

THE BROOKLYN DODGERS

by Stan Grosshandler

A recent article mentioning the Brooklyn Dodgers resulted in a call from the editor asking if indeed there had ever been a football team by this name. To paraphrase the famous Christmas poem, "Yes Virginia, there once was a Brooklyn Dodger team in the NFL. In fact it was the most successful of all extinct NFL franchises."

In the years around World War I, the Harway A.C. fielded a semi-pro team of sandloters in Brooklyn, but the first pro squad of note came in 1922. Charlie Brickley's "New York" Giants, an NFL team in 1921, played most of their games in '22 against eastern independents on Brooklyn gridirons.

Brooklyn was first represented in the NFL in 1926 by the Lions, a franchise purchased by Eddie Butler. This was the year that Red Grange operated his American Football League in opposition to the NFL. A Brooklyn AFL team had Harry Stuhldreher, the quarterback of the old Notre Dame "Four Horsemen." The AFLers attempted to exploit his fame by calling themselves the Horsemen. Both teams struggled in the standings and at the box office. The Lions were perhaps the better team, but the Horsemen held the right to play in Brooklyn's best ballpark -- Ebbets Field. Before the season was over, they merged as an NFL team under the awful name "Horse-Lions." Thankfully, "it" disbanded after the season, saving the world from a potentially horrifying logo.

The 1926 fiasco soured Brooklyn fans, and no one dared assay a new Flatbush Franchise for several seasons. The Brooklyn Dodgers were created in 1930 when Bill Dwyer, a Brooklyn businessman and hockey club owner, and John Depler, the former Illinois star who'd been coaching the Orange Toirnadoes, purchased the Dayton Triangles for \$2,500 and moved them into Ebbets Field with Depler as coach. The team name, of course, was a rip-off of the popular baseball team.

The star back was Jack McBride, a Giant Castoff, who led the league in scoring with a total of 56 points. A second important backfield man was Stumpy Thomason of Georgia Tech, destined to live in football history as the man whose fumble Roy Reigels ran the wrong way in the 1929 Rose Bowl. Wild Bill Kelly and Izzy Yablok provided some semblance of a passing attack.

Veterans Hec Garvey, Al Jolley, and Swede Hagberg anchored the line.

1930 RECORD

S-21	A	Chicago Bears	0-0	T
S-24	A	Portsmouth	0-12	L
O-5	A	Stapletons	20-0	W
O-12	H	Newark	32-0	W
O-18	A	Frankford	14-7	W
O-19	A	Newark	14-0	W
N-2	A	Providence	0-3	L
N-9	H	Minneapolis	34-0	W
N-23	H	Stapletons	0-6	L
N-27	H	Providence	33-12	W
N-30	A	New York	7-6	W
D-7	H	New York	0-13	L

The team finished fourth in the league with a respectable 7-4-1 record. The high point of the season was a surprising 7-6 win over the New York Giants at the end of November.

Instead of improving, the Dodgers went into a nose dive in their second season. Kelly was gone and Yablok was ineffective. Frosty Peters was brought in to quarterback but wasn't much help. Perhaps the biggest loss was center Hagberg, who'd garnered strong all-pro mention in '30.

The Dodgers played their first five games on the road and were 1-4 before they arrived at Ebbets Field. On October 11, they surprised a home opener crowd of 15,000 with an 18-6 win over the Stapletons, but that was the last good time Brooklynites had all season.

1931 RECORD

S-13	A	Portsmouth	0-14	L
S-20	A	Green Bay	6-32	L
S-26	A	Cleveland	0-6	L
O-2	A	Frankford	20-0	W
O-4	A	Stapletons	7-9	L
O-11	H	Stapletons	18-6	W
O-18	H	Portsmouth	0-19	L
O-25	A	New York	0-27	L
N-1	H	Chicago Cardinals	7-14	L
N-4	A	Stapletons	0-13	L
N-8	A	Providence	0-7	L
N-22	H	Chicago Bears	0-26	L
N-29	H	Green Bay Packers	0-7	L
D-6	H	New York	6-19	L

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 3 (1990)

After the disappointing 2-12 second season, Benny Friedman, one of the era's top passers, was brought in as both coach and tailback for the 1932 season.

