

# Red Equals Green

## 1925

By Bob Carroll

In Joe Carr's Master Plan, the National Football League would rid itself of lesser municipalities like Evansville, Hammond, Green Bay, even his own Columbus, and play exclusively in the nation's largest cities. He'd gained a Philadelphia team in 1924 (although Frankford actually played in a suburb). Chicago had the Bears and Cardinals. Cleveland was the league champ. It was time to get serious about New York.

The situation had improved in Gotham. A new law on the books made it legal to play pro football on Sundays. Carr approached promoter Billy Gibson, who'd had a stake in the 1921 Brickley Giants. Gibson wasn't interested in going it alone, but he knew someone who was, and he sent Carr to see Tim Mara, a New York bookmaker. Bookmaking was a legal and honorable profession at the time, so that was no problem. Neither was the money; Mara was a very successful bookmaker. The problem was that Mara knew as much about football as he knew about Tierra del Fuego.

Nevertheless, as Mara said, "An exclusive franchise to ANYTHING in New York is certainly worth \$500."

Actually, he said something like that. Historians have haggled ever since over whether he said "worth \$500" -- the price of a franchise in 1925 -- or "worth \$2,500" -- the franchise plus the guarantee. The argument is pointless. Mara knew what it was going to cost him. What appealed to him was the exclusivity. That's what he paid for, and that was what he would go to the wall for during the next couple of years.

To ease Tim Mara's transition into a football magnate, Billy Gibson came aboard for a while until Mara bought him out a few years later. To run his new New York Giants, Mara hired as club president Dr. Harry A. March, who was supposed to know everything about football since he had ministered to the hurts of the old Canton Bulldogs back in 1905-06. This is the same man whose book, *Pro Football: Its "Ups" and "Downs,"* published in 1934, did so much to mislead future historians about the history of the game. Another new team of significance joined the NFL in 1925, the Pottsville Maroons from the Pennsylvania coal fields. The Maroons (with Wilbur Henry in the lineup) had been a strong independent in '24 and figured to win some games in '25. Their main appeal to the other NFL owners, however, was their close proximity to Philadelphia. NFL teams planned to get two games in for the same traveling expenses by playing in Frankford on Saturday and moving up to Pottsville for a Sunday game.

Still another northeastern team, the Providence Steam Roller, came into the league in 1925. The Rollers had played

independently since 1915 and were better prepared for the NFL than any team in Boston, a city Carr might have preferred.

Carr also brought Detroit back into the league under the management of Jimmy Conzelman. Although it was never stated officially, Conzelman apparently got a free ride on the guarantee fee and did not even have to put up the \$500 franchise fee.

Something similar was done about Canton. The home of the original Bulldogs was not on Carr's "must" list, but it had sentimental support as well as some very vocal fans. A new team was set up to be run by some of the old Bulldog players. Wilbur Henry and Harry Robb came back from Pennsylvania, and Sam Deutsch let "Link" Lyman and a couple of others out of Cleveland. The result was that the 1925 season saw two "Bulldogs" teams in the NFL, one in Canton and one in Cleveland, neither strong enough to contend for the title. It might have been different if either had retained Guy Chamberlin, the coach with the golden touch, but he had been hired to lead the Yellow Jackets of Frankford.

### THE TITLE RACE

Later events dwarfed individual achievements by some veteran pros in 1925. For example ...

September 26: Frankford's Ernie Hamer scored four touchdowns in a 27-7 victory over Buffalo at Philadelphia. Three of the TD's came on short runs from scrimmage, but the fourth was on a 75-yard return of an intercepted pass.

September 27: Phil White of Kansas City booted a 50-yard placement for the only points in a 3-0 win at Duluth.

October 11: "Paddy" Driscoll collected four field goals -- one reported as 50 yards -- to lift the Cardinals to a 19-9 victory over Columbus at Chicago. George Rohleder of the Tigers kicked three field goals for his team's points.

Also October 11: "Cy" Wentworth of Providence returned a kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown, as the Steam Roller humbled the visiting New York Giants, 14-0.

October 18: At Chicago, Driscoll broke away for an 80-yard TD run from scrimmage to seal a 20-7 Cardinal victory over Kansas City.

