



Hall of Famer

Rod Woodson, c. 1990.

In 17 seasons, Woodson was named to 11 Pro Bowls and intercepted 71 passes. When he retired, Woodson led the NFL in interception return yardage and was a threat on both defense and special teams.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



GRIDIRON GLORY

The Best of the Pro Football Hall of Fame

Beginning October 6, a new exhibition at the Senator John Heinz History Center will offer visitors the most in-depth and wide-ranging traveling exhibit ever created on the history of professional football. *Gridiron Glory: The Best of the Pro Football Hall of Fame* makes its national debut at the History Center this fall before heading out to other venues across the country. The Pittsburgh exhibition is made possible by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, the presenting sponsor.

Created in partnership with the Pro Football Hall of Fame, *Gridiron Glory* includes more than 200 artifacts that focus on the history of pro football, from its humble beginnings in Pittsburgh in 1892 to its rise as one of the world's most beloved sports. The exhibit recognizes the game's pioneers from Knute Rockne and Jim Thorpe all the way up to today's stars such as Drew Brees and Peyton Manning by presenting unique artifacts from the Pro Football Hall of Fame collection. A dozen interactive activities and videos from the vaults of NFL Films will ensure every visitor experiences the passion and pride of professional football.

The following pages present just a small portion of the many rare and interesting objects visitors can see from October 6, 2012 through January 6, 2013. Stop by and experience the history of what has become America's favorite sport.

Helmet used by Sammy Baugh, 1940s.
The accurate arm of Redskins' quarterback "Slingin' Sammy" helped integrate the forward pass into the game. As versatile as he was talented, Baugh also excelled as a punter and on defense.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



Football, Columbus (Ohio) Panhandles, 1911.

Many of the players on this early team worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad, sponsors of the Panhandles.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The Birth of Pro Football

120 years ago

Well established by the 1890s, football flourished at the region's colleges and universities, as well as at amateur athletic clubs. Fans, drawn to the game by the often violent action and athleticism, turned out in the thousands for a contest between the Allegheny Athletic Association (AAA) and the Pittsburgh Athletic Club (PAC) in October 1892. When that game ended in a 6-6 tie, a rematch was scheduled for November 12. Snow held attendance down to 3,000 fans and disagreements delayed the game's start. But when the AAA finally took the field, three ringers, including William "Pudge" Heffelfinger, a former All American at Yale and the premier player of his day, joined the club's regulars.

Heffelfinger scored the only touchdown that day, giving the AAA a 4-0 win, in a game shortened by the impending darkness. Though the AAA never admitted paying Heffelfinger, the faded ink on a ledger page in the Pro Football Hall of Fame's archives testifies to his \$500 "performance bonus," a payment that makes Heffelfinger the first documented professional player. Pro football, born here that day, would move west and blossom in Ohio in the 1920s into the league we know as the NFL.

Latrobe Athletic Association team, 1897.

This team became one of the first to play a full season with only professionals. The roots of pro football, America's premier spectator sport, were planted on the city's North Side then spread through the region.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



LEFT: William "Pudge"
Heffelfinger at Yale
University, c. 1889.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

BELOW: Allegheny Athletic
Association ledger page,
1892.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

*Expense Accounting Allegheny Athletic Assoc.
Football Club*

<i>Game of Oct. 29, 1892 - AAA vs. Washington, D.C.</i>	
balance carried over (account)	\$432.20
guarantee gross profit (check)	\$258.00
team traveling expenses (cash)	\$221.85
net profit	\$56.15
total balance	\$468.35
<i>Game of Nov. 12, 1892 - AAA vs. Pittsburg A.C.</i>	
balance carried over (account)	\$468.35
game receipts gross profit (cash)	\$1,683.50
visitors guarantee expense (check)	\$428.00
park rental expense (check)	\$50.00
Donnelly, Malley, Heffelfinger expenses (cash)	\$75.00
Schlusser hotel bill for above (check)	\$9.00
game performance bonus to W. Heffelfinger for playing (cash)	\$500.00
total expenses	\$1,062.00
net profit	\$621.00
total balance	\$1,089.85
<i>Game of Nov. 19, 1892 - AAA vs. W. J. College</i>	
balance carried over (account)	\$1,089.85
game receipts gross profit (cash)	\$746.00
visitors guarantee expense (check)	\$238.00
park rental expense (check)	\$50.00
payment B. Donnelly for playing (cash)	\$250.00
total expenses	\$538.00
net profit	\$208.00
total balance	\$1,297.00
This above accounting is hereby certified as correct by the below signed team manager:	
<i>O. J. Donnelly</i>	

Pioneers of the Game

Racine Cardinals Incorporation papers, 1917.

Founded in Chicago in 1898 as the Morgan Athletic Club, the team now known as the Arizona Cardinals is the oldest continuously operating professional football franchise. They became one of the first ten charter members of the NFL in 1920.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



Knute Rockne's Massillon Tigers helmet, 1919.