Friedman's favorite receiver was rookie halfback Jack Grossman from Rutgers while another rookie Bull Karcis from Carnegie Tech stepped in as a fine blocking back. The first great lineman to play for the Dodgers was Herman Hickman, a 5'10", 240-pound guard from Tennessee, known as the Poet Laureate of the Volunteer State because of his penchant for poetry. Hickman was highly regarded during his three seasons in the NFL as he gave the Dodger line some credibility. Despite his bulk, he was unusually quick and nimble. He later became a popular coach at several schools, including Yale, and an early TV personality as a game show panelist in the 1950s. Unfortunately, he died while still in his 40s.

Brooklyn opened the '32 season on a high note defeating the Stapletons and then helped the Boston Braves introduce professional football in Boston, a strong bastion of the college game. The Boston Post recorded how the passing combination of Friedman to Grossman was unstoppable and accounted for two touchdowns while Thomason's punt returns were spectacular.

The rest of the season did not go well as the Braves game was followed by five losses, a 3-0 win over the Cards and then four more losses.

Dwyer's three-year excursion in pro football had cost him an estimated \$30,000.

1932 RECORD

S-25	A	Stapletons	7- 0	W
O- 2	A	Boston	14- 0	W
O- 9	H	Stapletons	6- 7	L
O-16	A	New York	12-20	L
O-23	A	Green Bay	0-13	L
O-30	A	Chicago Cardinals	7-27	L
N- 6	H	Portsmouth	7-17	L
N-13	H	Chicago Cardinals	3- 0	W
N-20	A	Chicago Bears	0-20	L
N-24	H	Green Bay	0- 7	L
N-27	H	New York	7-13	L
D- 4	H	Boston	0- 7	L

The 1933 season was a landmark season in the NFL and initiated the beginning of the modern era with many innovations, including relaxation of the rules on passing, moving the goal posts back to the goal lines, and splitting the league into two divisions. Among the more interesting happenings was the purchase of the Dodgers by two former New York Giants players, Chris Cagle and John "Shipwreck" Kelly. The price was \$25,000.

Cagle had been an All-American at West Point and played three seasons for the Giants. Kelly had starred at Kentucky and played one season as a Giant. The scion of a wealthy family, he was an early day "Broadway Joe" whose off the field exploits were recorded along with his on the field feats.

Cap McEwen, a successful college coach, was brought in as coach although both Cagle and Kelly freely dispensed coaching wisdom. And Friedman, the '32 coach, was still on the scene for part of the season. In spite of the chaos that prevailed in the strategy department the team did well.

Friedman remained at tailback with Kelly catching 22 passes to lead the league in receptions. Cagle, Thomason, Karcis, Hickman, and end Tom Nash all had fine seasons as the Dodgers posted a 5- 4-1 record to finish second in the newly created Eastern Division.

As late as Thanksgiving, the Dodgers had a chance for first place, but a 10-0 loss to the Giants disappointed 28,000 Brooklyn fans at Ebbets Field.

1933 RECORD

O- 8	H	Chicago Bears	0-10	L
O-15	H	Cincinnati	27- 0	W
O-22	A	New York	7-21	L
O-29	H	Chicago Cardinals	7- 0	W
N- 5	H	Pittsburgh	3- 3	T
N-12	A	Pittsburgh	32- 0	W
N-19	A	Chicago Cardinals	3- 0	W
N-26	H	Boston	14- 0	W
N-30	H	New York	0-10	L
D- 3	A	Cincinnati	0-10	L

The following season (1934) Dan Topping bought Chris Cagle's half of the team thus starting a long association with both pro football and baseball. Ex-owner Cagle continued to play in the Brook backfield.

Despite the presence of such stars as Cagle, Kelly, Thomason, Grossman and Karcis in the backfield, the Dodgers finished last in the league in yards gained. Friedman had retired to coach CCNY, and a passing attack was seen at Ebbets Field only in the opponents' offenses. The hero of the 1934 Rose Bowl, Cliff Montgomery attempted unsuccessfully to replace him. When Benny did come back late in the season he was not able to help the club.

