

nfl season opener history

NFL Season Opener History: A Journey Through Football's Grand Kickoff

nfl season opener history is a fascinating tale that spans decades, reflecting the evolution of one of America's most beloved sports. Every year, fans eagerly await the kickoff game, which not only signals the start of a new NFL season but also sets the tone for the drama, excitement, and rivalries to come. This opening game has become more than just a contest—it's a tradition woven into the fabric of football culture. Let's dive into the rich history of the NFL season opener, exploring its origins, memorable moments, and how it has evolved into a prime-time spectacle.

The Origins of the NFL Season Opener

The NFL season opener has always been a significant event, but it wasn't always the prime-time extravaganza we see today. In the early days of professional football, the league's schedule was less structured, and the concept of a grand opening game was not as pronounced. The NFL officially began in 1920 as the American Professional Football Association, and early seasons featured a series of games that started sporadically throughout September.

Early Kickoff Games and Their Significance

In the 1930s and 1940s, the NFL began to formalize its schedule, and the first official season openers started to gain attention. Unlike today's primetime slot, these games were often played in the afternoon and didn't always feature marquee matchups. However, they were crucial for setting momentum and showcasing new talent.

One important milestone was the introduction of the Monday Night Football concept in 1970, which eventually transformed the season opener into a nationally televised event. This change brought greater visibility to the league and helped establish the kickoff game as a must-watch event for fans across the country.

Iconic NFL Season Openers Through the Decades

Over the years, the NFL season opener has produced some unforgettable moments that have become part of football lore. From thrilling finishes to historic player debuts, these games often provide a glimpse into what the season might hold.

1970s: The Rise of Prime-Time Openers

The 1970s marked a turning point with the advent of primetime season openers. The NFL started scheduling high-profile matchups on Monday nights, capitalizing on the growing popularity of

television. One standout opener was in 1974 when the Pittsburgh Steelers faced the Houston Oilers, signaling the Steelers' rise to dominance in the decade.

The 1980s and 1990s: Superstar Debuts and Rivalries

During the 1980s and 1990s, season openers often featured the league's biggest stars making their first appearances of the year. The 1983 opener between the San Francisco 49ers and the Detroit Lions was notable for Joe Montana's masterful performance, setting the tone for the 49ers' dominance throughout the decade.

Rivalries also heated up during these openers, with teams like the Dallas Cowboys and Washington Redskins clashing in highly anticipated matchups that drew massive TV audiences.

2000s to Present: The Modern Era of NFL Kickoffs

In recent decades, the NFL season opener has grown into a global spectacle. The introduction of Thursday Night Football and flexible scheduling has allowed the league to showcase the best matchups right out of the gate. The introduction of the NFL Kickoff Game in 2002, typically featuring the reigning Super Bowl champion, added a new layer of excitement.

Memorable openers include the 2013 game where Peyton Manning led the Denver Broncos to a dramatic overtime victory against the Baltimore Ravens, and the 2018 opener featuring the New England Patriots and the Houston Texans, which highlighted the continued dominance of Tom Brady's Patriots.

Why the NFL Season Opener Matters So Much

The NFL season opener is more than just the first game; it's a symbol of hope, renewal, and anticipation. Fans, players, and coaches all approach this game with a mix of excitement and nerves, knowing it can set the tone for the entire season.

Setting the Tone for the Season

A strong performance in the season opener can build momentum and confidence, while a loss can expose flaws that need addressing. For teams coming off a tough offseason or major roster changes, the opener is a chance to prove their mettle.

Fan Engagement and Media Hype

The NFL season opener is heavily promoted by the league and media outlets, creating a sense of event-like anticipation. From pre-game shows to special halftime performances, the opener has

become a celebration of football culture.

Economic and Cultural Impact

Beyond the field, the season opener drives significant economic activity—from ticket sales and merchandise to advertising revenue. It also contributes to American culture, bringing communities together in bars, homes, and stadiums to share the excitement of football's return.