In the 1910s and '20s, the Massillon/Canton area of Ohio developed into a hotbed of football. A young assistant coach at Notre Dame at the time he wore this helmet, Rockne shared his talents with a number of teams. He likely matched up against another sports legend, Jim Thorpe, who played for Massillon's rival, the Canton Bulldogs, in 1915-17, 1919-20, and 1926.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



ABOVE: Carnegie Library of Homestead team, 1901.

After the birth of the pro game, this region attracted talented athletes who competed and won early "national" championships. In 1900 and 1901, the Homestead Library and Athletic Club team went undefeated and untied in 21 games. They failed at the gate however, losing \$8,000 in 1901, and folded at season's end. Until 1933, when a change in Pennsylvania state law allowed Sunday play for pay, football in this region centered on high school and college contests and sandlot or semi-pro teams.

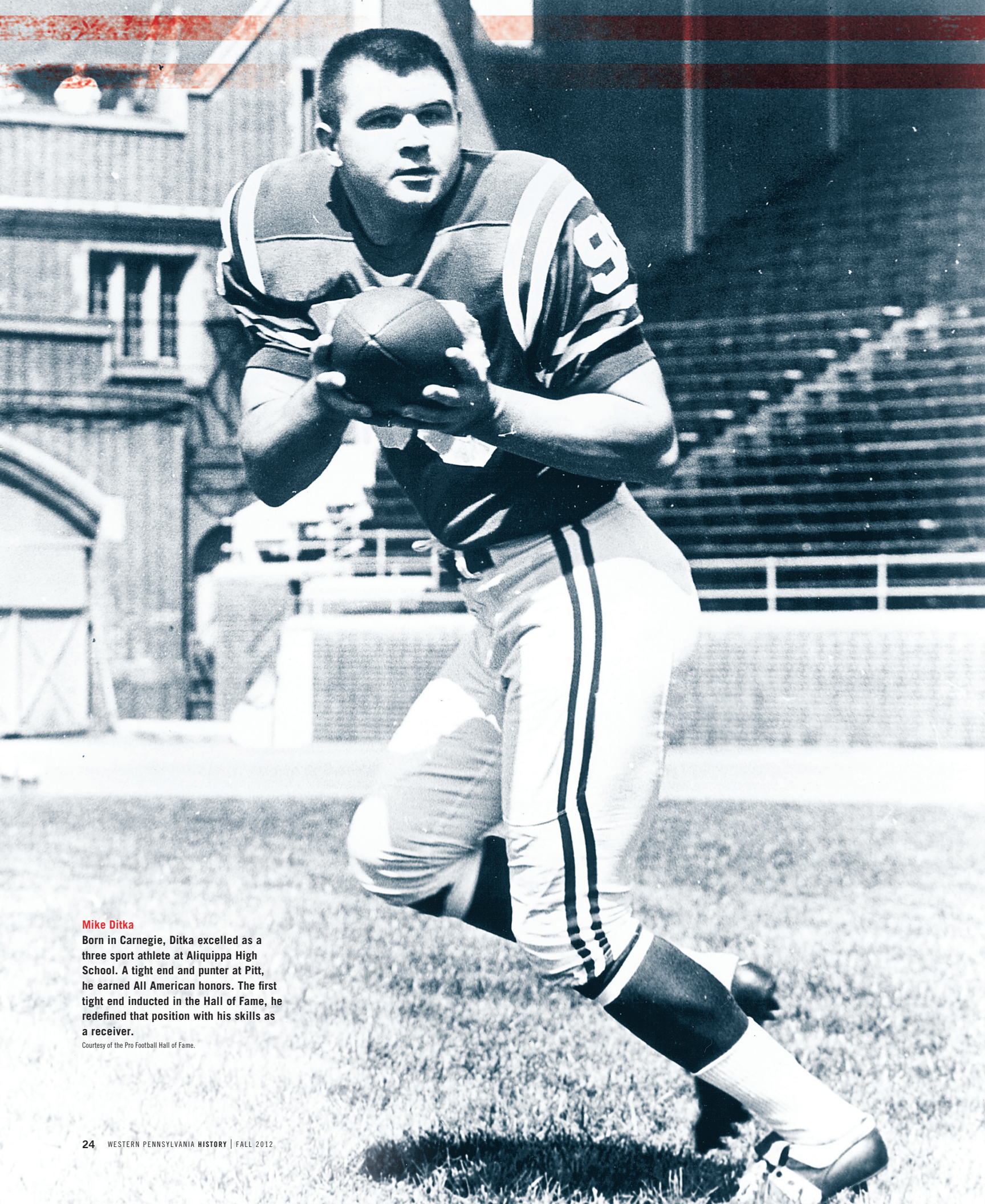
Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

RIGHT: Steam Roller Most Outstanding Player trophy, 1928.