One of the great NFL kickers of all time, Ralph Kercheval, became a Dodger this season. Destined to play for them seven seasons he scored every point in the last six games as they finished with a dismal 4-7 mark.

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 3 (1990)

1934 RECORD

S-30	H	Boston	10- 6	W
O- 7	H	Chicago Bears	7-21	L
O-14	A	New York	0-14	L
O-21	A	Detroit	0-28	L
O-28	H	Pittsburgh	21- 3	W
N- 6	H	Chicago Cardinals	0-21	L
N-11	A	Philadelphia	10- 7	W
N-18	A	Pittsburgh	10- 0	W
N-25	H	Philadelphia	0-13	L
N-29	H	New York	0-27	L
D- 2	A	Boston	3-13	L

Paul Schissler who had been successful as coach of the Chicdago Cardinals took over in 1935, leading a predominantly rookie team to a 5-6-1 record and second place in the East. Cagle, Friedman, Kelly, and Hickman all retired, while no fewer than 15 first-year men made the roster, giving the team's colors -- green and white -- a particular pertinence.

Schissler's prize rookie was 6'3" 231-pound tackle Bill Lee from Alabama. Bill played three years with the Dodgers and then moved to the Packers. He is regarded as one of the great tackles of this era.

1935 RECORD

S-29	A	Boston	3- 7	L
O- 6	A	Detroit	12-10	W
O-13	A	New York	7-10	L
O-20	A	Chicago Bears	14-24	L
O-27	H	Philadelphia	17- 6	W
N- 3	A	Pittsburgh	7-16	L
N- 5	A	Philadelphia	3- 0	W
N-10	H	Pittsburgh	7-16	L
N-19	H	Chicago Cardinals	14-12	W
N-28	H	New York	0-21	L
D- 1	H	Detroit	0-28	L
D- 8	H	Boston	0- 0	T

S.M.U. great Bobby Wilson logged 505 yards during the 1936 season but the team had no passer and sunk to fourth place in the division. Phil Sarboe who'd had some success passing for the Cardinals was acquired late in the season, but he failed to bring along his tossing skills. The best Brooklyn "offense" was Ralph Kercheval's long punts. The old college offense of "a punt, a pass and a prayer" didn't make it in Brooklyn, where they had a punt but never a pass and, consequently, the team seldom had a prayer.

Notable was the addition of Morris "Red" Badgro, an end who made the Hall of Fame and is one of seven players in the Pro Football Hall of Fame to have played major league baseball. Badgro's best years were behind him, but he still makes the Dodgers Trivia Book.

1936 RECORD

S-23	H	Pittsburgh	6-10	L
S-27	H	Boston	3-14	L
O- 4	A	Philadelphia	18- 0	W
O-11	A	New York	10-10	T
O-14	H	Detroit	7-14	L
O-25	H	Chicago Cardinals	9- 0	W
N- 1	A	Pittsburgh	7-10	L
N-15	H	Green Bay	7-38	L
N-22	A	Boston	6-30	L
N-26	H	New York	0-14	L
N-29	A	Philadelphia	13- 7	W
D- 6	A	Detroit	6-14	L

Potsy Clark, the ex-Lion coach took over in 1937. Clark had been highly successful in the NFL by building his offense around triple-threat tailback Dutch Clark. He looked at the Dodgers roster and the only Clark present was himself. After seven games, the punchless Dodgers were 2-5 and heading nowhere.

Then in November Potsy hit the jackpot by adding Clarence "Ace" Parker, the great triple threat Duke All-American. Parker had played baseball for the Philadelphia Athletics that year and immediately got into the record books by hitting a homerun his first time at bat as a pinch hitter, the first man in American League history to perform this feat.

A's owners and manager Connie Mack would not at first consent to let Ace play football; however in November he relented and Ace joined the Dodgers to initiate a career that would lead to the Pro Football and College Halls of Fame.

The boost in the Dodgers' offense was immediate. In the first seven games, they'd averaged 4.1 points per game; in the last four -- 13.2. Unfortunately, the defense still needed tinkering -- Brooklyn was still only 1-2-1 in those four games -- but the future looked hopeful.

