

The

GRANGE

LEAGUE

From the New York *Times*, Feb. 7, 1926

GRANGE GETS LEASE ON YANKEE STADIUM

Signs Five-Year Term, Contingent on Franchise, to Stage Pro Football

College Stars Barred

**National League Votes to Prohibit Playing
Until After Class Has Graduated**

DETROIT, Feb. 6 (AP) -- Harold (Red) Grange today made application to the National Football League for a franchise for his own team in the circuit. He indicated that if his application is granted he hopes to obtain the use of the Yankee Stadium, New York, for the home games of his club.

Simultaneously it was announced by C.C. Pyle, Grange's business manager, that a contract had been closed with Ed Barrow, business manager of the New York American League Baseball Club, for the use of the Yankee Stadium, New York, for football games for the next five years. It was understood Grange would put another club in the New York field if successful in his bid for a franchise.

Action on the request was deferred while representatives of the twenty clubs in the circuit buried themselves in the routine of their semi-annual meeting. It was indicated Grange's bid would not be taken up until the league leaders have taken a definite stand on the matter of professionalizing college gridiron stars.

Ban Placed on Collegians

Collegiate gridiron stars are barred hereafter from participating in national professional football games until after their class has been graduated, under a rule adopted today by representatives of the twenty clubs of the National Football League in semi-annual session here.

The action, which was unanimous, was a direct result of the appearance as a professional of Grange last Fall immediately after his college football career was ended.

Strong sentiment was expressed against any act by the league to injure either the colleges or the college players by professionalizing the stars. In furtherance of this sentiment a committee of which George Halas, manager of the Chicago Bears, is Chairman, was named to confer with representatives of the National Collegiate Athletic Association in an effort to draw up a set of regulations for the protection of college players.

It was apparent that reefs are ahead of Grange's plans to put another team in New York. Before he can obtain a franchise the New York Giants must give their consent. There were indications tonight that this consent may be withheld.

There are five other applicants for franchises in the circuit -- St. Louis, Racine, Boston, Baltimore, and Newark. Action on these applications will be taken tomorrow.

The action of President Joseph Carr of Columbus, Ohio, in imposing fines upon the owners of the Chicago Cardinals and the Milwaukee team for using high school players in a game last Fall was upheld

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by the league, as was President Carr's order requiring Al McGuirk to dispose of his Milwaukee Club franchise. John Bray and Frank Mulkern, both of Milwaukee, have applied for this franchise.

The league re-elected Carr President, John Dunn of Minneapolis Vice President and Carl Storck of Dayton, Ohio, Treasurer.

Barrow Confirms Report

Edward O. Barrow, business manager of the New York Yankees, confirmed reports from Detroit yesterday that Harold E. (Red) Grange had obtained a lease on the Yankee Stadium to conduct professional football games next fall.

Mr. Barrow said he had come to terms with C.C. Pyle, Grange's manager, whereby Grange leases the Yankee Stadium for a period of five years. Professional football games will be conducted at the Stadium every Sunday and holiday from Oct. 15 to Dec. 31, he said.

Grange, assisted by Mr. Pyle, will manage the team and conduct the business affairs of the club under the terms of the contract with the baseball club.

It is understood that the contract becomes effective if Grange is successful in obtaining a franchise in the National Football League.

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Eyewitness: Dr. Harry A. March: from *Pro Football: Its "Ups" and "Downs"*

We were hearing rumors of the doings of Pyle and Grange but nothing very definite until the winter meeting of the National League in Detroit. Then the quiet was broken by a thunderclap, sheet and fork lightning, a tidal wave and earthquake, not to mention the eruption of a volcano. Hell had broken loose.

When the eastern delegation arrived at Detroit, we received the startling word that "Cash and Carry" Pyle had leased the Yankee Stadium, in New York, for three years and was going to play Grange there. This was a supreme piece of gall, because all New York was the Giants' protected territory and no other franchise could be granted there without the consent of the Giant management. Investigation proved the rumor true. Without asking permission to secure a franchise, Pyle had determined to jimmy his way into the league whether or no. "I have the biggest star in football and I have the lease on the biggest stadium in the country and I am going into your league," was his message to the assembled owners.

