
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL RESEARCH SYNOPSIS

by "Nelson Ross"

[Until a fellow walked into Dan Rooney's office in the early 1960's and handed the Pittsburgh Steeler executive a typed, 49- page manuscript, the accepted wisdom was that professional football began in 1895 in Latrobe, Pa. When Rooney read the manuscript, he discovered that the accepted wisdom was 40 miles and three years off target. Unfortunately, by the time Rooney realized what he had in his hand, the writer had vanished. As nearly as Rooney could recall, the fellow's name was "Nelson Ross," or something like that. Whoever he was, he never returned.

Eventually, proof of the "Ross thesis" surfaced at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, O. The Hall's first director, Dick McCann, discovered a page torn from an 1892 account book. Today, that page makes one of the more important and interesting exhibits at the Hall.

And, of course, the "Nelson Ross" manuscript -- the piece of research that literally re-wrote pro football's early history -- also holds an honored place at Canton.

Independent researchers have retraced "Ross's" steps and found his main points supported by contemporary records. For further study of this epochal event, we suggest J. Thomas Jable, "The Birth of Professional Football: Pittsburgh Athletic Clubs Ring in Professionals in 1892" (*Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, Vol. 62, No. 2) and Bob Braunawart and Bob Carroll, *The Alphabet Wars: The Birth of Professional Football 1890-1892* (P.F.R.A., 1981).

Until now, the "Nelson Ross" manuscript has never been published. The editors have edited this version for punctuation and spelling and have added comments where suitable.

-- Bob Braunawart & Bob Carroll.]

Introduction: The Need for "Professional Football Origins" Research

Until 1960 professional football has never had an accurate and thorough research done on its beginning history. The need for this is vital for several reasons. Few professional sports have tried to make an accurate investigation of their start and some now have had to face criticism for their blunders. Of the big three pro team sports (baseball, football, and basketball) none have tried to learn in detail of their origins, two (football and basketball) have as yet to receive criticism for it, while baseball has been made a "goat" for its great and embarrassing laxity. Only professional boxing has ever kept an accurate and detailed record of its existence.

The abuse a pro sport can receive for this indifference can be seen in baseball. In the 1930's major league baseball decided to pioneer and build a "Hall of Fame" for its sport. As is only logical and natural they wanted to locate the hall at the birthplace of their game. However, no research for this sport's origin was felt necessary as the verbal word of a single man was felt to be sufficient for such an important and costly venture. This of course is the now famous Mr. Graves-Abner Doubleday duo. The reminiscences of an old man who claimed his crony Doubleday had "invented the game" when both were boys together was all the "evidence" baseball used to build its "Hall of Fame" unbelievably in the wrong place! This is derisively referred to as the fictitious "Cooperstown Myth" today.

Briefly of the three team sports (major) of today, only one was ever "invented" and only one can lay claim as being wholly American in its origin. That game is basketball. Baseball merely developed and grew out of older known games --cricket and rounders. These games were modified in 1846 by New York cricket clubs to make a somewhat faster and more lively game for their times and the "New York Game" was in turn continually further still modified into our present game of modern baseball. It took about 50 years (1846-1896) to develop the old original cricket and rounders games into American baseball. But it never was invented! Football developed in the same pattern as baseball, details of which are described later.

It is to prevent such a similar blunder as Cooperstown that detailed research has been done on professional football herein represented in this condensed synopsis. In it the exact birth of professional football is presented and the development of the pro game since that date of founding to the establishment of the National Football League is traced. It is hoped that this work can approach the thorough and accurate football research done by the Intercollegiate Athletic Association that located the birthplace and future site for college football's "Hall of Fame." They have records now of every college major football game played by a class "A" team in the United States since the first one in 1869 at New Brunswick, New Jersey. It is very apparent that college football's "Hall of Fame" will be located at its true birthplace even if baseball's wasn't.

The Birth and Early Development of Professional Football

Football's origins lie in the game of soccer played as far back as Roman times. Soccer was the only "foot" game for hundreds of years until it was first modified in the early 1800's. In 1823, at Rugby College, England, it was first changed to a ball-carrying running game. There were two games now; the exclusively kicking soccer game and the primarily ball-carrying rugby game. This situation prevailed until Civil War times in the United States.

In the United States, the soccer and rugby versions of the "foot" game with a ball had been played by townspeople since Colonial times. However, in 1862, events were occurring in Boston that gave birth to the American game of football -- a hybrid of soccer and rugby. The "Boston Oneida Football Club" was organized by prep school boys of the city's schools. Tiring of both, they decided to improvise their own game. The best feature of soccer, goal kicking, and rugby's most exciting part, running with the ball from a "scrum," were combined into an even more exciting game... American football. The rugby "scrum" developed into our "scrimmage," or to line up in a formation of various shapes according to the times

played in. This style of ball was called the "Boston Game" and prevailed through the 1860's in New England. In 1862, the Oneidas developed and practiced their new game among themselves. Then, on November 7, 1863, the first game of American-style football was arranged and played between the now ready Oneidas and a pick-up team of non-club members from Boston, the "All-Stars." The Oneidas outlined the new rules of their combined game and the contest commenced. The Oneidas won after two halves, 12-0.

Soccer and rugby games were generally ignored by American newspapers, but the Oneidas' "Boston Game" was so novel that it received a condescending short one-paragraph sports write-up in the Boston newspapers on November 8, 1863. This was the first sports write-up of American football in history. This game was played on the Boston Commons, according to a book published on the club's history, a copy of which still survives in the Boston Public Library. The book, "An Historical Sketch of the Oneida Football Club of Boston, 1862-1865," was written by Winthrop S. Scudder in 1926. Scudder was a member of the original team. Today a stone marker commemorates the game, being erected in Boston Commons on the site of the game. The Boston Museum also has the original football used by the team in the now famous 1863 game.

By the 1870's and 1880's, the Oneida Football Club had developed into the Oneida A.A. and finally into the powerful and famed Boston A.A. that played Yale, Harvard, etc., in early gridiron games. From 1863 through 1865 Boston was undefeated, untied and unscored on playing various all-star teams in New England. However, the "Boston Game" failed to catch on and the Oneidas remained the only club regularly playing this style of game until 1869. By then, some Oneida players were college men in Ivy League schools and they introduced the game in the famous first college football game of November 6, 1869, at New Brunswick, N.J., playing under soccer scoring rules, but using a modified style of game that permitted running with the ball. Rutgers University defeated Princeton University 6-4. Ivy League schools continued to modify this combined game in the 1870's and 1880's until by 1890 we had the regularly known game of American football with eleven players, first downs, goal posts, etc. Only one thing was missing -- the forward pass. This was added in 1906.

The next amateur independent football club to appear after Boston was farther down the coastline in New York City. This was the New York Crescents, organized in 1878 in Brooklyn. They played Boston in the "Boston Style" game and also various surrounding colleges. Then in 1882, amateur football spread still farther south along the coast again. Baltimore formed an Athletic Club team. Johns Hopkins was their big rival. By the 1880's, enough players had finally graduated from team-supporting colleges to create a demand for Athletic Club amateur football teams. This included the midwest as well as the east. In 1884, the Chicago University Club, composed of ex-college graduates at the name implies, decided to form a team. There were now four amateur independent football teams in the United States.

Amateur clubs remained at a status quo until the big upheaval of 1888. In that year, the Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) was organized. It was to be a super association of all previously formed amateur athletic associations. In it were the "Intercollegiate Football Association" (Ivy League), formed in 1873, and the "Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America" (I.C.A.A.A.), formed in 1876, plus all amateur independent clubs and schools that wished to join. The cause of the A.A.U.'s formation, oddly enough, was baseball. Baseball had been amateur in the 1840's and 1850's. Then in the 1860's, professionalism crept in. The Philadelphia team turned pro in 1864 followed by the Cincinnati club in 1869. Nothing was done by then existing amateur baseball associations to stop this "evil," so in the 1870's professionalism took over when the minor league "pro" National Association was formed in 1871 and the major league "pro" National League in 1876.

It was too late to "save" baseball from its "folly," but such still amateur sports as track, wrestling, football, swimming and others could be preserved as non-professionals. So thought the A.A.U. when it formed as a guardian of amateurism in 1888. Being of the size it was, it felt it had sufficient power to deal with amateur offenders. Offenses were met with suspensions or disbarment from the A.A.U. This meant a lot to members in those days, as the A.A.U. carried tremendous prestige. It had offices in New York and each year held a mammoth sports carnival in the big city. All members could then compete for national championships and honors in their respective fields. For a year the professionalism seemed groundless. College associations kept their members in line and few, if any, "pro cases" had to be reported to the A.A.U. Also, there were only four amateur independent football teams in 1888 and none had any tendencies towards play-for-pay evils in their athletic club circles.

In 1889, spurred on by the prestige that belonging to the A.A.U. carried, the "big 3" athletic clubs' football teams decided to copy their parent union and form a "union" of their own in the east. More numbers were needed to make it interesting, so new clubs were created to join the established Boston, New York and Baltimore teams. They called themselves the American Football Union and in 1889 teams were as follows: Boston A.A., New York Crescents A.C., Baltimore A.C., Orange, New Jersey A.C., New York Athletic Club, and the New York Manhattans. They played for the "amateur title of America" yearly for over a decade till the turn of the century. Then, ever-advancing professionalism broke up the league.

The news of an actual league of independent amateur teams spread rapidly and in 1890, the following year, more independent amateur teams appeared in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, etc. This was the general pattern. Of course, there were notable single exceptions here and there that went their lonely way. Steelton, Pennsylvania formed an amateur team in 1889 not influenced by the American Football Union. Dayton, Ohio and Detroit also had first clubs in 1888 and 1889. But, for the most part, the big spread of amateur independent teams came in 1890. With it came the desire for professionalism.

In 1890, nearly every newly formed amateur independent team from New Jersey to California joined the A.A.U. The A.A.U. was nationwide by then! Everyone wanted its prestige, benefits and glory (if they could win a national championship in some sport, for athletic clubs that sponsored football teams, also had track teams, cyclists, swimmers, etc.) And the A.A.U. ruled with an iron hand! The first instances of professional tendencies in clubs came in 1890 at opposite ends of the United States -- New Jersey and California. The San Francisco Olympics A.C. was accused by a rival of obtaining jobs for its football team members in order to get them to jump from other clubs. Rivals would inform on each other at the slightest deviation in those days, as competition was intense. They formed a much more thorough policing force than the A.A.U. could ever afford to maintain. In a case brought before the Union, the ruling organization decreed that while San Francisco's action was not to be commended, it wasn't actually professionalism -- only a semi form of it. The Olympics were let off with a reprimand. This was when the term "semi-pro" was born!

The Orange A.C. of New Jersey, on the other hand, was even more subtle in its attempt to induce star players to its club rather than to rivals. The costly trophies it donated to key players at the end of the 1890 and 1891 seasons were famous. Each player, on selling his, would receive a handsome season's salary. This practice slipped through rival clubs' and A.A.U. scrutiny until 1892, when it became too obvious. It was stopped in that eventful year by a rule passed against giving any kind of trophies, only banners (at \$.25 apiece) being allowed from then on to aspiring athletes. Thus went professional tendencies to 1892, the actual start of the pros in football.

It must be admitted that conducting research on professionalism in football was comparatively easy previous to the 1892 date. Independent amateur football teams were few and far between from the game's birth in 1863 until 1892. They nearly always were located in large cities as well. The reasons for both were simple. American-style (Boston Game) football was a new sport. It was born among prep school boys and grew up only in Ivy League eastern colleges. Townspeople usually played soccer or once in a while rugby, but never Boston football. They had never heard of it! It was a private school game for students. In the 1860's there were three "Boston Game" football teams: the Boston Oneidas, Rutgers and Princeton. In the 1870's, two amateur independent teams and not more than a half dozen college teams appeared. In the 1880's, teams were somewhat more numerous -- there being a half dozen amateur teams and around eighteen college teams. Then, by 1892, there were still not more than 50 football teams in the United States, two-thirds of them being collegiate.

Lastly, teams (amateur football independents) nearly always located in large cities until the 1892 date. This was because there were few colleges that had the sport, fewer men who enrolled and played the game there, and even fewer who cared enough about it to want to continue playing in later years and spread knowledge about it to townspeople. It took a city with a large population to be able to collect enough of the highly selective above-mentioned men to form a team. In the nineties the game caught on, however, being religiously spread and taught each year by its college apostles. People did not need to attend college to learn how to play the game. They were taught by ever-increasing numbers of college players graduating yearly. Other colleges adopted the sport in the 1890's, in turn graduated more athlete teachers, and so the football expansion snowballed until by 1900 the once rare game was common.

The Orange A.C. might be termed the spark that caused professional football to burst forth in Pittsburgh. Orange, New Jersey had a colorful name and a colorful team. They spent their existence in trying to outwit the A.A.U. The trophy routine worked, as mentioned, until ruled out in 1892. Semi-pro job offers were tried next, but they failed to draw stars like the trophies did. You had to work at a job. A trophy you could sell. A second spurt of trophy-giving occurred again in 1897, for which Orange was temporarily suspended from the A.A.U., a year after the Pittsburgh Alleghenies famous "first." Then, in 1902, Orange decided to quit the A.A.U. organization and went from semi-pro to genuine pro. Over its years the old Orange A.C. must rank next to Boston alone as the most famous and powerful amateur independent team in the eastern United States. One could always tell by its seasons' scores whether it was wavering between amateurism's purity or the evils of being "semi-pro." The yardstick was always Yale, a team that was consistently strong year in and year out. One year (an amateur one) Orange would lose 50-0; the next (with "semi-pro beef" added) Yale would barely be able to win 6-0. This seesawing continued until 1901 when Yale defeated Orange 35-0 and Orange was semi-pro that year! That was too much and the A.C. turned pro the next year with Yale, of course, refusing to play them ever again.

