

= 1920 Cleveland Tigers ( NFL ) season =

The 1920 Cleveland Tigers season was the franchise 's inaugural season in the American Professional Football Association ( APFA ) and fifth total as an American football team . The Tigers entered the season coming off a 5 @-@ win , 2 @-@ loss , 2 @-@ tie ( 5 ? 2 ? 2 ) record in 1919 . After the 1919 season , several representatives from the Ohio League , a loose organization of profession football teams , wanted to form a new professional league ; thus , the APFA was created .

The Tigers opened the season with a 0 ? 0 tie against the Dayton Triangles , en route to a 2 ? 4 ? 2 record , which placed the team 10th in the final standings . In week 8 , the Tigers scored 7 points against the Akron Pros , which was the only points Akron allowed all season . The sportswriter Bruce Copeland compiled the 1920 All @-@ Pro list , but no players from the Tigers were on it . As of 2012 , no player from the 1920 Tigers roster has been enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame .

= = Offseason = =

The Cleveland Tigers finished 5 ? 2 ? 2 in their 1919 season in the Ohio League . After the 1919 season , representatives of four Ohio League teams ? the Canton Bulldogs , the Tigers , the Dayton Triangles , and the Akron Pros ? called a meeting on August 20 , 1920 to discuss the formation of a new league . At the meeting , they tentatively agreed on a salary cap and pledged not to sign college players or players already under contract with other teams . They also agreed on a name for the circuit : the American Professional Football Conference . They then invited other professional teams to a second meeting on September 17 .

At the second meeting , held at Bulldogs owner Ralph Hay 's Hupmobile showroom in Canton , representatives of the Rock Island Independents , the Muncie Flyers , the Decatur Staleys , the Racine Cardinals , the Massillon Tigers , the Chicago Cardinals , and the Hammond Pros agreed to join the league . Representatives of the Buffalo All @-@ Americans and Rochester Jeffersons could not attend the meeting , but sent letters to Hay asking to be included in the league . Team representatives changed the league 's name slightly to the American Professional Football Association and elected officers , installing Jim Thorpe as president . Under the new league structure , teams created their schedules dynamically as the season progressed , so there were no minimum or maximum number of games needed to be played . Also , representatives of each team voted to determine the winner of the APFA trophy .

= = Schedule = =

= = Game summaries = =

= = Week 3 : at Dayton Triangles = =

October 10 , 1920 at Triangle Park

In their opening game of the 1920 season , the Tigers played the Dayton Triangles . The Triangles were coming off a historic game ; it was the first match between two APFA teams . No team scored in this game , and it ended in a 0 ? 0 tie .

= = Week 4 : at Canton Bulldogs = =

October 17 , 1920 at Lakeside Park

The Tigers next faced the Canton Bulldogs , which would be the Bulldogs ' first APFA opponent . The Tigers lost 7 ? 0 before a crowd of 7 @, @ 000 people . The Bulldogs ' offense had 15 first

downs , and the only score of the game came when the Bulldogs ' Ike Martin had a 7 @-@ yard touchdown run in the first quarter . Jim Thorpe of the Bulldogs , who would later be enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame , made his season debut in the game , coming in as a substitute in the fourth quarter .

= = = Week 5 : at Akron Pros = = =

October 24 , 1920 at League Park

The Akron Pros were the Tigers ' next opponent . Playing in front of 6 @,@ 000 fans , the game was called a " punting duel " by the Youngstown Vindicator . The only score came from a punt block by Akron 's Bob Nash in the first quarter . Nash grabbed the ball from the Tigers ' punter , Stan Cofall , on the 8 @-@ yard line and ran in for the score . With an extra point from Charlie Copley , the Pros defeated the Tigers 7 ? 0 to keep their undefeated season alive . During the game , injuries for both teams occurred . Pollard of the Pros dislocated his right shoulder , and Toughey Conn for the Tigers injured his right leg in the fourth quarter .

= = = Week 6 : vs. Columbus Panhandles = = =

October 31 , 1920 at League Park

In week 6 , the Tigers played against the Columbus Panhandles . In front of 5 @,@ 000 fans , the Tigers won 7 ? 0 . The lone score came from a rushing touchdown in the second quarter from Charlie Brickley . This was the eighth straight loss for the Panhandles , dating back to 1919 , and the seventh straight without scoring . According to football historian Chris Willis , this loss for the Panhandles crushed the city of Columbus and made the Panhandles challenge lesser teams for the rest of the season .

= = = Week 7 : vs. Canton Bulldogs = = =

November 7 , 1920 at Dunn Field

Tigers ' next game was played against the Canton Bulldogs , who were coming off their first loss of the season . Neither team scored in the first quarter , but the Bulldogs ran for two touchdowns in the second . Calac and Grigg had 6- and 15 @-@ yard rushing touchdowns . The Bulldogs ' defense forced two safeties ? one in the third and one in the fourth quarter ? to win the game 18 ? 0 .

= = = Week 8 : vs. Akron Pros = = =

November 14 , 1920 at Dunn Park , Cleveland , Ohio

In week eight , the Tigers had a rematch with the Pros . Playing in front of 8 @,@ 000 fans , the Pros allowed their first and only points of the year from a 50 @-@ yard touchdown pass from Mark Devlin to Tuffy Conn and an extra point by Al Pierotti in the third quarter . Pollard had a 20 @-@ yard rushing touchdown in the second quarter and Copley made an extra point to tie the game at 7 ? 7 , making it the second tie of the season for the Tigers . The final score of the game was a 14 ? 0 victory for the Tigers .

= = = Week 9 : vs. Toledo Maroons = = =

November 21 , 1920 at Dunn Field , Cleveland , Ohio

The Toledo Maroons were the Tigers ' next opponent . The Maroons were an independent team but joined the APFA in 1922 . Prior to this game , the Maroons did not score a point against an APFA tem all season , and that streak continued into this game . In the first quarter , Baston blocked a kick and ran it for a touchdown . He would later score the game 's final points in the fourth as he caught a receiving touchdown from Pierotti .

== Week 10 : at Buffalo All @-@ Americans ==

November 28 , 1920 at Buffalo Baseball Park

In their final game of the 1920 season , the Tigers played against the Buffalo All @-@ Americans , who were coming off their first loss of the season . The Public Ledger called the game " scrappy " ; most forward passes were blocked , and neither team 's offense was productive . A total of 5 @,@ 000 fans showed up to the game . The All @-@ Americans had possession on the 5 @-@ yard line and the 1 @-@ foot line , but the Tigers ' defense stopped them . The only score of the game came in the third quarter . Anderson scored an 8 @-@ yard rushing touchdown .

== Post @-@ season ==

Due to several losses , the Triangles did not contend for the APFA trophy in 1920 . The Tigers ' performance of 2 ? 4 ? 2 would be the team 's best before folding in 1921 . Sportswriter Bruce Copeland compiled the 1920 All Pro team , but no players made the list . As of 2012 , no players from the 1920 Dayton Triangles were enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame .

== Roster ==

== Standings ==

Awarded the Brunswick @-@ Balke Collender Cup and named APFA Champions.Note : Tie games were not officially counted in the standings until 1972 .