

Washington Redskins

World Champions, 1937

Member
National Football
League, 1937

The old baseball adage that a change of scenery does a man good, certainly applies to football, if you ask the Washington Redskins. In their first season as representatives of the nation's capital the lads who held forth in Boston to no great avail during the previous five years survived a gruelling race to win the professional championship. Now they look forward to a successful defense of their laurels, with a host of loyal fans urging them onward.

Stepping into unknown surroundings, the Redskins quickly found their way to the hearts of Washington's citizenry with a smashing triumph in their opening game against the New York Giants, and, although faltering a bit in midseason, swept to the Eastern title in another victory over the Giants and finally scaled the heights by stopping the Bears in the play-off game at Chicago. This final flourish upset the calculations of almost everyone except capital fans, and the latter, happily rewarded for their support, also look ahead confidently. The Redskins did not let them down.

Veterans and rookies alike, unused to such in Boston, were profoundly moved by the amazing backing of fans in their newly established home. Many of them freely stated their desire to win was sharpened no little by this constant and widespread demonstration of faith. So great was the acclaim voiced when they came from behind in a crucial game to defeat Green Bay, 14 to 6, in their final home appearance, that they proceeded to New York for the still more crucial contest to decide the Eastern championship with avowed intentions of reaching their goal. More than 8,000 Washington rooters accompanied them to the Polo Grounds, once more to see their support justified, as the "Injuns" ran wild over the Giants to score a smashing 49 to 14 upset.

Bitterly cold weather and the expense of long traveling couldn't chill the enthusiasm of the Redskin faithful the following week, and so at Chicago in the titular battle a special trainload of followers watched the ultimate and crowning achievement—a 28 to 21 triumph over the favored Bears.

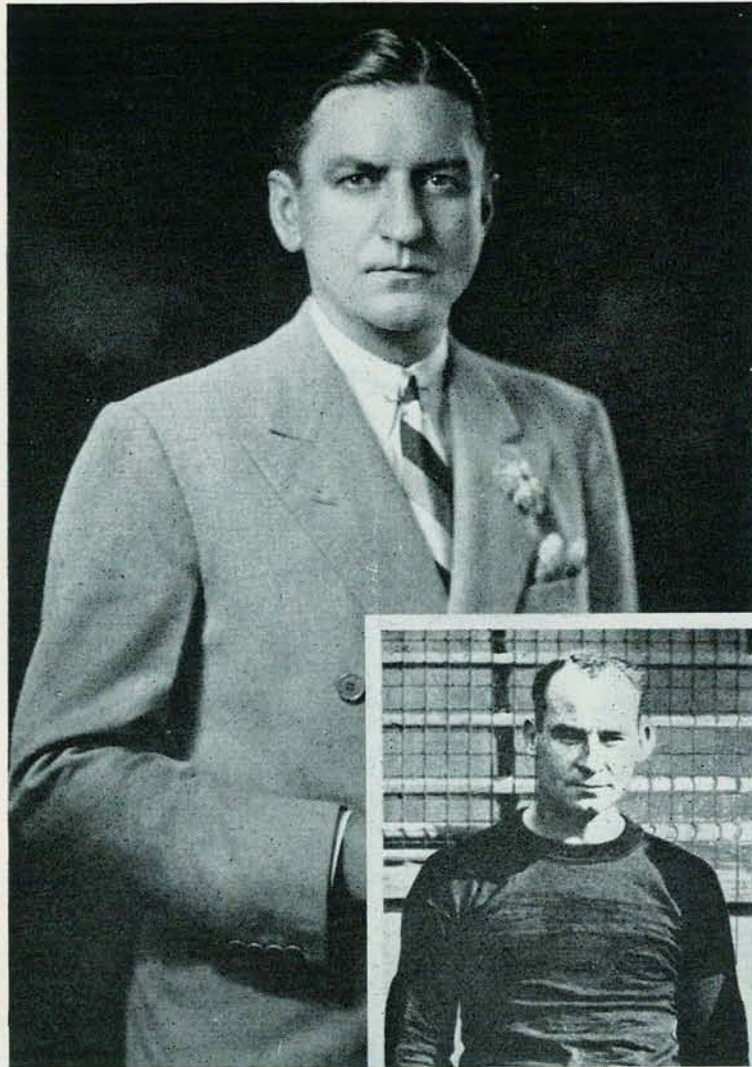
Throughout Washington's history-making first season in the league there stood in bold relief against the entire personnel of the ten-team circuit one of the most astonishing performers the pro grid game has known, "Slingin' Sam" Baugh. To this strike-tossing forward passer, the greatest yet to appear, went the plaudits of the nation. In one short season, his first as a professional, he became "football's greatest thrill."

