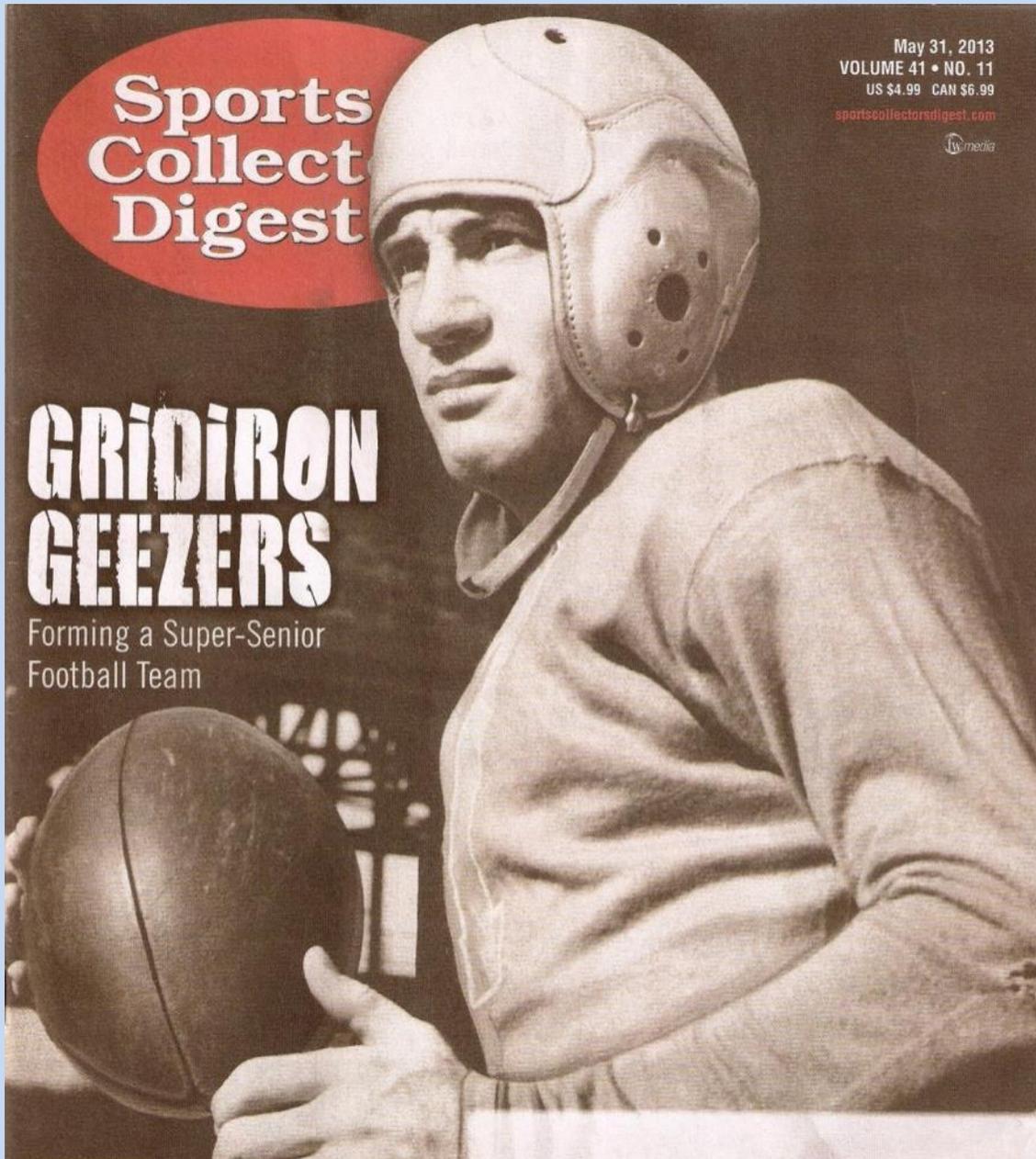


**Oldest living players**

# **Are you ready for some super-senior football?**



*Starting East team quarterback Ace Parker*

*(Information was current as of May 2013 when article appeared in Sports Collectors Digest magazine)*

By George Vrechek



Can you imagine a tackle football game featuring the oldest living NFL players with some of the guys in their 90s? Well to tell the truth, I can't really imagine it either. However that doesn't stop me from fantasizing about the possibility of a super-senior all-star game featuring players who appeared on football cards.

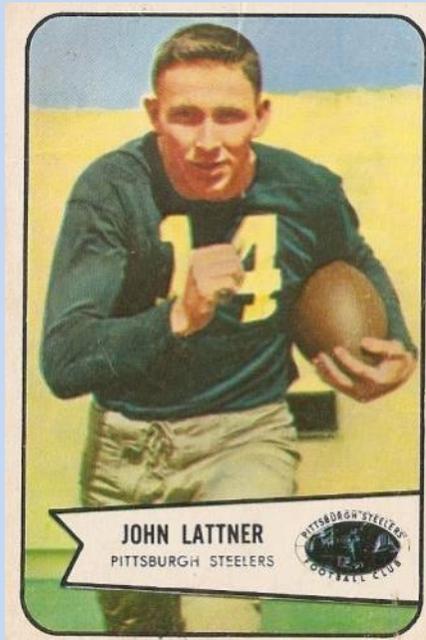
After *SCD* featured my articles earlier this year about the (remote) possibility of a game involving the oldest living baseball players, you knew it wouldn't be long before you read about the possibility of a super-senior football game.

Old-timers have been coming back to baseball parks for years to make cameo appearances. Walter Johnson pitched against Babe Ruth long after both had retired. My earlier articles proposed the possibility of getting the oldest baseball players (ranging in age from 88 to 101) back for one more game. While not very likely, it is at least conceivable.

Getting the oldest old-timers back for a game of tackle football, on the other hand, isn't very likely. We can probably think about a touch game, but the players would properly insist that touch is not the same game. If the game were played as touch football, the plethora of linemen would have to entertain one another, while the players in the skill positions got to run around and get all the attention, sort of like it is now in the NFL, except the linemen are knocking themselves silly.