The fledgling NFL gradually grew. The Providence Steam Roller, an independent professional team, joined in 1925. After picking up players from the Detroit Panthers when that team folded in 1928, the Steam Roller won the NFL title and player-coach and future Hall of Famer Jimmy Conzelman picked up this award.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.





Mike Ditka

Born in Carnegie, Ditka excelled as a three sport athlete at Aliquippa High School. A tight end and punter at Pitt, he earned All American honors. The first tight end inducted in the Hall of Fame, he redefined that position with his skills as a receiver.

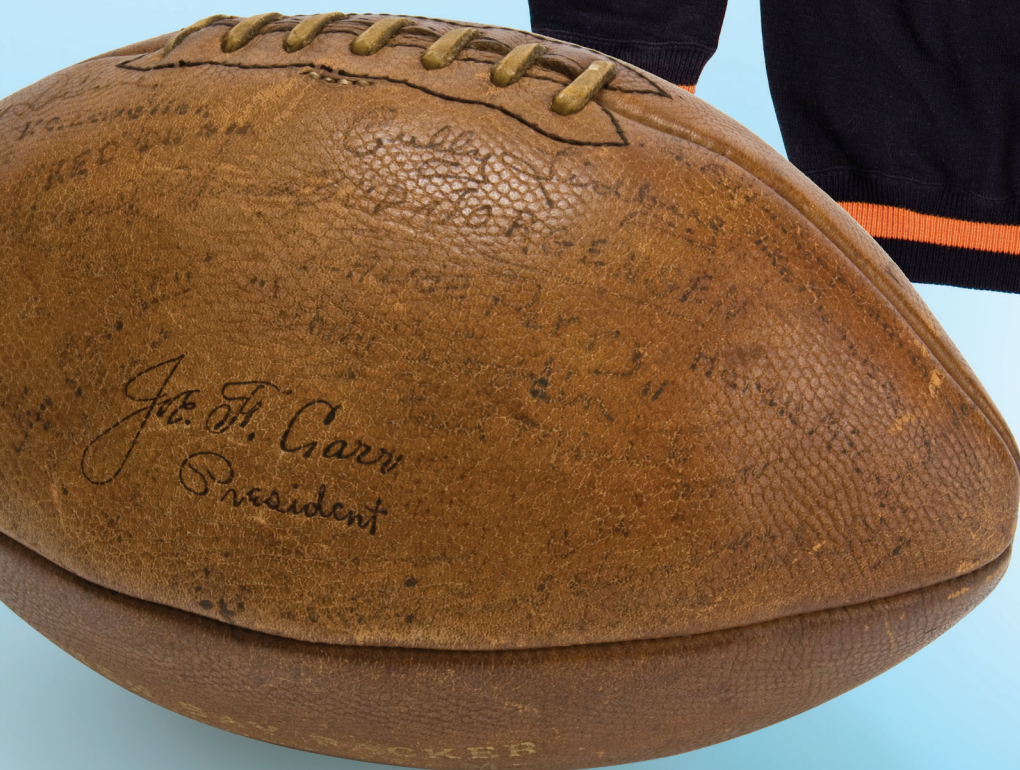
Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Dynasties

Jacket worn by George Musso, 1939.

Musso, inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1982, captained the Chicago Bears for nine years, playing in seven NFL championship games. The Bears won four of those games in 1933, 1940, 1941, and 1943.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



**Team signed Green Bay Packers
NFL championship game ball, 1929**

This first Packers championship team included four future Hall of Famers, Curly Lambeau, Johnny "Blood" McNally (who later played for the Steelers), Geneva College's Cal Hubbard, who played his final season in Pittsburgh, and Mike Michalske. The Packers won championships in 1930 and 31, becoming the first and only team to win three consecutive NFL championships, a feat they repeated in 1965-67.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Birth of the Steelers

80 years ago

The Pittsburgh Steelers emerged from the sandlots of the North Side. They were known first as the Hope Harveys, after the firehouse and the doctor who sponsored them. Art Rooney played for, coached, and promoted the team and its successors, the Majestic Radios and the J. P. Rooneys.

In 1933, after Pennsylvania revised its blue laws to allow pro sports on Sundays, Rooney bought an NFL franchise, naming it the Pittsburgh Pirates. The team became the Steelers in 1940. Rooney kept the team alive during the Depression and World War II, often digging deep into his pockets to do so. The first winning season came in 1942, but except for a couple of bright years under Coach Jock Sutherland in 1946-47, the Steelers struggled. Though they lost more games than they won, the Steelers reflected the city's blue-collar persona with their hard-hitting, tough style of play.

This drawing is just one of more than 50 pieces of art that will be featured in *Art of the Steelers*, a companion exhibit developed by the History Center in partnership with Art Rooney, Jr.

Art Rooney, Sr., pencil drawing, by Denny Karchner, 2007.

