THE DULUTH CONNECTION

By David Neft

Every once in a while you see one of those surveys of where all the NFL players come from. Or where all the major league baseball players come from. No one knows why they make those surveys. Maybe so Californians can laud it over Rhode Islanders. If someone had taken a survey of the NFL sometime in the mid-1920s, they'd have gotten a scoop. Everyone came from Duluth!

Well, not everyone, but an amazing number. David Neft came across this information while researching player info for new edition of PRO FOOTBALL: THE EARLY YEARS. The following 1920s NFL players played high school or sandlot football (mostly both) in or around Duluth.

Johnny Blood               Bill McNellis
Bob Bratt                  Russ Method
Eddie Bratt                Tom Murphy
Walt Buland                Ernie Nevers
Gene Carlson               Dick O'Donnell
Herb Clow                  Wally O'Neill
Fred Denfield              Bill O'Toole
Joe DuMoe                  Cobb Rooney
Billy DuMoe                 Joe Rooney
Rod Dunn                   Bill Rooney
George Engstrom            Porky Rundquist
Paul Flinn                 Dewey Scanlon
Wally Gilbert              Bill Stein
Ken Harris                 Leif Strand
Art Johnson                Ray Suess
Doc Kelley                 Red Sullivan
Howard Kieley              Tarzan Taylor
Mike Koziak                Jack Underwood
Joe Kraker                 Roy Vexall
Allen MacDonald            Dick Vick
Bobby Marshall             Doc Williams
Mickey McDonnell

That's 43 as nearly as we can figure. Maybe it was something in the water.