Orange led the way for Pittsburgh's professional breakthrough. The pro Pittsburgh Alleghenies were one of the 1890 mass of new amateur independent clubs. The team was sponsored by the

Allegheny Athletic Association of northside Pittsburgh and played its games at old Recreation Park, existing also in northside Pittsburgh since the Civil War. (It was "Union" Park, then.) Contrary to popular belief, they were purely amateur in their first years of 1890 and 1891 with not a hint of "semi-proism." It was the Pittsburgh Athletic Club, a rival city team, that turned to semi-pro evils in order to outshine their hated opponents. As one Pittsburgh early newspaper said, the A.A.A. formed a football team because many of its members had gone to college and knew how to play the game. It also added satirically that Pittsburghers deserved a rest and needed something new to watch besides the Pirates. The Pirates in the 1890's didn't do as well as the pennant-winning clubs of the early 1900's (1900- 1905), the golden era of Pittsburgh sports.

On the 1890-1891 A.A.A. Club's roster were famous Pittsburgh names: the Oliver brothers, Trees (who donated Pitt its Trees Gymnasium), Moorehead, Thompson, etc. But the A.A.A. had a team in 1890 and nobody to play. There were no other teams! Pitt finally came to the rescue, organized a team that had never seen a football, and in the first football game ever played in Pittsburgh (Oct. 11) was slaughtered 38-0! The Panthers soon learned what the game was about and future games were much closer (the 1893 Pitt boys upsetting the pro Alleghenies that year 4-0). Five hundred people saw the first football game ever played by Pittsburgh teams. Opponents were rare in 1890, a pick-up all-star team of Pittsburgh boys having to furnish the next game for the A.A.A., losing 22-6. Princeton was mistakenly scheduled in desperation for the next game, a warmup for the Ivy Leaguers, as the A.A.A. lost its first game 44-6. [ED: Actually, the Princeton Preparatory Team, not the Tigers' varsity.] Games were then finally arranged with the Detroit and Cleveland clubs to finish out a five-game season. Detroit was a 6-6 tie and Cleveland won 6-0. The A.A.A. had had a 2-win, 1-tie, 2-loss season, not too successful in record or at the gate. They lost money. [ED: The A.A.A.'s record was actually 3-2-1; they also defeated the Shadyside Accademy, 32-0, on October 18. Furthermore, a statement by an unidentified club member in 1891 indicated a healthy profit for the 1890 football season.]

In 1891 an opponent within city limits was furnished for the Three A's. (They were called A.A.A., Three A's, even Four A's for sarcasm -- an "amateur" tacked on the front -- and Alleghenies.) In Pittsburgh's east end an old established athletic club existed called the Pittsburgh Athletic Club. It was even older than the Allegheny Athletic Association of Northside. The P.A.C. formed its first football squad in 1891 as a rival of the A.A.A. who were getting too much publicity. [ED: The P.A.C. played one game in 1890, losing to Washington & Jefferson, 10-0.]

This 1891 club, in an effort to outdo the A.A.A. team, was semi-pro. A Professor William Kirschner was a star athlete for the P.A.C. and much sought after by the A.A.A. to bolster its football club. Though he had little football experience, he possessed tremendous strength and size and learned quickly. After a few games he was the star player on the improving but still green P.A.C. team. Kirschner was also the physical education instructor at the athletic club's gym, famed as the largest and most outstanding in western Pennsylvania. In fact, the P.A.C. team often was called the "Gyms" because of this accomplishment. Professor Kirschner received a regular salary for teaching his gym classes. It was noted, however, that during the football season his "teaching" salary went up considerably. It was denied that this had any connection with his playing on the P.A.C. football team, but rivals noted that while Kirschner's salary nearly doubled during football season, the classes he taught in that fall dropped to only half of what they were before, more time being needed by the star for team practices. Pittsburgh papers at times made two-edged remarks as to the player's "pro" status though no one accused him outright of the then considered dishonor (Oct. 30, 1892, Press).

With this arrangement, the P.A.C. remained semi-pro in 1891 and 1892. Then in 1893, following the Allegheny Athletic Association's lead of 1892 in turning professional and in order to compete with them for the season, the P.A.C. signed several of its players to salaried contracts for the first time. This was to keep outstanding players from "weakening" and jumping to the paid A.A.A. team. This custom of binding star players to paid contracts was followed for many years by the P.A.C. from its 1893 "first," finally ending in 1905 when the club disbanded permanently. The 1893 first P.A.C. player contract is believed to rank number one in the long line of thousands since signed in pro football's history. It should be noted that this was the second, not first, contract the club offered that year. The first was with Professor Kirschner to become the team's coach for the year. Kirschner was repeatedly injured in 1892 and decided to coach instead of play from then on.

Pittsburgh and Philadelphia have always been bitter rivals. On the other hand, Pittsburgh and Chicago have always been the best of friends, so much so that Chicago is instrumental in giving the Steel City its professional start in football. In 1892 the Alleghenies were playing their normal amateur season with but one difference. While in 1891 they had refused to play the "newcomer" P.A.C. team (they were only two years old themselves then), in 1892 a game was scheduled. In it, the semi-pro P.A.C.'s with Kirschner the star until injured, tied the amateur A.A.A.'s 6-6. A rematch was quickly arranged, this time on the Alleghenies home field, and feeling ran high between the two teams' rooters. P.A.C. supporters

charged the A.A.A. with dirty play in putting their star lineman, Kirschner, out of commission. A.A.A. backers counter-charged that he was a "professional," anyway.

This brought embarrassed denials from the P.A.C., but also started them thinking along more straightforward monetary lines. They needed someone as good as Kirschner, if not better. They didn't have time for semi-pro job employment routines then the custom among the "shady" clubs, nor did the "trophy award" for the star player of the season trick seem to fit a one-game situation. Yet, without some sort of strong inducement, it was hard to get a player of star stature to quit his club and play for another for a single game and in the middle of the season, at that! The only solution seemed a desperation one to an A.A.U. member -- offer cold cash! Money, and a lot of it to make a star take the risk of amateur disbarment. Money in cash, not traceable checks. But, where to get a star lineman not too particular about his future athletic career?

While the city of Pittsburgh was in a football turmoil, so was Chicago. Chicago was and is a football stronghold. They know how to play the game. As stated, in 1884 it had its first amateur independent team, the famed Chicago University Club. This outfit played the University of Michigan in its biggest rivalry games and won more often than it lost! This was in the 1880's. Then in 1890 and 1891 it began to have "professionalism troubles" among its prima-donna players. They wanted more consideration for their playing than free "club memberships." They had heard some teams offered jobs and trophies. University Club officers refused these pressures and the break came at the end of the 1891 season. Led by Billy Crawford, their captain, a player revolt took place and the team quit the club.

1892 found a new amateur club in Chicago called the Chicago A.A., the University Club refusing to ever have a football team again. They did, however, brand the A.A. team as verging towards professionalism as they watched them get the newspaper headlines they used to have. This brought on the first actual "professional football" charge hurled at an independent team by a college opponent. A newspaper article tells the story better than a writer could:

Chicago Daily Tribune, Oct. 16, 1892

Declare Them Professionals

Northwestern University Team Backs Out of a Game with the Athletics

The football game scheduled for today between the Chicago Athletic Club and the Northwestern team will not take place and for a peculiar reason.

The members of the Northwestern team are willing to play, but the faculty said no, and the faculty rules. The chief reason assigned for the refusal to allow the collegians to play the local team is that the members of the latter are professionals because they take expense money in traveling around the country to play games with various teams.

The Athletics are busily preparing for their trip East which commences Saturday with a game at Cleveland. Heffelfinger, the famous Yale player will arrive Friday morning and leave with the team that night for Cleveland. He is located at Omaha.

This was for a return game at Northwestern. The week before the Chicago A.A. had defeated Northwestern 10-0 at Chicago. The Chicago players had always gotten traveling money for games played under University Club sponsorship in the past. Expense money was the custom with most traveling amateur teams. However, the University Club found out that the expense money A.A. players planned on getting for their Eastern trip was going to be unusually high. They couldn't be classed as paid players, but they lived well on trips. A word to Northwestern heads by the peeved University members was enough at least to ruin the return Northwestern game, and Northwestern spread the word of the A.A.'s dubious amateur ranking among its collegiate brethren that cost Chicago future college games. A second newspaper article illustrates the club's scheduling troubles with the more puritanical of its college opponents:

Chicago Daily Tribune, Oct. 21, 1892

Chicago Club's Football Tour

The Chicago Athletic Club's football team leaves tonight for Cleveland and will make an extended tour of the Eastern cities before its return, playing at Cleveland tomorrow and then in turn the Rochester University at Rochester. N.Y., the Princeton team at Princeton,

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the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, the Harvards at Cambridge, and the Crescents at Brooklyn.

Captain Crawford has been unable to secure a game yet with Yale, although he offered to go to New Haven and pay his team's expenses. The Yale managers have refused to arrange a game on one pretext or another, but Crawford has not yet given up hope.

By getting "expense money" more than was needed for expenses, the Chicago A.A. became semi-pro in 1892. Not only did this new "shame" not bother the money-minded players but their outspoken captain, Billy Crawford, went one step further. If the Chicago A.A. was now stamped semi-pro, why not turn pro! Why not even get other well known amateur clubs to do the same and set up a big profit-reaping "professional football league" with teams such as Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, New York, etc., in it? Thus, long before the N.F.L. was started in 1920, the original idea for a nationwide professional football league was born, born in the fertile and imaginative mind of a Chicago football player unfortunately 30 years ahead of his time. The idea, of course, was rejected by other A.A.U. conscious clubs, and the Chicago team was given a severe reprimand by the same A.A.U., informed that if they had any more "pro-ideas" they'd find themselves unable to schedule a major football club in the United States. They also were told that while their "expense activities" for the season couldn't be stopped, the matter would be taken care of at the next winter meeting of the A.A.U.

The Chicago A.A. team had its eastern tour, got "heavy" expense money, and lost most of its games. They played six games in twelve days and, though they started off well beating the Cleveland A.A. 29-0 and Rochester University 35-0, the grind began to tell and they lost very close successive games to Princeton, Penn, and Harvard before tying the strong New York Crescents in the tour's grand finale. Their trip was a riotous one with the "pro-football league" controversy meeting them at every stop. Some fans were for it, others were shocked and wanted to know why the local team had scheduled a "professional outfit." Although Pittsburgh wasn't on the tour, the pro league idea was the talk of the city's athletic clubs, so much so that it finally brought a comment from the sports editor of the local paper, as follows:

Pittsburgh *Press*, Nov. 13, 1892

The professional football league first talked about in Chicago failed to materialize and the Chicago team of stars got licked by every one of the big college teams they faced this season.

On their return home, Chicago met further difficulties. Some players had quit the team, scheduling problems arose for the rest of the season, and increased criticism of their professional tendencies continued. A game finally was arranged on November 8 for Thanksgiving, three weeks away, with Cornell University. With Crawford starring at halfback, the Chicago team won 12-4. An interesting article appears in a Chicago newspaper describing their famed trip. It goes as follows:

Chicago *Daily Tribune*, Nov. 8, 1892

The Chicago Athletic Club returned here yesterday morning from its eastern trip. Heffelfinger did not return with the locals. He went back to Yale to finish the season coaching there.

Some friction has been caused by an incident that grew out of the Crescent game Saturday. It seems the Crescents have a grievance against "Sport" Donnelly for alleged rough work while he was a member of the Manhattan Club's team last year.

They refused to arrange a game with the locals unless "Sport" was barred and the managers of the team foolishly agreed to the condition.

All this came on Donnelly's ears and, while he was not in condition to play Saturday having a badly strained right leg, he was mad clean through.

He declared after the game that he would never play another game with the local club. He has gone back to Princeton to coach the team in company with Ames (a Chicago A.A. player).

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This player trouble only increased Chicago's trend towards professionalism. Their establishment as a semi-pro team was solidified in 1892 and, though they never turned pro in the remaining ten years of their history, they stayed religiously in the semi-pro class. A newspaper article explains their new venture into the "job offers for players" semi-proism, both Alward and Stickney receiving employment in Chicago according to club records. As follows:

Chicago Daily Tribune, Nov. 8, 1892

Stickney, the famous Harvard halfback, accompanied the team back and will locate here permanently. Alward will also take up a permanent resident here. He and Stickney will strengthen the local team materially.

Chicago closed out its turbulent 1892 season on Thanksgiving Day. Around the same time, the far-flung A.A.U. organization held its annual meeting in New York and also closed out some of its Athletic Club's future football seasons, at least from a semi-professional viewpoint. In 1888 the A.A.U. had two college conferences in its membership plus numerous independent clubs and schools. In 1889 the athletic club American Football Union joined. Then in 1890, the parent organization really went big time. The United States was geographically organized into various conferences, all A.A.U. members. They were as follows: the Atlantic Association, Harry McMillan, chairman; the New England Association, Walter Simpson, chairman; the Pacific Association, T.F. Scanlon, chairman; the Central Association, W.P. Weightman, chairman; the North American Turnveriens Association, Julius Harder, chairman. From 1890 to the 1892 upheaval, championships were awarded yearly at the A.A.U.'s annual national sports carnival in such fields as track, swimming, boxing, wrestling, fencing, gymnastics and cycling. They also have continued to be awarded to modern times.