Courtesy of Art Rooney, Jr.,
photo by Paula Andras.



Coach Chuck Noll, 1970s

A key to the Steelers success in the 1970s, Noll used the annual draft and his leadership skills to turn the team around. Noll is still the only NFL coach with four Super Bowl victories.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



LEFT: Joe Greene in action, 1970s.

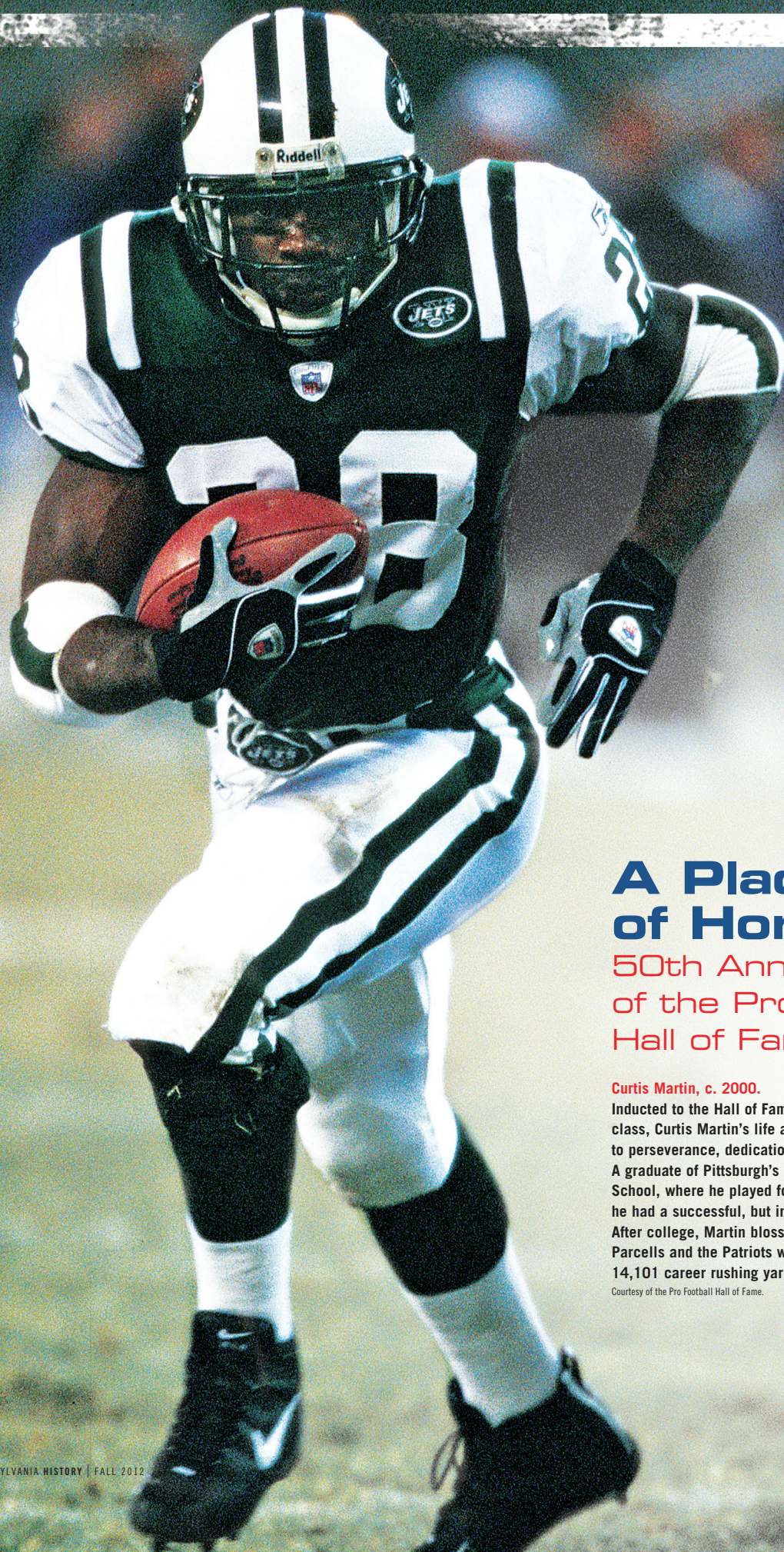
The Steelers came of age in the 1970s, as Monday Night Football created a national audience for the game. The first pick of the Chuck Noll era, "Mean" Joe Greene led the "Steel Curtain" defense that garnered four Super Bowl victories. Named Rookie of the Year in 1969, Greene made 10 Pro Bowls and earned defensive player of the year honors in 1972 and 1974. "Mean" Joe pioneered the technique of lining up at an angle, rather than lining up square to the line of scrimmage, disrupting opponents' blocking schemes. This technique, when coupled with his incredible quickness off the ball, enabled Greene to wreak havoc on his opponents. He retired after the 1981 season and became a coach. In 1987, Greene was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

BELOW: Helmet worn by Joe Greene in his final season in 1981.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.