October 31: Tackle "Bull" Behman of the Yellow Jackets scored touchdowns on a blocked punt and an intercepted pass to help Frankford top Columbus 19-0 at Philadelphia.

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November 22: The Steam Roller's Tony Golembeski returned a fumble 96 yards for a TD against Frankford, as Providence pleased its home fans with a 20-7 win.

November 26: All-NFL End Charlie Berry of Pottsville scored 25 points as the Maroons shut out Green Bay, 31-0, at Minersville Park.

November 29: The Maroons' "Hoot" Flanagan took a pass interception 90 yards for one of the touchdowns in Pottsville's 49-0 thrashing of the Yellow Jackets.

The 1925 title race was the best yet. Conzelman mounted a serious challenge from Detroit with a team long on defense. The Panthers, this year's Detroit cats, shut out eight of their 12 opponents. Guy Chamberlin, in charge at Frankford, had the Yellow Jackets in the race until late November when the strain of playing two games every weekend did them in.

Both Chicago teams contended until the Bears got sidetracked with a more important issue. By December the surprising Cardinals had only one loss and it looked like "Paddy" Driscoll's weekly Herculean efforts might finally pay off in a championship for Chris O'Brien. All they had to do was get past the guys from the coal country, Pottsville.

The Maroons featured end Charlie Berry, a former All-America at Lafayette and future major league player and umpire. They'd built a line out of "Duke" Osborn, the erstwhile Canton Bulldog guard, and the Stein brothers, Russ who'd earned All-America credit as a Pitt tackle and Herb who'd gained similar plaudits as a W. & J. center. The backfield had one "name" player in Walter French, who'd starred for Army, but the main ground gainers were relative unknowns, "Barney" Wentz and Tony Latone. Wentz, out of Penn State, was a fullback with breakaway speed. Latone, who'd never seen the inside of a college classroom, proved one of the most irresistible line smashers in pro history.

Latone went to work in the mines at age 11 when his father died. He developed tremendous leg strength from pushing coal shuttle cars up slopes. Football, which he began playing with local semi-pro teams, was his way out of the mines.

Understandably, Tony lacked sophistication. He always took his pay in cash, which was not unusual among players at the time, but his teammates were shocked when they found his wallet lying on the bench one day at practice. All his money was in it. They urged him to get a checking account. Tony didn't quite trust or understand checks, but he finally gave in to peer pressure. A week later, his mates found his checkbook on the bench. All the checks were already signed!

## THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME THAT WASN'T

Chicago newspapers trumpeted the December 6 meeting between the Cardinals and the Maroons at Comiskey Park as "for the championship," ignoring the fact that the season would still have two weeks to go after the game. No doubt they were encouraged in this by Chris O'Brien whose ledgers were as red as his team's jerseys. A larger crowd would turn out for a "championship game." After all, it seemed like only a white lie; the winner of the contest

would undoubtedly end up in front on December 20 when the season ended. At least, everyone assumed that's how it would be.

The Maroons handled the Cardinals with surprising ease. Pottsville quarterback Jack Ernst ran a second quarter punt back to the Cardinal five, and Barney Wentz bulled over for a touchdown. Then Walter French reeled off a matched set of 30-yard runs, the second for another Maroon TD. The Cardinals passed for a touchdown just before halftime, but the Maroons throttled them in the second half. French had several more long runs and Wentz plunged for his second touchdown.

Cued by the pre-game publicity, many newspapers around the country stated flatly that the Maroons had won the championship with their 21-7 victory. Those headlines proved as premature as "Dewey Defeats Truman."

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SEEING RED

The winner of the championship race was not uppermost in the minds of most pro football fans as 1925 drew to its close. The hottest color wasn't Maroon or Cardinal; it was Red, as in Grange.

In his third season of racing across football fields for the University of Illinois, Harold "Red" Grange had achieved the same mythic stature as "Babe" Ruth, Jack Dempsey, and a very few other sports heroes of the the 1920's. Certainly, he was the most idolized football player. For many, he WAS football.