### **Old-timer football games**

Universities have had old-timers back to play in spring football games, although the practice has pretty well died out, and the "old-timers" weren't usually that old. The old-timers might include graduating seniors and then current professional players who came back to knock around some college kids. Knute Rockne started the concept at Notre Dame by having former players return to play his varsity in the spring game starting in 1929. The tradition continued (for all but two years) until 1967. The Notre Dame "Old Timers" beat the varsity on seven occasions. In the final years, sophomores were added to the Old Timers team to even the sides. The 1963 game, for example, featured George Izo at quarterback and Heisman Trophy winners Johnny Lattner and Leon Hart on the Old Timers. They lost a close game to the varsity 30 to 23. Lattner and Hart continued making appearances in the game through 1967, when Hart was 38 and Lattner 34. Another Heisman winner, Johnny Lujack, led the Old Timers to a 20-14 victory in 1948 against a Notre Dame team that went undefeated that fall. NFL offensive tackle Gus Cifelli played in the spring game for 18 straight years. Paul Hornung, and Nick Petrosante, and the Four Horsemen all returned to play and enjoy a few refreshments according to Lattner (80).



*Future prospect Johnny Lattner (only 80) won the Maxwell Award in both 1952 and 1953, won the Heisman in 1953, and played on most of the subsequent “Old Timers” Notre Dame teams. He usually leads off the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Chicago, shown here in 2013.*

In August 1987 Pittsburgh Steelers alums beat the Oakland Raiders alums 33 to 24 in a 7-man flag game that drew 15,000. Rocky Blier, Terry Hanratty, L.C. Greenwood, Joe Gilliam, Ken Stabler, Fred Belitnikoff, Cliff Branch, Marv Hubbard, Jack Tatum, and Ted Hendricks participated. Stabler was 41 at the time, the others were slightly younger. The NFL Hall of Fame has an annual game played by current players. HOFers come back to sign autographs and talk to fans, but no one puts on the pads.

### **The oldest former pro football players**

Even though it isn’t likely we can get the oldest former NFL players together for a game, maybe someone will get them together for at least an autograph show. But how do you find who the oldest players are? Fortunately, there is the internet and a great website called Oldest Living Pro Football Players which lists the 500 oldest players. Having gone through this research with baseball players, I expected to find that the former football players suffered more wear and tear and that the ages of the 100 oldest players would be younger than for the 100 oldest baseball players. This wasn’t the case; the 100 oldest football players range in age from 88 to 101 years-old, just like the baseball players. Ace Parker is prominent on both lists being a HOF NFL player and a former 1937 Philadelphia A’s baseball player. Ace is 101 and is the oldest living former pro football player and the second oldest former baseball player behind only Connie Marrero.

### **Players who appeared on cards**

However, finding football cards for the oldest 100 wasn’t as easy as for the baseball players. Football players tend to have shorter careers, linemen are lucky to get cards at all, and many of the oldest players were active in the cardboard deprived years of the

early and mid-1940s. I had to stretch to find 22 guys among the oldest 100 with football cards. I could put together two teams with players playing out of position and going both ways, but as soon as someone pulled a hamstring (perhaps before the National Anthem) I would need some subs. I decided to keep going down the list for players younger than 88 to fill out my teams. I got down to #300 and was pretty close to filling two teams of 40 players each (the standard roster size starting in 1964). I saw 82 year-old youngster Frank Gifford looming at number #330, and decided to grab Frank to add to the rosters for a little more box office appeal. You can never have enough subs when organizing a tackle football game for the oldest players.

### **Let's play both ways**

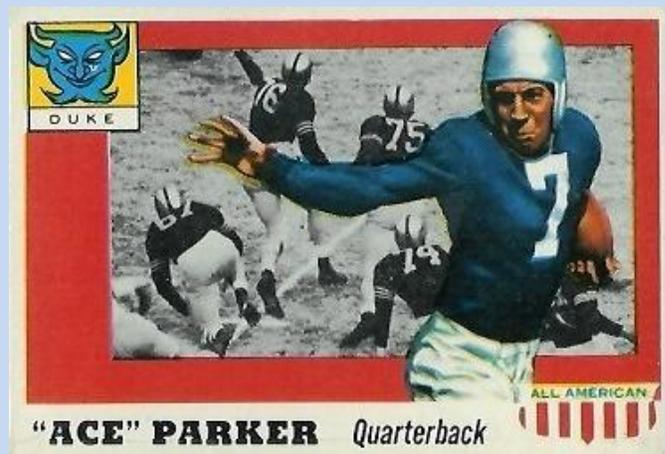
The pros started platooning during WWII, stopped the practice after the war, and then went back to free substitutions in 1950 after the demise of the AAFC. Colleges went the other way and banned platooning from 1953 to 1965. Most high schools followed suit. Old-timers like Chuck Bednarik continued to play both ways in the NFL until 1962. Bednarik thought playing offense and defense was the only way to go. I don't want to argue with my center and linebacker, 88 year-old Chuck Bednarik who has been known to be a bit critical, so I'm going to pick teams with just 11 starters each (plus a kicker) and politely ask the guys to go both ways like old-time football. I divided the 80 players between West and East teams based on the location of the teams they primarily represented.

Here are your 2013 Super-Senior Football Card All-Stars listed by offensive position. We'll let them figure out where they want to go on defense; probably they'll just sit down someplace and rest after playing offense.

### **EAST TEAM**

#### **Ace Parker (101) - Quarterback**

- Ace is my oldest player, the oldest NFL HOF member, and naturally my most experienced QB. You have to start Ace in this game over youngsters George Taliaferro, Allie Sherman, Eddie LeBaron, Babe Parilli, and Harry Gilmer. Sherman is 90, but the other boys are still in their 80s and will have plenty of opportunities to QB in the future.
- Ace appeared in the 1955 Topps All-American football set as a Duke tailback (\$75 in Near Mint, per SCD's vintage football guide)
- QB and defensive back for the AAFC Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Yankees between 1937 and 1946, less 1942-4 in the service
- Played in 94 baseball games for the Athletics in 1937 and 1938, homered in first at bat, but lifetime average was .179 and only hit one more homer
- Hit a golf ball 365 yards in 1952 and still played until recently
- Managed baseball teams for the Durham Bulls and Duke University until 1966

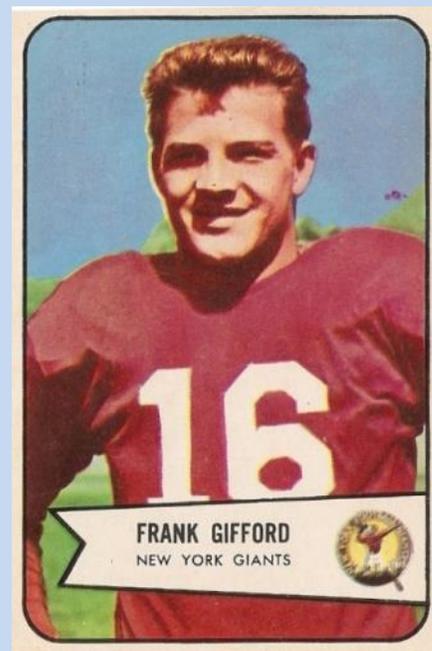


- Lives in Portsmouth, Virginia

Three halfbacks – I’m really going to go old school with a full-house backfield and two ends. I’ll let the boys figure out who wants to play where.

