

THE REAL SYSTEM

By Bob Carroll

By now everyone realizes that the NFL's Passer Rating System is only an elaborate code to hide things from the Russians. The question still remains – how can we tell who's the best quarterback?

It's crucial that we answer this so that magazines will know who to put on their covers, advertisers will know who to hire as spokesmen, and a major TV network can have its broadcasters picked when Wednesday Night Football hits the tube.

Of course, the answer has been there all the time. After all, it's not how you play the game, it's whether you won or lost, right? It follows that the best is the one who wins. Joe Montana was the best QB last year because he (ed. note: HE not San Francisco!) won the Super Bowl. Dan Marino was the second best, and so on. All you have to do is arrange the teams in the order they finished each year, substitute the name of their signal caller, and you'll get the perfect quarterback- rating system.

As a matter of fact, don't bother. I already did it. Look below and you'll see the top six QBs for each of the last 40 years. I chose only to do the top six because nobody outside the town they're booed in remembers the others. Tell the truth; if you don't live in Kansas City, do you remember who quarterbacked the Chiefs last year?

I had a little trouble with the order in the last few years because of the annoying habit of wild card teams winning playoff games, so I used an involved tie-breaking system which I've since forgotten.

If you want to have fun, assign point values for each position. I suggest 110 for the Number One slot in honor of the percent they are said to give.

Some may call this cynical and bemoan the idea that it's done to rank potential stars of ad campaigns, but I like it. In fact, I call it the Cynical Ranking of Advertising Potential System. You may scoff, but someday I expect to be famous for my CRAP.

1945	1946	1947	1948
Bob Waterfield	Sid Luckman	Paul Christman	Tommy Thompson
Sammy Baugh	Otto Graham	Otto Graham	Otto Graham
C.Fenenbock	Frank Filchock	Tommy Thompson	Ray Mallouf
Roy Zimmerman	Ace Parker	Spec Sanders	G. Ratterman
Irv Comp	Bob Waterfield	Sid Luckman	Sid Luckman
Arnie Herber	Frank Albert	Frank Albert	Frank Albert

1949	1950	1951	1952
Tommy Thompson	Otto Graham	N.VanBrocklin	Bobby Layne
Otto Graham	N.VanBrocklin	Otto Graham	Otto Graham
Bob Waterfield	Chuck Conerly	Chuck Conerly	N.VanBrocklin
Frank Albert	John Lujack	Frank Albert	Chuck Conerly
John Lujack	G. Ratterman	Bobby Layne	Bobby Thomason
Don Panciera	Tommy Thompson	John Lujack	Y.A. Tittle

1953	1954	1955	1956
Bobby Layne	Otto Graham	Otto Graham	Chuck Conerly
Otto Graham	Bobby Layne	N.VanBrocklin	Ed Brown
Y.A. Tittle	George Blanda	Eddie LeBaron	Bobby Layne
N.VanBrocklin	Y.A. Tittle	Ed Brown	Lamar McHan
Bobby Thomason	Adrian Burk	Chuck Conerly	Al Dorow
Eddie LeBaron	Chuck Conerly	Tobin Rote	Y.A. Tittle

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 7, No. 5 (1985)

<p style="text-align: center;">1957</p> <p>Bobby Layne Tom O'Connell Y.A. Tittle Chuck Conerly John Unitas Earl Morrall</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1958</p> <p>John Unitas Chuck Conerly Milt Plum Ed Brown Bill Wade Bobby Layne</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1959</p> <p>John Unitas Chuck Conerly Ed Brown Milt Plum N.VanBrocklin Bart Starr</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1960</p> <p>N.VanBrocklin George Blanda Bart Starr Jack Kemp Milt Plum C. Davidson</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1961</p> <p>Bart Starr George Blanda Y.A. Tittle Jack Kemp S.Jurgensen Ed Songin</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1962</p> <p>Bart Starr Len Dawson Y.A. Tittle George Blanda Milt Plum Babe Parilli</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1963</p> <p>Bill Wade Tobin Rote Y.A. Tittle Babe Parilli Bart Starr Tom Flores</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1964</p> <p>Frank Ryan Jack Kemp John Unitas John Hadl Charley Johnson Babe Parilli</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1965</p> <p>Bart Starr Jack Kemp Frank Ryan John Hadl John Unitas Tom Flores</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1966</p> <p>Bart Starr Len Dawson Don Meredith Jack Kemp John Unitas Babe Parilli</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1967</p> <p>Bart Starr D. Lamonica Don Meredith Pete Beathard Roman Gabriel Len Dawson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1968</p> <p>Joe Namath Earl Morrall D. Lamonica Bill Nelson Len Dawson Don Meredith</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1969</p> <p>Len Dawson Joe Kapp D. Lamonica Bill Nelson Joe Namath Craig Morton</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1970</p> <p>John Unitas Craig Morton D. Lamonica John Brodie Virgil Carter Gary Cuozzo</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1971</p> <p>Roger Staubach Bob Griese John Brodie John Unitas Gary Cuozzo Len Dawson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1972</p> <p>Bob Griese Bill Kilmer Terry Bradshaw Roger Staubach D. Lamonica John Brodie</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1973</p> <p>Bob Griese Fran Tarkenton Ken Stabler Roger Staubach Ken Anderson John Hadl</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1974</p> <p>Terry Bradshaw Fran Tarkenton Ken Stabler James Harris Bob Griese Jim Hart</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1975</p> <p>Terry Bradshaw Roger Staubach Ken Stabler James Harris Bert Jones Jim Hart</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1976</p> <p>Ken Stabler Fran Tarkenton Terry Bradshaw James Harris Bert Jones Roger Staubach</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1977</p> <p>Roger Staubach Craig Morton Fran Tarkenton Ken Stabler Pat Haden Terry Bradshaw</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1978</p> <p>Terry Bradshaw Roger Staubach Dan Pastorini Pat Haden Steve Grogan Fran Tarkenton</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1979</p> <p>Terry Bradshaw Pat Haden Dan Pastorini Doug Williams Dan Fouts Roger Staubach</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1980</p> <p>Jim Plunkett Ron Jaworski Dan Fouts Danny White Brian Sipe S. Bartkowski</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1981</p> <p>Joe Montana Ken Anderson Phil Simms Dan Fouts Danny White David Woodley</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1982</p> <p>Joe Theismann David Woodley Danny White Richard Todd Lynn Dickey Jim Plunkett</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1983</p> <p>Jim Plunkett Joe Theismann Dave Krieg Joe Montana Dan Marino Eric Hipple</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1984</p> <p>Joe Montana Dan Marino Jim McMahon Mark Malone Joe Theismann John Elway</p>