

NEW BOOKS

We try to keep up with the books published by PFRA members, but in the hurly-burly we're sure to miss some. If you have a new book out, make sure we remember it.

Old Leather: An Oral History Of Early Pro Football In Ohio, 1920-1935

By Chris Willis, Head of Research Library, NFL Films
Foreword by Joe Horrigan, Pro Football Hall of Fame

Very little has been documented about the early days of pro football and the pioneers who had a major influence in the history of the NFL. Chris Willis, head of the Research Library at NFL Films, seeks to address this neglect. In this collection of original and archival interviews, former players, owners, fans, family members and league officials provide a rare glimpse into the origins of professional football. Full of rich anecdotes, early stars such as Red Grange, Jim Thorpe, Dutch Clark, Glenn Presnell, and Pete Henry are brought back to the playing field.

The interviews also reveal how small towns in Ohio such as Canton, Akron, Columbus, and Dayton came to host franchises, as the state became a major force in the founding and growth of the NFL. **Old Leather** provides the reader with a firsthand look of a period that has largely been ignored until now. It recalls what the era of professional football was like in the age of leather helmets, no television, dirt fields, small salaries and playing for the love of the game was its own reward.

This book will appeal not only to historians, sportswriters, and scholars, but also to die-hard fans and general history buffs who can never get enough of America's favorite sport. Contains 17 photographs of players, owners, and teams.

<http://www.scarecrowpress.com/> ISBN/0810856603

Cleveland Browns History

By Frank M. Henkel

There was little fanfare when Art "Mickey" McBride flew into Chicago in 1945 to purchase a professional football team for Cleveland. But that act set in motion a tradition that has brought the city of Cleveland together on Sunday afternoons for (most of) the sixty years to follow. **Cleveland Browns History** is the story of championship seasons, legendary coaches, and Hall of Fame players. Coach Paul Brown led his teams to seven league title games in their first 17 seasons. Running backs Marion Motley, Jim Brown, and Leroy Kelly each rushed over opposing defenses and straight into Canton, Ohio, along with fellow Browns like Otto Graham, Ozzie Newsome, and Len Ford. The "Kardiac Kids" in 1980 had too many nail-biters for some fans, but won the AFC Central in typical fashion—by three points in the final game of the season. All these stories, plus those of the many unsung heroes to don the NFL's only logo-less helmet, fill the pages of this book, sure to delight any Cleveland Browns fan.

The publisher is Arcadia Publishing out of Chicago. The book is \$19.99, and can be acquired from all of the major internet (amazon, barnes & noble, etc.) outlets, and from most chain bookstores in the Cleveland area. They can also get a signed copy from me at www.brownshistory.com/book.

Rumor has it that Tod Maher's long-awaited and upgraded book on the WFL will be out in September.

PFRA member John Bennett has a new book out. It's about baseball pitcher Johnny Podres. You can find out more at www.johnnypodres.com/ Where else?