

The Round Table

*A Semi-Annual
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of the
Old Time Athletes
Association*

The new website

By Ray Wilson

This is the way it was . . . when **Eddie LeBaron** and the Washington Redskins arrived in Manhattan for a game with the New York Giants, new coach **Curly Lambeau**, late of Green Bay, handed each player a quarter with strict instructions to use it to take the subway to the Polo Grounds. The year was 1952, Eddie's rookie season; and the owner of the Redskins, **George "Hotwash" Marshall**, was well known for his somewhat penurious practices.

But Washington in those days was a long way, both in miles and mentality, from Stockton and the College of the Pacific where the new Redskin quarterback had starred for four years, making All-American in his final season. At COP Eddie was on the field for sixty minutes and on offense had done it all: pass, run, kick, and punt. Staying in the game on defense, he played safety.

The Korean War had broken out in the summer of 1950 and following graduation our speaker joined the Marine Corps. Commissioned a second lieutenant, he was sent to the fighting zone almost immediately. Wounded twice, he was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star – the latter for helping to rescue and rally a stranded and leaderless platoon on Heartbreak Ridge.

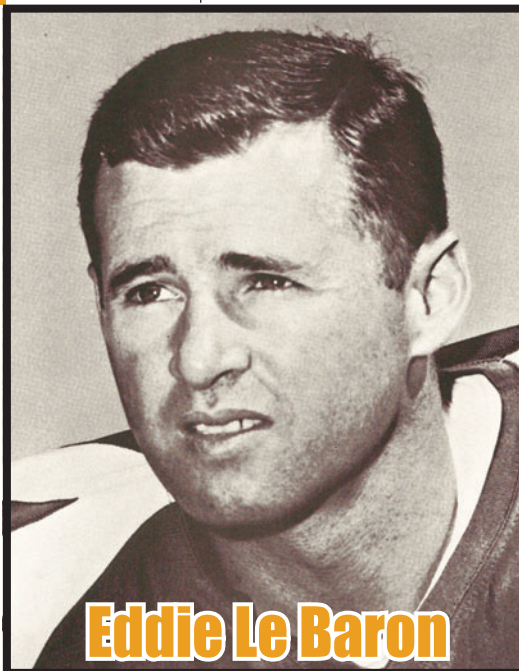
Selected in the 10th round of the 1950 NFL draft by the Redskins, Eddie, returned from Korea, decided to give pro football a try. One should bear in mind that in those days the NFL was a much smaller league with only thirteen teams and that consequently draft rounds were correspondingly



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smaller.

Moreover Eddie probably didn't look like a safe bet, being relatively smaller in size and therefore presumably less durable over a longer pro season. Nevertheless the Redskin 10th rounder was very athletic, quick thinking, and resourceful - someone who could turn a broken play into a solid gain. Besides, Marshall and his coaches probably liked the extra value he delivered with his punting and kicking.

1952 was **Sammy Baugh's** last season. One of the greatest of all quarterbacks, college and pro, Baugh graciously (we assume) made way for a youngster fresh from the West Coast. Probably in deference to a great veteran, Lambeau allowed Baugh to start the first five games, giving way after a few minutes in each case to the new man. Eddie played in all twelve games, starting the last seven. Passing, running, punting, and kicking extra points brought him to the notice of the sportswriters and in spite of a

4 and 8 season, he was named NFL Rookie of the Year.

Eddie played several seasons for the Redskins, remembering now that it was a different era in many ways. Contracts were insufficient then to sustain players throughout the off-season and finding a job or pursuing further education was often necessary. For an instance Eddie himself became a lawyer and his two halfback mates in the Washington backfield became doctors.

Eddie worked for, and played with a colorful cast of characters. There was the Redskin owner, George Preston Marshall, called "Hotwash" (or perhaps it was "Hogwash") by his first wife, the actress Louise Brooks, owing to his ownership of a chain of laundries in and around Washington. A born promoter, he added a marching band to the team; a rarity among NFL teams, and a fight song, "Hail to the Redskins." Marshall wasn't always so miserly either, paying for team dinners at "21" in New York City. When the Redskins traveled to San Francisco to play the 49ers, the team always stayed at the Clift Hotel, not exactly an inexpensive hostelry.

After a few seasons Curly Lambeau was replaced by the veteran college and pro coach **Joe Kuharich**, one of Eddie's favorite mentors, "**Big Daddy**" **Lipscomb**, the huge Baltimore defensive tackle, was an occasional dinner companion of Eddie's who was probably hoping to promote a spirit of collegiality. Such a spirit only lasted as long as did the dinner, our speaker says.