Evolution of the Season Opener Format and Scheduling

The way the NFL organizes its season openers has changed considerably to maximize viewership and fan engagement.

The NFL Kickoff Game Tradition

Since 2002, the NFL has regularly featured the reigning Super Bowl champion in the kickoff game, usually held on a Thursday night. This tradition helps spotlight the previous season's champion and attracts a large national audience.

Flexible Scheduling and Prime-Time Matchups

The NFL employs flexible scheduling to ensure the most compelling matchups are played during prime-time slots. This approach benefits the season opener by potentially featuring rivalries or games with playoff implications right from the start.

International Season Openers

In recent years, the NFL has taken steps to globalize the sport by holding some season opener games outside the United States. Games in London or Mexico City have introduced new fans to the excitement of the NFL kickoff, expanding the league's international footprint.

Memorable NFL Season Opener Highlights and Records

Throughout its history, the NFL season opener has seen some incredible feats and unforgettable plays.

- **Record-setting performances:** Players like Drew Brees and Tom Brady have thrown multiple touchdown passes in openers, setting high standards for QB excellence.

- **Historic comebacks:** Some openers have featured dramatic comebacks, such as the 1993 game where the Buffalo Bills rallied late to beat the Houston Oilers.
- **Rookie debuts:** The opener often showcases the league's newest stars, with rookies making their first impression on a national stage.
- **Coaching milestones:** New head coaches frequently use the opener to unveil their strategies, with memorable debuts becoming part of NFL trivia.

These moments contribute to the rich tapestry of the league's opening games, making each season's first kickoff an event worth watching.

The Future of NFL Season Openers

Looking ahead, the NFL season opener is poised to become even more dynamic and fan-focused. Innovations in broadcasting, such as augmented reality and enhanced analytics, will likely deepen fan engagement. The league's commitment to expanding internationally suggests we may see more season openers played on foreign soil.

Moreover, with ongoing discussions about player safety and season length, the structure of the season opener and the broader schedule may adapt to balance tradition with the evolving needs of the sport.

As the NFL continues to grow in popularity and cultural significance, the season opener will remain a cherished tradition—an electrifying start to the drama and excitement that football fans crave every fall.

Frequently Asked Questions

When was the first NFL season opener held?

The first NFL season opener was held in 1920, marking the beginning of the league's inaugural season.

Which teams have hosted the most NFL season openers?

The Dallas Cowboys have hosted the most NFL season openers, largely due to their frequent appearances in the league's kickoff games.

Has the NFL season opener always been played on a Thursday?

No, the NFL season opener has traditionally been played on various days of the week, but since 2004, it has predominantly been held on a Thursday night.

What is historically significant about the NFL season opener?

The NFL season opener often features the defending Super Bowl champion playing at home, setting the tone and excitement for the new season.

Have there been any notable upsets in NFL season openers?

Yes, there have been several notable upsets in NFL season openers, including teams with poor previous season records defeating defending champions or playoff teams, highlighting the unpredictability of the game.

Additional Resources

NFL Season Opener History: A Comprehensive Review of Tradition and Transformation

nfl season opener history illustrates a compelling narrative of tradition, anticipation, and evolution within American football. As the gateway to the much-anticipated NFL calendar, the season opener has long been a significant event, setting the tone for teams, fans, and broadcasters alike. Tracing its origins and development offers valuable insight into how the National Football League has matured into one of the most watched and celebrated sports leagues globally.

The Origins and Evolution of the NFL Season Opener

The NFL season opener has its roots in the early 20th century when professional football began gaining traction in the United States. Initially, the league's schedule was less structured, and games were arranged more sporadically. The concept of a formal, highly promoted season opener emerged gradually as the NFL sought to generate excitement and maximize audience engagement.