1937 RECORD

S-10	A	Philadelphia	13- 7	W
S-19	H	Pittsburgh	0-21	L
S-26	H	Cleveland	9- 7	W
O- 3	A	Washington	7-11	L
O-17	A	Detroit	0-30	L
O-24	A	New York	0-21	L
O-31	H	Washington	0-21	L
N- 7	H	Philadelphia	10-14	L
N-14	A	Chicago Bears	7-29	L
N-21	A	Pittsburgh	23- 0	W
N-25	H	New York	13-13	T

For the 1938 season Parker was available the entire year plus two rookies were added who would have

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 3 (1990)

been called in today's press "impact players." Bruiser Kinard was a highly publicized tackle from Mississippi who made everyone's All-American team. He lived up to his undergraduate reputation with the pros and is today in both the Pro and College Halls of Fame. He was such a dominant lineman he was All-Pro in both the NFL and AAFC. Quick and smart, he "bruised" opponents at a smallish 220-or-less.

A second rookie was Perry Schwartz an end out of California who became one of the top NFL receivers for several seasons.

Injuries plagued the team. Especially damaging were those to veterans Beattie Feathers and Boyd Brumbaugh expected to supply much of the rushing offense.

1938 RECORD

S-18	A	Washington	16-16	T
S-23	H	Pittsburgh	3-17	L
O- 2	H	Chicago Cardinals	13- 0	W
O- 9	A	Pittsburgh	17- 7	W
O-16	A	Green Bay	7-35	L
O-23	A	New York	14-28	L
O-30	H	Washington	6- 6	T
N- 6	A	Philadelphia	10- 7	W
N-13	H	Philadelphia	32-14	W
N-20	H	Chicago Bears	6-24	L
N-24	H	New York	7- 7	T

Clark tried again to rebuild in 1939 utilizing veterans as Ace Gutowsky, Sam Francis, and Beattie Feathers along with top rookies like All-Americans Ralph Heikkenen, a guard from Michigan State and end Waddy Young, from Oklahoma. A third valuable rookie addition was fullback Pug Manders of Drake, brother of the Bears' fullback-kicker "Automatic Jack."

Unfortunately, Patsy found that Gutowsky, Francis, and Feathers had all seen their best days. Parker and Kinard were great players, but most of the roster was as mediocre as the Dodgers' record. Three one-sided losses to end the season sealed Coach Clark's fate.

1939 RECORD

S-14	H	Pittsburgh	12- 7	W
S-20	H	Cleveland	23-12	W
S-24	A	Detroit	7-27	L
O- 1	A	Philadelphia	0- 0	T
O- 8	A	Washington	13-41	L
O-22	H	Philadelphia	23-14	W
O-29	H	New York	6- 7	L
N- 6	H	Pittsburgh	17-13	W
N-12	H	Washington	0-42	L
N-19	H	Green Bay	0-28	L
N-26	A	New York	7-28	L

Somewhere in this period, the team colors changed from green and white to red and white. Most likely owner Dan Topping was inspired by looking at his team's ledgers.

The zenith of the Brooklyn Dodgers existence was 1940. Dr. John Bain "Jock" Sutherland, the dour dentist from Pittsburgh, consented to bring his potent single wing offense to Ebbets Field.

The 1940 edition of "The Official NFL Guide" published by Spalding records this great event by stating Sutherland will stress rebuilding and power but promises not to neglect the pass. It also commented that the other coaches felt the league had been honored by the addition of this prestigious college coach. If nothing else, that's an interesting comment on the position of the NFL in the football world of 1940.

The Dodgers now had both quality and quantity. Lou Mark, Bud Svendsen, and Si Titus were the center-linebackers. Ty Coon, Mike Gusie, Art Jocher, and Jim Sivell were at guards. Both Gussie and Jocher scoring on receptions.

Kinard was at tackle paired with John Golemgese and Walt Merrill while the Dodgers had possibly the best end combo in the league in Perry Schwartz and Waddy Young.

The veteran blocking back Wendell Butcher was joined by rookies Ben Kish, who had played for the Doctor at Pitt, and Rhoten Shetley a top fullback at Furman.