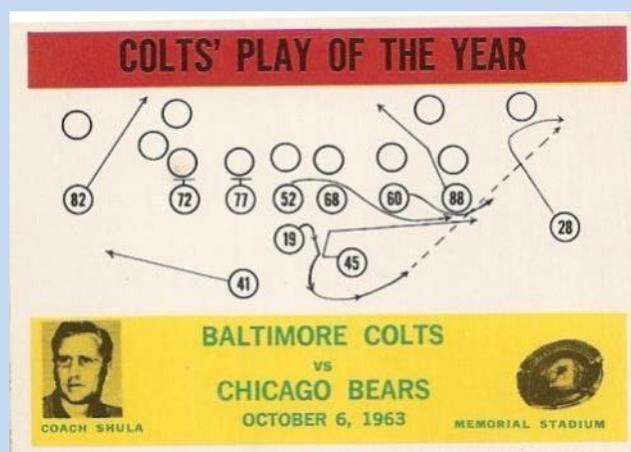
### Frank Gifford (82) - Halfback

- Appeared on Bowman, Topps, or Philadelphia Gum football cards every year between 1952 and 1964, all with the New York Giants who retired his #16
- 1952 Bowman Large rookie card is \$500 in NM
- Played both ways early in his career, 8 Pro Bowls, HOF
- All-American at USC, defensive back, passing and rushing tailback
- Had his bell rung severely by super-senior teammate Chuck Bednarik in 1960 and missed the next season
- Spectacular career as a sports commentator including Monday Night Football
- Had the most items currently listed on eBay of any of the super-seniors with 1,665 items
- Married (#3) to Kathy Lee Gifford, together they have two children in their early 20s.
- Lives in Greenwich, Connecticut



### Don Shula (83) - Halfback

- Never a starter at John Carroll University, a 9th round NFL pick
- Only vintage card appearance is a 1965 Philadelphia Gum card as the Colts’ coach
- Cornerback for Browns, Colts, and Redskins 1951-7
- Rushed twice for 3 yards, caught one pass for 6 yards, but had 21 career interceptions
- NFL coach at age 33 with the Colts
- Led the 1972 Miami Dolphins to a 17-0 season, coached for Miami until 1995
- .678 winning percentage in 490 games, HOF as a coach
- Involved in Shula’s Steakhouses around the country



### W.A. “Dub” Jones (88) – Halfback

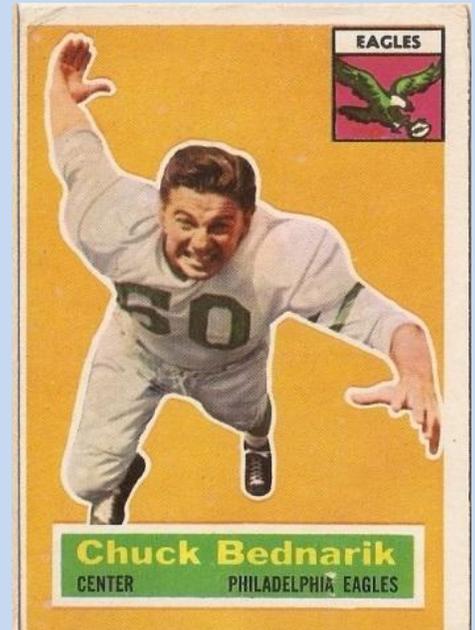
- Played football in the Navy in 1945
- 6’4” from Tulane, drafted #2 overall by the Chicago Cardinals in 1946
- Instead played for the Miami Seahawks and Brooklyn Dodgers in the AAFC and the Cleveland Browns from 1946 to 1955
- Appeared in 1950-2 Bowman sets



- Set an NFL record with 6 touchdowns in a 42-21 victory by the Browns over the Bears in 1951 (had one more touchdown all season)
- Had 2,200 yards rushing and 2,800 yards receiving, threw some passes, returned punts, played defense
- Father of former NFL quarterback Bert Jones
- Assistant coach with the Browns 1963-1970

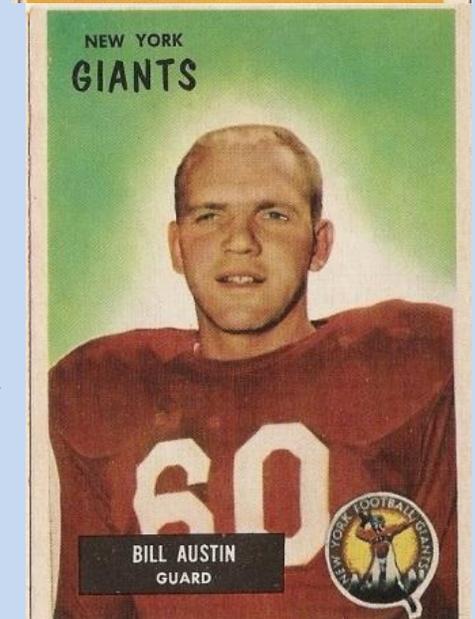
**Chuck Bednarik (88) – Center**

- Following high school, he was a gunner on a B-24 and flew 30 combat missions over Germany
- After the war played at Penn as a 60 minute man, 3 time All-American
- Last of the NFL two-way players, kicked off and backup punter as well
- Appeared on many football cards with the Eagles 1949-1962, '48 Leaf is \$500 and '52 Bowman Large is \$300
- HOF, #60 retired by Eagles
- Never wore much of a face mask, his fingers go in different directions
- Always a little testy, feuded with ownership
- Still lives in the same area where he was born – Bethlehem, PA