His deeds at Illinois were the stuff of legends. He made his varsity debut at Illinois in 1923 with a three-touchdown, 208-yard performance against Nebraska. He had a 92-yard run against Northwestern and a 60-yarder against Chicago. His junior year was even better. Against Michigan in 1924, he took the opening kickoff back 95 yards for a TD and ran for three more scores of 67, 56, and 44 yards within the first twelve minutes of the game. He zinged Iowa for 94 and 80 yards, Chicago for 94. He was a sureshot third-time All-America in 1925, but he cemented it with a brilliant, three touchdown performance against Penn. In addition to his marvelous talent for transporting footballs, he was the classic American hero: a handsome, modest, soft-spoken young man from a working class background. He'd delivered ice from a horse-drawn wagon to help pay his way through college.

But as the 1925 season wore on, fans began to face the prospect that their hero would turn pro. Most football fans were college football fans. Pro football to many was anathema. Rumors multiplied. One had Grange touring with Notre Dame's Four Horseman. Another had him signing with Mara's New York Giants. The Chicago Bears. These were the *Front Page* days of newspaper "scoops" when Get It First often outranked Get It Right. Grange and anyone else who might have inside information was deluged with reporters. Had he received money yet? How much?

The man who'd tabbed Grange "The Galloping Ghost," Warren Brown of the *Chicago Tribune* had it almost right. The redhead, he said, had signed with a theater owner named C.C. (Charley) Pyle. Brown cautioned: "People who know C.C. Pyle claim the initials stand for Cash and Carry. Mr. Grange is hereby forewarned." Grange hadn't signed with anyone. He had, however, agreed to let Pyle represent him and shook hands on it. For Grange, a handshake was as good as a signed contract. Despite Pyle's

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rapacious reputation, Grange always claimed: "Charley was as honest as the day is long. I got every cent I ever had coming to me ... and I got most of them because of him."

In Myron Cope's *The Game That Was*, Grange discussed C.C. Pyle:

Charley Pyle was about forty-four years old when I met him. He was the most dapper man I have ever seen. He went to the barbershop every day of his life. He had a little moustache that he'd have trimmed, and he would have a manicure and he'd have his hair trimmed up a little, and every day he would get a rubdown. He was the greatest clotheshorse you ever saw. All his clothes were tailor-made. His suits cost a hundred or two hundred dollars, which was a lot of money in the 1920s. He wore a derby and spats and carried a cane, and believe me, he was a handsome guy. The greatest ladies' man that ever lived. The girls loved him.

Money was of no consequence to Charley. I would say that at the time I met him, he had made pretty near a million dollars and lost it.

Meanwhile, as Illinois' season approached its end, Grange was besieged with appeals to remain an amateur. Or, if he'd already signed a contract, do the honorable thing and back out of it. Fans sent letters and telegrams. Newspapers editorialized. The *Chicago News* said, "He is a living legend now. Why sully it?" Michigan's coach, Fielding "Hurry Up" Yost told reporters, "I'd be glad to see Grange do anything else except play professional football." Indeed, Grange had book, movie and vaudeville offers that would have paid him well.

Grange's Illinois coach, Bob Zupke, told him, "Football just isn't a game to be played for money."

"You get paid for coaching, Zup. Why should it be wrong for me to get paid for playing?"

Westbrook Pegler of the *Chicago Tribune* made his reputation with opinions oft' dipped in acid. This time, he was the voice of reason: "To be an imitation writer or a fake movie actor would surely be less virtuous than becoming a real football player."

Grange completed his college career by gaining 192 yards against Ohio State at Columbus on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. After the game, he told reporters: "I intend to sign an agreement to play for the Chicago Bears. I have nothing to say right now."

He took a train to Chicago where Pyle had already worked out the agreement with Bear co-owners, George Halas and "Dutch" Sternaman. Grange had never met Halas or Sternaman before. On Sunday, he sat on the Chicago bench in street clothes and watched the Bears trounce Green Bay, 21-0. At halftime, 3,000 fans stormed the field to get close to Grange and the police were called. The next morning, the contract was signed.

Harry McNamara explained what Grange had agreed to in the [Chicago Examiner](#):

Mr. Charles Pyle has done the very best he could to keep Harold ('Red') Grange busy during the interval between Thursday [November 26] and December 13. ('Red') and his supporting cast, the Chicago Bears, will be asked to do something that probably has never been attempted by an individual player or team previously.

