

Starting from the Bottom

More 'Other' Leaguers Who Worked Their Way to the Top

Compiled by Steven M. Brainerd

This is the second installment in the list of players who graduated from pro football's minor leagues or independent teams (or in some cases, outlaw major leagues) to the majors – that is, the NFL, the AFL of the 1960s, or the AAFC of 1946-49.

The teams listed for a given player are the last minor league or independent team he played with before moving to the majors, and then his first major league team after that. The great majority of these guys also played quite a few more years in one classification or the other, if not both.

Player	Pos	College	Teams
Mike Evans	C	Boston College	68 Pottstown Firebirds 69 Philadelphia
Art Faircloth	FB	N.C. State	47 Jersey City Giants 48 N.Y. Giants
Nello (Flash) Falaschi	QB	Santa Clara	37 Salinas Packers 38 N.Y. Giants
Tony Falkenstein	QB	St. Mary's	40 Oakland Giants 43 Green Bay
Ted Farmer	RB	Oregon	78 Santa Ana Rhinos 78 St. Louis
Vin Farrar	LB	N.C. State	37 Rochester Tigers 39 Pittsburgh
Ed (Scrapper) Farrell	FB	Muhlenberg	39 Wilmington Clippers 39 Brooklyn Dodgers
Shipley (King Kong) Farroh	G	Iowa	38 Boston Shamrocks 38 Pittsburgh
Beattie Feathers	HB	Tennessee	39 Paterson Panthers 40 Green Bay
John Fedorchak	T	Duquesne	40 Buffalo Indians 41 Chicago Bears
Bernie Feibish	C	NYU	41 Churchill Pros 41 Philadelphia
Tom Fena	G	Denver	37 Brooklyn Eagles 37 Detroit
Chuck Fenenbock	HB	UCLA	45 L.A. Bulldogs 46 L.A. Dons AAFC
John Ferko	G	W. Chester St.	38 Jersey City Giants 38 Philadelphia
Jack Ferrante	E	none	41 Wilmington Clippers 41 Philadelphia
Lou Ferry	T	Villanova	50 Erie Vets 51 Chicago Bears
Jerry Fields	LB	Ohio State	61 Columbus Colts 62 N.Y. Titans
Jack Finlay	G	UCLA	46 L.A. Bulldogs 47 L.A. Rams
Roger Finnie	T	Florida A&M	69 Bridgeport Jets 70 N.Y. Jets
Bill Fisk	E	USC	43 L.A. Bulldogs 46 S.F. 49ers
Tom Flores	QB	Pacific	58 Bakersfield 60 Oakland
Dick Folk	HB	Ill. Wesleyan	39 Union City Rams 39 Brooklyn Dodgers

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Jim Foote	QB	Del. Valley	73 Cumberland Colts 74 Houston
Nick Forkovitch	HB	Wm. & Mary	47 Richmond Rebels 48 Brooklyn AAFC
Fred Forsberg	LB	Washington	67 Victoria Steelers 68 Denver
Herman Forte	G	Montana	44 L.A. Wildcats 46 Detroit
John Foruria	DB	Idaho	67 Wheeling 68 Pittsburgh
Ed Franco	G	Fordham	38 Union City Rams 44 Boston Yanks
Joe Frank	T	Georgetown	40 Paterson Panthers 44 Boston Yanks
Red Franklin	FB	Oregon State	37 Brooklyn Bushwicks 37 Brooklyn Dodgers
Bob Friedlund	E	Michigan State	46 Bethlehem Bulldogs 46 Philadelphia
Charlie Gainor	E	North Dakota	39 St. Louis Gunners 39 Chicago Cardinals
George Gaiser	T	SMU	67 San Antonio Toros 68 Denver
Stan Galazin	C	Villanova	39 Jersey City Giants 39 N.Y. Giants
Frank Gallagher	G	North Carolina	66 Wilmington Clippers 67 Detroit
Don Gault	QB	Hofstra	69 Newark Jays 70 Cleveland
Blenda Gay	DE	Fayetteville St.	72 Poughkeepsie 74 San Diego
Fred Gehrke	FB	Utah	44 Hollywood Wolves 45 Cleveland Rams
Byron Gentry	G	USC	37 L.A. Bulldogs 38 Pittsburgh
Les Gentry	FB	Tulsa	41 Long Island Indians 41 Washington
Ray George	T	USC	40 Hollywood Bears 40 Philadelphia
Jimmy German	FB	Centre	40 Wilmington Clippers 40 Chicago Cardinals
Gorham Getchell	E	Temple	47 Bethlehem Bulldogs 47 Baltimore AAFC
Guy (Sonny) Gibbs	QB	TCU	64 Toledo Tornadoes 64 Detroit
Hershel (Wimpy) Giddens	T	La. Tech	42 Wilmington Clippers 44 Boston Yanks
Sid Gillman	E	Ohio State	36 Cleveland Rams 55 L.A. Rams (coach)
Jerry Ginney	T	Santa Clara	39 Wilmington Clippers 40 Philadelphia
Jim (Mack) Gladden	E	Missouri	33 St. Louis Gunners 34 St. Louis Gunners
Bill Glenn	QB	Illinois	41 Newark Bears 42 Chicago Bears
Fred Gloden	HB	Tulane	45 Hollywood Bears 46 Miami AAFC
Dan Goich	DT	California	67 Hartford Knights 69 Detroit
Wen Goldsmith	C	Kansas St.	39 Jersey City Giants