An Athletic Rules Committee was set up in the Union's first year, 1888, to enforce amateurism. Under it was a sub "Football Committee," among others. In 1892 the Rules Committee was composed of Harder and McMillan, before mentioned, and the New York Athletic Club's William B. Curtis, the arch foe of professionalism. The '92 Football Committee was composed of Simpson, Scanlon of the Acme Athletic Club of Los Angles, and Weightman of the Cleveland A.A. It was well represented from all national regions in policing football amateurism. Under the campaign of Curtis, two out of three of his pro curbs were passed by vote and became new A.A.U. rules. A Chicago newspaper article describes the event:

Chicago Daily Tribune, Nov. 22, 1892

New York, Nov. 21 -- The Board of Governors of the A.A.U. convened early this afternoon and when their meeting was over, the annual session of the Amateur Athletic Union was held. One of the most important decisions was to hold the next annual championship meeting in Chicago between Aug. 20 and Sept. 30. It is the intention of the union to make this the athletic event of the century.

The following resolution was also adopted:

Resolved, that in the sense of this meeting that the Board of Government of the A.A.U. ought not to authorize for lacrosse, baseball and football championship prizes other than banners, nor any allowance of expenses for the traveling of teams.

Curtis' third pro curb ending job procurement for team players failed to pass. Thus, Orange and Chicago were limited in their semi-pro activities while San Francisco still escaped in its "jobs." However, Chicago's role in professional football was to be far more significant than team traveling "expenses," as will be seen in Pittsburgh's history-making pro debut.

William "Pudge" Heffelfinger had quit the Chicago A.A. team in disgust before the close of its 1892 season. He saw nothing wrong with professionalism and tired of the continued criticism the A.A. Club had received on its eastern playing tour. Pudge had been a three-year All-American at Yale in 1889, 1890, and 1891 and in 1892 was employed in a railroad office at Omaha, Nebraska, in a none too lucrative paying job, it might be added. According to Chicago newspaper reports, he secured a leave of absence from the company to join and play for the Chicago A.A. on its eastern trip, for nothing of course! However, he and other stars enjoyed very high "expenses" during the trip.

The Chicago team's first stop was at Cleveland, a comparatively short distance from Pittsburgh. During the rout that Chicago's A.A. Club administered to Cleveland's A.A. Club (29-0),

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two Pittsburghers sat in the stands. One was an old Yale alumnus buddy of Pudge's and the other was George Barbour, manager of the P.A.C. team, who had never even been near the school. Both, however, cheered wildly when the magnificent Heffelfinger, using his bull-like strength, hit the Cleveland fullback so hard coming through the Chicago line that he fumbled the ball, with William dutifully grabbing it and streaking with incredible speed for a man so large over the Cleveland goal line. Barbour was convinced here was Kirschner's replacement if they could entice him.

"Snake" Ames spent the same afternoon swivel-hipping his way through the Cleveland team. When the score reached 29-0, his Chicago teammates told the star halfback to take it easy. No use tiring himself out. Ames was also an All-American, only from Princeton this time. Both Mr. Heffelfinger and Mr. Ames were apparently "contacted" by Pudge's old alumnus buddy (and Barbour holding the cold cash, of course) after the game, for an article of utter disbelief appeared in a Pittsburgh newspaper shortly after, reading:

Pittsburgh *Press*, Nov. 12, 1892

The remarkable silence of the two football team managers and the success they have attained in keeping the makeups of their respective teams from everybody has caused an amount of conjecture never before indulged in regarding a sporting event hereabouts.

Then on November 12, 1892, at old Recreation Park, northside Pittsburgh, a riot broke loose! A.A.A. and P.A.C. teams took workouts on the field and Heffelfinger and two Chicago fellow players were seen tossing the ball around, but not with P.A.C. teammates -- it was with those of the A.A.A.! The P.A.C. had failed to land the Chicago players and the A.A.A. had succeeded at the last minute in getting into the act. A Pittsburgh newspaper gives an account of the history-making game and the lineups:

Pittsburgh *Press*, Nov. 13, 1892

Four to Nothing

The Three A's beat the Pittsburgh Athletic Club football team at Recreation Park yesterday afternoon, but there was not the same satisfaction about the victory as there was about the game in the East End on Columbus Day, as objections were made and fully an hour was lost before the game began! As predicted in yesterday afternoon's *Press*, Manager Barbour of the East End team, as soon as he learned positively that Heffelfinger, Donnelly, and Malley of the Chicago team were to take part in the game, refused to let his team play.

Opinions differ on the merits of the dispute, but all concerned agreed that such exhibitions would hurt amateur contests in the future. Manager Thompson said for his part he had only done fairly and just what the Pittsburghs had tried to do. Only he was successful where they had failed.

A.A.A.		P.A.C.
Donnelly	l.e.	B. Aull
Malley	l.t.	Reilly
Heffelfinger	l.g.	Lalus
Trees	c.	S. Martin
Coates	r.g.	Ritchie
Blunt	r.t.	Gumbert
Floy	r.e.	Phelan
Ewing	q.b.	C. Aull
Valentine	r.h.	B. Martin
Boden	l.h.	Proctor
McClintock	f.b.	Diebert

A.A.A.	4	0	--	4
P.A.C.	0	0	--	0

Scoring - A.A.A. Points -- Heffelfinger -- 4

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The first pro game in history was over, and Heffelfinger, its first pro player, was the star again. He jarred a P.A.C. back for the usual shell-shocked fumble, gleefully grabbed the ball and bolted 25 yards for the game-winning touchdown.

Charges and countercharges raged between the rival clubs on who beat who in stooping to professionalism. The amount paid Heffelfinger was learned by P.A.C. spies and quickly publicized. It was also learned that while Donnelly and Malley received "expense money" double what their respective train fares cost, neither had taken a payment just to play in the game alone. Only Heffelfinger was bold enough to take that! A.A.A. backers, in turn, charged that Simon Martin, star lineman at the famed Steelton (Pa. -- eastern) A.C. was brought in to play for the P.A.C., filling the place of the crippled Kirschner. P.A.C. members admitted the fact but claimed Martin was only a semi-pro -- at least by A.A.U. rules decisions standards. All he had been promised was job employment. But the P.A.C. had to go rather high to induce the star to leave his team at the mid-season. He was promised a job for the rest of his life in Pittsburgh and the name of Martin appears in P.A.C. lineups for many years to come in the future.

What had happened was simple and quick. On November 7 the Chicago team returned home with George Barbour on hand to hear of "Pudge's" and "Snake's" decision. Only they weren't there! They had quit the team suddenly in a huff, along with Ben "Sport" Donnelly after the Crescent game fracas and remained east. A.A.A. representatives went to New York "just to see the game" and possibly try to talk the Chicago players out of their evil intentions in joining the P.A.C. after they returned to Chicago. On talking to the Heffelfinger, Ames, Donnelly and Malley clique of players (football teams have their factions, too!), they learned the following:

1. Ames had reconsidered and didn't want to take the "pro chance" and ruin his amateur future -- he'd leave New York and go over to Princeton in New Jersey and help coach his alma mater the rest of the season.

2. Ben Donnelly was mad enough to play for a girl's team -- he'd play for the A.A.A. and they didn't have to pay him a thing, just the usual double the necessary expense money.

3. Malley was "Sport's" closest buddy -- he'd go back to Chicago with the team and then travel the entire way back and forth to Pittsburgh just for the "kicks" of playing on the same team with old "Sport," the usual rigged expense rate prevailing, of course.

4. Heffelfinger was infuriated at the Chicago Club's slighting of his friend Ben (or "Sport") and was through with the team. Like Ames, he'd go to his alma mater (Yale) and help coach. Of course, the P.A.C. had offered him \$250 to play, but he'd thought it over, like Ames, and decided it was too much of a risk what with the bad reputation the Chicago A.A. already had.

A.A.A. men by now had caught the "pro fever" from the P.A.C., though, and in their desire to outdo their rivals and pull a sensational "steal" on them, they became big spenders (of the club's money, not theirs) and finally doubled the P.A.C.'s offer -- promising Heffelfinger a very high, for those days, \$500 to play. This was too much for the low-salaried railroad office worker out of Omaha and he decided the inconvenience of traveling from Yale, in New England, to Pittsburgh and back, the interruption of his coaching, and the risk of falling prey to the A.A.U. were worth it -- he'd accept!

The furor continued for about two or three weeks after the game, with each rival threatening to report the other to the A.A.U. Both backed out, as each had a professional skeleton in its closet: A.A.A. -- Heffelfinger; P.A.C. -- Kirschner.

O.D. Thompson, the A.A.A. team manager, had to take responsibility for paying Heffelfinger, and this made him the number one target of the P.A.C. He was a very successful and famous Pittsburgh lawyer and knew how to handle difficult situations not of his making from past experience (his clients' legal difficulties). He also knew that diplomacy and discretion were key points in law. It had happened that two A.A.A. gentlemen, track stars E.V. Pant (no pun intended) and J.B. McKennan, had been in A.A.U. trouble for more professionalism, the track and field kind this time, since the summer of 1892. They were to be suspended from the A.A.U.'s Atlantic Association, to which the A.A.A. and P.A.C. belonged, for six months as punishment. Thompson, being an able lawyer, decided that now was the time to have a review of that suspension in New York A.A.U. headquarters. Of course, he and fellow A.A.A. officer John Moorehead would have to leave Pittsburgh for a while (and P.A.C. fire), but that was as luck would have it. So on November 20, 1892, a Pittsburgh newspaper article said:

Pittsburgh *Press*, Nov. 20, 1892

O.D. Thompson and John Moorhead, representing the A.A.A., were at the meeting of the National Association of the A.A.U. in New York City and managed to get a

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reconsideration of the six months suspension sentence imposed by the Atlantic Association magnates.

While O.D. was gone, he made an unwilling reserve guard, Billy Kountz, "acting manager" until he returned -- under promise that maybe some day Billy would play A.A.A. first string! Billy's job, just to be for a few days, lasted almost to Christmas -- much to his dismay. And he was under constant P.A.C. threats and fire for most of the time. Billy didn't want to get into any arguments -- all he wanted to do was play guard! A newspaper article states his case:

Pittsburgh *Press*, Nov. 20, 1892

Billy Kountz is not nearly so rabid as some people about the game played Saturday, Nov. 12, and thinks only about the business end -- how soon and where the whole thing will be settled! No settlement can be made until O.D. Thompson, Esq., returns from the east.

With Kountz not able to defend the A.A.A. as skillfully in debate as O.D. could, the P.A.C. began closing in for the kill. They'd disgrace the A.A.A. for all time for their "sin." Of course, the East Ends were simon-pure! A Pittsburgh paper at last comes to the A.A.A.'s rescue:

Pittsburgh *Press*, Nov. 20, 1892

East Enders have been telling fabulous stories about what the Three A's paid to bring on their 3 Chicago members, Heffelfinger, Donnelly, and Malley, going as high as \$500 in Heffelfinger's case. What amount of money was paid is nobody's business, but the three men only asked for their expenses to and from home.

Almost correct except that Heffelfinger was not objectionable to a little "bonus." P.A.C. fans finally began to take pity on "acting manager" Billy (as some people knew they would) and rage turned into desire for a season's third A.A.A.-P.A.C. contest which a Pittsburgh paper dutifully noted:

Pittsburgh *Press*, Nov. 20, 1892

A whole lot of people would like to see the two big football teams come together on the level before the season closes.

This never occurred for the 1892 season, as Thompson wisely didn't return in time to permit it. Things were still a little too warm -- 1893 would be time enough. The A.A.A. played W. & J. College their next game and with three linemen quitting the team for the sake of their "honor," club officials were hard pressed for replacement. "Sport" Donnelly was persuaded to remain over for a week. Although Heffelfinger owed allegiance to the Chicago A.A. and Cornell, he returned to practice for the big Chicago Thanksgiving Day game. With Trees, Coates, and Floy all gone for the W. & J. game, Donnelly had to make up for three men. This he couldn't do and W. & J. won 8-0. However, Ben was amply rewarded for his efforts and picked up \$250 for the game -- in cash, of course.

Coates and Trees were coaxed back for the A.A.A.'s last '92 season game on Thanksgiving at Cleveland. Donnelly wanted to return to Princeton for their big Thanksgiving Day clash, but he promised he'd return in '93 and give the A.A.A. boys some "professional coaching." Malley also promised he'd return to play in '93 if the "expense" money was right. The new A.A.U. rule later in 1892 stopped this practice.... Malley never appeared on an A.A.A. team again. Floy, it's sorry to state, quit the A.A.A. team for good in 1892. The Alleghenies defeated Cleveland's A.A. Club on Thanksgiving 4-0, while Lehigh hammered the now badly crippled P.A.C. team 21-0. The Chicago players had made themselves felt on the "Gyms" from East End. According to newspaper accounts, Thompson finally returned to Pittsburgh in the beginning of December after remaining east after the A.A.U. meeting to see two Ivy League College games on successive weekends. He was in no hurry. Thus ended history's eventful first professional year of 1892.

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* * *

1893-1903

1893 was the first regularly established year of professional football. Both the A.A.A. and P.A.C. that year in their mad race to compete against each other threw fear of the A.A.U. to the wind and had regularly signed and hired players on their teams for the complete season -- though they didn't advertise the fact, no pro team in Pittsburgh doing that until 1902. The Three A's had three paid players on their team for 1893: Wright, Van Cleve, and Rafferty. These men were all new, being induced to leave other athletic clubs and play the entire season (for money) in Pittsburgh. Other new players appeared on the A.A.A. '93 team at various times from Wilksburg, Greensburg and Altoona, but none played the entire season for the Three A's and none were felt sufficiently famous in their names to warrant being paid or being signed and hired to play the complete A.A.A. season. They played for first one club and then another during the season for reasons that were as old as this time-honored custom of club-jumping itself. Some were dissatisfied with their own club's style of play, its record, or couldn't get along with some of its players, or managers, or coaches. Others moved from club to club as the most important and publicity-attracting "crucial" games would develop. They liked to play in the big hard games (and get the limelight), rather than easy and unnoticed pushover contests. Still others left less famed teams to join the more famous and bask in their publicity (and also help build a bigger name for themselves). The reasons were countless and all "amateur."