Tailback Ace Parker had his greatest season displaying his all round triple threat talents. In several games he accounted for all points. At the end of the season he received the Joe Carr Trophy awarded to the leagues Official MVP.

The 1940 team also obtained some of the great college talent of the day: Dick Cassiano, a halfback in Pitt's Dream Backfield; George Cafego, great Tennessee All-American; and Banks McFadden, who made All-American playing basketball and football at Clemson. McFadden played tailback and wing back averaging 6.3 yards per carry to top the league in this statistic.

"I was a member of Sutherland's first team" Banks recalled a few years ago. "He was a very demanding coach. If he told you to take three steps and cut, you did exactly that or practiced until you did. We had a very good team, finished one game behind the Redskins, and would have continued to be good had not the war come. I only played that one year, spent five in the Marines, and then returned to Clemson as a coach.

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 3 (1990)

Happy Sivell, a Dodger guard from 1938 through 1942 added, "Sutherland was a master. Like Banks, I am certain that if we would have been able to keep the '40 club a few more years we would have won the NFL."

The Sutherland Regime opened with a one-touchdown loss to Washington, the eventual Eastern champ. It was a game the Dodgers were never able to make up. By November 3, when Brooklyn lost its third game, a squeaker to the Giants, Washington stood 7-0-0. But a week later, the Dodgers handed the Redskins their first loss, by a 16-14 score at Ebbets Field.

Brooklyn closed out the season with four straight wins. But Washington lost only once more and held on to the right to meet the Bears in the Championship Game. On December 8, the Dodger players must have all felt they could have given Chicago a closer game than did the Redskins -- losers by 73-0.

1940 RECORD

S-15	A	Washington	17-24	L
S-29	A	Pittsburgh	10- 3	W
O- 4	H	Philadelphia	30-17	W
O-13	H	Pittsburgh	21- 0	W
O-20	A	Chicago Bears	7-16	L
O-26	A	Philadelphia	21- 7	W
N- 3	H	New York	7-10	L
N-10	H	Washington	16-14	W
N-17	H	Cleveland	29-14	W
N-24	H	Chicago Cardinals	14- 9	W
D- 1	A	New York	14- 6	W

The following year the Dodgers again finished second as Pug Manders won the rushing title with 486 yards, the smallest amount to ever win this title.

Another good crop of college stars, such as guard Warren Alfson and backs Merlyn Condit and Dean McAdams joined the team.

[See article "Close But No Cigar" for details]

The beginning of the end came in 1942 when Sutherland, Parker and others left for the service. The team struggled as Dean McAdams, Pug Manders, Merlyn Condit and Bruiser Kinard had no supporting cast and were woefully out gunned. All teams lost players, of course, but the Dodgers seemed to be harder hit than most. Certainly Parker was irreplaceable. Even more so was Sutherland, whose iron hand had forged a team in his own image. Without him, they played hard but lacked the bite.

Mike Getto, who took over the coaching reins, did his best, but the Dodgers floundered to a 3-8-0 record. The high point of the season was an October win over

the Giants. The most interesting happening was the season opener against Philadelphia which was played in, oddly, Buffalo.

1942 RECORD

S-27	A	Philadelphia	35-14	W
O- 4	A	Detroit	28- 7	W
O-11	H	Pittsburgh	0- 7	L
O-18	H	Washington	10-21	L
O-25	H	New York	17- 7	W
N- 1	H	Cleveland	0-17	L
N- 8	H	Chicago Bears	0-35	L
N-15	H	Philadelphia	7-14	L
N-22	A	Washington	3-23	L
N-29	A	Pittsburgh	0-13	L
D- 6	A	New York	0-10	L

The '42 team had ended that season with six straight losses; the '43 edition began with six more defeats. Pete Cawthorn took up the coaching burden and saw his team score a mere 65 points in ten games while yielding 234 to the opposition. Even the presence of old reliables Manders and Condit couldn't help a rushing attack that totaled only 610 yards. Passes by McAdams and others tended to be of the desperation variety and added only 969 yards to the offense.