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Jerry Golsteyn	QB	N. Illinois	40 N.Y. Giants 81 Orlando Americans 82 Tampa Bay
Gordon Gore	FB	SW Okla. St.	38 L.A. Bulldogs 39 Detroit
Moses Gray	T	Indiana	61 Ind. Warriors 62 N.Y. Titans
Art Green	RB	Albany St.	70 Pottstown Firebirds 72 New Orleans
John Green	E	Tulsa	46 Bethlehem Bulldogs 47 Philadelphia
Jack Gregory	G-T	Chattanooga	40 Cincinnati Bengals 41 Cleveland Rams
Rich Grimmett	T	Illinois	78 Chicago Lions 79 Dallas
Bill Groman	WR	Heidelberg	59 Toledo Tornados 60 Houston
Kyle Grossart	QB	Oregon St.	79 Marysville Cougars 80 Oakland
Pete Gudauskas	G	Murray St.	41 Cincinnati Bengals 43 Chicago Bears
Henry Gude	G	Vanderbilt	46 Bethlehem Bulldogs 46 Philadelphia
Tony Guillory	DB	Stanford	67 San Jose Apaches 69 Cincinnati
George Gulyanics	HB	Ellisville J.C.	46 Akron Bears 47 Chicago Bears
Mike Haffner	WR	UCLA	67 Montreal Beavers 68 Denver
Harold Hall	C	Springfield	41 Long Island Indians 42 N.Y. Giants
Irv (Shine) Hall	HB	Brown	41 Jersey City Giants 42 N.Y. Giants
Mal Hammack	FB	Florida	56 Santa Cruz 57 Chicago Cardinals
Dale Hansen	E	Arkansas	47 Paterson Panthers 48 Detroit
Tom Hanson	HB	Temple	38 Paterson Panthers 38 Pittsburgh
Merle Hapes	HB	Mississippi	44 Hollywood Rangers 46 N.Y. Giants
Tom Harmon	HB	Michigan	41 N.Y. Americans 46 L.A. Rams
Jack Harper	RB	Florida	66 Lakeland 67 Miami
Billy Harris	E	Hard.-Sim.	37 Mt. Vernon Cards 37 Pittsburgh
Cliff Harris	DB	Ouachita Bap.	70 Santa Ana 71 Dallas
Henry (Hank) Harris	G-T	Texas	48 Wilmington Clippers 48 Washington
Dick Harrison	E	Boston College	40 Prov. Steam Roller 43 Chicago Cardinals
Gran Harrison	E	Mississippi St.	41 Paterson Panthers 42 Detroit
Max Harrison	E	Auburn	39 Jersey City Giants 40 N.Y. Giants
Pat Harrison	T	Stamford	36 Brooklyn Tigers 37 Brooklyn Dodgers
Dick Hart	G	Miami	66 Wilmington Clippers

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Jim Hartman	E	Colorado St.	67 Philadelphia 36 Brooklyn Bay Parkways
Dick Harvey	DB	Jackson St.	37 Brooklyn Dodgers 69 Sacramento Caps
Ray Hayes	DT	Toledo	70 Philadelphia 68 Bridgeport Jets
Charlie Heileman	E	Iowa State	68 N.Y. Jets 39 Newark Bears
George Hekkers	T	Wisconsin	39 Chicago Bears 47 Paterson Panthers
Bill Hempel	T	Carroll (Wis.)	48 Detroit 41 Newark Bears
Tom Hennessey	DB	Holy Cross	42 Chicago Bears 64 Everett Sweepers
Dan Henning	QB	Wm. & Mary	65 Boston Patriots 65 Norfolk Neptunes
Dick Hensley	E	Kentucky	66 San Diego 50 Richmond Rebels
Luther Henson	DT	Ohio State	52 Pittsburgh 81 Canton
Bo Hickey	RB	Maryland	82 New England 66 Brooklyn Dodgers
Walt Highsmith	C	Fla. A&M	67 Denver 67 Charleston Rockets
Scott Hilton	LB	none	68 Denver 78 Somerton Bears
Jack Hinkle	HB	Syracuse	79 San Francisco 40 Jersey City Giants
Chuck Hinton	DT	N.C. Central	40 N.Y. Giants 64 Wheeling Ironmen
Hugo Hollas	DB	Rice	65 Pittsburgh 69 Richmond Saints
Ken Holley	QB	Holy Cross	70 New Orleans 46 Long Island Indians
Ron Holliday	WR	Pittsburgh	46 Miami AAFC 72 Flint Sabres
Jack Holmes	RB	Texas Southern	73 San Diego 77 Houston Seagulls
Al Hoptowit	T	Washington St.	78 New Orleans 41 Newark Bears
Bob Hoskins	DT	Wichita St.	42 Chicago Bears 68 Seattle Rangers
Marv Hubbard	RB	Colgate	70 San Francisco 68 Hartford Knights
Bill Hughes	C	Texas	69 Oakland 40 Newark Bears
Cal Hunt	C	Baylor	41 Chicago Bears 70 Pottstown Firebirds
Bill Hutchinson	HB	Dartmouth	71 Philadelphia 41 N.Y. Americans
Ray Illowit	T	CCNY	42 N.Y. Giants 37 Newark Tornados
Martin Imhof	DE	S. Dakota St.	37 Brooklyn Dodgers 73 N. England Colonials
Don Irwin	HB	Colgate	74 Washington 36 N.Y. Yankees
Jack Jacobs	QB	Oklahoma	36 Boston Redskins 45 Hollywood Bears
Marv Jacobs	T	none	46 Washington 47 Bloomfield Cardinals