Many of the teams in the league had not had the pleasurable financial experience in playing Grange on their home grounds and the profit therefrom and were naturally in favor of admitting Pyle. The management of Rock Island was particularly enthusiastic. Halas of the Bears was non-committal and Sternaman wanted him in -- these partners never agreed in public but always did in private, winning the title of "Potash and Perlmutter" for that reason and others.

The league session was brief and peaceful until this prize hornet nest buzzed in. After Grange had been introduced and made a fine impression by his modesty and sincerity, Pyle did not. He seemed to think that he was God's Gift to Sport and should be received with joy to Abraham's bosom. Then Mr. Mara asked about the territorial rights of the Giants and the tempest burst.

After Grange had spoken to the league owners, we corralled him and told him that we did not want to play in opposition to him within a thousand yards of our field -- just across the Harlem River, as the playing time of football was too short. We said we believed Mr. Mara would consent to his having a franchise in Brooklyn, ten miles away and arrange the schedule so that the games did not conflict; that he need play only the teams with the best drawing power at home and meet all the other clubs of the league on their home grounds. Grange was even then a mighty sensible boy; he thought well of the idea but said his affairs were entirely in Pyle's hands which was literally true. Grange could not lead a grand march at an American Legion ball unless Pyle got his bit; couldn't endorse a cigarette or a typewriter unless the cash was first carried to Pyle.

That night, through the late Ed Thorpe, Mr. Mara and Pyle had a conference which developed into a rough house. Pyle's chin narrowly missed a massaging. The men disliked each other and there was no harmony possible.

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From the New York *Times*, Feb. 8, 1926

GRANGE IS REFUSED PRO FOOTBALL CLUB

Pyle, Star's Manager, Starts Campaign to Organize an Opposition League

Mara Against Second Team

Giants' Representative Indicates That New York Does Not Need Grange in Yankee Stadium

DETROIT, Feb. 7 (AP) -- A revolution in the ranks of professional football was threatened tonight after Red Grange was denied a franchise in the National Professional Football League.

A new professional football league will be formed at a meeting to be held at Chicago Feb. 17, it was announced tonight. The league will be in opposition to the National Professional Football League which operated last season. Eight of ten cities will be represented at the meeting in Chicago, it was said.

Decision to form a new league came after C.C. Pyle, manager of Harold (Red) Grange, had been refused permission to place a team in New York City, where he has a lease on the Yankee Stadium. Representatives of the New York Giants' professional team indicated they would not give their permission, necessary before another team could be placed in New York City.

Pyle immediately went into conference with representatives of other cities in the National Professional Football League, and the announcement of the meeting to organize a new circuit came after four hours of conferences between Pyle and representatives of a number of cities in the present league.

Giants Refuse Grange Request

Pyle's threat of organizing a competing league with Grange as the stellar attraction came after the representative of the Giants, holders of the New York franchise in the National Professional Football League, indicated they would not sanction another club in their territory. Their consent would be necessary before Grange would be permitted to establish a team at the Yankee Stadium.

The famous Red Head's manager said that nineteen of the twenty clubs in the league favored legislation that would permit Grange to become a franchise holder, and that the only opposition came from Tim Mara, holder of the controlling interest of the New York Giants.

Mara pleaded that he desired to consult with his partner, Billy Gibson, before giving his final decision, but plainly indicated that he thought New York does not need Grange as an opposing attraction to the Giants.

Pyle, accompanied by Grange, appeared before the league today to announce their plans for establishing a club in the Yankee Stadium, for which they hold a five-year lease becoming effective next October. Everybody seemed willing to permit a second club in the New York territory, but Mara's refusal was construed by Pyle to mean that the door would be closed to them.