A Place of Honor

50th Anniversary
of the Pro Football
Hall of Fame

Curtis Martin, c. 2000.

Inducted to the Hall of Fame with the most recent class, Curtis Martin's life and career are a testament to perseverance, dedication, and a drive to succeed. A graduate of Pittsburgh's Taylor Allderdice High School, where he played football only as a senior, he had a successful, but injury ridden career at Pitt. After college, Martin blossomed playing for Coach Bill Parcells and the Patriots where he began his march to 14,101 career rushing yards.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The Pro Football Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame opened its doors in Canton, Ohio, on September 7, 1963, enshrining its inaugural class of 17 members that day. Since that day, 256 men have joined that inaugural class as inductees. The Hall recognizes and honors excellence in the sport, as well as preserving and sharing the history of professional football.

**Canton Bulldogs jersey worn by
Wolcott "Woody" Roberts, 1922-23.**

The birthplace of the NFL, Canton was also home to the League's first two-time champions, the Bulldogs. These factors, as well as a vocal campaign by Canton residents, convinced the NFL to site the Hall of Fame there.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



"In 2000 I was accorded the highest single honor a pro football player can achieve when I was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.... To know that more than 23,000 men have played pro football, yet fewer than 300 have been elected to the Hall of Fame, is simply overwhelming."

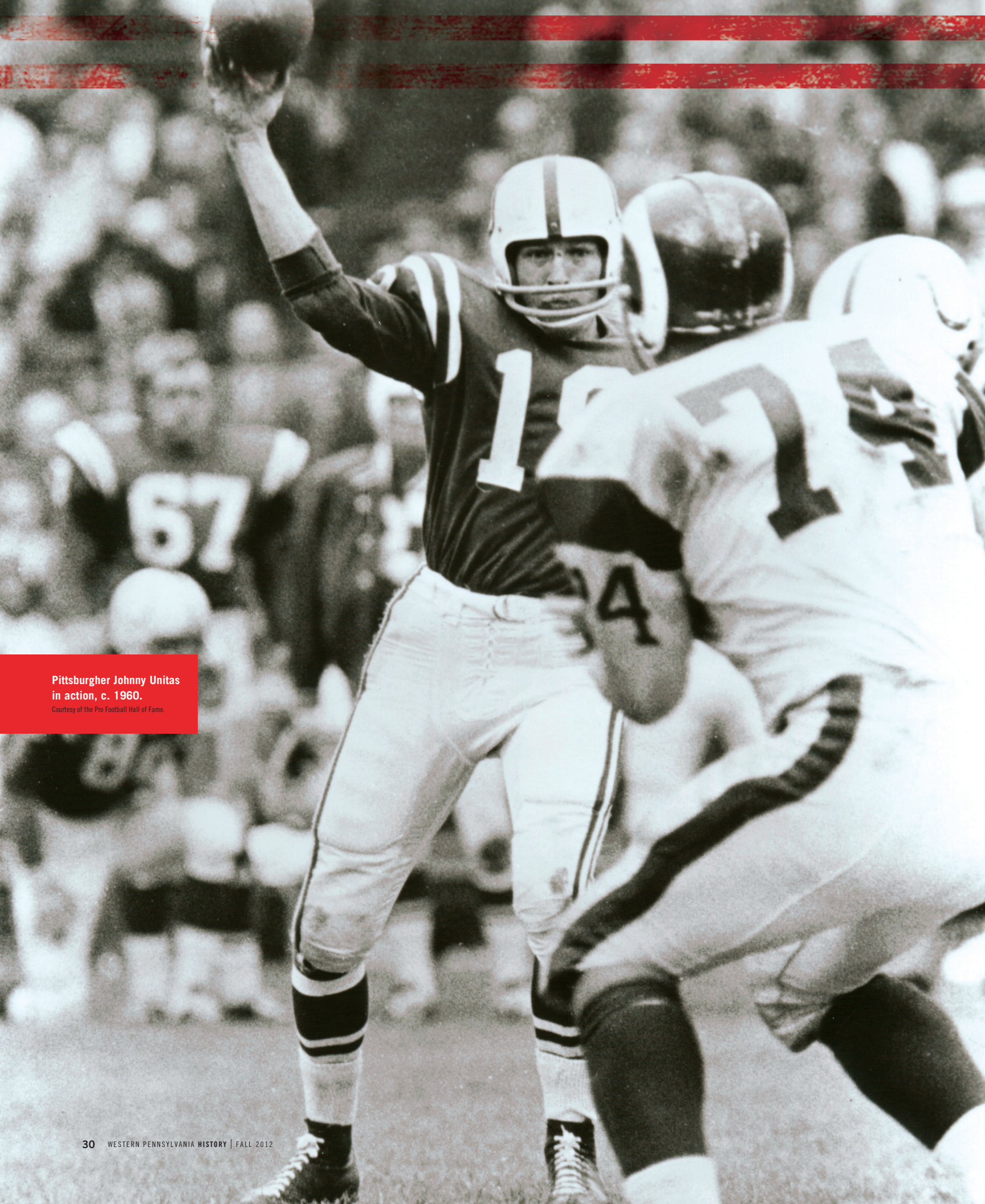
~ **Howie Long**



**Helmet used by Howie Long
in Firestorm, 1998.**

After his Hall of Fame career with the Oakland Raiders, Long has worked in movies and commercial television, as well as serving as a key member of the Fox football team. The Hall preserves collections related to members' post-football careers such as this movie prop.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