In 1960, after leading the league in
(Continued on page 4)

Members & Guests at the 2007 Fall OTA Meeting:

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David Clisham
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Bill Collins
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Dan Costello
Bob Cunningham
Pete Dalton
Frank Damon
Bob Datwyler
Bob Dawson
Tom Dee
Jim Deignen
Don De Meyer
Vince De Nevers
Joe Desmond
Larry Doherty



Last month's speaker Gary Plummer knows how to reach his audience. He had humor, inside knowledge of football and some players and answered many questions from the floor.

Jim Dresser
Jere Driscoll
John Drocco
Bob Ellingson
Alonzo Emery
Ron Ertola
Bernie Esser
Warren Fannin
Bob Farber
John Featherstone
Don Feehan
Roger Ferrari
Chuck Figone
Marcel Fiore
Jack Fitzpatrick
Jack Fleming
Bob Foley
John Fracchia
Alan Fraser
Richard Friedman
Dave Friedenberg
Jim Gallagher
Elmer Gallegos
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Rod Hughes
Dick Huxley
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Charlie Iverson
Art Jepsen
Gary Johnson
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Charles Jones
Bob Kahl
Bill Kaplan
Mic Kelly
Al Kent
Andy Kerr
Herb Kessler
Kris Kimball
Bill Kingsbury
Jim Kirby
Gilbert Kirwin
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Ed Kurz

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Vic Lampe
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Gary Plummer
Pat O'Shea
Manny Pariano
Jack Phelan
Jim Placak
Howard Poblitz
Nick Poppin
Bob Powers
Howard Powleson
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Fred Quinn
Ted Rademaker
Dennis Ragan
Bob Randall
Harry Redlick
Buck Reed
Gil Ribera
Tony Ribera
Baxter Rice
Bill Richardson
Jerry Richardson
Cliff Righetti
Gene Roberts
Tony Rodriquez

Al Romero
Marv Rossi
Joe Rotenberg
Ed Rothman
Seb Saia
Jack Scramaglia
William Sheehan
Louis Signer
Bob Simi
J. R. Skidmore
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Jeff Stahl
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Allan Tripp
Bob Unruh
Chuck Vanoncini
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Dick Verling
Joe Vollert
Charles Wagner
John Wagner
Howard Waits
John Walsh
Ray Warman
Terry White
Ray Williamson
Ray Wilson
Gil Ybarra

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Milton Axt, Jr.
Gerald Bachecki
Chuck Barberini
Steve Barnes
Brett Barron
Ed Binetti
Jim Calgaro
Ken Cherry
Jim Connoly
Bill Curran
Rich Di Conte
Mike Dotterweich
Joe Fernando
Fred Flowers
Liam Frost
Shawn Frost
Frank Halldorson
Ken Haukom
Oddie Hoffman
Mel Johnson
Mike Keck
Jim Keller
Steve Landridge

“Mike” Leads Lively Q&A

By Ray Wilson

Gary Plummer, former 49er Superbowl “Mike” or middle linebacker was our fall dinner guest and speaker. Presently Gary is the color analyst together with play-by-play announcer and OTAer **Joe Starkey** for KGO radio.

Dispensing with formalities, Gary gave an insider’s account of current 49er woes. Relaxed, but animated and spontaneous, he began with some stories from his own football background. There was the coach from Stanford who Gary remembered “laughed in my face” when told of his ambitions to play in the PAC-10. Much later that same man, **George Seifert**, was head coach of the 49ers and conceded that while he had thought Gary didn’t have the size or speed at that earlier time to play in the college ranks, he thought enough to sign our speaker to a pro contract and start him in the 1994 Superbowl.

The question and answer period was especially lively

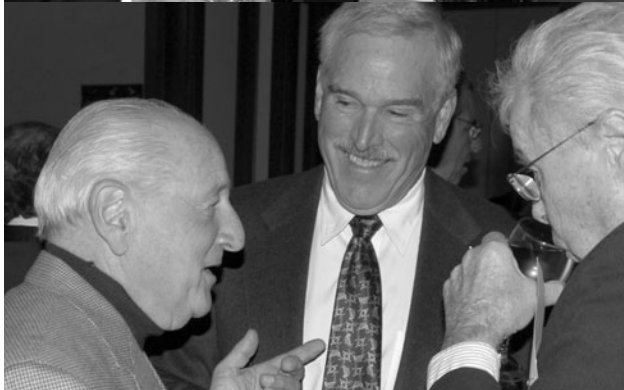


Gary Plummer and his lady Corey Stein. as Gary responded in a candid and straightforward manner. Like his playing days, he didn’t duck anyone and said what was on his mind. Naturally most questions revolved around the 49ers current problems. Gary defended the 49ers present administration, but had some strong feelings about some players who weren’t playing up to their potential. It was a rewarding no-holds-barred session beginning with the usual fine dinner and some warm fellowship thrown in.