The P.A.C. was "pro" in all of its games of '93, also. It signed its first hired player to a paid contract for the entire season on October 4. Both teams hired coaches; Kirschner for the P.A.C. and the now famous "Sport" Donnelly for the A.A.A. However, no other Chicago players returned to Pittsburgh for the '93 season. The A.A.U. had clamped down hard on the controversial team after their 1892 exploits. Both teams played each other (with no arguments this time, as both were now pros) several times for the season and had very successful campaigns, both by record and gate.

In the season of 1894, pro football spread outside the Pittsburgh city limits for the first time and a non-Steel City pro team initially appeared, at least according to the claims of the nearby Pittsburgh area town of Greensburg. According to a historical review written by two Pittsburgh newspaper sports writers (James Gregg and Jack Henry of the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph) for Pittsburgh's Bi-Centennial celebration of 1958-59 that gave the history of all Pittsburgh area sports, pro football included, Greensburg had its first pro football team in 1894 with its first paid player being Lawson Fiscus. This summary of western Pennsylvania pro football, along with other sports, appeared in a 136-page booklet printed by the Bi-Centennial Celebration Committee for the 1959 All-Star baseball game that was played in Pittsburgh that year (July 7). The history states that Fiscus got \$20 a game for his first year as a professional in 1894 and had played for Princeton previously. Research shows that he played his first and last year as a varsity member on Princeton's 1892 team, played for the Pittsburgh Alleghenies in 1893 as an amateur player only (the Three A's only had three paid players in 1893) and then apparently was induced by the drastic report of money to jump and play for Greensburg's team in 1894 at \$20 a game rather than nothing per game for the A.A.A.

Ivy League games were always well covered in publicity in those days and stories on Princeton, Yale and Harvard teams appeared as far west as Chicago in syndicated columns. In Chicago's Daily Tribune an article appeared on October 8, 1892, stating that Fiscus was a "novice" on the '92 Princeton football team and was to play in "Harrold's old place." Harrold had played guard for Princeton in 1891, graduated in '92 and was later the head coach at Pitt University. Fiscus was with the Princeton team for the entire season, for another Chicago Daily Tribune account says that "Lea or Fiscus" are vying for the guard position for Princeton's Thanksgiving Day game (Tribune of Nov. 21, 1892). Thus there were three pro teams in existence in 1894 for the first time: A.A.A., P.A.C., and Greensburg. Pro football had begun to spread.

1895 saw two more pro teams appear; one in Pittsburgh (the Duquesnes), and one in the nearby town of Latrobe (a Y.M.C.A. team). A new amateur football club had been organized in Pittsburgh in 1895 by the then existing Duquesne Country and Athletic Club city organization and it was called the Duquesnes, or sometimes D.C. & A.C. However, after a very bad 30-0 beating by Penn University, the club decided it had had enough of amateurism and decided to "go pro" like its Pittsburgh brethren, the A.A.A.'s and the P.A.C.'s. So in 1895 Pittsburgh had three professional

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football teams and competition got so intense that it caught the eye of one W.C. Temple, then part owner of the baseball pro Pittsburgh Pirates. Temple's hobby was donating athletic cups or trophies to various events. He had already donated the famous "Temple Cup" to the 1890's version of the World Series, the winner each year winning the trophy. Now he donated (in 1895) the football "Challenge Cup" to the yearly winner of Pittsburgh's three-way pro series.

Over in Latrobe (about 40 miles from Pittsburgh) they also had a new football team, their first professional one in history. The Y.M.C.A. had organized a green team in 1895 --short on experience, in fact so short that they couldn't find anyone in the neighborhood who knew how to play quarterback. A game was scheduled to be played with the nearby community of Jeannette and, as Latrobe felt it wouldn't look right to line up with ten men, something drastic had to be done. There was only one inducement felt strong enough to make an experienced quarterback desert another team, for quarterbacks were prima donnas in those days, too, as now, and that was money.

So John Brallier, quarterback of the nearby Indiana State College team was induced to leave his team and play for Latrobe. He was paid \$10 and also money for expenses -- true expense money this time, not the "Chicago style." Other teams had had paid players, Latrobe knew, and the idea was catching on. By 1895, the standard salary for players was \$50 a game on the "big city teams" (Pittsburgh) and \$10 to \$20 a game in surrounding small towns. The sky-high one game \$100 plus wages of the Heffelfinger inflationary era was over, as no club could afford, then, to keep that pace up for more than a few games. Latrobe had strong pro clubs from its 1895 first, finally disbanding in 1906 after an unusually bad defeat at the hands of Canton in Ohio (23-0) [ED: 16-0].

Another pro upheaval occurred in 1896. Things had been comparatively quiet on the pro front since the 1892 riots, with everyone skillfully dodging the A.A.U. But the watchdog of amateurism was secretly on the move and in the winter of 1895 the Alleghenies, the instigators of the pro movement, were told that they were found guilty of professionalism of the worst kind -- cold cash to players -- and were permanently barred from the A.A.U. This was a mortal blow to the famed old A.A.A. and was the beginning of their "swan song." The club had always prided itself on its track and cycling stars, just as the P.A.C. did on its gymnasts and the Duquesnes on its baseball team. Athletic Clubs in those days had more than just football teams. They had year-round sports programs. Now it couldn't enter any regional or national competitions anymore. Non-football playing members of the club bitterly denounced its pro folly and started a movement to end its football team. It might be noted that they were chiefly "track and cycling men" who were perhaps slightly jealous of the football publicity the club had been getting. The promise to end football could not save the club, however, as it now found it could schedule very few athletic contests of any kind, other clubs being afraid of A.A.A. contact that might involve them in professionalism scandals. By the fall of 1896 the club was in a state of complete disunity and practical collapse.

The old pro Alleghenies went out in a blaze of glory, however, as the few remaining members of the club that had not resigned by October '96 got together for a meeting. It might be noted that they all were "football men," everyone else having quit in shame. They pooled their own personal finances and vowed they still would have a pro team for the year "or bust." It was getting late, however, as this was on October 27 by newspaper accounts. But the A.A.A.'s were up against it. It would be a herculean task to play the full season they wanted in one month's time (November). It would take better players than they had to stand the pace.

But, though the world's first professional football team was desperate, it still wasn't without friends. Pittsburgh had as loyal and true a buddy as a city could have in Chicago and the midwesterners once again came to the Steel City's rescue. On feelers to the Chicago A.A. football club, A.A.A. representatives were shocked and pleased to find that over half the team said they would gladly quit their semi-pro life to play for the real pro Pittsburghers. They were tired of being under A.A.U. constant scrutiny and welcomed the chance to play for a team now NOT under their control. Things were starting to look brighter for the discouraged A.A.A. club.

"Sport" Donnelly had returned to Chicago; the Alleghenies had tried to hold him as their coach (he was first hired in 1893) but couldn't. "Sport" was a native Chicagoan, the name Donnelly being well known in the big town, and there was his first love. Countless apologies and pleadings to forget the Crescents game incident had made him return. But "Sport" was tremendously popular in Pittsburgh and had always had a liking for the fiery Steel City. In 1896, "Sport" both coached (a habit he learned in Pittsburgh) and played on the Chicago A.A. eleven. Chicago then was still making its annual and by now famous "eastern tours" although they weren't as turbulent as the 1892 days. Thus, "Sport" and five first-string cohorts said they'd jump from the semi-pro A.A. and

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play for the pro Three A's after the eastern swing was over. The "reserves" could play out the rest of the season at home. "Sport" wanted to relive his happy "Pittsburgh Pro" days and convinced five of his players they'd have an exciting pro time. Naturally, he'd coach the Pittsburgh team.

Nobody thought anything about "jumping" in those days, as it was common and offenders were always taken back by their clubs, glad to have their needed strength again. However, for the first time in history, this occasion was to be different -- as Chicago offenders soon found out! An article in the pro town's newspaper sets the stage:

Pittsburgh *Press*, Oct. 18, 1896

Sport Donnelly's Eleven Will Tackle the Duquesne Team

The Chicago Athletic Club will start east in the latter part of October or the earlier part of November. It will be gone 2 weeks and will probably meet the following clubs of the east: Detroit A.C., Orange A.C., Boston A.A., Pittsburgh Duquesnes A.C., and the Newton A.C.

Captain Thompson [no relation to O.D.] has selected the following team: Thompson, l.e., Malley, l.t., Sager, l.g., Stuart, c., Beach, r.g., Hadden, r.t., Brown, r.e., Aldrich, q.b., Slater, l.h., Graber, r.h., Draper, f.b.

"Pudge" Heffelfinger was also still going strong as the most famous football player of his time (and perhaps our as well), and it wasn't long before he was contacted by his old crony "Sport" about having a "pro reunion" in Pittsburgh -- a playing one that is! Pudge was enthusiastic and thought they'd have a "dandy" time. Donnelly told him other Chicago players were now flocking to pro football's mecca -- Pittsburgh -- and that their old 1892 Alleghenies game buddy, Malley, would be there. Pudge hadn't seen the "Chicago Lawyer," as he was called, for years and the thought of seeing Ed once more made the mighty Yale star even more enthusiastic, so much so that he said he'd round up "some boys" he knew and bring them along. He wouldn't have to dicker with them about how much "cold cash" they'd get from the now notorious and openly branded Pittsburgh pros, as he knew they had always treated him right.

"Some of the boys" Pudge rounded up read like an all-time early football who's who. They were: "Doggie" Trenchard, All-American Princeton; "Biffy" Lea, All-American Princeton; Stevenson, All-American Purdue; and Brooke, All-American Penn. By the time the second week of November rolled around, the Pittsburgh Alleghenies had a collection of stars the like of which the football world had never seen. They were to play back-to-back pro games with the P.A.C.'s and Duquesnes on November 10 and 11, a feat never attempted in pro football circles before or since!

Although this collection of super-stars had never played together before, had only arrived in Pittsburgh on the weekend of November 7, and had exactly one day's practice together on Monday devoted mostly to who was to play where, they defeated the powerful pro teams of Pittsburgh 18-0 and 12-0, respectively. The fame of the occurrence spread so rapidly that in two days' time it was discussed in the Chicago newspapers as well as in New York City, etc.

Chicago *Daily Tribune*, Nov. 11, 1896

That was a great game at Pittsburgh yesterday when the Allegheny Athletic Association met the Duquesnes. The lineup which the Three A team presented could not have been excelled by any eleven in America.

It must have cost the Three A management all kinds of money to get that team. "Doggie" Trenchard, of Princeton, stood at left end and Lea, his old running mate, played beside him. The mighty Heffelfinger was at left guard and Stevenson -- he who had so long figured in Purdue games -- was at center. Stuart, Hadden, and Paul Brown, all of the Chicago Athletic Association lined up on the other side of big Steve. Aldrich, Howard, Graber, and Brooke -- yes, the great Brooke of Penn -- were behind the line. No such gang of stars was ever put in the field by an athletic association before and there is many a rumor of cold coin and money in the hand afloat in the clubs from which the men were summoned.

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The "all kinds of money" was \$100 a game per player, a tremendous payroll in those days. After two games the A.A.A. was broke. They had won the Challenge Cup again for the second straight year but had bankrupted themselves doing it. Then other repercussions quickly followed the games, as can be seen in the following local sports article:

Pittsburgh *Press*, Nov. 13, 1896

After having fired for professionalism, the crack players who helped make up the A.A.A. team of this city this week, the Chicago Athletic club is said to be dickering with Heffelfinger, Lewis, Jerome and a number of other stars to take their places. Of course they will all go to Chicago and play the rest of the season just for "the love of the game." They have a world wide reputation for doing just that sort of thing.

The Pittsburgh sports editor was infuriated over the Chicago Club officers' supreme hypocrisy in firing one set of players for turning pro and then asking more professionals to take their places. However, the Chicago A.A. had done its duty, had stopped professionalism from invading its still-amateur (or semi-pro at the most) club and had appeased the watchful A.A.U. The Chicago players fired were now admitted professionals; Heffelfinger and his fellows had never had the charge proven against them. The A.A.U. was satisfied.

The Chicago players with now no place to go agreed to play with the A.A.A. for the rest of the season for nothing, since the club was not bankrupt. The once famed Chicago A.A. boys had been semi-pros, were next pros for one week in Pittsburgh, and now were amateurs playing the game for the "love of the sport." They led varied lives. It's to be noted that Ed Malley didn't make the trip to Pittsburgh with the rest of the Chicago players. His lawyer instinct told him this pro venture might have consequences.

The A.A.A. finished the season with a barnstorming tour playing amateur clubs around Pittsburgh, in West Virginia and Ohio. They had great success, enjoyed to the fullest their mixed comradeship and, incidentally, compiled the first unbeaten, untied, and unscored on record in professional football history. Their training habits, however, are not good examples to be followed. They usually consisted of a beer-drinking session far into the night both before and after game days! It was a happy, carefree (and A.A.U.-free) bunch that sadly parted in December after freezing cold and deep snow ended that "just one more game before we break up" plea. In many ways, perhaps, it was Pittsburgh's most famed pro team. [ED: According to news accounts of the time, the A.A.A. team members went in separate directions immediately after the D.C. & A.C. and P.A.C. games. The stories of their touring seem to be only romantic fiction.]

