giants to enable Mel to report for his first pro practice. The famous star says his greatest enjoyment is association with his wife and two kiddies.

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### CURB ON FLYING ELBOWS

This year the National Football League outlawed the swinging elbow block. In the case of the elbow block, the penalty will be 15 yards if an opponent is struck below the shoulder and 15 yards and disqualification if he is struck above the shoulder.

Other important pro league changes this year were moving the inbound spot in 20 yards instead of 15, and permitting substitutions when time is in and the ball is dead, provided the withdrawn player has cleared the field before the ball is put into play.

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