Four cities made applications for franchises in the National League at its closing session today, but these requests were referred to a committee which will report at a special session to be held at Columbu, Ohio, in March. Those favorably acted upon will be submitted to the league for ratification at the Summer meeting scheduled for Philadelphia in July.

The cities seeking franchises are Boston, Newark, St. Louis, and Hartford. Rogers Hornsby, pilot of the St. Louis Cardinals, is reported to be behind the St. Louis club.

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Racine, Wis., formerly a member of the league, applied for reinstatement, and Minneapolis, whose franchise was inactive last year, also made application. These returns give the league twenty-two clubs, with a possibility that the ratification of new members will bring the total to twenty-six.

Player Limit Increased to 18

The player limit was increased from sixteen to eighteen men, because some of the teams found last year that illness and injuries had left them with only two substitutes, and this number is regarded as insufficient.

The guarantee fund was raised from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and the application fee for a franchise was lifted from \$500 to \$2,500. This was done to reduce the number of applications that might have swarmed in if the old \$500 fee had been continued.

The Chicago Cardinals were voted the league championship for 1925, but declined to accept the honor with Pottsville, Pa., which had tied the Cardinals for first place, now out of the circuit. Chris O'Brien, head of the Chicago Club, refused the title unanimously voted the Cardinals, because he said he wanted a title clearly won on the field of play.

The league voted to restrict the number of games to be played by any one club in a week to two, with the exception of weeks in which holidays fall, when three games may be played. This action was the result of the barnstorming trip taken by the Chicago Bears, who, with Grange, played eight games in eleven days.

Joseph Carr was re-elected president of the league, with John Dunn of Minneapolis as vice president and Carl Storck of Dayton, Ohio, as treasurer.

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Eyewitness: Dr. Harry A. March: from *Pro Football: Its "Ups" and "Downs"*

Coming to New York, Pyle launched plans for an opposition league while the older organization stood on slippery places. He took over the loquacious gentleman from Rock Island, which was good riddance of bad rubbish; seduced Joey Sternaman away from his brother and Halas to head the new Chicago team which he called the "Bulls;" this was after Chris O'Brien had refused his offer of the promised land from the heights; he put a similar experiment in Boston; engaged Doug Wycoff at a promised salary of \$500 per game and an All-Southern supporting team for Newark; coaxed Bob Folwell and Century Milstead away from the Giants to lead the Philadelphia "Quakers" -- neither got ten percent of his salary and later wished they had stayed put; put a team in Brooklyn with Harry Stuhldreher as a featured player -- Harry played just as long as the checks came and were honored, which was not more than a thrice; engaged "Wild Cat" Wilson with a traveling team to fill in open dates -- this fine star afterward won a pennant for the Providence Steam Rollers, while Badgro and Flaherty, of the New York team, joined the Giants in a year or two and have been mainstays ever since. Grange's own team was one of the best but was badly coached and did not finish better than second, trailing the Philadelphia Quakers, the pennant winners.

Searching for an executive which would put the stamp of national publicity on his organization, Mr. Pyle approached Grantland Rice who was both too busy and too wise to accept. He then engaged "Big Bill" Edwards, the rotund guard of Princeton in the '90s, as President, at a reported salary of \$25,000 per year. Bill got the naughts of the \$25,000 and a lot of unhappy experience as his reward.

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From the New York *Times*, March 8, 1926

BIG BILL EDWARDS NAMED PRESIDENT OF A.F.L.

William H. (Big Bill) Edwards, former Collector of Internal Revenue and Street Cleaning Commissioner of New York, a candidate for Controller on the Hylan ticket in the Fall primary and in his college days a famous Princeton football player, accepted yesterday the Presidency of the American Professional Football League. William Hayward, former United States District Attorney, it was announced at the same

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time, accepted a place as general counsel of the league promotion of which was begun several weeks ago by Harold ("Red") Grange, and his manager, Charles C. Pyle, and which is expected to include ten large cities.