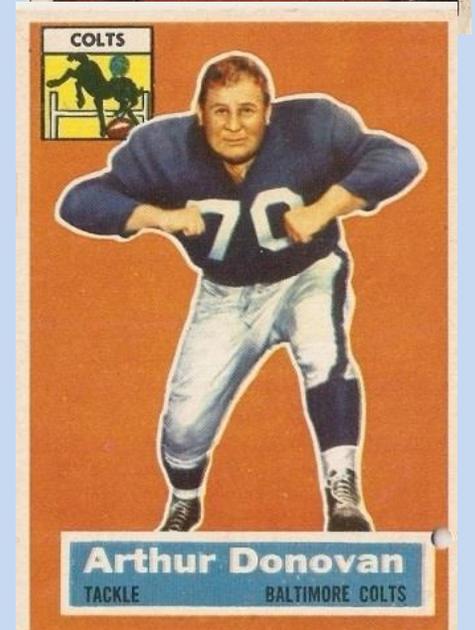
**Bill Austin (84) – Guard**

- Oregon State, New York Giants 1949 to 1957, Army 1951-2
- Appeared in 1950 and 1955 Bowmans
- Coached for 12 teams (1958-1985) including head coaching 3 years at Pittsburgh and 1970 when he took over the Redskins after Lombardi's death



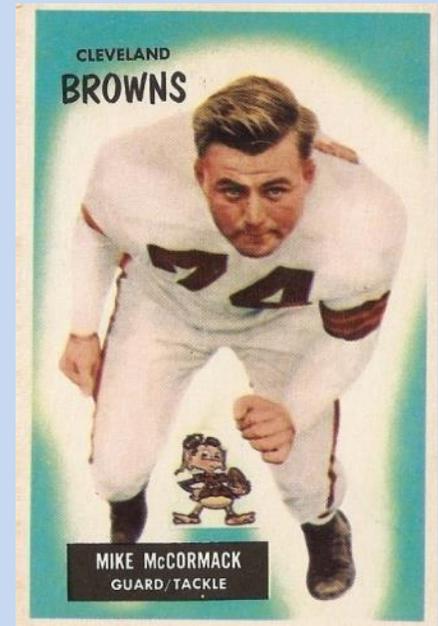
**Al "Ox" "Whitey" Wistert (92) – Guard**

- University of Michigan '43, Three Wistert brothers played tackle and all wore #11
- Signed for (big bucks) \$3,800 to play for the Phil/Pitt Steagles which unmerged after a war year and he went with Philadelphia Eagles through 1951
- Appeared on cards from 1948 to 1951
- Played both ways (just what we need) and I'm sure I can convince him to slide over to play guard
- 8-time All-Pro, played in the first Pro Bowl, Eagle captain for 5 years, #70 retired by Eagles
- Sold life insurance for 40 years
- Returned to Michigan last year to be honored as a Michigan Legend



### **Art Donovan (87) – Tackle**

- Perhaps the most colorful character in the group
- Spent 4 years in the Marines during WWII, Boston College '50
- On numerous football cards from 1952 to 1962, '52 Bowman Large is \$365
- Played from 1950 to 1962 primarily with the Baltimore Colts, 5-time Pro Bowler, HOF
- Wrote his biography Fatso and made numerous TV appearances telling humorous stories
- Among super-seniors, comes in second only to Frank Gifford with 1,432 eBay listings
- Manager and owner of a country club near Baltimore

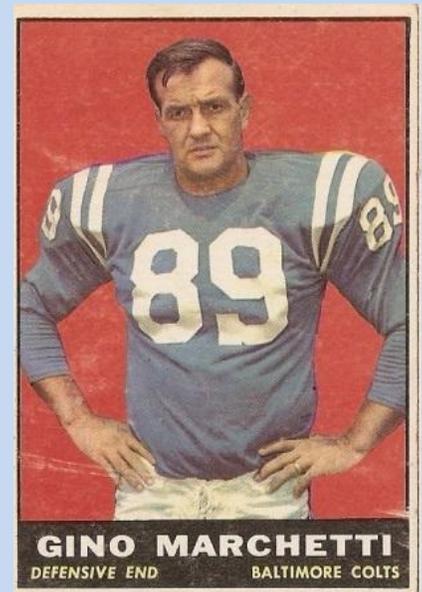


### **Mike McCormack (82) – Tackle**

- Chicago native played at Kansas
- Played for the New York Yanks in 1951, in the Army 1952-3, and the Cleveland Browns from 1953 to 1962, appearing on cards between 1955 and 1963
- Moved from defensive to offensive tackle, 6-time Pro Bowler, HOF
- Coached or was in team administration in the NFL from 1965 to 1997 including president and GM of both the Seattle Seahawks and Carolina Panthers

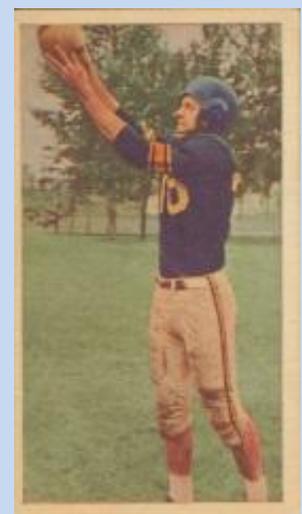
### **Gino Marchetti (86) – End**

- Fought in the Battle of the Bulge
- Played on undefeated 1951 University of San Francisco team with Ollie Matson and Bob St. Clair
- Drafted by the New York Yanks, which became the Dallas Texans for 1952
- Played for the Colts from 1953 to 1966, 11-time Pro Bowler, #89 retired by the Colts, HOF
- On cards between 1952 and 1964
- Fractured his ankle during the 1958 NFL championship game against the Giants, but watched the overtime victory from the sidelines
- Part-owner of Gino's Hamburger franchise which became Roy Rogers Restaurants
- Got back in the restaurant business in 2010 around Philadelphia, likes to bowl
- I don't know how Gino is going to do on offense but we need him on defense