Pyle has succeeded in scheduling a total of 10 games in 18 days, which is a pretty fair achievement for a young manager. While going about the country playing the schedule Pyle has mapped out and 'getting the money while the getting is good,' Grange and his team will travel approximately 3,000 miles around the East....

There are rumors that another, longer tour will follow.

Grange and Pyle reportedly received 50% of the tour receipts. The other Bear players were paid their regular game rate of \$100-\$200. They opened at Wrigley Field in Chicago against the Cardinals on Thanksgiving Day. Chris O'Brien could have had a percentage of the attendance, but he decided not to risk a loss and took his normal visitor's guarantee instead. 20,000 tickets went on sale on Wednesday, more than had ever been sold for a pro football game in Chicago. They were gone in three hours. A snowstorm hit Chicago on Thursday. No matter. By game time, 36,000 -- the largest crowd ever to see a pro football game anywhere -- packed Wrigley Field to see Grange.

The Cardinals held Grange to only 36 yards, and "Paddy" Driscoll kept him from any long punt returns by kicking away from him. At one point, Driscoll, the most popular player ever in Chicago, heard the crowd booing and remarked that it was a shame the crowd had turned against Grange. "They're booing you," he was told. The final score was 0-0.

It was still snowing Sunday, but 28,000 turned out at Wrigley to watch Grange against Columbus. This time he ran for 140 yards and passed for a touchdown as the Bears won. On Wednesday, the Grange-Bears played a pick-up team in St. Louis before only 8,000 as the snow continued and the temperature dropped to 12 degrees. On Saturday, a rainstorm hit Philadelphia, but 35,000 came out to watch Grange score both touchdowns in a 14-0 win over Frankford.

After a night train to New York, the Grange-Bears took the field at the Polo Grounds for their fifth game in ten days. The Bears won 19-7, with Grange scoring the final TD on a pass interception, but the game score wasn't important. The huge crowd was -- 65,000 paid and perhaps 8,000 gate crashers! Tim Mara's Giants had been running at a loss. The Grange game put them in the black for the season. Grange's personal share for the tour went up to \$50,000. Yet even the money figures paled in significance to the interest aroused. Among the watchers were 125 reporters. Only five years earlier in Chicago, Halas had begged newspapers to cover Staley games and often had to write game accounts himself just to get them on the sports page. More than any event up to that time, the crowd in New York made pro football an important sport.

## GHOST SEEKERS

In the long view, Grange's arrival on the scene changed pro football forever. More immediately, it changed the 1925 NFL championship race. On the same day the Grange-Bears played in

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New York -- December 6 -- the Maroons and Cardinals played their "championship game" in Chicago. That the Maroon win seemed to kyo Chris O'Brien's title hopes was not cataclysmic to the Cardinal owner. He'd never come very close before. Much more disastrous was his ill-conceived decision to take the guarantee instead of a percentage for the Thanksgiving Day game with the Bears and Grange. As a consequence, his near-championship team was still losing money.

O'Brien reasoned he could snatch solvency from the jaws of bankruptcy by convincing the Bears and Grange to play one more game with his Cardinals. The last day of the season, December 20, when Grange's present tour would be completed, would make an ideal date. However, he needed a gimmick -- something to convince Halas, Sternaman, Pyle, and Grange that another meeting with his Cardinals was fiscally desirable. The perfect device would be to have his team in first place. And he knew how to accomplish that. George Halas had shown him how.

Just as Halas had outflanked Buffalo in 1921 and tried to outmaneuver Cleveland in '24, O'Brien set out to schedule extra games to move his percentage ahead of Pottsville's. The tactic hadn't worked for Halas the year before because of the early closing date for the season, but O'Brien had two weeks to go before the official end of the '25 race.

He quickly arranged two games for the next week -- on Thursday against Milwaukee and on Saturday against Hammond. Both teams had disbanded for the year. Milwaukee, owned by Chicagoan Ambrose McGuirk, had trouble getting a lineup together, and O'Brien, sensing a mismatch, didn't even charge attendance to the scattered few who turned up for the Thursday morning game. The Cardinals laughed through a 59-0 farce. On Saturday, they whipped a more respectable Hammond crew, 13-0.

