

Quiz: Rookies

1. This Clemson grad lived up to his All-American clippings when he broke in with Brooklyn in 1940. He rushed for 411 yards, averaging 6.3 per carry, caught two touchdown passes, and completed three passes for 103 yards and another score to help the Dodgers to a second-place finish, their best ever. But he went into the service after that and never played in the NFL again.
2. This LSU All-American joined the Chicago Cardinals in 1937 and led the league in receiving yardage, beating out Don Hutson. A year later he topped Hutson in receptions. But he sat out the 1939 season in a salary dispute, and when he returned in 1940 he had lost a step. A knee injury that season finished a career that might have been one of the greatest.
3. A teammate of the last man at LSU, this tailback moved to Chicago with him in 1937 and passed for 804 yards, third-best in the league, including the NFL's first recognized 300-yard game, against the Bears. But he disappeared a year later, after throwing only 39 passes in his sophomore season.
4. The 1983 Redskins rolled to a 14-2 record and a return trip to the Super Bowl despite losing two starting defensive backs from the previous championship season: safety Tony Peters, suspended by the league for a drug violation, and cornerback Jeris White, a season-long holdout who never played in the NFL again. Who were the two rookies who stepped in as starters and kept the 'Skins at the top? Hint: One is still a star; the other played only through 1986.
5. Since the inception of the NFL draft in 1936, only one player without college experience has ever been chosen in the first round. And it didn't happen in the dim past – in fact, this defensive tackle was the Cardinals' top pick in 1991. They discovered him playing for the Bay State Titans of Lynn, Mass., in the short-lived Minor League Football System.
6. Fresh off the TCU campus, this rangy end led the NFL with a record 58 receptions in 1940 with the Eagles. He set another record with 14 catches for 180 yards in the season finale against the Redskins. But without Davey O'Brien to throw to him, he caught only 17 more passes over the next two seasons before departing.
7. This Michigan State All-American made a big splash in his debut with the 1939 Lions, rushing for 301 yards, completing 56 percent of his passes, and averaging 43 yards a punt. But he was never seen again in the NFL.
8. The Redskins surprised a lot of experts when they made this Princeton alumnus, one of the first soccer-style kickers, their first pick in the 1966 draft. He silenced the skeptics by scoring 105 points in his rookie year and setting club records in every kicking category. But after a leg injury early in 1967 he never regained his touch, scoring only 165 points in his last five seasons. He finished with the Patriots in 1972.

ANSWERS: 1. Banks McFadden. 2. Gaynell Tinsley. 3. Pat Coffee. 4. Darrell Green and Ken Coffey. 5. Eric Swan. 6. Don Looney. 7. Johnny Pingel. 8. Charley Gogolak, Pete's brother.