

Y P S G

By C.C. Staph

"Shame" said David Shapiro.

He referred to our January article, "1955: That Wonderful Year."

"Teams played only twelve games that year," he grumbled. "Cleveland's 349 points don't sound like much but that's better than ANY team's output in 1979 when adjusted for the same number of games."

He had a point (no pun intended). Pittsburgh's league-leading 416 points averaged 26.0 points for each of 16 games. The '55 Browns were better than a Lou Groza field goal better at 29.1.

Perhaps more interesting is what happens to some of the individual records when adjusted in accord with the number of scheduled games. For example, we note that Wilbert Montgomery gained 1512 yards in 1979 which looks far superior to Steve Van Buren's then-record of 1146 in 1949.

But Montgomery's '79 Eagles were scheduled for four more games than Staunch Steve's team. Van Buren actually averaged 95.5 yards per scheduled game to Montgomery's 94.5.

We're not advocating a ton of Roger Maris Asterisks, but we thought you might be interested in comparing two different kinds of "Top Ten Gainers" lists.

We hasten to add that we didn't invent the "Yards Per Scheduled Game" stat or the idea of projecting an earlier record over a modern schedule (YPSG X 16). Both David Shapiro in *The 135 Greatest Pro Running Backs* and David Neft, et. al., in *The Sports Encyclopedia: Pro Football* have taken this idea much farther.

[Records as of 1979]

PASSING YPSG

NO	YEAR	Player, Team	Gm	YARD	YPSG	16 game PROJECT
1	1967	Joe Namath, NYJ	14	4007	286.2	4579.2
2	1967	Sonny Jurgensen, Was	14	3747	267.6	4281.6
3	1961	Sonny Jurgensen, Phi	14	3723	265.9	4254.4
4	1960	Johnny Unitas, Bal	12	3099	258.3	4132.8
5	1979	Dan Fouts, SD	16	4082	255.1	4082.0
6	1963	Johnny Unitas, Bal	14	3481	248.6	3977.6
7	1968	John Hadl, SD	14	3473	248.1	3969.6
8	1964	Babe Parilli, Bos	14	3465	247.5	3960.0
9	1967	Johnny Unitas, Pit	14	3428	244.9	3918.4
10	1947	Sammy Baugh, Was	12	2938	244.8	3916.8

RUSHING YPSG

NO	YEAR	Player, Team	Gm	YARD	YPSG	16 game PROJECT
1	1973	O.J. Simpson	14	2003	143.1	2289.6

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2	1963	Jim Brown, Cle	14	1863	133.1	2129.6
3	1977	Walter Payton, ChiB	14	1852	132.3	2116.8
4	1975	O.J. Simpson, Buf	14	1817	129.8	2076.8
5	1958	Jim Brown, Cle	12	1527	127.3	2036.8
6	1959	Jim Brown, Cle	12	1329	110.8	1772.8
7	1965	Jim Brown, Cle	14	1544	110.3	1764.8
8	1976	O.J. Simpson, Buf	14	1503	107.4	1718.4
9	1979	Earl Campbell, Hou	16	1697	106.1	1697.0
10	1962	Jim Taylor, GB	14	1474	105.3	1684.8

PASS RECEIVING YPSG

NO	YEAR	Player, Team	Gm	YARD	YPSG	16 game PROJECT
1	1961	Charley Hennigan, Hou	14	1746	124.7	1995.2
2	1951	Elroy Hirsch, LA	12	1495	124.5	1992.0
3	1965	Lance Alworth, SD	14	1602	114.4	1830.4
4	1964	Charley Hennigan, Hou	14	1546	110.4	1766.4
5	1942	Don Hutson, GB	11	1211	110.1	1761.6
6	1960	Raymond Berry, Bal	12	1298	108.2	1731.2
7	1945	Jim Benton, Cle	10	1067	106.7	1707.2
8	1960	Bill Groman, Hou	14	1473	105.2	1683.2
9	1952	Bill Howton, GB	12	1231	102.58	1641.6
10	1963	Bobby Mitchell, Was	14	1436	102.57	1641.6