Bruiser Kinard was still a great tackle, but there were too many other places for opponents to aim their offense.

1943 RECORD

S-26	A	Detroit	0-27	L
O- 2	A	Phil-Pitt	0-17	L
O-10	A	Washington	0-27	L
O-17	H	New York	0-20	L
O-24	A	Chicago Bears	21-33	L
O-31	H	Washington	10-48	L
N- 7	H	Chicago Cardinals	7- 0	W
N-14	H	Phil-Pitt	13- 7	W
N-21	H	Green Bay	7-31	L
N-28	A	New York	7-24	L

The Dodgers disappeared in 1944. The team, such as it was, was re-christened the "Tigers." The alias couldn't fool Brooklyn fans who knew a Dodger and a loser would smell the same. The toothless Tigers certainly smelled up Ebbets Field, losing ten out of ten, including a pair of losses to the Boston Yanks, a new team created out of air. As a result, the Yanks finished 2-8, good for fourth in the NFL East, and the Tigers finished fifth because there were only five teams.

Before the season, the Tigers played an exhibition against the Ft. Warren Broncos. They lost. In one sense, the season was perfect.

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 3 (1990)

1944 RECORD

S-17	A	Green Bay	7-14	L
O- 8	A	Detroit	14-19	L
O-15	H	New York	7-14	L
O-22	A	Washington	14-17	L
O-29	H	Boston	14-17	L
N- 5	H	Philadelphia	7-21	L
N-12	H	Washington	0-10	L
N-19	A	Boston	6-13	L
N-26	A	New York	0- 7	L
D- 3	A	Philadelphia	0-34	L

The next year the Dodgers merged with the Boston Yanks in an amalgamation of anemia. Playing four home games in Boston and one in New York, the Yanks-Tigers went 3-6-1, only a slight improvement over what the Yanks had done by themselves in '44.

Kinard spent the '45 season in the service, but Manders was still around to lead the team in rushing. Largely forgotten today, his years of diving into non-existent holes and struggling for a few yards mark him as one of the great runners of the period.

With the end of World War II, owner Dan Topping shocked the NFL by jumping his team into the new All-America Football Conference. The Dodgers, in a sense, were reborn. However, to add to posterity's confusion, Topping's new-old team was located in Yankee Stadium and called the New York Yankees, while the AAFC planted a completely unrelated franchise in Brooklyn and called it -- what else? -- the Dodgers.

The New (really in Brooklyn) Dodgers struggled through three miserable seasons and then merged with the Yankees in 1949. Meanwhile, Topping's Yankees-nee-Dodgers had much better success in the AAFC than the old club had enjoyed in the NFL. Under Coach Ray Flaherty, the Yankees used a nucleus of old Dodgers -- Parker, Kinard, Manders -- and several new stars, including star tailback Spec Sanders to win the AAFC East in 1946 and '47. Both seasons saw them lose championship games to the Cleveland Browns.

A true casualty of WWII the Original Dodgers are only remembered today for the three men in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, who wore their uniform -- Ace Parker, Bruiser Kinard, and Red Badgro.

However, there is a twisted argument that says they live on in the Indianapolis Colts. It goes like this: when the NFL absorbed the AAFC after the '49 season, the Yankees were merged with the Boston Yanks (who'd become the New York Bulldogs in 1949). Although six of the Yankees best players were given to the New York Giants, most of the roster was handed over to

Ted Collins Yanks-Bulldogs team and became the backbone of the 1950 New York Yanks.

When Collins threw in the towel after the '51 season, the league replaced the Yanks with the disastrous Dallas Texans, who didn't even get through the 1952 season. To take the Texans place, a new franchise was created in Baltimore as the Colts.

And, as we all know, THAT team is now in Indianapolis.

It's a fun thing to trace the Colts all the way back to the Dodgers (and through them to the Dayton Triangles) but it's not strictly kosher. In several jumps along the way, the franchise was turned back to the league and a NEW replacement franchise was issued. And, of course, that wasn't a franchise Topping took into the AAFC in 1946; it was a team.

Nevertheless, for those who like to see some pattern in history -- some design -- there's a definite appeal to the idea that the old, jinxed Dodgers could somehow come out ahead.