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Tony Jeter	TE	Ark.-Pine Bluff	48 Chicago Cardinals 67 Wheeling Ironmen 68 Pittsburgh
Billy Joe	RB	Villanova	67 Waterbury Orbits 68 N.Y. Jets
Art Jocher	G	Manhattan	41 Paterson Panthers 42 Brooklyn Dodgers
Al Johnson	B	Hard.-Sim.	48 Paterson Panthers 48 Philadelphia
Bill Johnson	P	Livingston	69 Orlando Panthers 70 N.Y. Giants
Bill Johnson	G	SMU	46 Akron Bears 47 Chicago Bears
Corn. Johnson	G	Va. Union	67 Harrisburg Capitols 68 Baltimore
Farn. Johnson	E	Wisconsin	47 Bloomfield Cardinals 48 Chicago AAFC
Glen Johnson	T	Arizona St.	48 Erie Vets 49 Green Bay
John H. Johnson	RB	St. Mary's	54 Pittsburgh Bucs 55 San Francisco
Larry (Chief) Johnson	C	Haskell Indian	36 N.Y. Yankees 37 N.Y. Giants
Bob Jones	WR	none	77 Sharon Old Express 78 N.Y. Jets
Edgar (Special Delivery) Jones	RB	Arizona St.	45 S.F. Clippers 45 Chicago Bears
Henry Jones	RB	Grambling	69 Las Vegas Cowboys 69 Denver
Tom (Potsy) Jones	G	Bucknell	37 N.Y. Yankees 38 Green Bay
Kurt Jonker	G	Augustana	81 Marysville Cougars 82 San Francisco
Larry Jordan	DE	Youngstown St.	62 Grand Rapids 64 Denver
Sid Justin	DB	Long Beach St.	78 Santa Ana 79 L.A. Rams
Bob Kahler	HB	Nebraska	41 Long Island Indians 42 Green Bay
Bernie Kaplan	G	Western Md.	41 Jersey City Giants 42 Philadelphia
B. Kapitansky	T	Long Island	41 N.Y. Yankees 42 Brooklyn Dodgers
Eulis (Duke) Keahey	T	George Washington	41 N.Y. Americans 42 N.Y. Giants
Joe Keeble	HB	UCLA	36 Pitt. Americans 37 Cleveland Rams
Bobby Kellogg	HB	Tulane	40 Jersey City Giants 40 Chicago Cardinals
Tom Kennedy	QB	LSU	66 Brooklyn Dodgers 66 N.Y. Giants
Nick Kerasiotis	G	St. Ambrose	41 Columbus Bullies 42 Chicago Bears
Bob Kercher	E	Georgetown	42 Wilmington Clippers 44 Green Bay
Alex Ketzko	T-G	Michigan St.	42 Paterson Panthers 43 Detroit
Wade Key	T	SW Texas St.	69 Pottstown Firebirds 70 Philadelphia
Brady Keyes	DB	Colorado St.	58 Eagle Rock A.C.

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John Kimbrough	FB	Texas A&M	61 Pittsburgh 41 N.Y. Americans 46 L.A. AAFC
Fred King	HB	Hobart	37 Newark Tornados 37 Brooklyn Dodgers
Carl Kinscherf	FB	Michigan St.	42 Paterson Panthers 43 N.Y. Giants
Roy Kirksey	G	Md.-E. Shore	70 Bridgeport Jets 71 N.Y. Jets
Harry (Jiggs) Kline	E	Emporia St.	38 Jersey City Giants 39 N.Y. Giants