As ugly as the Cardinals-Milwaukee game was, it had a greater bearing on NFL history than a thousand close ones. Ambrose McGuirk, the Milwaukee owner, lived in Chicago which put him at a disadvantage in getting his team back together to play the Cardinals. Art Folz, a Cardinal sub, gave him a hand by producing four willing bodies to stuff into Milwaukee jerseys. The only problem was that all four were students at a local Chicago high school.

A few weeks later, when Joe Carr learned high school players had been used, he told reporters the game would be stricken from the record. That was his intention, but the owners became embroiled in more important matters at the next league meeting and never got around to acting on the game. It's still on the books.

However, Carr's other actions took. He fined Chris O'Brien \$1,000 for letting his team play a game against high schoolers even if, as O'Brien claimed, he was unaware of their status. Art Folz was banned from the NFL for life. Ambrose McGuirk was ordered to sell his team within 90 days.

By the summer of 1926, facing the challenge of the American Football League, Carr and the league were in a more charitable mood. The fine against O'Brien was rescinded -- \$1,000 would have put him out of business. Folz's lifetime suspension was also dropped, apparently to keep him from joining the new league. He chose not to play football for anyone. McGuirk had by then sold his

team to a group that included erstwhile Chicago Bear halfback Johnny "Red" Bryan.

Ironically, the two games that O'Brien had scheduled only to inflate his team's winning percentage turned out to be unnecessary because of events that took place in the east on the same day the Cards beat Hammond.

## POTTSVILLE AND THE IRISH

Next to "Red" Grange, the most recognizable name in 1925 football was Notre Dame. And of all the Fighting Irish, the most fabulous entity was "The Four Horseman," the phenomenal backfield that had led Notre Dame to an undefeated season and Rose Bowl victory in 1924.

In mid-November, an enterprising promoter arranged for an all-star team of Notre Dame graduates, including all four "Horsemen," to play the top eastern pro team at Philadelphia's Shibe Park on December 12. Although most observers expected the top team in the east to be Guy Chamberlin's Frankford Yellow Jackets, the Pottsville Maroons were still in the running, so the teams agreed that the one with the better record in December would oppose the Irish stars. On November 28, Frankford lost a tough game to Green Bay. The next day they went to Pottsville's Minersville Park and were blitzed, 49-0. That, followed by Pottsville's win against the Cardinals the next week, put the Maroons in line to meet the Notre Dame All-Stars.

Games against non-league opponents had to be cleared by Joe Carr. The Pottsville owner later said he'd telephoned the league office and got permission, but he didn't talk to Carr, who was in the hospital. The first Carr heard of the game was when he received a protest from the Frankford team that Pottsville planned to play a game in Philadelphia, the Jackets' franchised territory. The Jackets were obviously being spoil sports. They'd expected to play the potentially lucrative game against the All-Stars, and when they lost their chance, they'd decided to block Pottsville. To shore up their protest, Frankford quickly scheduled a game with Cleveland on the 12th opposite the Notre Dame Stars-Pottsville game.

Carr may not have thought Frankford's protest was very neighborly, but it was certainly valid. If Pottsville could play in Shibe Park on its own volition, there was nothing to stop the Chicago Bears from playing in Yankee Stadium. Three times during the week he ordered Pottsville not to play or they would be suspended. The Pottsville owner, Dr. J.G. Striegel, balanced all the money he hoped to make from a game with the Four Horseman against his league membership and voted Irish.

On Saturday, December 12, Pottsville defeated the Notre Dame All-Stars, 9-6, on a Charlie Berry field goal before a disappointing crowd of only 8,000, about the same as the Yellow Jackets drew at Frankford Stadium against Cleveland. Right after the game, Dr. Striegel received a telegram from Joe Carr instructing him that the Maroons had been fined \$500, suspended from all NFL rights and privileges, and had their franchise forfeited to the league. The Maroons were not allowed to play a game scheduled at Providence the next day. Frankford went instead. There were still eight days to go in the season, but Pottsville was no longer eligible to win the title. Since no other team was in a position to catch the Cardinals, the race was over.