MOVERS & SHAKERS



- Bob Maloney
- Kevin Maloney
- Greg Marinee
- Gene Mullin
- Gene Noble
- Frank Noonan
- Bill Phillips
- Bob Placak
- Peter Quevedo
- Phil Ryan
- Mike Saia
- Dave Smith
- Corey Stein
- Jim Storer
- Carl Sundquist
- Joe Wagner
- Jeff Wrench



NewKIDS

We Welcome the following New Members

Gerald Bachecki

Riordan '58, 3-years. Football, Baseball and Track

Charles Baker

S.I. '58, 3 years Football, All-City, 2 years Track, Stanford University '62, 2 years Football

Mark Bass

Woodside H.S. '76, 4 years Football, Foothill J.C. '78, Los Gatos, CA, 2 years Football. Chico State '80, 2 years Rugby, 12 years Old Blues Rugby Club, 2 years Rugby, Australia and New Zealand

Jim Calgaro

John O'Connell Vocation H.S., SF '67, 4 years Basketball, M.V.P. '67

William Curren

Sacred Heart '56, 3 years Basketball, USF '60

Mike Dotterweich

Jefferson H.S. '55, Daly City, CA 3 years Track

Bill Engler

S.I. '55, 2 years Basketball and 3 years Golf, USF '59, 2 years Basketball

Richard Friedman

Lincoln H.S. '51, 3 years Football, All-City

Brendan Frost

Sacred Heart '81, 4 year Soccer, All W.C.A.L., Skyline College '83, 2 year Soccer

(Continued from page 1)

passing in 1958, Eddie was traded to the newly enfranchised Dallas Cowboys and its yet-to-become legendary coach, **Tom Landry**. Eddie was nearing the end and after four difficult seasons, gave way to **Don Meredith**.

The rest of the story is familiar. Eddie became a successful attorney practicing in Las Vegas. He was appointed general manager of the Atlanta Falcons in 1977, serving in that post until 1982. From 1983 until 1985 he served as executive vice-president of the same club.

A four-time pro bowler, our speaker is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame and of the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame. It is our privilege and honor to warmly welcome this true All-American - in every sense that those last two words might evoke.

Liam Frost

Lincoln H.S. '77, 3 years Soccer, All City, Honorable Mention

Arthur Gerrans

Balboa H.S. '57, 4 years Football, All City, Honorable Mention, 2 years, Balboa Athletic Hall of Fame Member

James Goeller

Sacred Heart '77, 2 years Basketball, Haddon Field Memorial H.S. New Jersey, 2 years Basketball, Cross Country and Soccer

Frank Halldorson

Lowell H.S. '59, 4 years Football and Basketball

Ken Haukom

Los Altos '62, Los Altos, CA, 2 years Football, 4 years Track & Wrestling

Darrel Hutchinson

Jefferson H.S. '56, Daly City, CA 4 years Basketball, All-P.A.L.

Charles Jones

Lincoln H.S., 3 years Football

Robert Jonsen

S.I. '55, 3 years Football and Track

Phil Ryan

S.I. '57, 2 years Baseball and Basketball, Santa Clara University '61, 4 years Baseball

Mike Ryerson

Serra H.S., '57, San Mateo, CA, 3 years Football and Track

Michael Saia

Drake H.S. '79, San Anselmo, CA, 4 years Basketball, 1st Team All-League 2 years Cal Poly '84, 4 years Basketball, NCAA Basketball Official

Carl Sundquist

Westwood H.S. '52, Westwood, CA, 3 years Basketball, 2 years Football & Track

Jeff Wrench

Redwood H.S. '78, Corte Madera, CA, 4 years Baseball, Cal State Sonoma '81, 3 years Lacrosse.

Last of the Ninth

Since our last Round Table we have lost the following friends:

Spencer Voyne
Bob Farber

*There are two kinds
of statistics,
the kind you look up
and the kind
you make up.*

- REX STOUT -

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