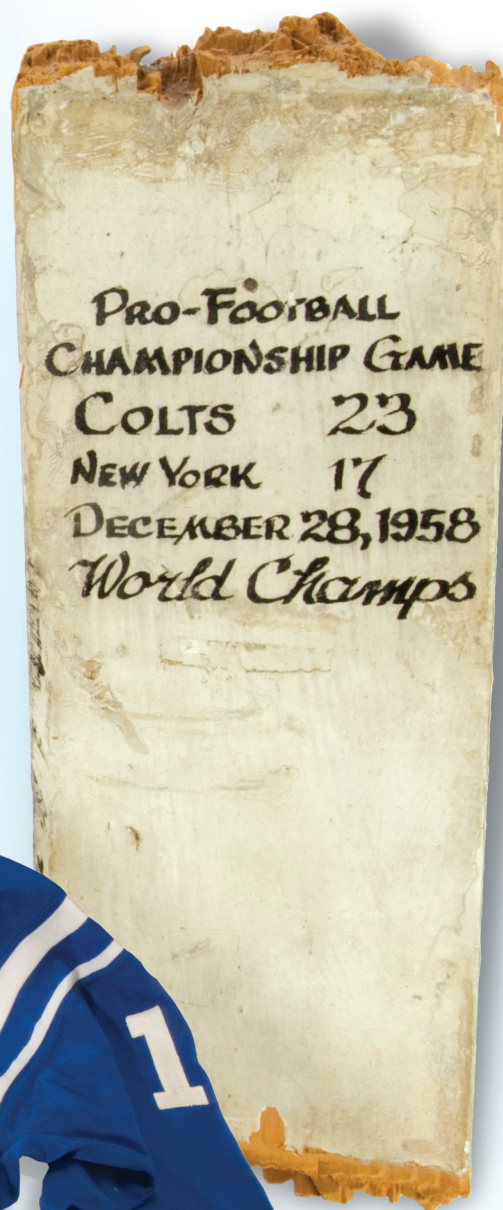


Pittsburgher Johnny Unitas
in action, c. 1960.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Great Moments “The Greatest Game Ever Played”

The Colts, led by Pittsburgh native Johnny Unitas, beat the Giants 23-17 in a game considered one of the greatest of all times. Decided in sudden death overtime, Unitas drove Baltimore downfield 80 yards in 13 plays to capture the win. NBC broadcasted the game, watched by an estimated 45 million people, greatly extending the reach and popularity of the sport. Seventeen individuals involved in the contest were later inducted into the Hall of Fame.



Piece of the goal post,
championship game,
December 28, 1958.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall
of Fame.



Jersey and shoes worn by
Johnny Unitas, c. 1960.

Unitas became known for his flat
top crew cut and his high top black
shoes, a look that matched his
tough, confident style of play.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



Great Moments **The Guarantee**

Super Bowl III pitted two of Western Pennsylvania's finest, the established on-field general, Johnny Unitas, against the brash young Joe Namath. Three days before the big game Namath guaranteed a Jets win and then delivered on his promise, establishing credibility for the AFL. Unitas always insisted that the Colts might have won the game, if he had not been held out until the final quarter by a nagging injury.

Joe Namath, Super Bowl III, January 12, 1969.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