The announcement of the selection and acceptances of Mr. Edwards and Colonel Hayward for their respective positions was made after a meeting of the League's promoters at the Hotel Commodore. Mr. Edwards, it was announced, was chosen for three years at an annual salary of \$25,000, and said he would attempt to have the league provide "football for all" in accordance with the high traditions of the college game. Mr. Edwards, by this appointment, becomes to professional football what Judge Landis is to professional baseball and Will H. Hays is to the moving picture industry.

Mr. Edwards's Statement

Mr. Edwards's statement regarding his acceptance of the Presidency of the league, in part, follows:

"I have accepted the Presidency because I want to help preserve high-class football as it is played at the colleges. The tradition of our great game is that it is a clean, red-blooded sport -- a great character builder -- and it must retain these splendid qualities when played professionally.

"The good qualities of the game and the tremendous public interest combine to make it now the property of the public, and it must be played by others than college men and schoolboys.

"There is a great public demand to see the game. Those who are unable, by the consistently increasing limits of football tickets, to see the college game, turn to the professional football team, and the interest has necessarily increased the demand and attendance at professional games.

"The game can best be preserved by proper handling and the greatest and most careful supervision. The future of football rests not only on the shoulders of those who control it, but on the players and the public.

"The league has provided against harm which might come to the high school boy or the undergraduate. No high school or college player is eligible for membership on any team in this league until after his class has been graduated from college. This provision will absolutely prevent the taking away from college of any player before his class graduates. This is an iron-clad prohibition against any college player being eligible, and I shall certainly see the provision enforced."

Franchise Is Placed Here

The league, it was said, has already allocated franchises for New York, where the team will play at the Yankee Stadium under the direction of "Red" Grange; at Newark, Boston and Milwaukee. The New Jersey Athletic Association, of which William Coughlin is President, has the Newark franchise; Robert McKirby, a sports promoter, the Boston franchise, and Frank Mulhern, also a sports promoter, the Milwaukee franchise.

Applications from nearly a dozen cities, it was stated, have been resolved for the remaining franchises. One came from Rogers Hornsby, manager of the St. Louis Cardinals and himself a famous baseball player, who has applied for the St. Louis rights in association with Otto Stiefel. Garry Herrmann, owner of the Cincinnati Reds of the National Baseball League, has applied for the Cincinnati permit. Five requests have been received from Chicago and three from Brooklyn, but no decision will be made to whom and to which cities other franchises will be awarded until a general meeting is held later this month.

The league, it was announced, will be patterned after the two major baseball leagues in the contracts made with the franchise holders the standards to which they will be held and the discipline exercised over the players. Each franchise applicant must deposit a guarantee of \$3,000, which will be held in escrow pending determination of the award in the city and after that retained to cover possible fines and penalties for infractions of the league's rules.

Associated with Mr. Edwards and Colonel Hayward in the direction of the football organization's affairs are, at present, William Coughlin of Newark, who was made treasurer; Charles C. Pyle, Temporary Vice

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President, and William Wetzel of Milwaukee, Temporary Secretary. The permanent officials will be chosen at the next league meeting.

Fifteen Games for Teams

According to Mr. Edwards the league will have a schedule of fifteen games for each team, playing twice a week during a season which will be started immediately after the close of the baseball season and the completion of the world's series. Each of the teams, he said, would have a training season, competent coaching, a training table, and absence of "barnstorming" and exhibition games outside its own schedule and would seek in every manner to conduct itself in a manner similar to the teams of the larger colleges, but would not attempt to persuade high school or college men who have won names on the gridiron to leave their studies before graduation as was done by one of the league's founders, "Red" Grange.

Mr. Edwards's Career

Mr. Edwards's football career began at Lawrenceville, a preparatory school at Lawrenceville, N.J. He made the eleven at Princeton in 1897, and during 1898 and 1899, when he led it as captain, he helped make the years, the team and himself memorable in the college's annals in victory after victory against all rivals, including Yale bringing the college football championship to Princeton. He coached at Princeton and Annapolis for two years and was an official of many of the greatest games played until 1907.

