

## 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF NFL-AFL MERGER

From April through June 1966, Lamar Hunt exchanged correspondence with Dallas Cowboys general manager **TEX SCHRAMM**, who was acting on behalf of Commissioner **PETE ROZELLE** on a possible merger between the AFL and NFL. On June 8, 1966, the two leagues announced an agreement in which:

- The nine AFL clubs (expansion Miami was added in 1966) would pay a total of \$18 million over 20 years to join the NFL.
- Pete Rozelle would serve as commissioner.
- The leagues would play a championship game following the 1966 season.
- Existing franchises would remain at present sites.
- A common draft would be held, beginning in 1967.
- Two new franchises, one in each league, would be added by 1968 (Cincinnati and New Orleans).
- Interleague preseason games would be played in 1967, and a common schedule would begin in 1970.

The NFL-AFL merger was approved by Congress on October 21, 1966, when an anti-trust exemption was added as a rider to an anti-inflation tax bill. President **LYNDON B. JOHNSON** signed the bill into law.

In August 1969, after spending 36 hours behind closed doors, NFL and AFL owners announced the creation of two 13-team conferences – the AFC and the NFC. Three NFL clubs – the Baltimore Colts, Cleveland Browns and Pittsburgh Steelers – joined the AFL clubs in the American Conference and the remaining NFL clubs composed the National Conference.

How those conferences have fared since:

### COMPARING THE CONFERENCES (Since 1970)

AFC	Category	NFC
918	Interconference Games Won	836
20	Annual Interconference Series Won *	8
29,305	Points in Interconference Games	29,404
17	Super Bowl Wins **	22
18	Pro Bowl Wins***	17
16	Individual Passing Titles	19
20	Individual Rushing Titles	15

\* Seven series were tied

\*\* Since 1966

\*\*\*Since 1971



### “SUPER BOWL SHUFFLE” SETS AMERICA RAPPING 20 YEARS AGO

The 1985 Super Bowl XX champion Chicago Bears not only had one of the greatest running backs and defenses of all-time in **WALTER PAYTON** and **BUDDY RYAN**'s famed “46” alignment, but also a true cast of characters.

Twenty years ago this year, one of the most memorable parts of that Bears season was a rap video that 10 Chicago players performed called the “Super Bowl Shuffle.”

Quarterback **JIM Mc MAHON**, wide receiver **WILLIE GAULT** and defensive tackle **WILLIAM “THE REFRIGERATOR” PERRY**, among others, taped the video for charity. It would win a Grammy nomination for Best R&B Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group and reach No. 41 on the charts, ultimately going gold on February 2, 1986.

The rap lyric each of the “Super Bowl Shuffle” Bears sang:

PLAYER	LYRIC
Richard Dent	“The sackman’s coming, I’m your man Dent. If the quarterback’s slow, He’s gonna get bent.”
Gary Fencik	“It’s Gary here, and I’m Mr. Clean. They call me the ‘hit man,’ Don’t know what they mean.”
Steve Fuller	“I run like lightning, pass like thunder.
Willie Gault	“This is Speedy Willie, and I’m world class. I like runnin’, but I love to get the pass.”
Jim McMahon	“I motivate the cats, I like to tease. I play so cool, I aim to please.”
Walter Payton	“Well, they call me Sweetness, And I like to dance.”
William Perry	“You’re lookin’ at the Fridge, I’m the rookie. I may be large, but I’m no dumb cookie.”
Mike Richardson	”I can break’em, any time of day. I like to steal it and make ‘em pay.”
Mike Singeltary	“Give me a chance, I’ll rock you good, Nobody messin’ in my neighborhood.”
Otis Wilson	“I’m slick on the floor as I can be, But ain’t no sucker gonna get past me.”

