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EAGLES KICK-OFF 75th SEASON IN STYLE

On Wednesday April 25th, The Philadelphia Eagles revealed plans to celebrate their 75th season, including a throwback game complete with the uniform colors of 1933. “We will celebrate 75 years of Eagles football and the most passionate fans in the NFL during the 2007 season,” Eagles Chairman/CEO Jeffrey Lurie said at the press conference held at the NovaCare Complex. David Akers and Jevon Kearse modeled blue and yellow throwback uniforms at the press conference, displaying the color scheme and design worn by the Eagles during their inaugural season of 1933.

In addition to wearing the throwback uniforms for their September 23rd game against the Lions, the standard uniforms will bear the 75th anniversary logo seen above. The team has also launched a virtual museum on their website that documents the history of the organization with multi-media content dating back to the beginning of the franchise. An online poll is available in the virtual museum which will be used to determine the 75th Anniversary Team. “Knowing how much the Eagles have meant to the City of Philadelphia, I am truly honored to be a part of the rich history of this team,” said Lurie. For more information, visit www.philadelphiaeagles.com.

Three days later on Saturday April 28th, the Eagles held their annual draft party at Lincoln Financial Field. Alumni on-hand signing autographs included Harold Carmichael, Tommy McDonald, Pete Retzlaff and Kevin Reilly. The team played host to over 5,000 fans who had the opportunity to tour the locker room and meet the 2007 Philadelphia Eagles Cheerleaders.



ALUMNI PHOTO FLASHBACK



Frank LeMaster stuffs Packers RB Eric Torkelson during a 21-10 victory in 1979 at Lambeau Field

2007 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

Sunday, Sept. 9	@ Green Bay	1 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 17	Washington	8:30 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 23	Detroit	1 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 30	@ Giants	8:15 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 14	@ Jets	1 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 21	Chicago	4:15 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 28	@ Minnesota	1 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 4	Dallas	8:15 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 11	@ Washington	1 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 18	Miami	1 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 25	@ New England	8:15 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 2	Seattle	1 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 9	Giants	1 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 16	@ Dallas	4:15 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 23	@ New Orleans	1 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 30	Buffalo	1 p.m.

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

JIM GALLAGHER

The front office of the Eagles is made up of over 175 people. When Jim Gallagher joined the franchise in 1949, things were slightly different. “We had nine or ten full-time employees when I started,” Gallagher recollected. “I made \$45 a week which was ten dollars more than I made at Penn as an assistant to the A.D. during Chuck Bednarik’s senior year.” Soon after joining the team, Jim Gallagher began assisting G.M. Vince McNally by gathering information about collegiate players. “Colleges weren’t very cooperative back then, so we had to be creative. We would acquire programs and yearbooks through advertising agencies and even send cash to college assistants for any information that would give us an edge in scouting.”

In 1957, Gallagher was officially given the title of personnel director. A few months prior, he played a key role in one of the greatest drafts in franchise history. “We gathered a ton of information on a little guy out of Oklahoma named Tommy McDonald,” Gallagher remembered. “His Sooner teams went undefeated during his final three seasons and McDonald kept showing up on the highlight films. Some of our scouts thought he was too small but I kept telling them, ‘All he does is score touchdowns!’” After convincing the team to select McDonald in the third round, Gallagher played a major role in the decision to select Sonny Jurgenson in the following round. 50 years later, it is still the only draft in team history to yield two Hall of Famers.

After seven seasons as personnel director, Gallagher took the helm of the public relations department where he experienced the highlight of his career during the magical 1980 season. “The NFC Championship game against the Cowboys was incredible,” Gallagher reflected. “I was so excited, I could barely control myself...it felt like my insides were exploding.”

Ten years later, Jim Gallagher was named the club’s director of alumni relations, a role he served until his retirement in 1995 after 46 years with the franchise. Later that year, he was inducted into the Eagles Honor Roll and in February, Gallagher was inducted into the North East Catholic H.S. Hall of Fame.

Those accomplishments pale in comparison to the greatest accomplishment of his career: “I met my wife Betty during the 50’s when we both worked for the team” Gallagher shared. The water cooler romance led to wedding bells on May 3, 1958 followed by six children and 16 grandchildren. “Today is our 49th wedding anniversary and I’m taking her out for a fancy dinner so we can celebrate in style!” Happy Anniversary and thanks for the memories, Jim.



IN MEMORY OF...

EDDIE ROBINSON • 1919-2007

RUSTON, La. (AP) - Former Grambling coach Eddie Robinson, who created a football powerhouse at a small, black college in northern Louisiana that turned out hundreds of NFL players, has died. He was 88.