Then he came to New York to enter business. First he was a Deputy Commissioner of Street Cleaning, next Acting Commissioner of the department. His ability to handle and get results from them after a great snowstorm attracted so much attention that his retiring chief gave him credit for the success of the department and Mayor McClellan appointed him to succeed the Commissioner.

Mr. Edwards' next job was the handling of waste disposal for Newark, but in 1917 he was made Collector of Internal Revenue, a position he held for four years and during which time he collected for the United States Treasury \$2,500,000,000. Recently he was made a director of the new police training school, a post which carried no pay and to which he has been giving time from his insurance business.

Colonel Hayward is a native of Nebraska, a lawyer educated at the University of Nebraska and Munich, Germany, a former judge of Otoe County, Neb., and a veteran of the Spanish-American and the World War. He recruited, organized and trained the Fifteenth Infantry, N.O.N.Y., a colored regiment which was later 369th U.S. Infantry and which was the first contingent of American forces in France in 1917, earning distinction by being under fire for 191 days, longer than any other American contingent. He has also been prominent in politics in both Nebraska and New York.

In order to stimulate interest among the players and owners, 1 per cent of the gross receipts of all games will be turned into the league's treasury, half of which will go to the owners of the championship eleven and the other half to the players of the teams finishing among the first four, on the basis of 50 per cent for the leader, 25 for second, 15 for third and 10 for fourth place.

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From the New York *Times*, July 17, 1926

A.F.L. FIELDS NINE TEAMS

New York, Brooklyn and Newark will each have a team in the American League of Football Clubs, the formal organization of which was announced yesterday by William H. (Big Bill) Edwards, President, after five days of meetings in the Hotel Commodore. Nine clubs had representatives at the sessions of the new professional football body. The playing schedule will be given out on Aug. 1.

Seven of the clubs are resident organizations and two of them will spend all of their time traveling except for three games on the home grounds of one of them.

The New York club will be owned by C.C. Pyle, famous for his exploitation of Red Grange and its colors will be red, white and blue. Humbert J. Fugazy, promoter of the Berlenbach-Delaney fight last night, is owner of the Brooklyn club, the colors of which will be maroon and black. W.J. Coughlin owns the Newark club which has adopted the colors purple and white.

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The other resident clubs are Boston, Robert K. McKirby, owner, color, dark blue; Philadelphia, L.S. Conway, owner, colors, light blue and gold; Chicago, Joe Sternaman, owner, colors, orange and black; Cleveland, General C.X. Zimmerman, owner, colors, brown and gold. The traveling clubs will be Rock Island, Ill., A.H. Bowlby, owner, colors, green and white; Wilson Club (state of Washington), George Wilson, light brown.

The Rock Island and Wilson clubs will play all of their games away from home except for three that will be played at Rock Island, Ill.

Officers of the League

Beside Big Bill Edwards, President, the officers of the league are: General C.X. Zimmerman, Luna Park, Cleveland, Ohio, Vice President; Joe Sternaman, 77 West Washington Street, Chicago, Ill., secretary, and W.J. Coughlin, Proctor Theater Building, 116 Market Street, Newark, N.J., Treasurer.

"Football for all and all for football," is the slogan of the new league, according to Edwards, who made the following address at the conclusion of the meetings which started last Tuesday:

"Professional football is nothing new; it has been played for over thirty years but the success of professional football, the class of game presented and the demand of the game is new.

"There is a great public craving for the game of football which has aroused the collegiate world to the highest pitch of enthusiasm and keen interest than any collegiate sport ever has taken possession of men and women, boys and girls.

"Our slogan is 'football for all and all for football.' Let the public in on this greatest of all red-blooded American sports!

"The formation of our league will enable hundreds of thousands to sit in and watch the heroes of college and school days play the great games they are capable of. Happy indeed is the great college star who can play his own game with freedom away from the restraint of college coaches. When men graduate from college they are just beginning to know how to play the game. For those who love the game and want to continue, this league offers such men a chance.