By the 1930s and 1940s, season openers became more predictable, often featuring marquee matchups that promised thrilling competition. However, it wasn't until the post-war era and the rise of television that the NFL season opener truly became a marquee event. The increased visibility provided by broadcasting deals elevated the importance of the opening game, turning it into a national spectacle.

Over the decades, the NFL season opener evolved from a simple game into a carefully orchestrated event involving primetime slots, special ceremonies, and extensive media coverage. The modern NFL season opener often features the defending Super Bowl champions hosting a high-profile opponent, a tradition that began in the early 2000s to capitalize on the champions' popularity and narrative momentum.

Key Milestones in NFL Season Opener History

- **1933:** Introduction of the NFL Championship Game, which increased the stakes for the regular season, including the opener.

- **1950:** The expansion of the league and the advent of televised games increased the audience for season openers.
- **1966:** The first Super Bowl era began, adding significance to the season opener as a proving ground for contenders.
- **2004:** The NFL instituted the tradition of the Super Bowl champion hosting the season opener, adding a ceremonial aspect to the game.
- **2020:** The COVID-19 pandemic introduced unprecedented challenges, leading to games played without fans or with limited attendance, impacting the atmosphere of season openers.

The Strategic Importance of the NFL Season Opener

Beyond ceremonial value, the NFL season opener holds strategic significance for teams. It serves as the first official test of offseason preparations, coaching strategies, and roster changes. Coaches often use the opener to establish momentum, and a victory can set a positive tone for the weeks ahead. Conversely, a poor performance can signal areas requiring immediate attention.

From a competitive perspective, the opener is an equalizer of sorts. All teams begin at 0-0, and early wins can be critical in tight divisional races. The psychological impact of a season-opening victory or loss frequently reverberates throughout the season, influencing player confidence and fan sentiment.

Broadcasting and Commercial Impact

The NFL season opener is also a cornerstone of the league's commercial strategy. Networks vie for broadcasting rights to the opening game due to its guaranteed high viewership. Opening weekends often generate record advertising revenues, with companies eager to capitalize on the concentrated attention of millions of football fans.

The primetime slot, especially the Thursday night opener, maximizes exposure and advertising potential. Additionally, the event often features high-profile halftime shows and pregame ceremonies, further enhancing viewer engagement.

Notable Season Openers and Their Impact on NFL Lore

Certain NFL season openers have become etched in the annals of football history, either due to dramatic finishes, record-breaking performances, or unexpected outcomes. These games often serve as harbingers of the season's narrative arc.

For example, the 2007 season opener between the New England Patriots and the New York Jets is remembered for the Patriots' dominant performance en route to a record-breaking undefeated

regular season. Similarly, the 2013 opener saw Peyton Manning's Broncos defeat the Ravens in a matchup that foreshadowed one of the most prolific offensive seasons in NFL history.

Memorable Season Openers

- **1972 Miami Dolphins vs. Kansas City Chiefs:** The Dolphins began their perfect season with a hard-fought victory, setting the stage for NFL history.
- **1989 San Francisco 49ers vs. Minnesota Vikings:** Joe Montana's masterful performance signaled the 49ers' return to dominance.
- **2018 Philadelphia Eagles vs. Atlanta Falcons:** The defending champions showcased resilience with a comeback win in a high-scoring thriller.

These games exemplify how season openers can influence team morale, fan expectations, and league-wide narratives.

Challenges and Controversies Surrounding Season Openers

While the NFL season opener is widely celebrated, it has not been without its controversies and challenges. Scheduling conflicts, player readiness, and logistical considerations sometimes complicate the event.

One frequent point of debate involves the timing of the opener. Critics argue that early season games can be affected by incomplete team chemistry or players still adjusting to new systems. Moreover, injuries sustained during high-stakes openers may jeopardize a team's long-term prospects.

The 2020 season opener highlighted additional challenges, as the league navigated pandemic restrictions, impacting fan attendance and traditional pregame festivities. This situation underscored the delicate balance between maintaining tradition and adapting to unforeseen circumstances.