### **Bud Grant (86) – End**

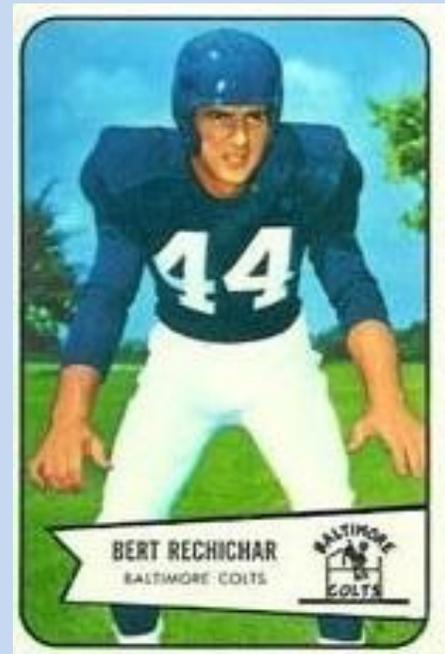
- Joined the Navy, 1945 played football at Great Lakes



- Minnesota '50, played football, basketball, and baseball
- Played basketball with the Minneapolis Lakers from 1949 to 1951
- 14th overall pick in the 1950 NFL draft, joined the Eagles and played defensive end in 1951 and switched to offense in 1952
- Couldn't agree on a salary in 1953 and became the first player to play out his option by going to Winnipeg to star for the Blue Bombers from 1953 to 1956
- His 1954 Canadian Blue Ribbon Tea card is \$500, also appears in 1956 Parkhurst
- Played enough on the defensive side in Canada to pick off 5 interceptions in one playoff game
- Became Winnipeg head coach at age 29, won 5 league championships and had a .644 winning percentage
- Coached the Vikings from 1967 to 1983 and 1985, compiled a .622 winning percentage
- In both the NFL and Canadian Football HOFs
- Continues consulting with the Vikings and is active in environmental matters

### **Bert Rechichar (82) – Kicker**

- Played on offense and defense at Tennessee as well as kicker, #10 overall pick in the 1952 NFL draft
- Couldn't see out of his left eye, youngest of 10 kids
- Got to A-ball with Cleveland Indians farm teams as an outfielder in 1952-3
- Started with Browns but bulk of career was in Baltimore 1953-9, Pro Bowler 1955-7
- Finished with the New York Titans in 1961 after a year with the Steelers
- Appeared on 1951 Topps Magic, Bowmans 1952, 1954, and 1955, and Topps 1956-8
- I always thought of him as a premier kicker. He set a record with his first attempt as a pro with a 56-yard field goal at the end of the first half in a 1953 game. Tom Dempsey finally broke Rechichar's mark in 1970
- Despite fame as a kicker, he only connected on 31 career field goals and his conversion percentage was 35%
- Played defensive back with 31 career interceptions, caught three passes for TDs, returned an interception for a TD, punted, and returned kicks
- Carried all his money with him; his father was murdered by a man who took his pay envelope
- Could really talk trash on the field
- Teammates didn't know where he lived in the 50s; I found him in Cookeville, TN



We managed to get eight Hall of Famers in the starting 11 for the East.

The East bench includes quite a collection of quarterbacks who have enjoyed longevity (and many football cards), but are a little thin on lineman. The team includes **George Taliaferro** (86), who was the first African American football player drafted by the NFL following three years as an All-American quarterback and running back at Indiana. HOFer **Jack Butler** (85) had 52 interceptions for the Steelers during the '50s and then ran BLESTO scouting for 44 years. Cleveland Brown **Walt Michaels** (83) can come in at linebacker. **Ray Mathews** and **Ed Modzelewski**, both 84, played as backs for the Steelers. **Eddie LeBaron** (83) was a 5'7" quarterback for the Redskins who had a 12-year career and 4 Pro Bowls. **Babe Parilli** (83) played quarterback for the Boston Patriots and several other teams.



The rest of the East team is shown on the accompanying chart along with listing a representative football card and the team they played for the most. The most expensive card is that of Steve Pritko at \$300.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representative team</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Representative card</b>	<b>Position(s)</b>
Steve Pritko	Cleveland Rams	92	EXHIBIT	E
Allie Sherman	Philadelphia Eagles	90	64P AS COACH	QB
Joe Tereshinski	Washington Redskins	89	48B	E-LB
Zollie "Tugboat" Toth	New York Yanks	89	51B	FB
Clyde Scott	Philadelphia Eagles	88	50B	HB
Don Colo	Cleveland Browns	88	56T	DT
Art Weiner	New York Yanks	88	51B	E
Ebert 'Red' Van Buren	Philadelphia Eagles	88	51B	HB-DB-LB
Neill Armstrong	Philadelphia Eagles	87	48B	E-DB
Joe O. Scott	New York Giants	87	48B	HB-DB
Harry Gilmer	Washington Redskins	87	48B	QB-HB
Dale Dodrill	Pittsburgh Steelers	87	54B	G
Darrell Hogan	Pittsburgh Steelers	86	50B	LB-G
Claude Hips	Pittsburgh Steelers	86	52B	DB
Dick Hensley	New York Giants	85	50B	E-DE
Ed Sharkey	New York Yanks, etc.	85	54B	G-LB
Chuck Ortman	Pittsburgh Steelers	84	EXHIBIT	QB-HB
LaVern Torgeson	Washington & Detroit	84	57T	LB-C
Marion Campbell	Philadelphia Eagles	84	55B	DE-T-G
Fred Benner	New York Giants	83	52B	QB
Gary Glick	Pittsburgh Steelers	83	60T	HB-DB
Joe Scudero	Washington Redskins	82	56T	HB-DB

## **The West team looks for their cleats**

While the West team looks for their cleats, let's look at some information on players who continued playing tackle football beyond 40.

### **Oldest active players**

There have been a handful of players who continued on NFL teams into their 40s. Most have been kickers, a few have been quarterbacks, and even fewer have been linemen or backs. George Blanda was both a kicker and a quarterback. He played until 1975 when he was nearly 49 years old. He even threw three passes his last year. Morten Andersen was a kicker until his retirement in 2007 at age 47. Kicker John Carney lasted until he was 46 when he was released by the Saints in 2010. A few quarterbacks have been able to hang around almost as long with Vinny Testaverde, Doug Flutie, Warren Moon, Steve DeBerg, and Earl Morrall playing (mostly as backups) into their mid-40s. Guard Ray Brown started a playoff game in 2006 at age 43. Darrell Green and Jerry Rice played until they were 42. Most of these players appeared on numerous football cards.