As he skillfully and courageously, some times in spite of painful injuries, went about the task of hanging up a new league record for completed passes (81), he completely shattered the strongest defenses and left his foes bewil-



Front row: Wayne Millner Don Irwin Jim Karcher Eddie Kahn Turk Edwards (Captain) Henry Krause Eddie Michaels Dixie Howell Cliff Battles. Row 2: Vic Carroll Ed Justice Eddie Britt Max Krause Bob McChesney Les Olsson Riley Smith Ed Kawal Erny Pinckert. Back row: Coach Ray Flaherty Asst. Coach Roy Baker Chuck Bond Jim Barber Charley Malone Ben Smith Slingin' Sam Baugh Bill Young Barney Koretsky (Clubhouse).

WASHINGTON REDSKINS—CHAMPIONS, NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE.



George P. Marshall
President Washington Redskins
National Football League Champions

Ray Flaherty
Coach

dered. And while "Slingin' Sam" made sieves out of the enemies' aerial armor, Cliff Battles created still more havoc on the ground, showing the way to the individual ground gainers by piling up 874 yards from scrimmage. Battles, now a member of the coaching staff at Columbia University, became the first player in the history of the league to win the ground-gaining title twice, as he had topped the league in 1933.

Along with the massive 256-lb. Turk Edwards, veteran tackle and captain of the team, Baugh and Battles gained places on the all-league team picked by the coaches. Others who occupied important roles were Riley Smith, cool and resourceful quarter-back who place-kicked five field goals, one of them winning a 10-7 game from Philadelphia with but thirty-five seconds left to play; Charlie Malone and Wayne Millner, great pass catching ends; Jim Barber, who played a marvelous game at tackle despite leg injuries; "Swede" Olsson, 240-lb. guard, and Erny Pinckert, Don Irwin and Ed Justice, all backs.

After defeating the Giants, 13 to 3, in the inaugural before 25,000 fans, the Redskins bowed to the brilliant pass-catching of Gaynell Tinsley of the Cardinals, 21 to 14. In the third game they came back to conquer Brooklyn, 11 to 7, but then encountered another great end, Bill Hewitt of Philadelphia, and lost to the Eagles, 14 to 0. At this juncture Battles swung into midseason form and led an onslaught against the Pittsburgh Pirates which resulted in a 34 to 20 victory. Following in succession came victories over Philadelphia and Brooklyn, the latter by a 21 to 0 count.

Meanwhile the Giants were winning, too, and when the Tribe came up to its second clash with Pittsburgh, which it lost, 21 to 13, only a defeat of the Giants by Detroit kept Washington in the championship running. All subsequent games had to be won if the Redskins were to finish on top, and that is exactly what they accomplished. Cleveland fell, 16 to 7, after which Green Bay and the Giants were scalped as previously related.

Reinforcements for the drive to a second straight league title have been found in George "Automatic" Karamatic, sensational Gonzaga University back whom Tiny Thornhill rated the best for two seasons past on the Coast; Andy Farkas, Detroit University streak, whose dazzling runs terrorized many an opponent; Jim "Jackrabbit" Abbitt, powerful Elon College back, who throws left-handed and kicks left-footed; "Hank" Bartos, 225-lb. All-Southern tackle from North Carolina University; Mickey Parks of Oklahoma University, giant center; "Rink" Bond, smart quarter-back and brother of the Redskins' Chuck Bond, and others.

back, Bob Davis; the Coast's great star, Carl Littlefield of Washington State, and by Carnegie Tech's Coleman Kopcsak at quarter-back.