Pros and Cons of Early Season Openers

- **Pros:**
 - Generates early excitement and media attention for the season.
 - Provides a clear benchmark for team performance.

- Offers fans a first taste of new players and coaching strategies.

- **Cons:**

- Teams may not be fully prepared, leading to uneven play.
- Higher injury risk due to players not yet in peak condition.
- Weather conditions can sometimes adversely affect gameplay, depending on location and timing.

Looking Ahead: The Future of NFL Season Openers

As the NFL continues to innovate, the season opener remains a vital component of the league's cultural and commercial fabric. Technological advancements, such as enhanced broadcast graphics, augmented reality, and interactive fan experiences, are being integrated to heighten engagement during these pivotal games.

Furthermore, the NFL is exploring international season openers as part of its global expansion strategy. Hosting the first game in major cities outside the United States could redefine the opener's role, broadening its audience and influence.

The balance between preserving tradition and embracing change will be central to the ongoing evolution of the NFL season opener, ensuring it remains a captivating start to each football year.

The history of NFL season openers is a testament to the league's adaptability and enduring popularity. From humble beginnings to grand spectacles, the season opener continues to encapsulate the spirit of American football—competition, community, and celebration—while shaping the narratives that define each NFL season.

[Nfl Season Opener History](#)

nfl season opener history: Scholastic Year in Sports 2020 James Buckley Jr., 2019-11-05

The must-have guidebook for young sports fans is back with the latest news and features on the top athletes and sports moments from the past year. Scholastic's annual Year in Sports returns with brand-new, exciting coverage of the past year's sporting events. This 2020 edition features colorful photographs from right in the action, completely updated facts and stats, plus special features on the X Games and other major sports events. Read about all of the top athletes, championships, and legends. Featuring all your favorite stars in baseball, basketball, football, and more, this book is perfect for sports newbies, as well as the most devoted fans.

nfl season opener history: The 20 Greatest Moments in New York Sports History Todd Ehrlich, Gary Myers, 2023-09-19 Can you guess the most memorable sports moments to happen in the Big Apple? Collected together for the first time, *The 20 Greatest Moments in New York Sports History* chronicles the most memorable sporting events to be held in New York, ranking them based on importance and effect on the sport (and city). Broken down into four parts, each event will include the storyline that led up to the moment, original materials from the media coverage of the event, a column from a local journalist to lend perspective, and finally first-person accounts from the men and women that made these moments happen. Veteran journalists Todd Ehrlich and Gary Myers dive deep into each of these moments, sharing why they are so special and the reason we still talk about them today. Including original interviews and information previously unreleased, *The 20 Greatest Moments in New York Sports History* is not only for the New York sports fan, but anyone who appreciates the amazing effect that baseball, basketball, football, hockey, tennis, golf, boxing, and numerous other sports can have on our cities and country as a whole. So...which event will be at the top? Roger Maris breaking The Babe's Home Run record? Willis Reed hobbling onto the court before game seven against the Lakers in the 1970 NBA Finals? David Tyree's Helmet Catch in Super Bowl XLII? Mark Messier's guarantee before the 1994 Stanley Cup? Tiger Woods dominating on Bethpage's Black Course to win the 2002 US Open? Or perhaps the bout at Madison Square Garden between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier? There's only one way to find out!

nfl season opener history: The 50 Greatest Plays in Pittsburgh Steelers Football History Steve Hickoff, 2008-08-01 This exciting new series explores those logic-defying comebacks and tough losses, the dramatic interceptions, fumbles, game-winning field goals, and touchdowns. Every play's description is accompanied with game information and quotes from participants, players, and observers with firsthand account.

