

MINI-BIOS: Parker Hall, Frank Sinkwich, Henry Jordan, Ben Kish

by Stan Grosshandler

PARKER HALL TB-QB

L. Parker
6-0 195 Mississippi
B: 12/10/1916, Tunica, MS

From 1938 through 1945 the NFL had an official MVP who received the "Joe Carr Memorial Trophy." The second man to win this honor was Parker Hall of the Cleveland Rams. Hall had received All-American mention while at the University of Mississippi and joined the lowly Rams in 1939. As a single wing tailback and defensive back he rushed for 458 yards and two touchdowns, topped the leagues passers as he completed 51% of his passes for nine TD's and averaged 41 yards per punt. "I got a certain amount of glory out of that award," Parker recalled recently. "There was considerable publicity and I received it in an impressive ceremony before the Chicago All-Star Game."

In commenting on today's game Parker Hall felt the players were definitely bigger and more passes are thrown in one quarter than he would throw in an entire game.

Hall put in four seasons as the key man on a second division team, then spent three years in the service. As was the case with so many who put in their best athletic years in the service his comeback in 1946 with the 49ers of the AAFC was not a success. As a back up T-formation quarterback behind Frankie Albert he saw little action and did not return for the next season.

Year	Team	LG	GM	Rushing				Punting		Score	
				ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	NO	AVG	Pts	
1939	Cleve	N	11	120	458	3.8	2	*58	41.-	12	
1940	Cleve	N	11	94	365	3.9	1	*57	43.-	6	
1941	Cleve	N	10	57	232	4.1	2	*49	40.1	12	
1942	Cleve	N	10	41	-3	-0.1	1	36	38.8	6	
1943-45			Military Service								
1946	SF	AA	11	17	31	1.8	0	-	-	0	
5 years			53	329	1083	3.3	6	200	41.0	36	

Year	Team	LG	GM	Passing							
				ATT	COM	PCT.	YARD	AvgG	TD	IN	
1939	Cleve	N	11	*208	*106	51.0	1227	5.90	9	13	
1940	Cleve	N	11	183	77	42.1	1108	6.05	6	16	
1941	Cleve	N	10	190	84	45.9	883	4.23	7	19	
1942	Cleve	N	10	140	62	44.3	815	5.82	7	19	
1943-45			Military Service								
1946	SF	AA	11	8	2	25.0	15	1.88	0	0	
5 years			53	729	331	45.4	4048	5.55	29	67	

FRANK SINKWICH TB

Francis
5-11 185 Georgia
B: 10/20/1920 McKees Rocks, PA

Frank Sinkwich of the Detroit Lions completely dominated NFL statistics in 1944 as he finished first in punting, second in scoring, third in rushing, fourth in punt returns and sixth in passing. He accounted for 62% of the Lions' total yardage.

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One of the most publicized football players in history, Frank Sinkwich went from Chaney High School in Youngstown, Ohio to the University of Georgia. As a junior playing with a broken jaw protected by a huge shield, he led the nation in rushing with over one thousand yards and gained All-American honors. He repeated as an All American in 1943, scored the only touchdown in Georgia's Rose Bowl win, and topped off everything with the Heisman Award.

The Lions first round draft choice in 1943 he immediately became the top back on the squad. In 1944 he gained 563 yards for 6 TD's, passed for another 12 scores, punted, returned both punts and kickoffs, and became the only Heisman award winner to also be named the Official NFL MVP.

"After the 1944 season I went into the service," Frank recalled, "where I injured my knees several times and needed several surgeries. I tried to play for the Yankees of the AAFC in '46 and the Colts in '47. I should have never done this as I had been injured so much I was never able to play as I knew I was capable of playing."

Year	Team	LG	GM	Rushing				Punting		Score	
				ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	NO	AVG	Pts	
1943	Detroit	N	10	93	266	2.9	1	12	45.9	12	
1944	Detroit	N	10	150	563	3.8	6	45	41.0	66	
1945	Military Service										
1946	NY Ynk	AA	4	7	20	2.9	0	-	-	0	
1947	NY-Bal	AA	11	71	241	3.4	0	7	37.1	0	
			4 years	35	321	1090	3.4	7	64	41.5	78

Year	Team	LG	GM	Passing				YARD	AvgG	TD	IN
				ATT	COM	PCT.	YARD				
1943	Detroit	N	10	126	50	39.7	699	5.55	7	20	
1944	Detroit	N	10	148	58	39.2	1060	7.16	12	20	
1945	Military Service										
1946	NY Ynk	AA	4	12	5	41.7	61	5.08	0	2	
1947	NY-Bal	AA	11	15	8	53.3	93	6.20	0	0	
			4 years	35	301	121	40.2	1913	6.36	19	42

Year	Team	LG	GM	Punt Returns			KO Returns					
				NO	YDS	AVG	T	NO	YDS	AVG	T	
1943	Detroit	N	10	11	*228	*20.7	0	5	128	25.6	0	
1944	Detroit	N	10	11	148	13.5	0	6	144	24.0	0	
1945	Military Service											
1946	NY Ynks	N	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1947	NY-Bal	AA	11	1	15	15.0	0	5	118	23.6	0	
			4 years	35	23	391	17.0	0	16	390	24.4	0

HENRY JORDAN DT

Henry Wendell
6-3 250 Virginia
B: 1/26/1935 Emporia, VA
D: 2/21/1977 Milwaukee, WI

Henry Jordan was a great source of humorous quotes for the press, his best being, "Lombardi treats us all alike, like dogs." He was also a source of great aggravation to opposing line men during his 11 years as a Green Bay Packer.

