

80 YEARS AGO, RED GRANGE PUTS NFL ON MAP

Eighty years ago this year, one of the most unusual, memorable and never-to-be-repeated events in NFL history took place--involving one of the greatest players in football history--**No. 77, HAROLD “RED” GRANGE.**

It was in January of 1926 that Chicago Bears rookie Grange--the recently signed, nationally known running back from the University of Illinois--completed a 10,000-mile, 19-game, 66-day odyssey across the U.S. (including eight games in 12 days). The journey brought the still-young National Football League its first national recognition.

The tour, arranged by promoter **C.C. (CHARLEY) PYLE** in conjunction with Bears owner **GEORGE HALAS** and **ED (DUTCH) STERNAMAN** began on Thanksgiving Day, 1925 in Chicago and concluded on Jaunuary 31, 1926 in Seattle. In between, more than 350,000 fans saw the “Galloping Ghost.” Three times, pro football attendance records were set, the last on January 16 when 75,000 people jammed the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum to see Grange face All-American halfback **GEORGE (WILDCAT) WILSON** of the University of Washington.

“No one will ever attempt anything like this again,” said Grange after the tour. He was right.

Grange, who would go on to a Pro Football Hall of Fame career with the Bears, earned a staggering sum of \$75,000 for the tour. And the gratitude of a young NFL.

THE RED GRANGE-CHICAGO BEARS TOUR

Date	City	Opponent	Score*	Date	City	Opponent	Score*
Nov. 26	Chicago	Chicago Cardinals	0-0	Dec. 25	Miami	Coral Gables Collegians	7-0
Nov. 29	Chicago	Columbus Tigers	14-13	Jan. 1	Tampa	Tampa Cardinals	17-3
Dec. 2	St. Louis	Donnelly All-Stars	39-6	Jan. 2	Jacksonville	Jacksonville All-Stars	19-6
Dec. 5	Philadelphia	Frankford Yellow Jackets	14-7	Jan. 10	New Orleans	All Southern	14-0
Dec. 6	New York	New York Giants	19-7	Jan. 16	Los Angeles	Los Angeles Tigers	17-7
Dec. 8	Washington	Washington All-Stars	19-0	Jan. 17	San Diego	California All-Stars	14-0
Dec. 9	Boston	Providence Steam Roller	7-9	Jan. 24	San Francisco	San Francisco Tigers	9-14
Dec. 10	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh All-Stars	0-24	Jan. 30	Portland	The Longshoremen	60-3
Dec. 12	Detroit	Detroit Panthers	0-21	Jan. 31	Seattle	Washington All-Stars	34-0
Dec. 13	Chicago	New York Giants	0-9				

\*Bears score listed first

65 YEARS AGO: A 73-0 TITLE VICTORY!

Before 36,034 stunned fans at Washington’s Griffith Stadium on December 8, 1940 at the 1940 NFL Championship Game, the Chicago Bears played near-perfect football to defeat the Washington Redskins 73-0 for the league title.

**Yes, 73-0.** Ten Chicago players scored 11 total touchdowns. The Bears rushed for 381 yards, and completed seven of 10 passes for 138 yards. On defense, the “Monsters of the Midway” played just as flawlessly, allowing only 22 rushing yards and intercepting eight passes, including three third-quarter touchdown returns.

The 73-point margin was and still is the largest margin of victory of any game in NFL history.

“That game never should have happened that way and it probably never will happen that way again,” said Redskins quarterback **SAMMY BAUGH.** “You don’t see but one game like that in a lifetime.”

“It would be like winning the World Series with four no-hitters,” said Bears quarterback **SID LUCKMAN** of the Bears’ flawless performance.

When asked what the score would have been had one of his teammates not dropped a sure touchdown pass early in the game, Baugh replied, “Seventy-three to seven.”

To add to the Redskins’ embarrassment, the game was the first in NFL history to be broadcast on network radio. The Mutual Broadcasting System had paid \$2,500 for the rights to send the game to over 120 stations across the country. Legendary broadcaster **RED BARBER** was at the microphone.

After the November loss to the Redskins, Bears owner and coach **GEORGE HALAS** brought in Stanford coach **CLARK SHAUGHNESSY** to help his team perfect the T-formation. It was the birth of the modern-T, and a memorable birthday it was.

“That day in football was like going from the Ford Model T to the super deluxe Rolls-Royce,” said Luckman of the Bears’ new offensive system. “Our biggest fear was we were over-prepared. On the train, the boys would play bridge or cards and joke and laugh. This time, you could have heard a pin drop. We were studying our playbooks.”

The studying paid off. On the second play of the game, Chicago running back **BILL OSMANSKI** took a handoff from Luckman and sped around left end toward the sideline where teammate **GEORGE WILSON** threw a crushing block, knocking out not one, but two Washington defenders. Osmanski raced to a 68-yard touchdown and gave Chicago a 7-0 lead. The perfectly executed run and bone-crushing block typified the day that lay ahead for both clubs.

December 8, 1940, Griffith Stadium, Washington D.C.

Chicago Bears	21	7	26	19 -- 73
Washington Redskins	0	0	0	0 -- 0
Chi — Osmanski 68 run (Manders kick)				
Chi — Luckman 1 run (Snyder kick)				
Chi — Maniaci 42 run (Martinovich kick)				
Chi — Kavanaugh 30 pass from Luckman (Snyder kick)				
Chi — Pool 15 interception return (Plasman kick)				
Chi — Nolting 23 run (kick failed)				
Chi — McAfee 35 interception return (Stydahar kick)				
Chi — Turner 20 interception return (kick failed)				
Chi — Clark 44 run (kick failed)				
Chi — Famiglietti 2 run (Maniaci pass from Sherman)				
Chi — Clark 1 run (pass failed)				