By 1897 the A.A.A. had ceased to exist as a functioning all-year-around club for practical purposes. Professionalism and its opponents had given it the death blow. However, the Alleghenies, now bolstered by new "pro-branded" Chicago players, had one final roaring season in '97, going undefeated once again before they finally disbanded for all time. After their demise, an Allegheny Athletic Club sponsored a minor amateur team on Pittsburgh's northside for a while, composed of Western Pennsylvania Theological Seminary boys. They lost to W. & J. College in 1897 17-0 and in 1902 defeated Duquesne University 12-5. But the big A.A.A. was dead. [ED: No verification of any 1897 season by an A.A.A. team has been found. Instead, it appears the club disbanded after the '96 season. The Seminary team mentioned above probably had no connection whatsoever with the Three A's.]

The cause of the A.A.A. crackup following the '97 season was one common to many athletic clubs. The Spanish-American War was on in 1898 and many of the more patriotic athletes enlisted. This ended a team in '98 and when the A.A.A. boys returned home in 1899, there never seemed to be the same spark in them for an Alleghenies team as before. The war had changed them. However, many still liked money and quickly were hired by the still-going-strong Duquesnes and P.A.C.'s in famous bidding contests. A.A.A. players had a tremendous reputation and sold their services highly.

The fame of Pittsburgh-area "unofficial" pro teams had now grown to such proportions that scores of their games were carried in newspapers of other states, Ohio in particular. Thus, Ohio got its first inkling that such a thing as professional football teams existed around the turn of the

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century. This was further glamorized and heightened by the famous and nationally publicized pro football indoor "World Series" games at New York's Madison Square Garden in 1902 and 1903.

By 1904 the Buckeye State could resist no longer and adopted pro football with a vengeance. An example of this national publicity pro football was starting to get can be seen by 1900. In that year Akron, Ohio, for example, carried the pro game scores right along with all the Ivy League and other national college game scores in its syndicated wire releases. As examples, the Akron, Ohio Beacon Journal in 1900 carried Latrobe, Pennsylvania's pro eleven's 5-0 upset of the then three-year undefeated professional Duquesnes, pro Homestead's 12-0 defeat of pro Greensburg was carried, and, to show the variance of scores when pro met pro and pro met amateur, Homestead's 54-0 rout of the then still amateur Detroit A.C. was carried. When the pros met, the scores were close. Detroit, despite its humiliation, steadfastly remained amateur until the Heralds finally turned pro in 1919. [ED: See note at end.]

The 1890's gave professional football its birth and start with all "100% pro" activity exclusively in and around Pittsburgh. The 1900's marked its emergence into national prominence. After the World Series games of 1902 and 1903, nearly everyone now knew that such a thing as professional football existed. Before, in the 1890's, many didn't. The pros didn't advertise their unique positions then for obvious reasons. However, after 1902 they were now "legal." Thus, the year 1900 seemed to serve as a demarcation line in pro football history with the tempo of the game greatly increasing after it.

"Big money" entered pro football for the first time at the turn of the century. Until then, professional football teams had been the co-operative ventures of private athletic clubs and associations. But in 1900 William C. Temple became the first man to own outright a professional football club when he bought the Pittsburgh Duquesnes completely from the Duquesne Country and Athletic Club. Temple was a Pittsburgh manufacturer who long had been interested in sports. In the 1887-1900 beginning era of the Pittsburgh Pirates, he had been a co-owner with Bill Kerr of the team. But in 1900 Barney Dreyfuss had come up from the south and bought 100% control of the team. Being out of the Pittsburgh baseball picture, Temple decided he'd enter the city's football scene. [ED: Temple had been the manager of the Duquesnes from 1895. Some sources credit him with paying salaries of Duquesne players as early as 1898, thereby becoming the first pro team owner. The 1900 date seems more credible.] The Duquesnes were the most likely unofficial (no one admitted it in those days) pro football prospect to buy for several reasons. They had just had great consecutive seasons in 1898 and 1899, winning most of their games handily. This power was exemplified in 1899, when they defeated Penn State 64-5! And Penn State had just blanked Army 6-0!

But success was costly, as Duquesne Country Club magnates found out. The 1898 team had part of its players paid (the stars), and part not (the bench warmers). But with the return of many athletes from the Spanish-American War in 1899, the situation changed. The Duquesnes had to load their already overstocked team with more hired players for the simple reason that if they didn't sign these stars, other Pittsburgh-area pro teams would. Thus, in 1899 they found themselves in the unique and unenviable position of having everyone on the squad drawing salaries -- the first completely professional football club in history! Though this talent array produced a great season, it also produced a great payroll and club officers found game receipts insufficient to cover countless player paychecks. They were in debt!

Temple then appeared like a shining light from heaven. Club members extolled the team's virtues to him while overlooking its weighty payroll. He succumbed and took over the team. However, in all fairness to Mr. Temple, it must be said that even if he had known of the club's financial drain, he still probably would have bought it on the spot. W.C. Temple was never noted for miserliness. He was the same man who had donated the famous and costly Temple Cup to the winner of the Temple Series playoffs in the national baseball league in the 1890's. There was no American League then and, of course, no World Series; only a playoff in the same league at the season's end of the two top teams.

In 1900, in order to drum up more competition for his new team, Temple induced fellow industrialists W.E. Corey and A.C. Dinkey, friends of his, to try a hand at owning pro football clubs. Both Mr. Corey and Mr. Dinkey were astute steel owners and considered the venture to have more of a risk factor than one of security. However, both also were far above average in the science of logic. They knew that past Pittsburgh professional teams (one said "amateur" then) had

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tremendous followings, much more than neighborhood college teams. And they knew that the bulk of these crowds were from Pittsburgh's biggest employment area -- steelworkers!

Steel mill work wasn't as safe in those days as it is today, comparatively speaking, as technology hadn't advanced far enough to provide many of the modern safeguards. As a result, a steelworker's life was a hard-working and dangerous one. Both Mr. Corey and Mr. Dinkey realized this and wondered if there wasn't something that could be done to help take the worker's mind off his somewhat rugged mill life existence. To the avid sports fan in the mill, the rough pro football game was his favorite. It paralleled his life. Corey reasoned why not have a couple of pro teams for two of the area's biggest mills, teams that the workers could feel were their own and really root for. Dinkey went along and suggested nearby Homestead and Braddock as two good locations where plenty of rivalry would develop.

The communities of Homestead and Braddock had had amateur teams since 1894 and had played each other annually, being strong rivals. Both were big steel centers, Braddock's venerable Edgar Thompson plant being the pioneer steel mill in the Pittsburgh area in 1873 and Homestead's huge mill having the largest blast furnaces in the world. It was an easy matter for Corey and Dinkey to sell the two towns on pro football and buy their amateur clubs. Good-sounding names for the teams weren't so easy, however.

Braddock's amateur team had honored another steel man, Andrew Carnegie, by calling themselves the Carnegie A.C. in gratitude to Carnegie Park donated to the club by the philanthropist. So Corey named his team the "Braddock Carnegies" in honor of the pioneer. Homestead, on the other hand, was called the "Athletics" in its amateur days. This name was too common and Dinkey wanted to rename them. To name them after himself was not very suitable, as the name "Homestead Dinkeys" didn't exactly seem to fit a big tough pro team. In the 1890's the amateur Homestead Athletics had played in a borough-owned park aptly called the "Steel Works Park" because it was located by one of the community's big mills. Steel was and is an important word in Pittsburgh circles, so Dinkey thought it suitable to go one step further than the colorfully named park and call his team the "Homestead Steelers."

Both Corey and Dinkey soon became as keen friendly rivals through their respective teams as the clubs had been themselves when they were on their own in amateur days. However, Dinkey quickly got the edge in "team performance records" and resulting newspaper headlines, while the "Carnegies" had to be satisfied as also-rans. The merits of the two men's management are debatable. Dinkey went for the college All-Americans (plus raiding the Duquesnes of a star pro player or two), paying fabulous salaries, while Corey was more subtle and preferred having regularly employed steelworkers on his pro squads. Unusually powerful prospects were paid their standard mill wages plus a bonus pro salary, were relieved of having to report to work during football season so they could practice daily with the team, and received expert football coaching in the techniques of the game. Only token college players were added to the team.

Greater experience paid off, as it usually does, and Homestead won the World Championship in its first two years (1900 and 1901) with "A.C." claiming it's championships that build team support. Corey debated the point and claimed that real fans stay with their team through good times and lean. It is to be noted that when the Steelers lost star players in 1902 through pro raids in turn on themselves for a change and didn't win the pro title, backers griped, "bring in new players." But Braddock supporters stuck with their team through thick and thin. They felt they were a part of them.

William E. Corey was a well liked man; a man who didn't quibble over petty differences. His teams never won a title as the rival Homesteads did, yet they had a remarkable record for an inexperienced squad, losing very few games over their lightning five-year history. Corey would attend the daily workouts and chat with his "steelworker pros" as he liked to call them. He also was noted as quick on the retort to jokes from mill fan gatherings that avidly watched the practices. Many of the "Carnegies" admitted after Corey was gone that he was generous to a fault. They drew total salaries nearly as high as the prima donna Homesteaders did and they admitted sheepishly that talent-wise they never earned them. But Corey didn't care. The Carnegies were his team from the first game he paid salaries for to the last and he never slackened in his enthusiasm for the rough pro sport.

[ED: This discussion of Corey and Dinkey presents some problems. According to contemporary news accounts, both Corey and W.C. Temple were leaders of the Homestead team, usually called the H.L.A.C. for Homestead Library and Athletic Club. The H.L.A.C. team was by far the strongest

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Pittsburgh team in 1900-01. It is very likely that this is when Temple began paying salaries, as most of the H.L.A.C. stars were with the Duquesnes in 1898-99. Perhaps in his description of the events of this period, "Ross" did not rely on contemporary sources.]

Corey was an impatient man by nature. An example of this is repeated here in an account that has been told hundreds of times by steel mill fans.

In 1902 the new "Pittsburgh Professionals" were to play the "Philadelphia Athletics" for the Pennsylvania State pro football championship. The game was on Thanksgiving at Exposition Park in northside Pittsburgh. However, the pros were bucking the colleges for attendance (an occurrence that has happened before and since) because Pitt and W. & J. were playing the same day in nearby Recreation Park. As a result, attendances were divided and the Philadelphia team was having misgivings about a full house.

The operators of the club, Ben Shibe and Connie Mack, were determined to have as profitable a football team as their American League baseball champions had been. Mack, as manager, steadfastly refused to let his team go on the field until he had gotten his guarantee -- in advance! The Pittsburgh Club operators, William C. Temple and Barney Dreyfuss, were annoyed by this and refused to agree, telling Mack the Pittsburgh players were on the field and to get the "show on the road" or they'd claim a forfeit. However, Mr. McGillicuddy was a man known getting mileage out of a dollar and he indignantly refused.

This long argumentative delay brought noises from the crowd that weren't applause and it also brought W.E. Corey, a spectator, out of his seat in a hurry. He went down to the cluster of debaters on the field and asked, "What's the delay?" When told by Mr. Mack that the Athletics wanted their \$3,000 guarantee in advance, he snorted, wrote out a check for \$3,000 and said, "Let's get the game started!" Handing the check to Mack, he turned and walked away. Mack wasn't so sure about taking checks from "strangers," but when informed that Mr. Corey carried almost as much weight as Andrew Carnegie himself, his mouth dropped open and the game commenced.

Corey often said he got his money's worth, for the contest is rated as the most brutal and hard-hitting of all time in a Pittsburgh history noted for that type of game. When the battle finally ended with both teams in a state of exhaustion, the score was still the same as when it started, a 0-0 tie. And the fans, Mr. Corey included, went away awed by the tremendous power of the pros. A return match naturally had to be played to break the state tie and townspeople and steelworkers alike buzzed at its prospect.

Corey left the Pittsburgh scene in 1904 when he assumed the presidency of the United States Steel Corporation, a position he ably filled until 1910. His departure in 1904 was also accompanied by that of A.C. Dinkey and, without their big backers, the Braddock and Homestead teams collapsed in one year's time, finishing out a miserable '04 season and disbanding in 1905. [ED: The H.L.A.C. ceased as a pro team after the '02 season.] Latrobe's pro eleven helped their cause along when in 1904 it defeated the "Edgar Thomson boys" of Braddock 37-0 and then the starless Homestead outfit 41-0. Thus ended the blast furnace era of professional football, but long after Corey and Dinkey were gone, old-timers retired from the mills delighted in reminiscing back when "Bill Corey had his pro outfit and would play Homestead."

While Dinkey and Corey remained in the Pittsburgh picture, however, pro football life was exciting. Something was going on all the time -- usually between fellow pro owners A.C. Dinkey and W.C. Temple. Somebody was always accusing somebody about who (pro player) broke what contract (pro football contract) to jump to which team (the Duquesnes or Homesteads). In a reunion long after the turn of the century, both men met and they say all you could hear was, "Those were the days." But at the time, disputes were heated.

By 1902 Temple had become infuriated by the continued raids Dinkey had made on his Duquesnes. The once famed World's Champion Duquesnes of 1898 and 1899 that he had proudly bought in 1900 were now bridesmaids in 1900 and 1901. In 1902 he decided to get revenge with bigger raids on Dinkey and interested Bernard Dreyfuss, the pro baseball owner to whom he had sold his half of the Pirates in 1900, in becoming his partner in a new professional sports venture for Barney -- this time in football!

