

# 1924 All-Pros

By John Hogrogian

My newspaper research dredged up only one 1924 All-Pro team, the annual poll selection which I have discussed earlier in this series of articles. The 1924 panel consisted of about a dozen sports writers and six game officials.

## First Team

E - Joe Little Twig, Rock Island  
E - Tillie Voss, Green Bay  
T - Ed Healey, Chicago Bears  
T - Boni Petcoff, Columbus  
G - Swede Youngstrom, Buffalo  
G - Stan Muirhead, Dayton  
C - George Trafton, Chicago Bears  
Q - Joe Sternaman, Chicago Bears  
H - Charley Way, Frankford  
H - Benny Boynton, Buffalo  
F - Doc Elliott, Cleveland

## Second Team

E - Eddie Anderson, Chicago Cards  
E - Paul Goebel, Columbus  
T - Link Lyman, Cleveland  
T - Duke Slater, Rock Island  
G - Doc Williams, Duluth  
G - Jim McMillen, Chicago Bears  
C - Andy Nemecek, Columbus  
Q - Paddy Driscoll, Chicago Cards  
H - Dave Noble, Cleveland  
H - Curly Lambeau, Green Bay  
F - Tex Hamer, Frankford

## Third Team

E - Guy Chamberlin, Cleveland  
E - Oscar Christiansen, Minneapolis  
T - Cub Buck, Green Bay  
T - Mike Gulian, Frankford  
G - Al Nesser, Akron  
G - Ralph King, Racine  
C - Len Peterson, Kansas City  
Q - Lin Winters, Columbus  
H - Joe Guyon, Rock Island  
H - Wayne Brenkert, Akron  
F - Hank Gillo, Racine

Sources: Green Bay *Press-Gazette*, Dec. 19, 1924; Ohio State *Journal*, Dec. 21, 1924; Canton *Repository*, Dec. 22, 1924; Chicago *Tribune*, Dec 21, 1924 (first two teams only)

These selections were accompanied by a syndicated article, probably written by G.W. Calhoun of the Green Bay *Press-Gazette*. The article contains contemporary views of leading NFL players.

Three Chicago Bears were singled out as the best vote getters. Joe Sternaman won especially warm praise. "Little Joe Sternaman was probably the most brilliant performer in the National Football League. After a dull season in 1923, he returned to his old form and then some with the Bears this fall. Sternaman was a field goal kicker extraordinary. He averaged one of these counters for every game. Sternaman was

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a great open field runner and showed plenty of ability to gain yardage when running from the quarterback position.”

The article mistakenly referred to Ed Healey as “Dave Healy”, describing him as a unanimous choice. “Healy was head and shoulders above any other tackle playing pro ball. Fast on his feet for a big fellow, the former Dartmouth star always got down the field as quick as the ends, and his savage tackle often knocked all the fight out of a receiver. Healy turned in his best game at crucial stages, and his play in the last tilt against the Cleveland Bulldogs was pretty near perfect.”

Also mentioned as an easy winner at his position was center George Trafton. “None of them looked any better than George Trafton at center. The Bears’ snappy back was a demon on the defense, and he passed perfectly to his backs.”

The article gave capsule portraits of other players. Joe Little Twig was described as “a husky individual” and as “always kept going at top speed.” At the other end position, “Tillie Voss, a pro veteran, had a wonderful year at Green Bay. The former Detroitier looked better than ever. Voss proved adept at grabbing passes, and his 210 pounds were pretty handy on the defense.”

The choice at the second tackle slot brought this comment: “As a running mate to Healy, Petcoff of Columbus was selected. There was a wide divergence of opinion on this choice but the former Ohio State grinder got the verdict by an eyelash over Lyman of Cleveland. Petcoff was giving his best at all times and he was a dyed-in-the-wool fighter. Lyman had a corking good season but he didn’t look as active as in 1923.”

Swede Youngstrom of Buffalo received more than a brief review: “He turned in some superb games for the Bison City eleven. Youngstrom is not flashy but consistent, and he makes a hole about a mile wide for his backs to ride through.”

The other guard position was called “an open choice,” but “Stan Muirhead, one of Michigan’s greatest linemen, gets the post. Muirhead joined Dayton after leaving Cleveland and he fitted nicely with the Triangle machine.” It’s worth noting that the “machine” in Dayton could win only two games in 1924.

The article explained the surprising choice of Sternaman at quarterback over a more famous player. “Paddy Driscoll played good football, but he wasn’t the Paddy of past seasons. The Cards had a poor year, and this probably tended to offset Driscoll’s game.”

The article described the top four halfbacks in two sentences: “Boynton was a big point scorer for the Bisons, while Way pulled several games out of the fire for the Quaker Yellowjackets. Noble, a first-year man with Cleveland, proved to be a capable ground gainer, while Lambeau, the Green Bay captain, was rated as one of the best forward passers in pro football.”

Doc Elliott of Cleveland got a flattering description in the article: “He was a first rate line plunger and wonder on the defense. Elliott was the equal of any when it came to backing up the line.”

An article of this sort accompanied all of the semi-official All-Pro teams of the 1920’s. I recommend them as charming and informative reading.