Gives Stars Their Chance

"It is a general rule that the football star has had to work his way through college. His success in college enables him to take up professional football as an attractive business proposition for the football season and until he is set in some substantial business. It takes the average college graduate six or seven years before he actually gets set in his business activities unless he has a profession.

"It has been a source of great personal satisfaction to me to get letters and have interviews with real men admirers and players of the game who are with us in body and spirit -- this great game of ours is going stronger than ever. I want to assure you men that, as President of this league, I shall do my best to preserve this great game as far as I can.

"I shall see that the public gets a square deal -- that the players are protected and those of you men who have given your time and money in launching this American league group of teams. Your interests will have my best judgment. I must urge upon each one of you franchise holders the absolute necessity of selecting the best sort of clean playing football players -- I shall deal severely, yet fairly, on cases of discipline. You must have your teams ready and fit to play by our first scheduled games. You have something to sell to the public, if it is good they will buy it, so it is up to you to make your teams attractive."

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From the New York *Times*, August 1, 1926

PRO ELEVENS LIST GAMES FOR SEASON

American League Group of Nine Teams Will Open Year on Sept. 26

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By The Associated Press

Nine teams, including George Wilson's traveling eleven of Pacific Coast stars, will compete in the race for championship honors in the newly organized American League of Professional Football Clubs during the coming season.

The schedule, announced yesterday, extends from Sept. 26 to Dec. 12 and lists contests for every Saturday and Sunday, with some Tuesday and Thursday games. Most of the teams will play fifteen games, with Rock Island and Boston playing only fourteen and Philadelphia sixteen. The Quakers will play every Saturday at home.

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From *Bulldogs on Sunday*

AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE 1926 SEASON

The spanking new American Football League got off to a fitful start as only six of its nine teams were in action on its opening weekend. That, coupled with a pair of upsets, produced the unusual spectacle of league standings led by two teams that would not finish the league season.

In Cleveland, veterans from the city's 1925 NFL team turned back the New York Yankees rookie-laden all-star aggregation featuring Red Grange, 10-0. The Grange club was temporarily a group of nomads, unable to take possession of their regular Yankee Stadium home while the baseball season wound up. The Yankee baseballers, pennant winners in the American Baseball League, had proprietary rights to the ballpark until the completion of the World Series.

A reported 22,000 fans showed up in Cleveland to watch Red Grange do his stuff. Grange had less than a so-so game. His best moment was a 21-yard punt return in the second quarter. He also managed runs from scrimmage of nine and twelve yards, plus one of ten that ended in a fumble. Ironically, New York's best drive came in the third quarter with Grange on the bench. At that time, the Yankees moved to the Cleveland three before being stopped.

The Rock Island Independents also won, edging a better Wilson Wildcat team, 7-3. The Wildcats, featuring the league's second biggest name, 1925 Washington All-America George "Wildcat" Wilson, were a true traveling team. Most of their players were from west coast schools and their home base was listed as Los Angeles, but they wouldn't see the Pacific Ocean until long after the football season ended.

The second week of American Football League action saw all of the teams in action. Cleveland continued undefeated by topping the Wilson Wildcats in its second game, while Boston, Brooklyn, and Philadelphia got off to victories in their first games.

The Yankees -- the league's main attraction -- won their first game by beating Rock Island out in Illinois. To a great extent, the league's chances of survival were predicated on the continuing popularity of Red Grange and his Yankees. The league's teams counted on two big paydays, one when Grange visited their town and a second when they visited Yankee Stadium.

Although attendance figures were artificially inflated by several managements during the season, the early and possibly accurate figures indicate the league was in trouble whenever Grange wasn't on the scene to lure customers.

In an astonishing upset, the hitherto winless Chicago Bulls knocked off the pre-season favorite New York Yankees, 14-0, in the Bulls' first home game. That left the Red Grange-led New Yorkers in the middle of the league standings.