WHY DODGERS?

As stated elsewhere, the Brooklyn Football Dodgers were named after the Brooklyn Baseball Dodgers, though they never achieved the spot in Flatbush hearts reserved for "Dem Bums." Of course, today, a young fan might well wonder what it is that they're dodging at Chavez Ravine. On the other hand, a fan could also wonder what lakes? raid what? or where in L.A. they hide the real rams? Did ANYTHING in Los Angeles except smog and gridlock start there?

But, back to Dodgers.

Once upon a time -- well, about a hundred years ago -- Brooklyn was replete with trolley cars, then the ultimate in people-moving. These things moved at such fantastic speeds, easily ten or 15 m.p.h., that a pedestrian had to mind his P's and Q's to keep from being run down. Hence, Brooklynites were "dodgers," or more specifically "trolley dodgers." No one had the foresight to realize that a century later the trolleys would all be in San Francisco.

Even allowing for anachronistic errors, "Dodgers" makes a much better name than some of those that preceded it in Brooklyn. Would you believe "Superbas?" Or worse, "Bridegrooms?"

Still, consider the possibilities: "Fernando Valenzuela threw a Superba superba last night when ..." or "Ex-

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 12, No. 3 (1990)

Bridegroom Steve Garvey was certainly a Superba when"

1942 Merlin Condit	129	647	5.0	2
1943 Pug Manders	89	266	3.0	3
1944 Pug Manders	127	430	3.4	5

DODGERS DATA

YEAR	W	L	T	PCT.	FIN	PTS-OPP	COACH
1930	7	4	1	.636	4	154- 59	Jack Depler
1931	2	12	0	.143	9	64-199	Jack Depler
1932	3	9	0	.250	6	63-131	Benny Friedman
1933	5	4	1	.555	2-E	93- 54	Cap McEwen
1934	4	7	0	.364	3-Et	61-153	Cap McEwen
1935	5	6	1	.455	2-E	90-141	Paul Schissler
1936	3	8	1	.273	4-E	92-161	Paul Schissler
1937	3	7	1	.300	4-E	82-174	Potsy Clark
1938	4	4	3	.500	3-E	131-161	Potsy Clark
1939	4	6	1	.400	3-E	108-219	Potsy Clark
1940	8	3	0	.727	2-E	186-120	Jock Sutherland
1941	7	4	0	.636	2-E	158-127	Jock Sutherland
1942	3	8	0	.273	4-E	100-168	Mike Getto
1943	2	8	0	.200	4-E	65-234	Pete Cawthorn
1944	0	10	0	.000	5-E	69-166	Cawthorn, et.al.

DODGERS RECEIVING LEADERS

YEAR LEADER	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
1930 unavailable	-	-	-	-
1931 unavailable	-	-	-	-
1932 unavailable	-	-	-	-
1933 Shipwreck Kelly	22*	246	11.2	3
1934 Jack Grossman	10	156	15.6	1
1935 Wayland Becker	10	131	13.1	1
1936 Jeff Barrett	14	268	19.1	1
1937 Jeff Barrett	20	461	20.0	3
1938 Jim Austin	14	180	12.9	1
1939 Perry Schwartz	33	550	16.7	3
1940 Perry Schwartz	21	370	17.6	3
1941 Perry Schwartz	24	343	14.3	2
1942 Perry Schwartz	13	200	15.4	1
1943 Frank Martin	13	152	11.7	0
1944 Bob Masterson	24	258	10.8	1

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

DODGERS SCORING LEADERS

YEAR LEADER	TD	XP	XA	FG	FA	PTS
1930 Jack McBride	8	8	9	0	1	56
1931 Jack McBride	3	1	2	0	1	19
1932 Jack Grossman	5	0	0	0	0	30
1933 Shipwreck Kelly	7	1	1	0	0	43
1934 Ralph Kercheval	3	6	6	4	na	36
1935 Ralph Kercheval	2	8	9	5	16	35
1936 Ralph Kercheval	3	4	8	5	na	37
1937 Joe Maniaci	2	5	5	2	na	23
1938 Ace Parker	4	5	7	0	0	29
1939 Ace Parker	5	0	1	1	5	33
1940 Ace Parker	5	19	22	0	0	49
1941 Pug Manders	7	0	0	0	0	42
1942 Merlin Condit	3	10	10	3	6	37
1943 Pug Manders	4	0	0	0	0	24
1944 Pug Manders	5	0	0	0	1	30