A star football player and wrestler at the University of Virginia, Jordan was drafted by the Cleveland Browns, playing for them the 1957 and 1958 seasons. The Packers obtained him in 1959.

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"I actually came to the Packers by mistake," Jordan once said. "The Browns offered Lombardi another player who was bigger than I. However, Vince got the names mixed up and took me. He was really surprised when he saw me as he thought I would be much bigger. Vince then turned this into an advantage as I was fairly fast; so he used myself and Willie Davis to rush the passers, while Dave Hanner and Bill Quinlan played the run."

"Playing with those fellows and later Lionel Aldridge and Ron Kostelnik, we got to know each other so well we never had to tell what we planned. Each knew what the other would do in any given situation." Jordan was chosen for the Pro Bowl following the 1960, 1961, 1963, and 1966 seasons. He was named to all-NFL teams each year from 1960-64, and was a consensus choice three times.

Another favorite anecdote of Jordan's: "One day Lombardi was lecturing us on how to conduct ourselves. He said we were paid like executives so we should act like them. I replied, 'Coach, if we are executives, how come we aren't served coffee at our meetings?' After that, we got coffee at every meeting."

In a career full of brilliant games Henry Jordan's best may have been against the L.A. Rams in the first Division Playoff format in NFL history following the 1967 season. On a frozen field the Rams immediately dominated the first quarter; however on third down Jordan broke through and threw Roman Gabriel for a significant loss. Bruce Gasset then tried what looked like a sure field goal only to have Henry Jordan block it. This turned the tide and the Packers went on to the Ice Bowl and Super Bowl wins.

Henry Jordan was in public service in Milwaukee when following a session of swimming he collapsed and died of a heart attack.

YEAR	TM	LG	GM	YEAR	TM	LG	GM	YEAR	TM	LG	GM
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1957	Cle	N	12	1962	GB	N	14	1967	GB	N	14
1958	Cle	N	12	1963	GB	N	14	1968	GB	N	14
1959	GB	N	12	1964	GB	N	12	1969	GB	N	5
1960	GB	N	12	1965	GB	N	14				--
1961	GB	N	14	1966	GB	N	14	13 years			151

BEN KISH FB-BB

6-0 200 Pittsburgh
 B: 3/31/1917, Tonawanda, NY
 D: 2/24/1989, Philadelphia, PA

Kish was a fullback in the University of Pittsburgh's "Dream Backfield" for three years and was named as captain of the All-East team in 1940. He played in the College All-Star Game in Chicago that year. He was drafted on the 8th Round by the Chicago Cardinals, but his original college coach, Dr. "Jock" Sutherland, then in his first season as Brooklyn coach, acquired Kish for the Dodgers.

On December 7, 1941, Kish was in the Brooklyn lineup, playing against the New York Giants when word arrived of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. "The loudspeaker kept blaring for general so-and-so and colonel so-and-so to report immediately to such-and-such," he recalled. "We didn't know what was going on. Kish joined the army, but was discharged because of a physical problem in time to play in the 1943 season. In the interim, he had been dealt to the Eagles. A blocking back with the Dodgers, Kish fit nicely into "Greasy" Neale's Eagles, where the fullback was primarily a blocker and defender.

Kish stayed with the Eagles through their championship years, retiring in 1949. He later was an assistant coach at Drexel and Temple, and worked as a salesman in the metal industry.

YEAR	TEAM	LG	GM/ST	RUSHING				RECEIVING				INT
				ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	PC	YDS	AVG	TD	NO
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1940	Bkn	N	11/ 3	-	-	-	-	9	124	13.8	1	-
1941	Bkn	N	8/ 0	-	-	-	-	4	50	12.5	0	1
1942			Military									
1943	Ph-Pt	N	10/ 9	22	50	2.3	0	2	19	9.5	0	5
1944	Phi	N	10/ 9	22	96	4.4	0	5	73	14.6	1	4
1945	Phi	N	9/ 5	9	82	9.1	0	8	78	9.8	0	1

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1946 Phi	N 10/ 2	6 13 2.2 0	3 16 5.3 0	1
1947 Phi	N 12/ 8	3 -1 -0.3 0	1 12 12.0 0	1
1948 Phi	N 9/ 0	10 106 10.6 1	- - - -	3
1949 Phi	N 7/ 0	2 -2 -1.0 0	- - - -	0
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9 Years	86/36	74 344 4.6 1	38 420 11.1 2	16