nfl season opener history: The Reagan Years: a Social History of the 1980'S Richard Stanley, 2017-12-15 Ronald Reagan's legacy as president is nearly unparalleled in American history due to his domestic and foreign policy leadership. Reagan's contrarian insistence on advocating limited government and supply-side economics drew much bipartisan criticism, causing the Great Communicator to take his argument that lowering taxes would encourage economic growth directly to the people. The result? Congress granted \$750 billion in tax cuts in 1981. The Reagan Revolution had begun. By mid-1983, the nation's economy was booming. On President Reagan's first day in office, the Iran Hostage Crisis finally came to an end. Fifty-two American embassy personnel held hostage by a defiant Iran during the last four hundred-plus days of the Carter administration were freed a definite win for all Americans. But Reagan soon was widely criticized for insulting Russia's leaders by calling the Soviet Union the evil empire. Later, Reagan was criticized at home and abroad for challenging Soviet premier Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall. Reagan's most criticized proposal of all, however, was his insistence on developing his Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) space weapons to defend America from incoming Soviet nuclear missiles. Domestic critics dismissed his proposal as a Star Wars fantasy (but the Soviets feared SDI). By December 1991, it was clear that Reagan's Star Wars fantasy helped cause the bankruptcy and total collapse of the Soviet Union, bringing a peaceful end to the decades-long Cold War.

nfl season opener history: Cleveland Browns A - Z Roger Gordon, 2015-10-27 A must-have book for any Cleveland Browns fan, this updated edition of *Cleveland Browns A to Z* is compiled alphabetically for easy accessibility. The book offers a complete history of the tradition-filled franchise and includes more than five hundred different items of interest. Imagine yourself in chilly Cleveland, where the frigid winds freeze fans in the stands and frustrate such legendary kickers as Lou Groza and Don Cockroft. Discover the origin behind the country's most rabid followers, who sit in the east end zone's Dawg Pound and bark their support for the team. Revel in a ream of statistics, from Hall of Famers like Jim Brown and Otto Graham to passing yards leaders to the win-loss record for when the team plays in domes. *Cleveland Browns A to Z* is a handy reference guide of notable information that makes up Browns history, especially regarding statistics. *Cleveland Browns A to Z* brings you the history of the Browns and will delight those with a penchant for sports trivia with its

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nfl season opener history: *The 50 Greatest Players in San Francisco 49ers History*

Robert W. Cohen, 2021-08-20 The San Francisco 49ers have one of the best records in NFL history, with 20 division championships, seven conference championships, and five Super Bowl championships. Robert Cohen ranks what he believes are the greatest players from 1-50, with a few honorable mentions--

nfl season opener history: *The 50 Greatest Players in Green Bay Packers History* Robert W. Cohen, 2018-09 The 50 Greatest Players in Green Bay Packers History examines the careers of the 50 men who made the greatest impact on one of the National Football League's most iconic and successful franchises. Using as measuring sticks the degree to which they impacted the fortunes of the team, the extent to which they added to the Packers legacy of excellence, and the levels of statistical compilation and overall dominance they attained while wearing a Packers uniform, The 50 Greatest Players in Green Bay Packers History ranks, from 1 to 50, the top 50 players in team history. Quotes from opposing players and former teammates are provided along the way, as are summaries of each player's greatest season, most memorable performances, and most notable achievements

nfl season opener history: *Peyton Manning* J.D. Rockefeller, 2016-04-20 Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships. This perfectly describes the popular game, football. Many may not be a great fan of this game like other sports, but many had already considered football to be part of their lives. Teamwork, together with intelligence, is the two most important ingredients for a group to win in a football game. This is not just the secret to win a football game but also value that one can treasure in his life. That is why in some schools, the physical education teaches sports like football to all their students. And for students who are football die-hard fans, there is a football superstar you will be truly captivated by his skills, and that is none other than Peyton Manning.

