

## MINI-BIO: GEORGE RATTERMAN

By Bob Carroll

George Ratterman's football career was an exciting though ultimately disappointing roller coaster. At Notre Dame in the 1940s, he was virtually unknown as he rode the bench behind Johnny Lujack, college football's top QB. His ability was finally recognized when he led the College All-Stars to a surprise win over the NFL Chicago Bears in 1947. Then for three years, his play kept the Buffalo Bills one of the better teams of the All- America Football Conference. In three seasons, he threw 52 touchdown passes, but he also established the AAFC career mark with 55 interceptions. Although Otto Graham and Frankie Albert were the most famous AAFC quarterbacks, Ratterman took the Bills to the league's championship game in 1948.

After the AAFC and NFL merged, "The Kid" joined the New York Yanks. His passing and gambling play selection turned them into one of the league's best offensive clubs. Ratterman's high-risk philosophy was evident in his league-leading 22 touchdown passes and league-leading 24 interceptions.

In 1951, he jumped to the Canadian Football League. Midway through the season, he returned to the Yanks, but by then it was too late to salvage the team which won only one game and went bankrupt.

He was traded to Cleveland and once more found himself on the bench, this time as backup to Otto Graham. Coach Paul Brown often praised Ratterman for keeping an exemplary playbook, but for five years Graham ran the plays in games. In 1956, when Graham retired, it seemed that Ratterman would finally get his chance to shine, but four games into the schedule a knee injury ended his football career.

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### RATTERMAN, GEORGE

QB

George William (The Kid) Ratterman

6-01 185 Notre Dame

St. Xavier HS [Cincinnati, OH]

b: 11/12/26, Cincinnati, OH

PASSING -----										
YEAR	Tm	Lg	Gm	ATT	COM	PCT.	YARD	AvgG	TD	IN
1947	Buf	AA	14	244	124	50.8	1840	7.54	22	*20
1948	Buf	AA	14	335	168	50.1	2577	7.69	16	*22
1949	Buf	AA	12	252	146	*57.9	1777	7.05	14	13
1950	NYN	N	12	294	140	47.6	2251	7.66	*22	*24
1951	NYN	N	6	67	31	46.3	340	5.07	2	6
1952	Cle	N	6	6	2	33.3	20	3.33	1	2
1953	Cle	N	9	41	23	56.1	301	7.34	4	0
1954	Cle	N	6	53	32	60.4	465	8.77	3	3
1955	Cle	N	10	47	32	68.1	504	10.72	6	3
1956	Cle	N	4	57	39	68.4	398	6.98	1	3
10 Years			93	1396	737	52.8	10473	7.50	91	96

\* - Led league