DODGERS PASSING LEADERS

YEAR LEADER	ATT	COM	PCT.	YDS	TD	IN
1930 unavailable	-	-	-	-	-	-
1931 unavailable	-	-	-	-	-	-
1932 unavailable	-	-	-	-	-	-
1933 Benny Friedman	80	42	52.5	597	5	7
1934 unavailable	-	-	-	-	-	-
1935 Red Franklin	67	18	26.9	270	0	na
1936 Bobby Wilson	40	11	27.5	148	0	9
1937 Ace Parker	61	28	45.9	514	1	7
1938 Ace Parker	148*	63	42.6	865*	5	7
1939 Ace Parker	157	72	45.9	977	4	13
1940 Ace Parker	111	49	44.1	817	10	7
1941 Ace Parker	102	51	50.0	642	2	8
1942 Dean McAdams	89	35	39.3	441	2	15
1943 Dean McAdams	75	37	49.3	315	0	7
1944 Charles McGibbony	48	18	37.5	262	1	10

* - Led NFL

DODGERS RUSHING LEADERS

YEAR LEADER	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
1930 unavailable	-	-	-	-
1931 unavailable	-	-	-	-
1932 unavailable	-	-	-	-
1933 unavailable	-	-	-	-
1934 unavailable	-	-	-	-
1935 Red Franklin	100	284	2.8	3
1936 Bobby Wilson	104	505	4.9	3
1937 Joe Maniaci	92	433	4.7	2
1938 Scrapper Farrell	108	425	3.9	3
1939 Pug Manders	114	482	4.2	2
1940 Banks McFadden	65	411	6.3*	1
1941 Pug Manders	111	486*	4.4	6

The Brooklyn Dodgers were an American football team that played in the National Football League from 1930 to 1943, and in 1944 as the Brooklyn Tigers. The team played its home games at Ebbets Field of the baseball National League's team, the Brooklyn Dodgers. In 1945, because of financial difficulties and the increasing scarcity of major league-level players because of the war-time defense requirements at the height of World War II, the team was merged with the Boston Yanks and were known as the Yanks (Also known as Brooklyn Trolley Dodgers, Brooklyn Bridegrooms, Brooklyn Superbas, and Brooklyn Robins. Sometimes referred to as Dem Bums, or Dodger Blue). The Brooklyn Dodgers were a major league baseball team that played in the National League from 1890 to 1957. The team is perhaps best remembered for being the first modern Major League team to integrate, when Jackie Robinson, the first African-American to play big league baseball in the twentieth century, joined the Dodgers in 1947. The Dodgers are The official website of the Los Angeles Dodgers with the most up-to-date information on scores, schedule, stats, tickets, and team news.Â Dodgers manager Dave Roberts ran through his offseason wish list and covered a handful of hot topics floating around Los Angeles during his meeting with media on Thursday. Latest News. The long road to the LA Dodgers' naming. The Brooklyn Dodgers were a professional baseball team, established in 1883 (although its roots go back to at least the 1850s). The club was successful in the 1910s, but spent much 1920s and 1930s in the wilderness. In 1931, the team formally adopted the name Dodgers, which had been used informally for decades. (One of the former official names was the Robins.) The team saw increasing success throughout the 1940s and 1950s, but this led mostly to heartbreak as the Dodgers were frequently defeated in BROOKLYN DODGERS. They started out modestly enough, playing as the Brooks, the Atlantics and the Bridegrooms in minor league competition before graduating to the National League in 1890. A century later, the Dodgers had become one of baseball's best managed and most successful franchises with a model ballpark, fanatic fans and a history of innovation second to none in the game. Entering the 20th century, Brooklyn's team was dubbed the Superbas after a traveling acrobatic troupe popular at the time.