

PFI PICKS THE EARLY ALL-PROS

By Bob Gill

Considering that we've been discussing old all-pro teams so much recently, it was an interesting bit of luck that I ran across this team which appeared in the 1947 *Pro Football Illustrated*.

The little explanation accompanying the team showed a lot of sense. The following team, it said, was comprised of all-time all-stars who were no longer active (i.e., as the 1947 season approached). It was limited to players who made their fame in the NFL. "Players who reached the peak of their greatness prior to 1921" – Jim Thorpe is the most notable example – "are excluded," the preamble explained. The team was not chosen with any consideration to position quotas, or point tallying of votes. It represented, the magazine said, a "consensus of men who played with, played against, saw play or coached the players involved."

Notice that the requirement that players were no longer active excluded Ken Strong, who probably belongs with this group rather than a later era. Sammy Baugh, Sid Luckman, and Ace Parker are also among those excluded by the same provision.

PFI must indeed have consulted a number of those who were "there," since there are so many players on the list (Benny Friedman, Red Dunn, Clyde Smith, Verne Lewellen, etc.) who, while they'll probably never merit serious Hall of Fame consideration, stand revealed in contemporary all-pro selections as among the best of the era. It's too bad, in retrospect, that the editors of *PFI* hadn't been charged with selecting members of the Hall of Fame from the pre-World War II era – or at least, that the Hall of Fame selectors didn't pay more attention to this list.

All-time all-NFL team (1921-1946) from *Pro Football Illustrated*, 1947

Red Badgro - E	Bill Hewitt - E
Johnny Blood - HB	Clarke Hinkle - FB
Carl Brumbaugh - QB	Cal Hubbard - T-E
Cub Buck - T	Don Hutson - E
Ernie Caddel - HB	Cecil Isbell - TB
Guy Chamberlin - E	Joe Kopcha - G-T
George Christansen - T	Verne Lewellen - HB
Dutch Clark - QB	Tuffy Leemans - HB
Ed Danowski - QB	Link Lyman - T
Lavie Dilweg - E	Jack Manders - FB
Paddy Driscoll - HB	Mike Michalske - G
Red Dunn - HB	Bronko Nagurski - FB
Jug Earpe - C-T-G	Ernie Nevers - FB
Ox Emerson - G-C	Harry Newman - QB
Turk Edwards - T	Curly Oden - HB
Ray Flaherty - E	Duke Osborn - G
Benny Friedman - QB	Duke Slater - T
Danny Fortmann - G	Clyde Smith - C
Butch Gibson - G-T	Gus Sonnenberg - T-B
Red Grange - HB	Joe Stydahar - T
Ace Gutowsky - FB	George Trafton - C
Duke Hanny - E-T-G-B	Mule Wilson - HB
Ed Healey - T	Wildcat Wilson - HB
Mel Hein - C	Swede Youngstrom - G
Pete "Fats" Henry - T	