Temple needed more capital. In spite of losing key games to Homestead in 1900 and 1901, the Duquesnes had drawn large gates on their reputation alone and, intrigued by a new field of quick profits, Dreyfuss became an enthusiastic co-owner. On his insistence, Temple was convinced that the team should turn over a fresh page. They should have a new name, new players, and, more important to the then unknown pro football future, new opponents.

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The Pittsburgh sportswriters were called in to help with the name problem. They were long and true supporters of the great Pittsburgh teams in their columns but, in spite of their colorful praise, suffered from guilty consciences. They were tired of the continued sham they had to keep up in referring to the Pittsburgh teams as not being pro. They suggested, why not drop the pretense, ignore the A.A.U., and come out in the open? Temple, through force of habit, wavered on this idea. All pro owners and players were ingrained in spirit with their life of "shame" (mostly done by rival amateur-status college teams who wanted no more competition than they could help).

But Dreyfuss was a career pro sports promoter who had hardly ever heard of the feared A.A.U. and couldn't care less. He had owned pro baseball teams in Louisville until 1900 and now in Pittsburgh -- and he had made them pay! In 1900 his first Pirates team just missed the National League pennant, in 1901 they won their first, and in 1902 they repeated, winning the pennant by a mere 27 1/2-game margin! Dreyfuss was used to success and feared nothing. So, much to the joy of the sportswriters, it was decided brazenly to call the Pittsburgh pro team the "Pittsburgh Professionals"! Professional football had at last come out in the open.

Pittsburgh sportswriters must get much of the credit for launching pro football on a national basis. With the matter of a name decided on, Dreyfuss and Temple quickly sidetracked the next issue of new players. This was no problem. They would simply "raid back," so to speak, the other pro teams in the district. Dreyfuss was willing to spend unlimited sums to top other pro teams' peak salaries and raid them of their stars, much to the delirious joy of the revenge-minded Temple.

But the problem of fresh fan-attracting opposition was more difficult. Here the publicity-conscious Pittsburgh sportswriters came to the rescue. They would goad arch city-rival Philadelphia at the other end of the state into forming a pro team. Then Pittsburgh and Philadelphia could play for a state pro championship (which turned into the world's championship in New York City).

With their three major problems temporarily solved, the Pittsburgh pro supports went to work. Philadelphia not only took the taunts of Pittsburgh, with a pro team quickly formed, but doubled it. They formed two pro football teams. Dreyfuss had skillfully pitted Ben Shibe, owner of the American League's Philadelphia team, the Athletics, against Col. Rodgers, owner of the National League team in the city, the Phillies. They vowed to eliminate each other with their new pro elevens and then take care of their cocky Pittsburgh friend. Baseball had entered professional football.

The word of "open professionalism" spread rapidly from the Philadelphia area. In New Jersey the Orange A.C. turned its back on the A.A.U. and went pro; the Knickerbockers in New York City followed suit, and from then it was just a matter of days until no less than seven teams in upstate New York had turned to play for pay, the Syracuse A.A. being the leader. What had been planned as a "state affair" had now snowballed into a national one.

The Pittsburgh Pros had their state playoff but lost! [ED: The Pittsburgh Pros played the Philadelphia Athletics three times in '02. They lost in Philadelphia, tied on Thanksgiving in Pittsburgh, and won in a third game played the following Saturday. The Athletics subsequently claimed the U.S. Championship on the strength of a still-later win over the Philadelphia Phillies team, but Pittsburgh considered its team to be the champs.] Philadelphia was the champion and Dreyfuss was disgusted. He hated to lose and, besides, the new "Pros" hadn't drawn as well as expected compared to other old established Pittsburgh pro teams like the P.A.C.

However, a new twist had come out of the 1902 professional football expansion. An indoor pro football World Series was in the making for Madison Square Garden in New York City in December, after the season was over. The idea was the brainchild of the New York Knickerbockers who, by the end of the season, got together with the best of the pros by "season's record" and convinced them of a four-team series to be played to profitable crowds, New York, the Philadelphia team, Watertown, N.Y., and Syracuse being selected. Syracuse won.

[ED: "Ross" is completely in error in his description of the events. Watertown did not play in the '02 series, the Philadelphia team was made up from both the Athletics and Phillies teams but was called the "New York" team. There are other problems. See "Tom O'Rourke's World Series" by Braunwart & Carroll, P.F.R.A. Annual, 1980.]

1903 found Dreyfuss uninterested in pro football anymore but interested in a new venture instead, the idea for which he had gotten from his football experience. Why not a baseball World Series once more? If the pros in football could do it indoors, he didn't see why baseball couldn't out of doors. Thus in 1903 the first modern baseball World Series was played between Dreyfuss' third Pirate winner and the American League Boston champion. Baseball's World Series, oddly enough,

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really owes its modern origin to professional football. [ED: This is an overstatement. Baseball, as noted earlier, had a series between the National League and the then-major American Association in the 1880's and 1890's.]

1903 also marked the start of the decline of pro football in the Pittsburgh area. The Pittsburgh Pros disbanded, Temple retired, and the P.A.C. made a venture into Ohio (at least, a part of them did) that really sealed Pennsylvania's pro death warrant the following year. When P.A.C. [ED: East End A.C.] players were hired after the season by the then amateur, but due to World Series publicity now pro ball conscious, Massillon Tigers to help them, they did the job so well that a half dozen Ohio teams followed Massillon's 1903 "pro breakthrough" lead. They proceeded to hire more pro players from Pennsylvania in 1904 and 1905 to help "their teams" now (and also bring the collapse of the Pennsylvania teams!). Massillon's pro first had started Ohio on its road to pro football "top salaries" supremacy, lasting until the First World War.

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1903 also saw the last indoors pro World Series, won by Franklin of Pennsylvania, and the quick decline of the New York fledgling play-for-pay outfits. Only Syracuse, Watertown, Ogdensburg and Buffalo survived from 1902 to 1903. The other teams learned it's a costly venture to sponsor pro football. Franklin raided Syracuse of its players in 1903 and that ended their pro elevens in 1904. [ED: The Franklin players came from the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia '02 teams. The '02 Syracuse team was a specially recruited team for the World Series only.] Buffalo and Ogdensburg fell of their own financial weight, also in 1904, being deeply in debt. Only Watertown fielded a pro team for the '04 season, holding Colgate to 0-0 tie in a famous game. But due to lack of competition they disbanded in 1905.

The Knickerbockers didn't bother fielding a pro club for 1904 when they learned there was to be no World Series moneymaker in Madison Square Garden that winter. This was their chief interest. The A.A.U. and amateur college moguls had put a stop to this "professional ball public awakener." It was gaining too much publicity. Philadelphia quit in 1905 after poor fan support and a 10-0 beating by Latrobe. Orange, New Jersey, now having no pro opposition left, had to follow suit. But, though pro football had ended in all states east of Ohio by 1906, it was just starting in that state.

The famous and now legendary Massillon-Akron game of December 5, 1903 may be said to be what started Ohio and the western part of the United States on the professional football road. It was the first pro football game ever played west of Pennsylvania. Ohio had had strong independent amateur competition for over a decade. State champions had been proclaiming themselves since the 1896 Youngstown club defeated Akron 34-0 in a famous amateur tilt. From 1895 to 1903 Akron, Canton, Shelby and Youngstown had monopolized the title pretty well.

But in 1903 a new team appeared on the horizon named Massillon. That town had never had an independent football team before. They organized one for the '03 season, defeated amateur Canton in the first of many blood battles between them, and then promptly challenged defending and unscored on state champion Akron to a game for the amateur title (non-collegiate) of Ohio. A series of Ohio newspaper articles can describe the chain of circumstances that led to the establishment of professional football in that state much better than a writer could. They are as follows:

1. First indication of Massillon-Akron game, no indication of professionalism yet involved.

Akron Beacon Journal, Nov. 27, 1903

Massillon's football team manager challenged the Akron State Champions football team through a Cleveland paper Wednesday to a game for the state championship and had the effrontery to demand that the game be played in Massillon. After a few years experience, it will dawn on Massillon that, as the challenger, they have no right whatever as regards time, place, or any other condition. Now aside from the fact that all championship games are played on grounds designated by the champions, the challenged party, Massillon, has no enclosed grounds.

2. Follow-up on Massillon challenge -- still no indications of professionalism.

Akron Beacon Journal, Nov. 28, 1903

Shelby defeated Northern Ohio University's team Thursday and now the folk in that neck of the woods are throwing out their chests and claiming that they are the football champions. They lost one game this year and Akron has never been defeated. This ought to be enough. And then, even as the asbestos editions of the Shelby paper are firing shot and shell at Akron, a still small voice from over Massillon way announces that a new champion has entered the field and that if Akron does not go over into the Massillon patch of timber and play there, the Massillon men will brand us as cowards. They have now consented to allow us to have neutral grounds. How kind!

(Akron accepted the challenge, game to be at Akron only.)

3. First indication of professionalism in game.

Akron Beacon Journal, Dec. 2, 1903

Massillon is making a tremendous spurt to get into championship form for the game against Akron to be played here Saturday. A number of players are being imported into Massillon to get into shape and the Massillon boys are determined to carry off the state championship if it is within the power of human endeavor to do it. Wednesday mornings' Pittsburgh Dispatch contained a story to the effect that four of the best men of the Pittsburgh East End football team, regarded as one of the strongest professional teams in the United States, have been hired to play on the Massillon team in Saturday's game and they have already arrived in Massillon to get into trim for the game. They are the two McChesneys, Harry and Doc, and Peiper and Shirring. The East End club has finished for the season. Akron will certainly be up against the stiffest proposition the team has ever faced and if they win out against those boys who will wear the Massillon colors, they will have to play the game every minute. The game will begin at 2:00 and it is expected that at least 2,500 rooters will be on the grounds to see the game.

4. Ridicule for turning professional

Akron Beacon Journal, Dec. 3, 1903

Since the fact has leaked out that Massillon has employed a number of outsiders to play on the "Massillon" team in their efforts to wrest the state championship from Akron, it is noticeable that little has been said by the Massillon men about the "amateur" football players of that place. Before the professionals of Pittsburgh were hired, all their talk was of a team composed exclusively of Massillon boys who were just going to "act up tur'ble" when they came to Akron to show the locals how to play the game. But whether it be Massillon, Pittsburgh, or any other city that is represented, it makes little difference to the fast local bunch, so long as the visitors can play the game and put up a stiff fight.

It is the old wail about the exclusively Massillon team, whose star by the way is Roepke, the Akron tackle who was unable to make a place on the first Akron eleven, that makes the grins come to the Akron faces. The game Saturday will be a game between the Akron champs and a picked professional team. If they were paid players who had been in Massillon's lineup all along during the season, it would not seem so laughable. Now the Akron lineup will be the same as it has been right along this season. All the men live in Akron. All are members of the Akron Athletic Club and were previous to the opening of the football season.

However, Akron is not the kind to play the baby act and refuse to play a team of this class. Bless 'em, Akron would every bit as soon beat professionals as amateurs and the bigger and huskier they are, the better.

Taken all in all, the game of Saturday will be a hummer. Some idea of the caliber of the Pittsburgh East End team may be gleaned from the fact that the combined weight of the center and the guards, three men, is over 700 pounds. The

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fact that the team netted in profits something over \$1,500 during the past season shows that they can play the game as it should be played to attract the necessary crowds to bring in such handsome profits over and above every item of expense for the season.

Saturday's game will be for 75-25 per cent of the receipts. The receipts should climb up to about the \$1,000 mark and this is certainly worth stretching a point to bag.

5. Massillon defense of right to play for state title. No admittance of professionalism.

Massillon Independent, Dec. 2, 1903

Tuesday morning's Cleveland *Leader* contains a reply from the Akron team management regarding the claim of Shelby to the state championship. In view of the fact that Shelby suffered defeat at the hands of the Ohio Northern University team, although they in turn defeated O.N.A., Akron seems thus far entitled to the championship over Shelby. Akron's list of victories is a straight one. It is now up to Massillon to take down the championship laurel from the Akron shelf where it has rested for two years. For the Tigers to do this would indeed be a remarkable feat. The Tigers have been organized out of a number of players who in eight cases out of 11 have not touched a football for six years, while one or two of the others never played football before and, while not exactly a "green" team as the Akron management called it, it is without question a "one-year team" in the sense as above explained. All the more glory and all the more credit to the Tigers for having defeated the Canton team, which has been playing together for years and is considered one of the few experienced good teams of the state.

6. Canton's plans to reorganize for the 1904 season as professionals rather than amateurs.

Akron Beacon Journal, Dec. 2, 1903

Canton men have begun to realize that if they hope for championship honors, they must organize a permanent athletic club and steps to this end will be taken at once. William L. Day, the famous Ann Arbor athlete and son of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court William R. Day, is one of the chief promoters of the movement.

7. Results of Akron-Massillon game of Saturday, December 5, 1903, with Pittsburgh's pros given credit for winning the game.

Akron Beacon Journal, Dec. 7, 1903

"Massillon" won a hollow victory from the Akron football team at the East End grounds Saturday, defeating the locals after the hardest contest ever seen on the Akron gridiron. Massillon outweighed the locals 15 pounds to the man, her center and guards weight combined being in the neighborhood of 700 pounds. Akron's backs crumpled up on that tremendous midline. Then the ball just walked up the field towards the Akron goal. Line bucks, formation bucks, and end runs were equally successful against the demoralized Akron men and they saw the state championship only a memory -- such stuff dreams are made of.

Akron lost fairly and squarely, so far as the game is concerned, although it is hard to determine just where Massillon finds any glory in winning out with a team imported from another state to fight out a game for the championship of Ohio. These men played the star game for the visitors.

8. Canton also asserting that Massillon brought in professional players to use on its team, though Massillon was neither admitting nor denying the fact.