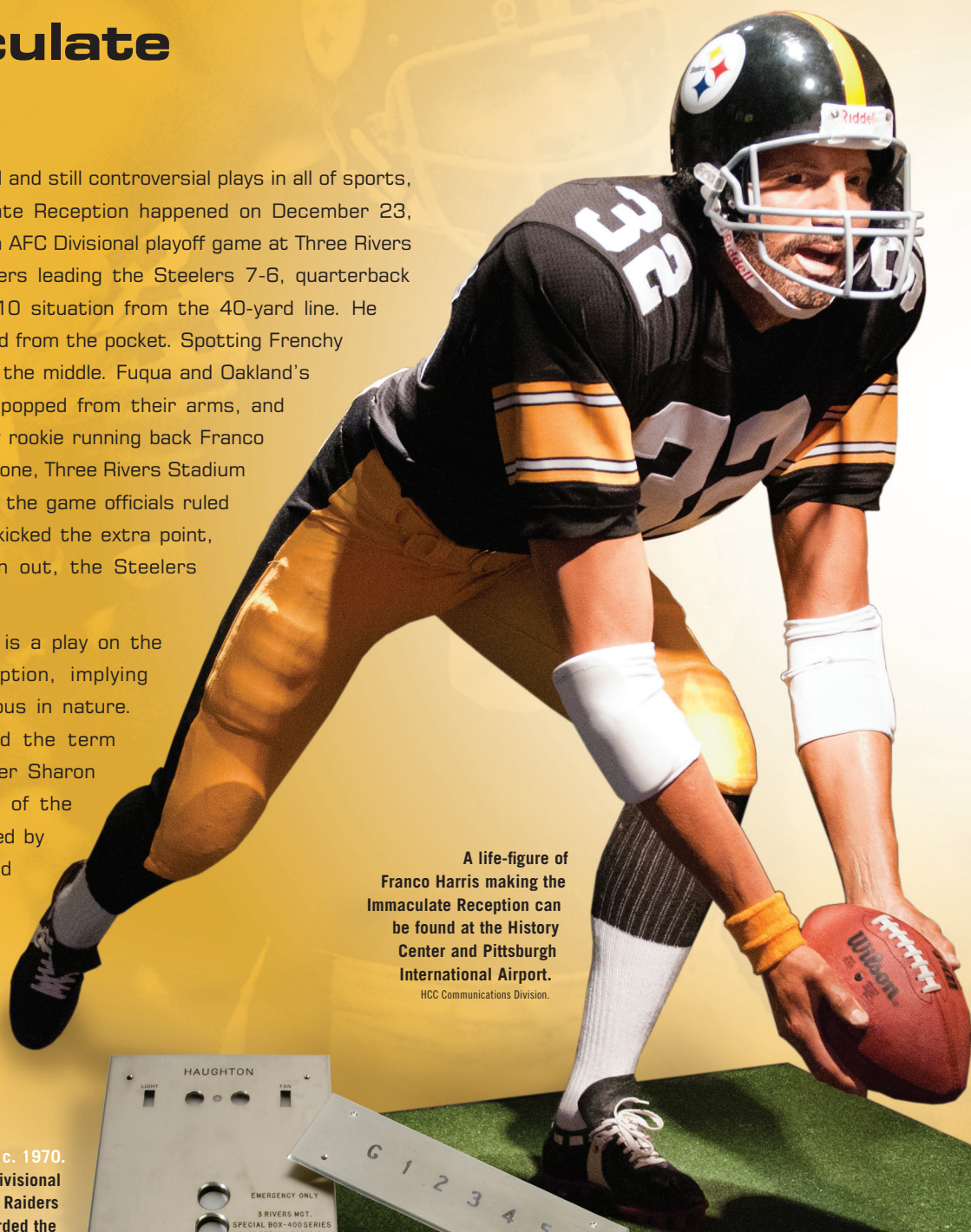
Great Moments The Immaculate Reception

Considered one of the most acclaimed and still controversial plays in all of sports, and Steelers' history, the Immaculate Reception happened on December 23, 1972. With just 22 seconds left in an AFC Divisional playoff game at Three Rivers Stadium, and with the Oakland Raiders leading the Steelers 7-6, quarterback Terry Bradshaw faced a fourth-and-10 situation from the 40-yard line. He dropped back to pass, but was flushed from the pocket. Spotting Frenchy Fuqua, Bradshaw sailed a pass down the middle. Fuqua and Oakland's Jack Tatum reached for the ball; it popped from their arms, and was snatched up at shoelace level by rookie running back Franco Harris. As Harris raced into the end zone, Three Rivers Stadium erupted in celebration. After a delay, the game officials ruled the play a touchdown, the Steelers kicked the extra point, and five seconds later, as time ran out, the Steelers emerged victors 13-7.

The phrase "Immaculate Reception" is a play on the religious term, Immaculate Conception, implying that the play was divine or miraculous in nature. Broadcaster Myron Cope first used the term on air. He heard it from Pittsburgher Sharon Levosky, who called Cope the night of the game and suggested the name, coined by her friend Michael Ord. The play marked a turning point in Steelers fortunes, initiating the dynasty of the 1970s.

A life-figure of Franco Harris making the Immaculate Reception can be found at the History Center and Pittsburgh International Airport.

HCC Communications Division.



Elevator panel from Three Rivers Stadium, c. 1970.