Small colleges have had some interesting publicity on older students taking advantage of their football eligibility. Mike Flynt (59) played a little at linebacker for Sul Ross State University in 2007. Alan Moore (62), thought to be the oldest college football player

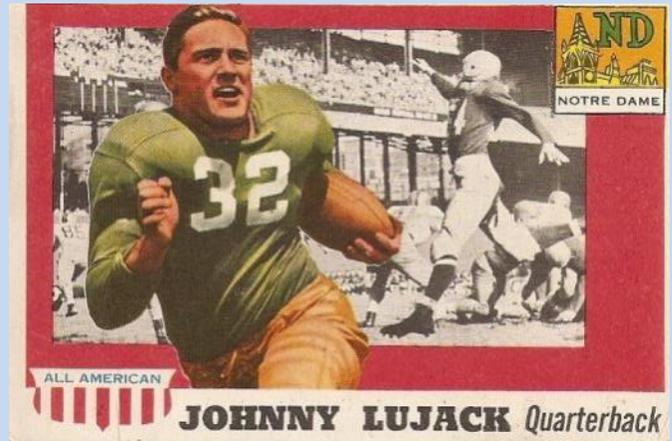
ever, kicked an extra point for Faulkner College in 2011. Gerald “Moose” House is a 6’4” 265-pound, 64 year-old defensive tackle and is still playing tackle football with other alums of his Hughson, California, high school. There have been no reports of players in their 90s though getting into games; maybe this game will be the first.

Let’s see who made the West team comprised of guys who played predominately with teams from Detroit and further west.

## WEST TEAM

### Johnny Lujack (88) - Quarterback

- I called Johnny Lujack to give him the good news that he was starting for the West. I asked him when he last had on football pads. It turns out it was his last game as a Bear in 1951. But he said his shoulder is fine now and he was particularly enthused about being among the living former players.
- Multi-sport athlete and class valedictorian in high school, started at Notre Dame, but left during WWII to serve in the Navy
- Played 4 sports at ND, was on 3 national championship teams, won the '47 Heisman
- Signed an attractive 4-year deal paying about \$20K annually, other Bears’ QBs he played with were Sid Luckman, Bobby Layne, and George Blanda
- Set an NFL record with 468 yards passing (plus 6 TD passes) in the final 1949 victory over the Cardinals
- Also played defense and had 8 interceptions in 1948 (even good QBs threw about as many interceptions as TDs in those days, a 50% completion rate was decent, the ball went up for grabs)
- Appeared on (expensive) cards between 1948 and 1951 for Bowman, Topps, Exhibit Supply Co., Leaf, and Wheaties; also on the cover of *Life* magazine
- Due to a partially-separated shoulder, played only 4 years
- Returned as an assistant coach at ND 1952-3, and then went into auto dealership for 40 years, also an early NFL TV commentator
- Also coached at Fenwick High School in Oak Park, Illinois, where Johnny Lattner played
- Lives in Bettendorf, Iowa, and golfs near his Indian Wells, California, home
- Gets a dozen or more cards and items each week to autograph and return
- Enjoys watching Jeopardy and is a vivid story-teller. Look for a future article on Lujack.



**Charley Trippi (90) – Halfback** (We are going with a full house backfield again of 3 halfbacks and let them play wherever they decide.)

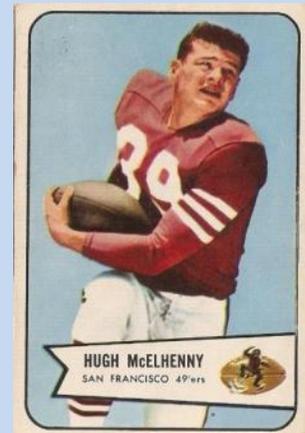
- Two-time All-American at Georgia

- Played minor league baseball one year and hit .334
- First 1945 draft pick, played for the Chicago Cardinals (1947-1955), HOF
- Always a dashing figure on cards between 1948 and 1955, his '48 Leaf is \$375
- Began in football as a center, played halfback, quarterback, defensive back, and punter
- Lives in Athens, Georgia



#### **Hugh McElhenny (84) – Halfback**

- All-American halfback from Washington '52
- San Francisco 49ers and 3 other teams (1952-1964), HOF, called “The King”
- Football cards from 1952 to 1963, '52 Bowman Large is \$250
- Recently confided that he took a pay cut going from college to the pros, although the pay wasn't that great
- Lives in the Las Vegas area



#### **Wally Triplett (87) – Halfback**

- Passing and running wingback at Penn State '49
- Appears in a YouTube video describing how Penn State players voted to cancel their 1946 game against the University of Miami rather than playing without Triplett and one other black player
- Set several marks involving integration including being the first drafted African-American to play in an NFL game in 1949
- Only appeared in the 1950 Bowman set
- Played halfback, defense, and kick returner for Lions 1949-50 and Cardinals 1952-3
- Following football worked as a teacher, also in the insurance business and management for Chrysler



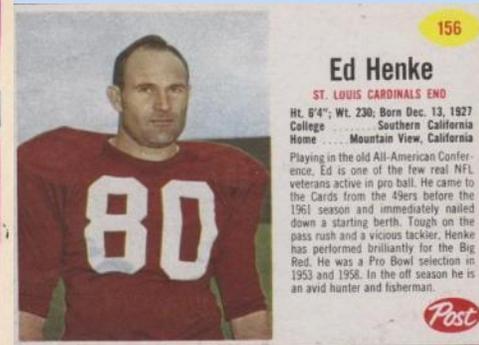
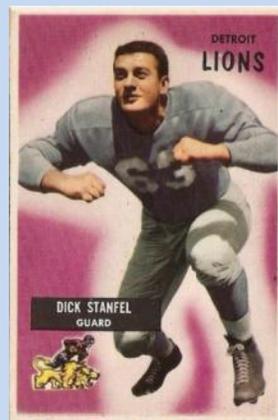
#### **Ed Sprinkle (89) – Center**