Canton Repository, Dec. 7, 1903

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About 40 Canton football enthusiasts attended the Massillon-Akron game and tell a different story of the relative strength of the two teams than Massillon does. They assert that Massillon's victory was chiefly due to the remarkable playing of four ringers from Pittsburgh, including the two McChesney brothers who have won a wide reputation as the star players of the well-known East End gymnasium team.

9. Youngstown's claims that the game was very rough.

Youngstown Vindicator, Dec. 7, 1903

Well! Well! Akron and its much vaunted Athletic Club has lost the state championship and to little Massillon at that. The two teams met on the field of battle at Akron Saturday and in a roughhouse game the Massillon boys carried away the state honors. The score was 12 to 0.

The saddest thing about the defeat, however, is the fact that Akron players were so sore they resorted to rowdy tactics in an effort to win.

10. Akron denied the Youngstown charge and once again accused the Massillon team of stooping to "professionalism."

Akron Beacon Journal, Dec. 8, 1903

The sporting editor of the *Vindicator* took the word of the Massillon players as to the game which is responsible for the wrong conclusions he has drawn. The Akron management knew that Massillon was importing players for the game but made no protest. It was confident that the local team would give a good account of itself no matter how many stars were secured. Massillon knew that its team would stand no show with the champs, so it brought Pittsburgh players here under assumed names to win the state championship.

11. Massillon players, on hearing of the large payments the four Pittsburgh players were getting for playing, get the professional "fever" and want to be paid also. Each Massillon player got \$10 for the game and past season, all the money that was left in the club treasury after several hundred dollars were paid the Pennsylvania players. This started the movement, spreading rapidly in 1904, of salaried Ohio teams. The still anti-professional Akronites ridicule the event.

Akron Beacon Journal, Dec. 11, 1903

Massillon football players are beginning to learn it costs money to import players to win the championship, and the little fellows who were not good enough to play in the Akron game but who played faithfully in all the other games of the season are confronted by the spectacle of the Pittsburgh stars who played but one game, carrying off the bulk of the profits of the season.

12. Akron indication of the coming 1904 movement of half a dozen new Ohio pro teams in hiring Pennsylvania pro players at the start of the season to bolster their teams rather than after the Pennsylvania pro clubs seasons' were over. This weakened the Pennsylvania pro clubs and started their decline and eventual permanent disbandment. Ohio pros simply topped the best salaries offered by the Keystone State clubs.

Akron Beacon Journal, Dec. 14, 1903

Massillon has reached the climax. Since a mob of Pittsburgh players came to Akron and defeated the Akron team at football, there is no limit to the aspirations of the Massillon fans. They are seriously wondering whether Yale or Princeton would have a look in against the few Massillon men and the tribe of Pittsburghers, and have actually assumed that they will have any kind of a show next year. Relying as they must on outside strength, when those outside players are playing on their own organizations, Massillon will return to her normal position as a second-rater. When Peiper, Shirring, and the McChesneys are playing with the East Ends of Pittsburgh,

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Massillon's stock will return to its level and Akron will regain what it lost through overconfidence in scorning to protest against the ringers who won a hollow victory Dec. 5. Next year Akron will insist on a game during the football season when Massillon will be unable to secure ringers to bolster up her team to the class of Akron.

13. In the year of 1904, six new pro teams in Ohio besides Massillon found professional football an expensive proposition and tried to form an association to stop cutthroat competitive bidding for Pennsylvania pros and college stars. The idea fell through as they couldn't originate the idea of the reserve clause to stop player jumping, besides agreeing on what the peak salary should be to various stars. Ohio's state champions from 1904 to 1920 were decided as before -- by popular acclaim, there being no new movements for a pro football league until the National Football League was founded in 1920, in Ohio, incidentally.

Akron Beacon Journal, Oct. 22, 1904

Plans of Foot to Organize a State League Professional Football Teams See the Need of It

The plan for the preservation of professional football is to have a meeting of the representatives of Massillon, Akron, Salem, Lorain, Shelby and one or two more cities (Canton and Dover). During the first year of an organization of this kind, there is no doubt that some clubs would hire a number of ex-college stars at high salaries but, as that plan would kill the goose that lays the golden egg, it would necessarily have to be abandoned.

14. From 1905 to 1920 pro football spread rapidly through Ohio but met increasingly strong college resistance. An example of this can be seen in the Toledo team, which turned pro in 1905 and promptly met difficulties.

Akron Beacon Journal, Dec. 7, 1905

Peggy Parratt, all-Ohio quarterback, captain of the Case baseball team and one of the best known athletes in the state is disqualified from participating in future amateur athletics. Parratt admitted at a meeting of the Case athletic board that he had played football with the Toledo professional team on Nov. 26 under the name of "Murphy" for a money consideration.

In the early weeks of the 1904 spread of professional football, Akron refused to join its neighboring Ohio pros. In the first three football weekends in 1904, Akron was still amateur. But on October 10, 1904, an article appeared in the *Akron Beacon Journal* telling of Massillon's ridicule of its rival for its stand, stating that they couldn't understand how Akron could still play "for the love of the sport"! Akron took the challenge, turned pro the next game October 17 and was among the original Ohio members that tried to organize a pro league the same season.

Players were paid at random in those days. If they wanted to play one week, they were paid; if they didn't the next week, they weren't. It was the little town of Dover that is believed to have had the first regularly salaried pro team in Ohio. An article in the *Akron Beacon Journal* of September 26, 1904 states that Massillon's pro eleven defeated "the Dover Canal's salaried team"!

Other Ohio cities soon had pro teams yearly, such as Columbus, Marion, Youngstown, Lima, Cleveland, and Dayton being the last in 1916. Ohio remained the strongest center of professional football until the National Football League was founded, but could not stop the sport from gradually spreading farther west after 1910.

The first pro team west of Ohio was in Pine Village, Indiana, in 1913. It hired a bitter and disillusioned Jim Thorpe, branded as a pro in the 1912 Olympics, as its big paid player. [Ed.Note: Pine Village did not become a true pro team until 1915. Newspaper evidence indicates Thorpe played his first game for Pine Village on Thanksgiving Day 1915 after playing for Canton on the previous Sunday.] Wabash, Indiana, followed suit as a pro in 1914, as did Racine, Wisconsin. Beloit, Wisconsin went pro in 1917 and then, after the World War (I) was over in 1918, a big pro-forming spurt took place in the west in 1919, the returning athletes being restless and getting "pro fever." In 1919 no less than eleven pro clubs were formed through Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois. The salary bidding got so fierce for stars that the old established clubs in Ohio felt that

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something had to be done. They were going in debt paying higher and higher salaries to hold their stars and get new ones.

Joe Carr led the movement in Ohio for a pro league, Ohio's second such venture. Only this time it was felt that it shouldn't be limited to Ohio but should take in other states as well (to end their competitive bidding). Thus, out of necessity was born the "National Football League" in 1920. The backbone rules of the new league were the reserve clause that ended players' jumping from one team to another, an attempt to place a limit on the bidding for new stars (not too successful), and to pacify increasing college opposition, a rule barring league teams from hiring college stars until they were through school. It was Carr who really pushed the league's forming and its new rules. He, in reality, is the actual "father" of the National Football League.

With the forming of the National Football League independent pro football outside the league declined to the status of "minor league class" pro football that it is rated today. All the big major pro teams naturally wanted to join the league to get its benefits.

Major Independent Non-collegiate Football Teams (United States)

[ED: The following section, while of interest, cannot be taken on faith. "Ross" at times assumed that later teams grew out of earlier teams when they were in fact unrelated. Although we have noted some obvious discrepancies, the reader is warned that there may be others.]

I. Teams 1863-1900

1863 Boston Oneidas A.A. First team in the United States in American-style game. First outstanding game: Nov. 7, 1863 at Boston, Mass. against Boston All-Stars 12-0 (recognized as first game in the United States). Other notable games: 1878 New York Crescents 16-0; 1882 Baltimore A.C. 18-0; 1888 Baltimore A.C. 26-0; 1892 Dartmouth College 30-8; Chicago A.C. 18-12; 1893 Brown University 6-0; 1895 Harvard University 0-0; Yale University 0-0; 1896 Chicago A.A. 6-12. Remained amateur.

1878 New York Crescents A.C. (Brooklyn, N.Y.). First outstanding game: 1880 against Penn University 0-32. Other notable games: 1885 Yale 0-52; 1888 Princeton 0-31; 1890 Princeton 0-12; Yale 6-18; 0-52; Rutgers 0-68; 1892 New York Athletics 20-0; Chicago A.A. 4-4; 1895 Yale 2-8. Remained amateur.

1882 Baltimore A.C. First outstanding game: 1882 against Johns Hopkins University 4-0. Other notable game: 1888 Johns Hopkins University 0-6. Remained amateur.

1884 Chicago University Club. First outstanding game: 1884 against University of Michigan 10-18. Other notable games: 1888 University of Michigan 28-4; 1889 20-0. Remained amateur.

1888 Detroit A.C. First outstanding game: 1888 against University of Michigan 14-0. Other notable games: 1890 Pittsburgh Alleghenies 6-6; 1891 Cornell University 0-32; 1892 Cleveland A.A. 6-20; 1893 Michigan University 0-6; 1899 Detroit University 10-0; Michigan State 16-6; 1900 Homestead Steelers 0-54; 1902 Akron Athletics 0-12; 1903 0-6. Turned professional 1919. [ED: The team turned pro was the Detroit Heralds, not the A.C. The Heralds began around 1905 and probably were pro by at least 1915.]

1889 Dayton A.C. First outstanding game: 1889 against Miami University of Ohio 4-14. Other notable games: 1891 Cincinnati University 12-8; Pittsburgh Alleghenies 6-0; 1903 Otterbein College 0-0; 1905 Canton Bulldogs 0-107. Turned professional 1916. [ED: The A.C. was not related to the later pro team -- the Triangles. The Tris grew out of the St. Mary's Cadets and may have been pro as early as 1913. They took the Triangle name in 1916 in honor of three local businesses that sponsored the team.]

1889 New York Athletics. First outstanding game: 1889 against Fordham University 20-0. Other notable games: 1890 Rutgers University 0-30; 1892 New York Crescents 0-20; Fordham University 0-5; 1893 Yale University 0-42. Remained amateur.

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1889 New York Manhattans A.C. First outstanding game: 1889 against Columbia University 0-22. Other notable games: 1891 Fordham University 0-0; 1892 Rutgers University 0-30; 1903 6-8. Remained amateur.

1889 Orange A.C. (New Jersey). First outstanding game: 1889 against Princeton University 6-54. Other notable games: 1890 Princeton University 0-0; Yale University 0-16; 1892 Penn University 0-0; Rutgers University 10-6; 1892 Rutgers University 22-10; Lehigh University 8-4; 1893 Yale University 0-50; 1895 Navy 10-6; 1897 Yale University 0-12; 1899 Lehigh University 10-0; 1901 Lafayette College 0-17; Princeton University 0-29; Yale University 0-35; 1903 Franklin Stars 0-12. Turned professional 1902.

1889 Steelton A.C. (Pennsylvania). First outstanding game: 1890 against Altoona A.A. 22-0. Other notable games: 1893 Huntingdon A.C. 24-0; 1896 Altoona A.A. 0-20; 1902 Penn State University 6-5; 1903 Jeannette A.A. 0-6; 1905 Latrobe A.C. 0-4; 1907 Gettysburg College 12-10; 1909 Franklin and Marshall College 0-26. Turned professional 1902.

1890 Altoona A.A. (Pennsylvania). First outstanding game: 1891 against Pittsburgh A.C. 0-20. Other notable games: 1893 Huntingdon A.C. 18-0; 1896 Latrobe A.C. 0-12; Johnstown A.C. 34-0; Steelton A.C. 20-0. Remained amateur.

1890 Johnstown A.C. (Pennsylvania). First outstanding game: 1891 Indiana State College 6-0. Other notable games: 1893 Butler A.C. 12-0; 1896 Altoona 0-34; 1900 Jeannette A.A. 0-41; 1903 Latrobe 0-46. Remained amateur.

1890 Kansas City A.C. First outstanding game: 1890 University of Kansas 18-10. Other notable game: 1892 University of Illinois 0-42. Remained amateur.

1890 Washington, D.C. Columbians. First outstanding game: 1890 Princeton University 0-60. Other notable games: 1892 Pittsburgh Alleghenies 0-0; 1893 Pennsylvania University 0-30; Pittsburgh Alleghenies 0-28; 1897 George Washington University 4-0. Remained amateur.

1890 Greensburg A.A. (Pennsylvania). First outstanding game: 1890 Kiski A.A. 4-34. Other notable games: 1892 Pittsburgh A.C. 0-28; 1893 Pittsburgh A.C. 0-10; 1895 Latrobe A.C. 0-4; 1897 Latrobe A.C. 6-12; 1900 Latrobe A.C. 0-6; Homestead Steelers 0-12. Turned professional 1894.

1890 San Francisco Olympics A.C. First outstanding game: 1892 University of California 0-6. Other notable games: 1893 Stanford University 11-24; 1896 4-0; 1901 6-6. Remained amateur.

1890 Pittsburgh Alleghenies A.A. First outstanding game: 1890 University of Pittsburgh 38-0. Other notable games: 1891 Cleveland A.A. 6-6; 1892 Pittsburgh A.C. 4-0 (first professional game in history); 1893 Washington, D.C. 28-0; 1896 Pittsburgh Duquesnes 12-0. Turned professional Nov. 12, 1892.