With less than a minute left in the 1972 AFC divisional playoff game and his team trailing the Oakland Raiders 7-6, Pittsburgh Steelers owner Art Rooney boarded the elevator that would take him to the Steelers' locker room. Expecting to console his team after their close loss, Rooney was stunned to learn, when the elevator doors opened, that his Steelers had somehow won. The Steelers' popular founder/owner missed the most famous play in his team's history, Franco Harris' "Immaculate Reception." This panel was taken from that elevator in Three Rivers Stadium.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



Champions



**Cleveland Browns jersey
worn by Jim Brown, c. 1960.**

Still regarded by many as the best running back to play the game, Brown retired in 1965 with a then record 12,312 career rushing yards and 15,459 combined net yards. A three-time MVP, he could run, catch passes, return kickoffs, and even threw for three touchdowns in his career.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



Shoe worn by Tom Dempsey, November 8, 1970.

Born without the toes on his right (kicking) foot, Dempsey still blasted his way into the record books. Wearing this specially designed boot, he connected for a 63-yard field goal to lift the Saints to a last second win over the Lions. That distance has been matched three times, but never exceeded, in an NFL game.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Jersey worn by Steve Young in Super Bowl XXIX, January 29, 1995.

Western Pa.'s own Joe Montana led the San Francisco 49ers to their first four Super Bowl victories. In Super Bowl XXIX, Steve Young quarterbacked the team to a record fifth win over the Chargers 49-26 and his record six Super Bowl touchdown passes earned Young the MVP award.

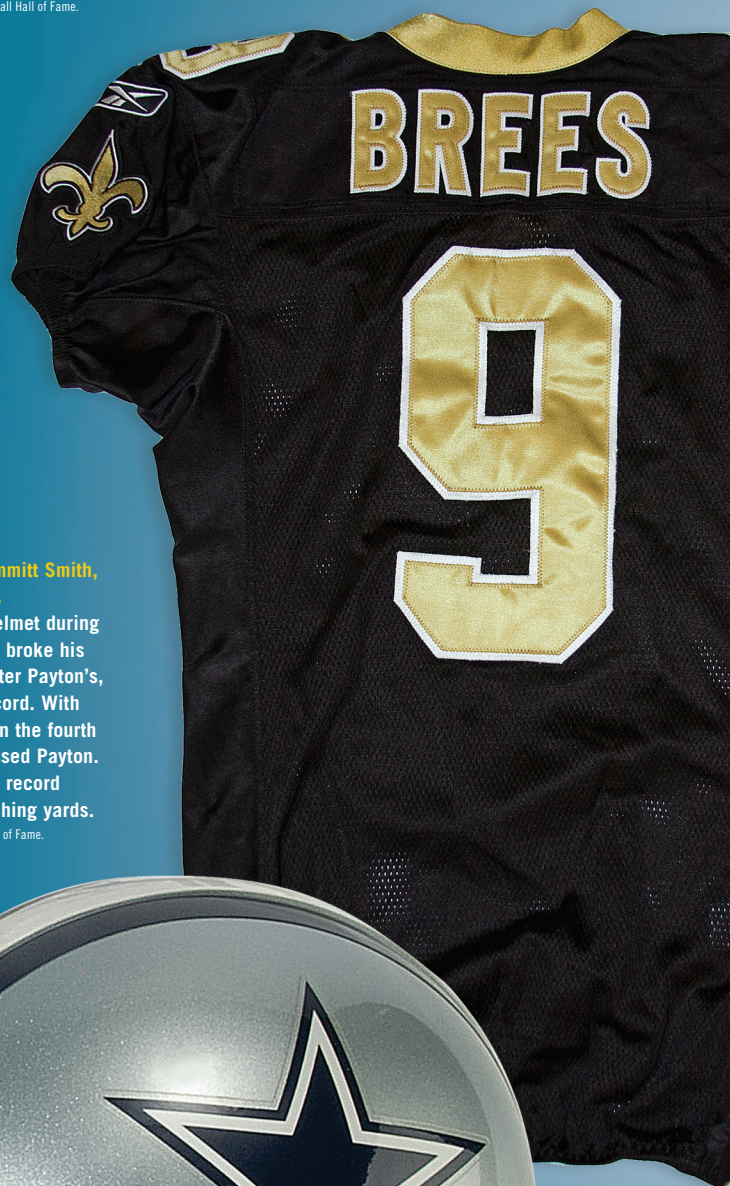
Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



Jersey worn by Drew Brees, Super Bowl XLIV, February 7, 2010.

Brees gave the city of New Orleans a much needed lift, leading the Saints to victory over the Colts 31-17 in Super Bowl XLIV. Named the game's MVP, Brees completed a record-tying 32 passes for 288 yards and two touchdowns.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



Helmet used by Emmitt Smith, October 27, 2002.

Smith wore this helmet during the game when he broke his boyhood idol, Walter Payton's, career rushing record. With an 11-yard carry in the fourth quarter, Smith passed Payton. He would amass a record 18,355 career rushing yards.

Courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.





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This season marks the 40th anniversary of the greatest play in NFL history – the Immaculate Reception.

Be part of the action by donating to a special monument recognizing the play that changed Pittsburgh Steelers history.

Stay tuned to learn how YOU can be part of the Immaculate Celebration this fall.