nfl season opener history: *Bears vs. Cardinals* Joe Ziemba, 2022-09-01 In their early years, the Chicago Bears and the Chicago Cardinals-- the two oldest teams in the National Football League --travelled the country with only rare mention in the newspapers. Both teams later saw their official records destroyed by fire. Most of what is now known about those initial seasons is based on often inaccurate statements made many years later. Reconstructing their missing history, this book draws on newly available resources to document the battles and brawls on and off the field, the cunning backroom deals, the financial woes and the 40-year rivalry that endured while both teams were in Chicago. Figures like Al Capone, Red Grange, Jim Thorpe and Bronko Nagurski make appearances in the lore of two old adversaries whose uneasy alliance helped ensure the survival of the fledgling NFL.

nfl season opener history: *The 50 Greatest Players in Kansas City Chiefs History* Robert W. Cohen, 2020-10-28 In The 50 Greatest Players in Kansas City Chiefs History, sports historian Robert W. Cohen ranks the top 50 players ever to perform for one of the NFL's most historic franchises. This work includes quotes from the subjects themselves and former teammates, photos, recaps of memorable performances and greatest individual seasons, as well as a statistical summary of each

player's career with the Chiefs. The Chiefs' best are profiled here in what is bound to be a much discussed book among the team's broad fan base. An added bonus are the honorable mentions, the next 25 players who have contributed to the Chiefs' astounding run as one of America's great sports teams.

nfl season opener history: The 50 Greatest Players in New England Patriots History

Robert W. Cohen, 2018-09 Perhaps even more than the Boston Red Sox, the New England Patriots are the team of the entire northeast from Rhode Island to Canada. Here, sports historian Robert W. Cohen ranks the 50 best players to ever take the field for the Patriots. Who can forget Wes Welker, Troy Brown, Jim Nance, Ted Bruschi, and Tom Brady. They're all here in this fascinating collection of bios, stats, quotes from opposing players and former teammates, photographs, and recaps of memorable performances and seasons. This book is a must-read not only for Patriots fans, but for all fans of professional football.

nfl season opener history: Pittsburgh's Greatest Teams David Finoli, 2017-10-30 Pittsburgh is synonymous with winning. From the Penguins and Steelers to the Pirates and Panthers, the Steel City knows championships. There must be something special in the water to make Pittsburgh so particularly gifted with its sports teams. The most famous teams in the city's history would most likely be the 1970s Steelers, known as the Steel Curtain for obvious reasons, and the Penguins who raised the Stanley Cup five times. Names such as Lemieux, Crosby, Roethlisberger, Bradshaw, Clemente and Stargell are legends of American sport and members of Pittsburgh's most cherished franchises, but for every sports legend and multi-million dollar franchise, there are a dozen more talented players and long-past teams that have been forgotten to history; the Negro League's Crawford and Homestead Grays are too often overlooked in the city's sports history but were as talented as any team that has played there. Author Dave Finoli ranks the fifty greatest teams that won trophies, brought glory and lifted the hearts of Pittsburgh's devoted sports fans.

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nfl season opener history: The Eagles Encyclopedia Ray Diding, Robert S. Lyons, 2018-10-17 An updated edition of the best-selling book *The Eagles Encyclopedia* celebrating the Super Bowl Champions, the E-A-G-L-E-S!

nfl season opener history: Tailgater's Guide to SEC Football Chris Warner, 2000-08-09 The definitive guide to the nation's toughest football conference; the Bible of SEC Football, the fascinating history of the nation's toughest football conference told by one of the best storytellers in the business, Dr. Chris Warner. *Tailgater's Guide to SEC Football Volume V - The definitive guide to the history and traditions of the 14 schools of the Southeastern Conference (2020)*. Contains profiles of great players and coaches, school histories, recipes, famous alumni, where to shop and golf, etc. *The Bible of SEC Football*. \$15.95 Paperback, 320 pages. Synopsis: "Dan Jenkins, author and sportswriter, simply summed up the popularity of the game of football in the South with the following statement: "To Southerners, football is as essential as air conditioning." The irreplaceable

