

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

Sixty 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

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

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)

56 YEARS AGO ON OPENING DAY: THE DUTCHMAN GOES WILD!

Los Angeles Rams quarterback **NORM "THE DUTCHMAN" VAN BROCKLIN** entered the 1951 season entrenched in a duel for the starting position with veteran **BOB WATERFIELD**. A Waterfield injury sidelined the incumbent quarterback prior to the season opener against the New York Yanks on September 28, and opened the door for Van Brocklin to show his worth. He 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 Yanks at the Los Angeles Coliseum. The Pro Football 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** after the game. "Van Brocklin was hitting them in the eye practically every time he threw the ball."

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

The Rams' **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.

Van Brocklin and Waterfield 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 56 years. Former Houston quarterback **WARREN MOON** came closest to breaking Van Brocklin's mark with a 527-yard day against Kansas City on December 16, 1990.

Following are the top passing performances in various 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 FBS (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	Matt Kohn, Indianapolis	September 20, 2003	645 yards vs. Michigan Tech
NCAA Division FCS (I-AA)	Jamie Martin, Weber St.	November 23, 1991	624 yards vs. Idaho St.
NFL	<i>Norm Van Brocklin, LA Rams</i>	<i>September 28, 1951</i>	<i>554 yards vs. NY Yanks</i>
Arena Football League	Clint Dolezel, Houston	May 14, 1999	479 yards vs. Milwaukee
arenafootball2	Shane Stafford, Tallahassee	June 2, 2000	459 yards vs. Birmingham