Vic Markov, who will team with Lewis; Jim Benton, Arkansas' six-foot four-inch All-America end; Joe Routt, Texas Aggies' two-time All-America guard; Lou Tsoutsouvas, Stanford's All-Pacific Coast center, and a host of others are among the long list of headline makers the Rams have signed.

Optimistic? Well, Cleveland is just that. One can hardly live through the winter and spring in a city where sports have hit a new high without becoming a little broadminded about its football. "The style of play that a coach adopts or may develop for the season depends a great deal upon the abilities and capacities of his players," reports Coach Hugo Bezdek, "and in reviewing the roster of players for this year, Cleveland has good linemen, ends and backs, insuring an excellent running attack balanced with passing and surprise plays. In other words, the Cleveland public may expect a football team which will give a high grade performance on the field and thereby earn its support."

Showing the development and interest the Rams have created in their first year, the Cleveland News and the American Legion Club of Cleveland have announced their first annual all-star game in which the Rams will participate against Ohio college all-stars in Cleveland on Friday night, September 2. This leads one to believe that the Rams are going places in the National League.

Review of Season 1937

EASTERN DIVISION

Teams.	Won	Lost	Tied	P.C.	Points	Opponents' Points
Washington	8	3	0	.727	195	120
New York	6	3	2	.667	128	109
Pittsburgh	4	7	0	.364	122	145
Brooklyn	3	7	1	.300	83	177
Philadelphia	2	8	1	.200	86	177

WESTERN DIVISION

Chicago Bears	9	1	1	.900	201	100
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	220	122
Detroit	7	4	0	.636	180	105
Chicago Cardinals	5	5	1	.500	135	165
Cleveland	1	10	0	.091	75	207

Play-off for Ed Thorp Memorial Trophy.

Washington defeated Chicago Bears, 28 to 21, at Wrigley Field, Chicago.

The apparent jinx against a team being able to retain the Ed Thorp Memorial Trophy, and with it the championship of the National Football League, continued to hold true in 1937, as the Washington Redskins brought the title East for the second time in the six years that the play-off system of deciding the crown has been in vogue.

For the third time, too, it saw the runner-up of the preceding year go through to take the title, for the Redskins, as representatives of Boston in 1936, had fallen before Green Bay in the play-off that season. There was no denying the Washington eleven last fall, however, as they swept through the Chicago Bears, Western Division winners, behind the brilliant passing of recruit Slingin' Sammy Baugh and the equally outstanding running of the veteran Cliff Battles.

Those two stars were mainly responsible for Washington winning the championship in its first year as representative of the Capital City. However, the Redskins had to go down to the final game with the New York Giants before clinching the crown in the Eastern Division, while the Bears with only one defeat on their record annexed the title in Western competition several weeks before the play-off engagement.

The defending championship Green Bay team got off to a slow start but won seven straight before being stopped in New York, and on top of that setback suffered another in Washington, which effectively eliminated them as possible titlists and cleared the way for the Bears to represent the West.

The tightness of the struggle in both divisions, along with the increased efficiency and improved caliber of play by all teams, led to a new attendance mark being set.

Continuing the steady growth of the fifteen years it has been in existence, the National League registered a sharp gain that saw capacity crowds in practically all the major cities on several occasions. About the only setback

of the year was the unfortunate week of unexceptionally frigid weather that preceded the play-off game in Chicago. The titular contest itself was waged on one of the coldest days of the winter, on a field frozen solid that made running difficult.

However, the Arctic weather did not prevent Sammy Baugh—Southerner though he may be—from turning in one of the greatest passing feats ever seen on the gridiron as he completed 17 of 34 passes to gain over 350 yards against a Bear defense that had been good enough to hold its opponents to 100 points in eleven regularly scheduled games. Mainly because of this passing feat Washington won 28 to 21, and so gave the East its first title since the New York win in 1934.