"Voice of the Volunteers" on radio during the 1950's, George Mooney, once stated, "...No matter where I was broadcasting from, I found the fans in the South to be knowledgeable, fair—and yes, loud and frenzied. They are very proud of their rich football heritage. And they are very proud of their schools, their teams—and the deep pride that goes with being from the South." Late legendary college football commenter Keith Jackson, in describing the SEC Football experience, once aptly stated that " ...there are few instances of alleged entertainment and relaxation that can match a college football game in stirring the deepest flames of partisanship and outright provincialism. And down South you can color that partisanship passionate!" Southeastern Conference Football is the paragon of the college athletic experience. During its storied, 87-year existence, the SEC has evolved into the most impressive league of organized, intercollegiate gridiron competition in the history of the United States. No other Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) conference can boast of the many accolades and attendance records that the SEC currently holds. Furthermore, the Southeastern Conference has produced more All-American football players than any other conference. This book is dedicated to all the Southern people who live for Saturdays in the fall, for those individuals who plan their business and personal engagements around their favorite team's football schedule; for those who always experience a rise in their body temperature when they enter the stadium; for those who shed a tear during the singing of their alma mater; and especially, for those who know all the words to their school's fight song. It is for the people who wake up early on Sunday morning after a win so they can read each and every one of the sports columns about the game they witnessed the day before. It is for all those who enjoy good company and good food in the parking lot before the game, as much, and if not more, than the food and company at a fancy restaurant. These things that we hold dear - all true SEC fans know and love, and look forward to each autumn. It's that time of year when the heated summer temperatures begin to fade and yield to colder days, when the leaves begin to change color, and when the youthful partisan spirit within us all crackles like the kindling of a well-planned winter fire.

nfl season opener history: *So You Think You're a Philadelphia Eagles Fan?* Skip Clayton, 2017-09-05 *So You Think You're a Philadelphia Eagles Fan?* tests and expands your knowledge of The Birds. Rather than merely posing questions and providing answers, you'll get details behind each—stories that bring to life players and coaches, games and seasons. This book is divided into four parts, with progressively more difficult questions in each new section. The Rookie section contains the most basic questions. Next come the Starter and All-Pro sections, followed by the biggest challenge: the Hall of Fame. Also, you'll learn more about the great Eagles players and coaches of the past and present, including Norm Van Brocklin, Steve Van Buren, Chuck Bednarik, Pete Retzlaff, Harold Carmichael, Dick Vermeil, Mike Quick, Randall Cunningham, Reggie White, Andy Reid, and Carson Wentz.. Some of the many questions that this book answers include: Who scored the winning touchdown in the 1960 NFL Championship Game? When Donovan McNabb became the starting quarterback during the 1999 season, who did he replace? Who threw the longest touchdown pass in Eagles history? Who are the only three Eagles players to lead the league in scoring? This book makes the perfect gift for any fan of Philadelphia football!

nfl season opener history: **The Official National Football League Record and Fact Book, 1993** National Football League, 1993-07 The only record book authorized by the NFL and distributed to media around the world to assist in their coverage of the NFL. Includes game-by-game summaries of the 1992 season; 1992 team and individual stats; top passing, rushing, receiving, and quarterback sack performances; 1993 NFL draft summary; and more.

nfl season opener history: *New England Bandwagon Nation* ,

nfl season opener history: **The 1958 Baltimore Colts** George Bozeka, 2018-07-06 The 1958 Baltimore Colts were one of the greatest teams ever in professional football. Owned by the controversial Carroll Rosenbloom and led by head coach Weeb Ewbank and six future Hall of Fame players--Johnny Unitas, Raymond Berry, Lenny Moore, Jim Parker, Art Donovan and Gino Marchetti--they won the NFL title that season, defeating the New York Giants in the first sudden death championship game in NFL history. The Colts laid the foundation for the ultra-popular

spectacle football would become with the American public. They were a talented group of players. Many had been rejected or underappreciated at various points in their careers though they were loved and respected by the blue collar fans of Baltimore. This book tells the complete story of the '58 Colts and the city's love affair with the team.

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