- Ed (“The Claw”) played about everywhere on both sides of the line except center, but this team is light on centers, and I need to play him out of position. I hope he will practice his long snaps before this game.
- Visits each year with Johnny Lujack, they can work on their snaps together
- Went to Hardon-Simmons, then played at Navy
- Played for the Bears 1944 – 1955, made \$200 per game his first year
- Only appeared in the 1951 Bowman set
- George Halas called him “the greatest pass-rusher I've ever seen...a rough, tough ballplayer”
- Lives in Palos Heights, Illinois, likes Lumes Pancake House every day for breakfast



### Dick Stanfel (85) – Guard

- University of San Francisco '52
- Lions (1952-5), Redskins (1956-8)
- Appeared in 1955 Bowman and 1958 Topps
- 5-time Pro Bowler, almost made the HOF
- Interim head coach New Orleans 1980, Bears offensive line coach (1981-1992)

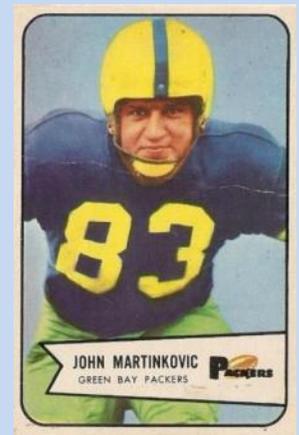


### Ed Henke (85) – Guard

- USC '49, played in 3 different leagues between 1949-1963, teams included 49ers, Cardinals, and CFL
- Got one lousy football card: 1962 Post Cereal
- Played both ways on the line and also caught 2 passes - for some reason

### John Martinkovic (86) – Tackle

- Played football and basketball at Xavier University '51
- Football cards were 1956 Topps and 1954 Bowman which mentions he was a construction foreman in the off season
- Played for the Packers 1951-6 and the Giants 1957
- 3-time Pro Bowler, mostly at defensive end
- Lives in Green Bay



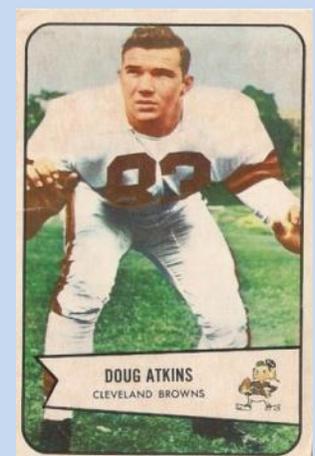
### Cecil Souders (92) – Tackle

- 3-time All-American at Ohio State
- Served in the Navy during WWII
- Played end and a little bit at tackle both ways for the Lions 1947-9, on a 1948 Bowman
- Didn't have a long career, but he's my oldest lineman and has seniority over the other boys, lives in Avon Park, FL
- No recent picture found



### Doug Atkins (83) – End

- 6'8" went to Tennessee on a basketball scholarship, became an All-American in football, high jumped 6'6"
- Browns 1953-4, Bears 1955-1966, Saints 1967-9
- 8-time Pro Bowler, HOF at defensive end, but I'll bet he still has good hands and can play tight end
- Still looks imposing
- Football cards between 1954 and 1969



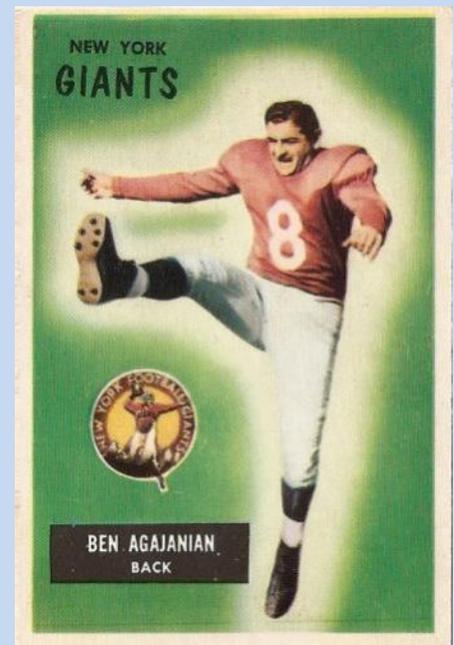
**Gordie Soltau (88) – End**

- Multi-sport high school star (including hockey) from Duluth became a Navy frogman during WWII
- University of Minnesota '50
- Played wide receiver and defensive back for the 49ers 1950-8, 3-time Pro Bowler, also kicked
- On Bowman and Topps between 1951 and 1958
- Active in the early players' association
- Ski instructor in the off season, went into business in San Francisco with Diamond International, retiring as a sales VP
- Lives in Menlo Park, California



**Ben Agajanian (93) – Kicker**

- Played tennis, defensive end, and kicker for New Mexico
- Started in pro football in 1945, played in 1964 at age 45
- Although he played for the Giants for several years, he bounced around with teams on the West Coast and I thought he'd enjoy playing with the West
- Despite all his years in pro football, his only card is a 1955 Bowman, which at least comes with or without a printing difference streak
- One of two players to play in the AAFC, NFL, and AFL
- Four of his toes were crushed in an accident in college, about one-third of his foot was amputated, but he persevered and became the pro first player to specialize in kicking
- Left shoe was a 10, the right a 7
- Kicked a 53 yard field goal in 1947
- Never made more than \$4,500 in a season and retired 4 different times
- Kicking coach for the Cowboys for 20 years
- Has sporting goods stores on the West Coast and kicking camps



My bench for the West team looks pretty good. I have HOFer and former 49er and Giant

**Y.A. Tittle** (86) sitting there wondering why he isn't starting, but Lujack has seniority which is important in this game. Another youngster **Frank Tripuka**