Grange had a good game, but he was never able to break away for any of his famous long runs. His longest gain for the day was only 16 yards.

The Cleveland Panthers and Philadelphia Quakers continued undefeated after a busy weekend of American Football League action. The six games played over October 16-17 were the most the young league would ever see in a 48 hour period. From here on out bad weather and worse receipts would destroy the A.F.L. schedule as games were cancelled and teams folded.

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Had the games been drawing the figures announced by some of the managements, the league would have been choking on healthy franchises. For example, the Quakers insisted 40,000 showed up for their game with the Newark Bears. Had that been true, the Bears could have finished the season in the black on the visitor's share of the receipts. Possibly the Quakers tacked on an extra zero, the one the punchless Bears scored on the field.

After five weeks of the American Football League, more than half of the league's franchises were struggling to keep their heads above water. It was expected, the weaklings could still pick up a quick financial transfusion by a visit to Yankee Stadium where Red Grange and his Yankees finally settled down for a long run. That, of course, depended upon reasonably good weather, continued New York worship of Grange despite his weekly availability, and -- most important -- the survival of the weak franchises until they could make their pilgrimages to Mecca.

The Philadelphia Quakers remained at the top of the standings after pitching their third shutout in four straight victories. However, the other previously undefeated club -- the Cleveland Panthers -- dropped a wild contest at Chicago to fall a game behind.

Halloween arrived and the A.F.L. was treated to a cruel trick by the weatherman. An all day dounpour brought a pair of cancellations that hit two of the shakiest franchises where it hurt most -- right in the wallet.

The Brooklyn Horsemen, struggling to stay in the saddle, lost a chance to host the soft-touch Rock Island Independents and just possibly parlay a win into more fan interest. It was the second rain-out in a row at Ebbets Field.

Even harder hit were the Newark Bears who were rained out of their "Grange-date" at Yankee Stadium. It was the last straw for the weak Bears who junked the rest of their league schedule and operated as an independent for the remainder of the '26 season. They were the first -- but far from the last A.F.L. casualty.

The day before, the Yankees climbed back into a championship race with a big 23-0 win over league-leading Philadelphia. Red Grange put no points on the scoreboard, but he played a fine all-around game, contributing 91 yards -- 48 on rushes and 43 on pass receptions. Unfortunately, the title chase wasn't nearly as interesting as the league's race for survival.

After the first week in November, the American Football League was in effect a four team league. The Cleveland Panthers read the handwriting on the wall -- written in bright red ink -- and bailed out, negotiating for re-admittance to the N.F.L. Just what the N.F.L. needed -- another losing franchise!

The Brooklyn Horsemen played their Grange game and then combined with the Brooklyn Lions of the N.F.L. The resulting "Horse-Lions" went on to prove that a sum needn't be superior to its parts.

Rock Island had nowhere to go; they were still nominally in the league, but no one outside western Illinois cared. Boston waited to get its Grange payday a week hence before going to ground.

Philadelphia, Chicago, the Wildcats, and the Yankees continued to play each other for whatever glory might still be gained. All but Philadelphia were bankrolled by Pyle.

1926 AFL FINAL STANDINGS

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|---|---|------|
| Philadelphia Quakers | 8 | 2 | 0 | .800 |
| New York Yankees | 10 | 5 | 0 | .667 |
| Cleveland Panthers | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 |
| L.A. Wilson Wildcats | 6 | 6 | 2 | .500 |
| Chicago Bulls | 5 | 6 | 3 | .455 |
| Boston Bulldogs | 2 | 4 | 0 | .333 |
| Rock Island Independents | 2 | 6 | 1 | .250 |
| Brooklyn Horsemen | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 |
| Newark Bears | 0 | 3 | 2 | .000 |