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## THE POTTSVILLE VERSION

In the 1930's, Pottsville newspaperman Walter Farquar began writing about the "stolen championship of 1925." With a cavalier disregard for dates and facts, he told the story this way: The Pottsville-Cardinal game on December 6 was OFFICIALLY for the championship. Pottsville RECEIVED PERMISSION to play the Notre Dame All-Stars, the regular season being OVER. AFTER Pottsville defeated the Notre Dame All-Stars, Frankford protested even though the Yellow Jackets had DISBANDED. Joe Carr upheld the TOTALLY WORTHLESS protest. To "fix up" the standings, JOE CARR ORDERED Chris O'Brien to play TWO ILLEGAL games AFTER the season's end, then counted them in the Cardinals' record to move them ahead of Pottsville in the standings.

Although not one of these statements was accurate, Farquar was widely believed. In the next decades, several articles authored by well-known sports writers appeared in national publications retelling Farquar's version of the "stolen championship." A gaggle of longtime Pottsville residents "remembered" the events just the way Farquar told it. In 1962, some of those residents petitioned the NFL to "correct" the 1925 standings and award Pottsville the title. The petition was rejected.

In 1981, a committee under the leadership of Joseph Horrigan, Historian of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, investigated the Pottsville claim, using league minutes and 1925 newspaper accounts from other league cities. The committee's published judgment was that Pottsville's claims had no merit. In 1986-87, Doug Costello, editor of the *Pottsville Republican*, took a further look, using the same material as the earlier committee plus a great number of additional contemporary sources. His conclusion, which he courageously published in the *Republican*, supported the findings of the Horrigan Committee.

## O'BRIEN'S PLOT IS ALL FOR NAUGHT

Although Chris O'Brien had his championship, he did not have what he had really wanted -- another game with the Grange-Bears. During the same week that Carr had been telegraphing Pottsville, the Grange tour began to stumble. The redhead and the rest of the Bears were bone tired when they played a non-league team in Washington on Tuesday.

While in Washington, Grange and Halas were taken to meet the President by Illinois Senator William Brown McKinley. Unlike many later Presidents, Calvin Coolidge was not a sports fan.

Senator McKinley: "Mr. President, this is Mr. Red Grange and Mr. George Halas with the Chicago Bears."

Coolidge: "Glad to meet you young gentlemen. I always did like animal acts."

The Grange-Bears took an overnight train to Boston where they lost to the Providence Steam Roller on Wednesday. Grange gained only 18 yards and was booed by the crowd of 25,000. Ford Frick, the newsman who later became baseball commissioner, was accompanying the expedition. He wrote: "The strain of this tour is starting to show on Grange. He is tremendously human, in his quiet, shy way, and just a little bit nervous and bored by the

laudations which suddenly have come his way. And the pace has begun to tell. Deep lines showed about Red's face today ...."

On Thursday, the game was in Pittsburgh against a team of locals. Grange was kicked in the arm, tore a muscle, and a blood clot began to form. By Saturday, he couldn't play at all in a game in Detroit. More than 20,000 fans requested refunds, and only 6,000 watched the game. He played only a few minutes on Sunday -- and that against his doctor's advice -- as the tour ended at home to Chicago against the Giants in. The crowd of 18,000 cheered him anyway, but the exhausted Bears lost their fourth straight.

Grange and the Bears, it was announced, would take eight days off to rest and heal their wounds before leaving on another tour that would take them to Florida and California. Pyle and Grange had made \$150,000 with more to come.

## WINNERS AND LOSERS

Halas and Sternaman were in the chips. Mara and several other owners had made money. Even the weary regular Bear players had earned extra money as spear carriers. One historian has written that tackle Ed Healey's magnificent performance on the tours was what eventually gained him a place in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, although this seems an exaggeration. Healey was a regular member of the mythical all-pro teams throughout his career. In a larger sense, Joe Carr had been the biggest winner of all in 1925. He had a solid New York team in his league. Because of Grange, the NFL had become a presence on the nation's sports pages, and pro football became less disreputable when the Redhead didn't grow horns. He'd handled the Pottville challenge with dispatch, strengthening the all the league's franchises by protecting Frankford's.

The season's losers were Pottsville, which had lost a championship they thought they'd won and a franchise they thought they owned, and Chris O'Brien, who'd won a championship but lost the one game he most needed.