(85) is also available to quarterback. Detroit Lion **Dorne Dibble** (84) can play wide receiver or defensive back. Bear 12-year great **Joe Fortunato** (83) can come in at linebacker. The rest of the team provides decent depth at most positions.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representative team</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Representative card</u>	<u>Position(s)</u>
Frank Maznicki	Chicago Bears	92	48B	HB
Jim Hardy	LA Rams & Cardinals	90	48B	QB-DB
Fred Enke	Detroit Lions	88	48B	QB
Sam Cathcart	San Francisco 49ers	88	51B	HB-DB
Bob Kelly	Los Angeles Dons	88	50B	HB
Chuck Quilter	San Francisco 49ers	87	59T CFL	T
John Kreamcheck	Chicago Bears	87	53B	DT
Joe Arenas	San Francisco 49ers	87	56T	HB
Blaine Earon	Detroit Lions	86	51T	DE
Perry Moss	Green Bay Packers	86	48B	QB
Fred Morrison	Chicago Bears	86	EXHIBIT	FB-HB
Paul Salata	San Francisco 49ers	86	50B	E
Don Stonesifer	Chicago Cardinals	86	55B	E
Eddie Macon	Chicago Bears	86	61T	DB-HB
Bill Fischer	Chicago Cardinals	86	50B	T-G
Rebel Steiner	Green Bay Packers	85	51B	DB
Volney Peters	Cardinals, Redskins, etc	85	61T	T-E
John 'Kayo' Dottley	Chicago Bears	84	EXHIBIT	FB
Wilford White	Chicago Bears	84	B	HB
Al Carmichael	Green Bay Packers	84	54B	HB
Leo Sugar	Chicago Cardinals	83	60T	DE
Leo Sanford	Chicago Cardinals	83	57T	LB
Bob Williams	Chicago Bears	83	EXHIBIT	QB
Bill McColl	Chicago Bears	83	EXHIBIT	E

### Coaches and others

While both teams are long on players with head coaching experience, including HOFers Don Shula and Bud Grant, I think it is going to be very difficult to have someone coach who played in the NFL. He will obviously still want to play in this game. Ara Parseghian (89) would be a good choice except he played two years in the NFL and never got a card. We're going to go with the oldest head coaches who didn't play in the NFL.

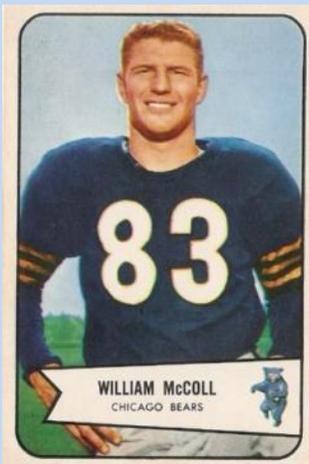
Bum Phillips (89) was an NFL head coach for 11 years between the Oilers and Saints. He is a former WWII Marine which should help him bring some order to the West team.

Chicagoan Marv Levy (83) will coach the East. Marv is in the Hall of Fame, got his masters at



**Bum Phillips**  
Head Coach  
HOUSTON OILERS

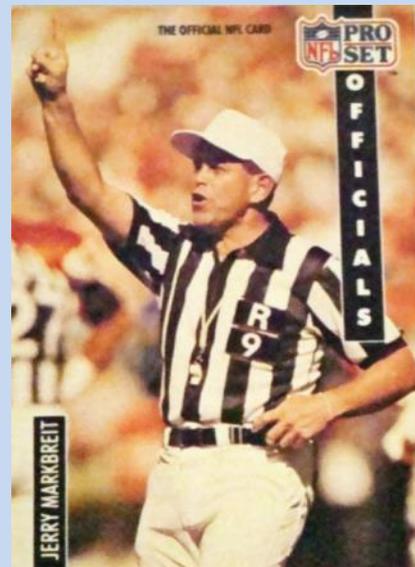
Harvard, and has coached for about 50 years. He took the Bills to the Super Bowl four consecutive times and gets another crack it at with this team.



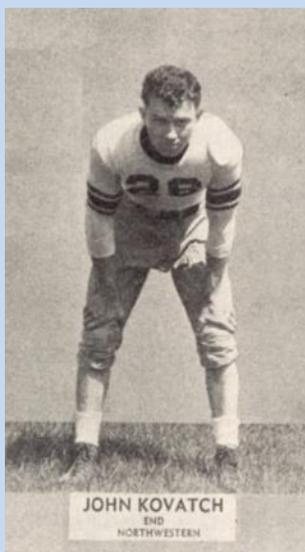
*The busiest man on the field may be orthopedic surgeon Bill McColl*

### **Other people we'll need**

There are enough former coaches on both teams that we won't have any assistant coaches. Former-Bear and Stanford star Bill McColl is on the West bench. He is also an orthopedic surgeon, which might come in handy in this game. Chicagoan and former top NFL official Jerry Markbreit (78) has been involved in officiating for 60 years. I'll ask Jerry to put together an officiating team.



*Jerry Markbreit will be asked recruit a crew that can match the players stride for stride*



### *John Kovatch*

Johnny Kovatch (101) played for the Cleveland Rams in 1938, never had an NFL football card, but we're adding him as an honorary member of the East team. Bill Glassford (99) played for the 1937 Cincinnati Bengals. He didn't get a card either, but he will be an honorary member of the West team, since he was the head coach at Nebraska for seven years. We won't even make them play.

James McCoubrey lives in Walnut Creek, California, and has kept himself in pretty decent shape. He enjoys good

scotch. I'm going to ask him to do the coin flip to start the game. Mr. McCoubrey is 111 and is the oldest living man in the U.S.

### **Cards and photos**

Prices are high for late '40s and early '50s football sets such as '48 Leaf, '48 Bowman, '50 Topps Felts, and '52 and '53 Bowmans. Many of our super-seniors appear in those sets. However, if a player appeared in 1956 Topps or thereafter, their prices aren't too bad.

All of the starters' current photos can be found on the internet, except for Cecil Souders who remains on my want list. They still look formidable. The backs, who were relatively smaller, have usually filled out over the years. It might be hard to tell the linemen from the backs, if they all get together again. You can tell from the noses on some of the guys that they played before facemasks became mandatory in 1954. In many cases the players have retired near the cities they represented in the NFL, still get mentioned in the sports sections, and are relatively accessible for autographs.

### **Final thought: waiting for the snap count**

Last year we had a 50-year reunion of our high school football team. It was great to see the guys and go out on the football field again for halftime introductions. However, the best part was when our coach had us line up in our offensive positions and run a play. We came out of the huddle, watched the spacing to the next lineman, got down in our stances, and listened for the snap count. It brought back great memories without even having to put on pads or run into anyone. Maybe our super-seniors can get together, walk through a few plays, and enjoy the memories as they listen for the snap count.

*Information for this article has been obtained from many sources. While believed to be accurate as of May 2013, the information may not be as solid as what you would find on the backs of their football cards. This article appeared in two parts in the May 31, 2013, SCD and the June 14, 2013, SCD.*

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