A.F.L. RESULTS

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| Sun S-26 | New York 0 at Cleveland 10 Wildcats 3 at Rock Island 7 Chicago 7 at Newark 7 |
| Sat O- 2 | Chicago 3 at Philadelphia 9 |
| Sun O- 3 | New York 26 at Rock Island 0 Wildcats 14 at Cleveland 17 Chicago 7 at Brooklyn 12 Boston 3 at Newark 0 |
| Sat O- 9 | Wildcats 0 at Philadelphia 3 New York 13 at Boston 0 |
| Sun O-10 | Wildcats 23 at Brooklyn 0 Chicago 3 at Rock Island 7 Cleveland at Newark – Cancelled |
| Sat O-16 | Newark 0 at Philadelphia 9 Wildcats 21 at Boston 0 |
| Sun O-17 | New York 0 at Chicago 14 Rock Island 7 at Cleveland 23 Wildcats 7 at Newark 0 Boston 17 at Brooklyn 0 |
| Sat O-23 | Rock Isl. 0 at Philadelphia 9 Newark at Boston – Cancelled |
| Sun O-24 | Wildcats 0 at New York 6 Cleveland 12 at Chicago 19 Rock Island 0 at Newark 0 Phila. At Brooklyn – Cancelled |
| Sat O-30 | New York 23 at Philadelphia 0 |
| Sun O-31 | Wildcats 6 at Cleveland 0 Boston 0 at Chicago 23 Rock Isl. at Brooklyn – Cancelled Newark at New York – Cancelled |
| Tue N- 2 | Rock Island 0 at New York 35 |
| Sat N- 6 | Rock Island 0 at Phila. 24 |
| Sun N- 7 | Brooklyn 13 at New York 21 Wilson 3 at Chicago 3 |
| Mon N- 8 | New York 28 – Wildcats 0 <i>at Toronto, Can.</i> |
| Sun N-14 | Philadelphia 0 at Chicago 3 Boston 0 at New York 24 |
| Sat N-20 | Wildcats 7 at Philadelphia 13 |
| Sun N-21 | Wildcats 16 at New York 6 Rock Island 0 at Chicago 3 |
| Thu N-25 | Philadelphia 13 at New York 10 Wildcats 0 at Chicago 0 |
| Sat N-27 | New York 6 at Philadelphia 13 |
| Sun N-28 | Chicago 0 at New York 7 |
| Sun D- 5 | Wildcats 5 at Chicago 0 |
| Sun D-12 | New York 7 at Chicago 3 |
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Eyewitness: Dr. Harry A. March,
from *Pro Football: Its "Ups" and "Downs"*

Weather is the worst foe of professional football as it is to all outdoor sports. There were five rainy Sundays in the seven booked in New York that season. The tax reports to the U.S. Government showed how much the Pyle team, which he called the "Yankees," were taking in one could easily figure how fast they were being sunk. The Giant team was losing too as we had had to increase many salaries and pay new men much more than they were worth, as players were, for once, very scarce.

The American League -- which is what Pyle called his "Outlaw" organization -- never had one winning day for all nine of his teams. The losses must have been enormous. Many players never were paid in full. It was a three-month losing streak for "Cash and Carry" and it continued until his "bunion derby" from Los Angeles to New York and back, and his sporting finis.

Through it all, Grange retained the respect and affection of all the National Leaguers and this included managers, owners and players.

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In 1927, Pyle approached Mr. Mara, voiced his regrets, confessed defeat, and asked forgiveness. He was permitted a franchise which he might have had earlier had he been less aggressive and more tactful. He played two more seasons in the League, the last without Grange whose contract with him had expired. Then he withdrew to his cross-country running races and his foreign female tennis players, a sadder, wiser and poorer man.

One man, Timothy Mara, stood between the dictatorship of professional football by C.C. Pyle and the present orderly procedure which has built up a fine League of national success. President Carr ... was firm and tactful after war was declared and Chris O'Brien, of the Chicago Cardinals, stuck to the old League when every possible financial inducement was made to have him desert to the new outlaws. His loyalty and stability under the stress, in my opinion, have never been thoroughly appreciated by the team owners or by the public.