1890 Syracuse A.A. First outstanding game: 1890 Syracuse University 0-32. Other notable games: 1892 Cornell University 0-16; 1893 Colgate University 0-12; 1898 Syracuse University 0-28; 1902 Philadelphia Nationals 6-0; 1903 Franklin Stars 0-16. Turned professional 1902.

1890 Ft. Wayne A.C. (Indiana). First outstanding game: 1890 Jenny Electrics A.C. 10-0. Other notable game: 1898 Wabash A.A. 0-16. Turned professional 1919. [ED: The Ft. Wayne Friars, not the A.C., fielded a strong pro team from 1915-17.]

1890 Cleveland A.A. First outstanding game: 1890: Pittsburgh Alleghenies 6-0. Other notable games: 1891 University of Michigan 8-4; 1892 Pittsburgh Alleghenies 0-4; Chicago A.A. 0-29; 1893 Pittsburgh Alleghenies 0-28; 1896 Youngstown A.C. 0-52; 1902 Lorain A.C. 0-6; 1905 Akron A.C. 10-16. Turned professional 1916. [ED: The 1916 pro team, the Cleveland Indians, were not related to the A.C.]

1891 Pittsburgh A.C. First outstanding game: 1891 University of Pittsburgh 24-0. Other notable games: 1892 Pittsburgh Alleghenies 0-4; 1893 University of Pittsburgh 16-10; 1895 Pittsburgh

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Duquesnes 10- 6; 1896 West Virginia University 0-0; Pittsburgh Alleghenies 0-18; 1899 Jeannette A.C. 5-0; 1901 Bucknell University 5-18; 1903 Duquesne University 16-2; 1904 Latrobe AC. 0-24. Turned professional 1893. [ED: Team played one game in 1890.]

1891 Cincinnati A.C. First outstanding game: 1891 Cincinnati University 18-0. Other notable game: 1896 Martins Ferry (Ohio) A.C. 0-8. Turned professional 1933. [ED: The "turned professional in 1933" refers to the unrelated NFL Cincinnati Reds. A pro team, the Celts, also unrelated to the A.C., was formed in 1912-13 and played in the NFL in 1921.]

1892 Chicago A.A. First outstanding game: 1892 Northwestern University 10-0. Other notable games: 1892 New York Crescents A.C. 4-4; Penn University 10-12; 1893 Pittsburgh Alleghenies 4-0; University of Illinois 10-4; 1894 Chicago University 12-4; 1898 Yale University 0- 10. Turned professional 1920. [ED: The 1920 pro team referred to here may mean the Cardinals which grew out of the Morgan A.C. at the turn of the century and played as pros at least as early as 1919, perhaps much earlier.]

1892 Denver A.C. First outstanding game: 1892 University of Kansas 6-20. Other notable game: 1893 University of Nebraska 4-4. Remained amateur.

1892 Louisville A.C. First outstanding game: 1892 University of Kentucky 10-14. Other notable game: 1894 Vanderbilt University 10-8. Remained amateur.

1892 New Orleans A.A. First outstanding game: 1892 Birmingham A.C. 0-6. Other notable game: 1896 Mississippi State University 55-0. Remained amateur.

1892 Seattle A.C. First outstanding game: 1892 University of Washington 0-14. Other notable game: 1895 Spokane A.C. 6- 0. Remained amateur.

1892 Birmingham A.C. First outstanding game: 1892 New Orleans A.A. 6-0. Other notable game: 1894 Louisville A.C. 0-4. Remained amateur.

1892 Philadelphia A.A. (Nationals later). First outstanding game: 1892 University of Delaware 6-4. Other notable games: 1893 Swarthmore College 0-18; 1896 Orange A.C. 0-24; 1902 Syracuse A.A. 0-6; 1903 Latrobe A.C. 0-6. Turned professional 1902. [The 1902 pro team was sponsored by the American League baseball team and operated only in that season. The National League baseball team also sponsored a team in '02. A team called the Philadelphia All-Stars operated in '01 and was apparently pro.]

1893 Dallas A.C. First outstanding game: 1893 University of Texas 16-18. Other notable games: 1898 Austin A.C. 10-0; 1902 University of Oklahoma 11-6. Remained amateur.

1893 Oil City A.C. (Pennsylvania). First outstanding game: 1893 Franklin A.C. 6-24. Other notable games: 1897 Franklin A.C. 18-0; 1901 Allegheny College 0-72. Remained amateur.

1893 Franklin A.C. (Pennsylvania) (Stars later). First outstanding game: 1893 Oil City A.C. 24-6. Other notable games: 1897 Oil City A.C. 0- 18; 1903 Syracuse A.A. 16-0; Orange A.C. 12-0; Allegheny College 47- 0. Turned professional 1903.

1894 Indianapolis A.A. First outstanding game: 1894 Butler University 4- 6. Other notable games: 1894 University of Illinois 18-14; 1895 Indiana University 16-8. Remained amateur.

1894 Austin A.A. First outstanding game: 1894 University of Texas 0-6. Other notable game: 1898 Dallas A.C. 0-10. Remained amateur.

1894 Los Angeles A.C. First outstanding game: 1894 Stanford University 0-28. Other notable game: 1896 San Francisco Olympics A.C. 0-16. Remained amateur.

1894 Braddock Carnegies A.C. (Pennsylvania). First outstanding game: 1895 Greensburg A.A. 0-44. Other notable games: 1898 Homestead A.C. 6-0; 1901 Jeannette A.A. 0-12; 1904 Latrobe A.C. 0-37. Turned professional 1900.

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1894 Homestead A.C. (Pennsylvania) (later Steelers). First outstanding game: 1894 Pittsburgh A.C. 0-22. Other notable games: 1900 Greensburg A.A. 12-0; Lehigh University 50-0; Detroit A.C. 54-0; 1901 Penn State University 39-0; 1904 Latrobe A.C. 0-41. Turned professional 1900. [ED: Team called Homestead Library and Athletic Club.]

1894 Akron A.A. (later Indians). First outstanding game: 1896 Youngstown A.C. 0-34. Other notable games: 1900 Shelby A.C. 5-6; 1902 Lorain A.C. 0-0; 1905 Cleveland A.A. 16-10. Turned professional 1904.

1895 Youngstown A.C. (Ohio) (later Patricians). First outstanding game: 1896 Cleveland A.A. 52-0. Other notable games: 1896 Akron A.A. 34-0; 1903 Akron A.A. 0-33. Turned professional 1912. [ED: The Patricians were a different team from the A.C. They were formed in 1914 and apparently became pros in 1915.]

1895 Canton A.C. (later Bulldogs). First outstanding game: 1897 Akron A.A. 0-18. Other notable games: 1902 Mt. Union College 0-29; 1903 Massillon Tigers 0-16; 1905 Latrobe A.C. 0-6; Dayton A.C. 107-0; 1906 Massillon 10-5; 1915 Massillon 4-0; 1919 Hammond (Ind.) A.C. 0-0; 6-0. Turned professional 1904. [ED: The Canton A.C. team was reorganized as a pro team in 1905, not '04. The name "Bulldogs" first appeared in '06.]

1895 Spokane A.C. First outstanding game: 1895 Washington State University 4-26. Other notable game: 1895 Seattle A.C. 0-6. Remained amateur.

1895 Racine A.C. (later Milkers). First outstanding game: 1895 Marquet University 6-32. Other notable game: 1900 Marquet University 6-6. Turned professional 1914.

1895 New York Staten Islands A.C. First outstanding game: 1895 City College of New York 0-6. Other notable game: 1897 New York Manhattans 0-20. Remained amateur.

1895 Latrobe A.C. First outstanding game: 1895 Jeannette A.A. 6-0. Other notable games: 1896 West Virginia University 5-0; 1897 Greensburg A.A. 12-6; 1900 Pittsburgh Duquesnes 5-0; 1903 Philadelphia Nationals 6-0; 1904 Pittsburgh A.C. 24-0; 1905 Steelton A.C. 4-0; Canton Bulldogs 6-0. Professional from first game, 1895.

1895 Pittsburgh Duquesnes A.C. First outstanding game: 1895 Penn University 0-30. Other notable games: 1896 Pittsburgh Alleghenies 0-12; 1899 Penn State University 64-5; 1900 Latrobe 0-5. Turned professional 1895.

1895 Jeannette Indians A.A. (Pennsylvania). First outstanding game: 1896 Pittsburgh Alleghenies 0-14. Other notable game: 1897 Homestead A.C. 34-0. Turned professional 1896 according to claim of Frank G. Menke in his Encyclopedia of Sports, 1960 pub.). [ED: At best, the Jeannette team was semi-pro.]

1896 Newark A.C. (New Jersey). First outstanding game: 1896 City College of New York 26-0. Other notable game: 1897 Orange A.C. 0-40. Remained amateur.

1896 Newton A.A. (Massachusetts). First outstanding game: 1896 Harvard University 0-18. Other notable games: 1897 Boston University 24-4; 1899 Boston University 0-6. Remained amateur.

1897 Auburn A.A. (New York). First outstanding game: 1897 Hobart University 4-10. Other notable game: 1899 Hobart University 10-11. Turned professional 1902.

1898 Ogdensburg A.C. (New York). First outstanding game: 1898 Syracuse University 6-17. Other notable game: 1898 Vermont College 5-10. Turned professional 1902.

1898 Wabash A.A. (Indiana). First outstanding game: 1898 Manchester A.A. 44-0. Other notable game: 1898 Huntingdon A.C. 0-6. Turned professional 1914.

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1898 New York Knickerbockers. First outstanding game: 1898 Fordham University 43-0. Other notable game: 1899 Rutgers University 11-0. Turned professional 1902.

1899 Watertown A.C. (New York) (later Red and Blacks). First outstanding game: 1899 Hobart University 18-6. Other notable games: 1900 Vermont College 25-0; 1901 Hobart University 10-0; 1902 Bucknell University 6-0; 1903 Franklin Stars 0-12. Turned professional 1902. [ED: Probably pro in '00.]

II. Year and teams turned professional (1892-1920)

1. 1892 - Pittsburgh Alleghenies A.A.
2. 1893 - Pittsburgh Athletics Club
3. 1894 - Greensburg A.A.
4. 1895 - Latrobe A.C.
5. 1895 - Pittsburgh Duquesnes
6. 1896 - McKeesport Olympics A.C. [ED: No verification for this oft- made claim has been found. The Olympics more likely grew out of a "kids" team and turned pro around 1915-16.]
7. 1899 - Jeannette Indians A.A. [ED: See note above.]
8. 1900 - Homestead Steelers
9. 1900 - Braddock Carnegies
10. 1902 - Pittsburgh Professionals
11. 1902 - Steelton A.C.
12. 1902 - Philadelphia Athletics
13. 1902 - Philadelphia Nationals
14. 1902 - Syracuse A.A.
15. 1902 - Buffalo Oakdales
16. 1902 - New York Knickerbockers
17. 1902 - Watertown Red and Blacks (New York) [ED: See note above.]
18. 1902 - Ogdensburg A.C. (New York)
19. 1902 - Auburn A.A. (New York)
20. 1902 - Corinth A.C. (New York)
21. 1902 - Clayton A.C. (New York)
22. 1902 - Orange A.C. (New Jersey)
23. 1903 - Franklin Stars (Pennsylvania)
24. 1903 - Massillon Tigers
25. 1904 - Canton Bulldogs [ED: 1905.]

26. 1904 - Akron Athletics (Indians)
27. 1904 - Shelby Blues (Ohio) [ED: Team called "Pros" in Ohio newspapers as early as 1902.]
28. 1904 - Dover Canals (Ohio)
29. 1904 - Salem A.C. (Ohio)
30. 1904 - Lorain A.C. (Ohio)
31. 1905 - Toledo A.A. (Maroons) [ED: The Maroons were a different team from the A.A. They began as a "kids" team and were semi-pros by 1912- 13. In 1915, they were definitely pros.]
32. 1906 - Columbus Pandhandles [ED: A "Panhandles" team played as early as '02 and may have been pros in '04. They did not operate in '05 or '06, but played as pros in '07.]
33. 1908 - Marion A.C. (Ohio)

[ED: Elyria claimed the Ohio independent title in 1912 with a strong pro team.]
34. 1912 - Youngstown Patricians [ED: 1912 team was A.C.; see note on Patricians above.]
35. 1913 - Pine Village A.C. (Indiana) [ED: 1915.]
36. 1914 - Racine Milkens (Wisconsin)
37. 1914 - Wabash A.A. (Indiana)
38. 1915 - Lima (Ohio)
39. 1916 - Cleveland Indians
40. 1916 - Dayton Triangles [ED: See note above.]
41. 1917 - Beloit Iroquois (Wisconsin)

[ED: The 1919 Wisconsin teams seem to be listed only because they played the Green Bay Packers that year. It is unlikely that most of them were pros.]
42. 1919 - Marinette (Wisconsin)
43. 1919 - De Pere (Wisconsin)
44. 1919 - Oshkosh (Wisconsin)
45. 1919 - Sheboygan (Wisconsin)
46. 1919 - Green Bay (Wisconsin) [ED: A 1918 Green Bay team was almost certainly pro.]
47. 1919 - Marion (Indiana)
48. 1919 - Muncie (Indiana) [ED: Team called "Congerville Flyers.]
49. 1919 - Fort Wayne (Indiana)[ED: See note above.]
50. 1919 - Hammond (Indiana) [ED: An earlier Hammond team 1915-17 appears to have been pro.]
51. 1919 - Decatur Staleys (Illinois) [ED: 1919 team was amateur; 1920 team pro.]

[ED: Also the Rock Island Independents -1919; Evanston, IL, 1915-16; Minneapolis Marines, by
1916; Cincinnati Celts, by 1912-13.]
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