As if the championship race of 1925 wasn't confused already, Chris O'Brien added one more twist. At the league meeting, just as the owners were about to vote the championship to the Cardinals, O'Brien announced (through an intermediary) that he could not accept a title his team hadn't won on the field. Whether he meant Pottsville deserved the championship, referred to his "lost" Grange game, or possibly felt guilty about the Milwaukee game was never made clear. But in the confusion, the league apparently never got around to actually voting any team the championship. The technicality really was meaningless. The Cardinals were champs under the best-percentage rules set up by the league, and league standings for 1925, however flawed, have always listed the Cards on top. Furthermore, O'Brien could refuse to accept a trophy but not the title. Today's Cardinals, now in Phoenix after 28 years in St. Louis, consider the 1925 bunch as their first championship team.

Grange rested his arm until December 19, when the Bears entrained for Florida to begin the second tour. The injury was reported to have cost him, Pyle, and the Bears \$75,000. The second tour, which began on Christmas Day in Coral Gables, Florida, and ended on January 31 in Seattle, Washington, was comparatively leisurely, with most of the games played back-to-back on weekends.

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Among the various "All-Star" opponents was Ernie Nevers, the Stanford All-America fullback, who reportedly signed with Jacksonville promoters for \$50,000 ("Nevers Does 'Grange,' headlined one paper). George "Wildcat" Wilson, Washington's All-America halfback, opposed the Grange-Bears on the West Coast.

Team	W	L	T	PF-PA
Chicago Cardinals	11	2	1	230- 65
*Pottsville Maroons	10	2	0	270- 45
Detroit Panthers	8	2	2	129- 39
New York Giants	8	4	0	122- 67
Akron Pros	4	2	2	65- 51
Frankford Yellow Jackets	13	7	0	190-169
Chicago Bears	9	5	3	158- 96
Rock Island Independents	5	3	3	99- 58
Green Bay Packers	8	5	0	151-110
Providence Steam Roller	6	5	1	111-101
Canton Bulldogs	4	4	0	50- 73
Cleveland Bulldogs	5	8	1	75-135
Kansas City Cowboys	2	5	1	65- 97
Hammond Pros	1	4	0	23- 87
Buffalo Bisons	1	6	2	33-113
Duluth Kelleys	0	3	0	6- 25
Rochester Jeffersons	0	6	1	26-111
Milwaukee Badgers	0	6	0	7-191
Dayton Triangles	0	7	1	3- 84
Columbus Tigers	0	9	0	28-124

\* - Suspended from league, Dec. 12.

## THE GRANGE TOURS

## THE FIRST TOUR, November 26 to December 13

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	ATT.**	WHERE
N-26	*Chicago Cardinals	0- 0	36,000	Chicago
N-29	*Columbus Tigers	14-13	28,000	Chicago
D- 2	St. Louis	39- 6	8,000	St.Louis
D- 5	*Frankford YellowJackets	14-0	35,000	Phila.
D- 6	*New York Giants	19- 7	65,000	N.Y.
D- 8	Washington	19-0	8,000	Wash.
D- 9	*Providence Steam Roller	6- 9	25,000	Boston
D-10	Pittsburgh	0-24	18,000	Pitt.
D-12	*Detroit Panthers	0-21	6,000	Detroit
D-13	*New York Giants	0-9	18,000	Chicago

\* - Game counted in official NFL standings

\*\* - Attendance figures taken from newspaper accounts; often inflated.

## THE SECOND TOUR, December 25 to January 31

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	ATT.**	WHERE
D-25	Florida Collegians	7- 3	25,000	Coral Gables
J- 1	Tampa Cardinals	17- 3	12,000	Tampa
J- 2	Jacksonville Stars	19-6	35,000	Jacksonville, FL
J-10	New Orleans Stars	14- 0	10,000	N.O
J-16	Los Angeles Tigers	17- 7	75,000	L.A.
J-17	California All-Stars	14- 0	#	San Diego
J-24	San Francisco Tigers	9- 14	#	S.F.
J-30	Portland All-Stars	60- 3	#	Portland
J-31	Northwest All-Stars	34- 0	#	Seattle

# - Total attendance for final four games reported as 65,000.

\*\* - Attendance figures taken from newspaper accounts; often inflated.