The soft-spoken coach spent nearly 60 years at Grambling State University, where he set a standard for victories with 408 wins and nearly every season saw his top players drafted by NFL teams.

“For the Grambling family this is a very emotional time,” Doug Williams said after his death. “But I’m thinking about Eddie Robinson the man, not in today-time, but in the day and what he meant to me and to so many people.”

Robinson’s career spanned 11 presidents, several wars and the civil rights movement. In 57 years, Robinson compiled a record of 408-165-15. Until John Gagliardi topped Robinson’s victory mark four years ago, Robinson was known as the winningest coach in college football history.

“The real record I have set for over 50 years is the fact that I have had one job and one wife,” Robinson once said.

More than 200 of his players went on to the NFL.





TURN BACK THE CLOCK... THE 1957 NFL DRAFT *(continued from page 2)*

It wasn't meant to be. With the sixth pick in the draft, Cleveland selected Jim Brown out of Syracuse University who went on to become arguably the greatest player in NFL history.

The Eagles recovered from their disappointment quickly. After selecting Peaks with the next pick, the Eagles went on to acquire future Hall of Famers Tommy McDonald and Sonny Jurgenson in the third and fourth rounds respectively. McDonald enjoyed a brilliant career in Philadelphia that was highlighted by his pivotal touchdown catch in the 1960 title game against the Green Bay Packers.

"Tommy was a touchdown machine in college," Gallagher recalled. "He scored them every which way... passing, running, receiving... even on kick returns." In 1955, Tommy McDonald scored a touchdown in every Sooners game.

"As for Jurgenson, we had great reports about the strength of his arm," said Gallagher. That strong arm went on to throw 32 touchdown passes during the 1961 season, an Eagles record that still stands today.

Fifty years later, the 1957 draft is still the only one in franchise history to yield two Hall of Famers. Now we know how close they were to adding a third name to that list. "It would have been nice to have seen #32 in Eagles Green," Gallagher lamented. "But who knows, maybe Peaks would have gone on to a Hall of Fame career had he ran behind Cleveland's offensive line and avoided injuries." Earlier this year, Clarence Peaks passed away at the age of 71.

Nine players from the '57 NFL draft went on to have Hall of Fame careers. It is a record that has lasted fifty years and may never be broken.

MAY TRIVIA QUESTION

Who was the Eagles 2nd round pick in the 1957 NFL draft?

- A. Bob Pellegrini B. Don Burroughs
C. Ted Dean D. Billy Ray Barnes

(Answer from last month: THE BENGALS)

FOCUS ON HEALTH

RETIRED PLAYERS FOCUS OF NEW STUDY *(continued from page 2)*

The number of players participating, observers say, is a sign of a new level of health consciousness in the NFL partly fueled by the proliferation of life-curtailling injuries and the early deaths of big stars such as Reggie White.

Football players' health first got a formal look with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's 1994 release of a mortality study of 6,848 players. It defied conventional wisdom, showing NFL players overall had a death rate 46 percent lower than the general population of men of similar age and race. But it also found those on the offensive and defensive lines had a 52 percent greater risk of dying from heart disease than the general population.

The NFL Players Association has funded health efforts and is trying to educate members through its newsletter and in meetings.

"We want to get to these guys early," said Andre Collins, who heads outreach to retired players for the NFLPA. "We want to educate them, we want them to lose weight, we don't want their hearts to work so hard."

The patients endured blood tests and urine analysis, sleep apnea screening and lung evaluations, not to mention measures to predict heart disease and stroke risk. The mood was congenial. Athletes were armed with lists of the maladies for which their football careers could be blamed, but there were no regrets. "I think if you polled everyone here today," said Keith Sims, who played on the offensive line for the Dolphins and the Redskins, "we'd all go back."

UPCOMING EVENTS



NFLPA RETIRED PLAYERS CONVENTION

The 2007 NFLPA Retired Players Convention will be held May 30th through June 3rd in Atlanta. For more information about the convention, visit www.nflpa.org or call 800-372-2000 and ask for Corinne Murphy.



2007 ALUMNI DAY AT TRAINING CAMP

Alumni Day at Lehigh will be held on Saturday, August 4th. For more information, call Marie Solano at 856.939.1743.



EAGLES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

If you are interested in attending a Philadelphia Eagles Alumni Association meeting, please contact Marie Solano at 856.939.1743.



13th ANNUAL EAGLES CARNIVAL & AUCTION

The 2007 Eagles Carnival & Auction will be held Sunday, August 19th, from 3 to 8 p.m., at Lincoln Financial Field.

THE PHILADELPHIA EAGLES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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