The standing of the teams was little changed over the 1936 finish. The Bears beat out the Green Bay Packers in the West and the New York Giants finished second, ahead of Pittsburgh in the East. Otherwise the only change was noted in the stiffening of resistance all along the line, with no team scoring as many points as the top total of 1936, but the grand total for all teams being much larger, even though fewer games were contested.

Sammy Baugh in throwing passes, Gaynell Tinsley of the Cardinals in yards gained on-receiving passes, and Don Hutson of Green Bay in number of passes caught, set new individual records. Three new team marks were also set, the Redskins eclipsing the team passing efficiency mark, the entire league moving up two full points in passing effectiveness and the league scoring total jumping over one hundred points to 1,404. Detroit led in seven departments of team play and tied Green Bay for second place in the Western Division standing in its first year under playing coach Earl (Dutch) Clark.

RESULTS OF NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE GAMES, 1937

Sept. 5	Pittsburgh 27	Philadelphia 14	At Pittsburgh
10	Brooklyn 13	Philadelphia 7	At Philadelphia
	Detroit 28	Cleveland 0	At Cleveland
12	Cardinals 14	Green Bay 7	At Green Bay
17	Washington 13	New York 3	At Washington
	Cleveland 21	Philadelphia 3	At Philadelphia
19	Bears 14	Green Bay 2	At Green Bay
	Detroit 16	Cardinals 7	At Detroit
	Pittsburgh 21	Brooklyn 0	At Brooklyn
24	Cardinals 21	Washington 14	At Washington
26	New York 10	Pittsburgh 7	At Pittsburgh
	Brooklyn 9	Cleveland 7	At Brooklyn
	Philadelphia 6	Cardinals 6	At Philadelphia
Oct. 3	New York 16	Philadelphia 7	At Philadelphia
	Green Bay 26	Detroit 6	At Green Bay
	Washington 11	Brooklyn 7	At Washington
	Cardinals 6	Cleveland 0	At Cleveland
Oct. 4	Bears 7	Pittsburgh 0	At Pittsburgh
Oct. 10	Philadelphia 14	Washington 0	At Washington
	Green Bay 34	Cardinals 13	At Milwaukee
	Bears 20	Cleveland 2	At Cleveland
	Detroit 7	Pittsburgh 3	At Detroit

Oct. 17	New York 21	Philadelphia 0	At New York
	Washington 34	Pittsburgh 20	At Washington
	Bears 16	Cardinals 7	At Chicago
	Green Bay 35	Cleveland 10	At Cleveland
	Detroit 30	Brooklyn 0	At Detroit
Oct. 24	New York 21	Brooklyn 0	At New York
	Washington 10	Philadelphia 7	At Philadelphia
	Cardinals 13	Pittsburgh 7	At Pittsburgh
	Green Bay 35	Cleveland 7	At Green Bay
	Bears 28	Detroit 20	At Chicago
Oct. 31	Green Bay 14	Detroit 13	At Detroit
	Bears 3	New York 3	At New York
	Pittsburgh 16	Philadelphia 7	At Pittsburgh
	Washington 21	Brooklyn 0	At Brooklyn
	Cardinals 13	Cleveland 7	At Chicago
Nov. 7	New York 17	Pittsburgh 0	At New York
	Green Bay 24	Bears 14	At Chicago
	Philadelphia 14	Brooklyn 10	At Brooklyn
	Detroit 27	Cleveland 7	At Detroit
Nov. 14	Detroit 17	New York 0	At New York
	Bears 29	Brooklyn 7	At Chicago
	Pittsburgh 21	Washington 13	At Pittsburgh
	Green Bay 37	Philadelphia 7	At Milwaukee
Nov. 21	Brooklyn 23	Pittsburgh 0	At Pittsburgh
	New York 10	Green Bay 0	At New York
	Detroit 16	Cardinals 7	At Chicago
	Washington 16	Cleveland 7	At Cleveland
Nov. 25	Bears 13	Detroit 0	At Detroit
	Brooklyn 13	New York 13	At Brooklyn
Nov. 28	Washington 14	Green Bay 6	At Washington
	Bears 15	Cleveland 7	At Chicago
Dec. 5	Bears 42	Cardinals 28	At Chicago
	Washington 49	New York 14	At New York