



57 YEARS AGO ON OPENING DAY -- A RECORD 87 POINTS!

Fifty-seven years ago, the **WASHINGTON REDSKINS** and **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** opened the 1947 season with a record-breaking bang. The Eagles outscored the Redskins 45-42 on September 28 before a crowd of 35,406 in Philadelphia's Municipal Stadium. The 87-point total was an NFL record and continues to stand as the most points scored in an opening game. The record for most combined points in any NFL game is 113 by Washington (72) and the New York Giants (41) on November 27, 1966.

The 12-touchdown scoring blitz, an NFL record at the time, was highlighted by the play of two future Pro Football Hall of Famers -- Washington quarterback **SAMMY BAUGH** and Philadelphia halfback **STEVE VAN BUREN**.

Baugh, whose 1947 totals in completions (210), attempts (354) and yards passing (2,938) were NFL records, threw for 364 yards and five touchdowns, including three to rookie end **HUGH TAYLOR**. Van Buren, whose 1,008 rushing yards for the year were also a league record, returned a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown and rushed for another while totaling 98 yards on the ground.

September 28, 1947, Municipal Stadium, Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia	10	14	14	7 --	45
Washington	0	14	14	14--	42

- Phi - FG Muha 40
- Phi - Pihos 19 pass from Thompson (Patton kick)
- Was - Nussbaumer 25 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)
- Was - Taylor 62 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)
- Phi - Van Buren 95 kickoff return (Patton kick)
- Phi - Sherman 1 run (Patton kick)
- Was - Saenz 94 kickoff return (Poillon kick)
- Phi - Van Buren 1 run (Patton kick)
- Phi - Pihos 21 pass from Thompson (Patton kick)
- Was - Poillon 4 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)
- Phi - Armstrong 29 pass from Thompson (Patton kick)
- Was - Taylor 36 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)
- Was - Taylor 18 pass from Baugh (Poillon kick)



OPENING DAY: THE DUTCHMAN GOES WILD!

Los Angeles Rams quarterback **NORM “THE DUTCHMAN” VAN BROCKLIN** entered the 1951 season entrenched in a dual for the starting position with veteran **BOB WATERFIELD**. A Waterfield injury sidelined the incumbent quarterback prior to the season opener against the Yanks, and opened the door for Van Brocklin to show his worth. Van Brocklin took advantage of the opportunity by producing the most prolific passing performance in NFL history. Van Brocklin threw for an NFL record 554 yards in a 54-14 rout of the New York Yanks at the Los Angeles Coliseum. The Hall of Fame quarterback tossed five touchdowns and completed 27 of 41 passes.

“It’s the finest exhibition of passing I’ve ever seen,” said Rams Coach **JIMMY PHELAN**. “Van Brocklin was hitting them in the eye practically every time he threw the ball.”

Van Brocklin, who passed away in 1983 at the age of 57, remained subdued about the performance. “Everything I threw seemed to be caught and run for a long gain,” he said.

TOM FEARS averaged 23.1 yards on his seven catches and **ELROY “CRAZYLEGS” HIRSCH** averaged 19.2 on nine receptions. Los Angeles amassed an NFL record 735 total yards and 34 first downs.

“They don’t need me out here anymore,” said Waterfield after the game. The two quarterbacks would split time for the rest of the season as the Rams captured the 1951 NFL Championship.

Van Brocklin’s record has stood for the past 52 years. Former Houston Oilers quarterback **WARREN MOON** came the closest to breaking Van Brocklin’s record with a 527-yard day against Kansas City in 1990.

Following are the top passing performances in different levels of football:

LEAGUE	QUARTERBACK	DATE	PERFORMANCE
High School	David Koral, Pacific Palisades, CA	September 22, 2000	764 yards vs. Grant, CA
NCAA Division III	Zamir Amin, Menlo	October 7, 2000	731 yards vs. Cal Lutheran
NCAA Division I A	David Klingler, Houston	December 2, 1990	716 yards vs. Arizona St.
Canadian Football League	Matt Dunigan, Winnipeg	July 14, 1994	713 yards vs. Edmonton
NCAA Division II	Wilkie Perez, Glenville St.	October 25, 1997	642 yards vs. Concord
NCAA Division I AA	Jamie Martin, Weber St.	November 23, 1991	624 yards vs. Idaho St.
NFL Europe	Dameyune Craig, Scotland	May 22, 1999	611 yards vs. Frankfurt
NFL	Norm Van Brocklin, LA Rams	September 28, 1951	554 yards vs. NY Yanks
Arena Football League	Clint Dolezel, Houston	May 14, 1999	479 yards vs. Milwaukee
arenafootball2	Shane Stafford, Tallahassee	June 2, 2000	459 yards vs. Birmingham