

= 1920 Columbus Panhandles season =

The 1920 Columbus Panhandles season was the franchise 's inaugural season in the American Professional Football Association (APFA) ? later named the National Football League . The season concluded with the team going 2 ? 7 ? 2 and finishing 13th place in the APFA standings . The Panhandles entered the season after a 3 ? 6 ? 1 record in 1919 . The team opened the 1920 season with a loss to the Dayton Triangles , and the Panhandles lost five straight until a victory over the Zanesville Mark Greys . Not a single player was on the All @-@ Pro list .

= = Offseason = =

The Columbus Panhandles finished their 1919 season with a 3 ? 6 ? 1 record in the Ohio League . On August 20 , 1920 , a meeting was held at Ralph Hay 's automobile attended by representatives of four Ohio League teams : the Canton Bulldogs , the Cleveland Tigers , the Dayton Triangles , and the Akron Pros . At the meeting , they tentatively agreed to introduce a salary cap for the teams , not to sign college players nor players under contract with another team , and became united as the American Professional Football Conference . They then contacted other major professional teams and invited them to a meeting for September 17 .

At the meeting in September , representatives of the Rock Island Independents , the Muncie Flyers , the Decatur Staleys , the Racine Cardinals , the Massillon Tigers , the Chicago Cardinals , the Rochester Jeffersons , and the Hammond Pros . The following was achieved during the September 17 meeting : the name of American Professional Football Association was chosen ; officers of the league were elected with Jim Thorpe as president ; a membership fee of \$ 100 was set ; a committee to draft a constitution was named ; the secretary of the league was to receive a list of all players used during the season by January 1 , 1921 ; and the trophy that would be awarded to the league champions . Even though the Panhandles were not at the meetings , they were still a charter member of the APFA .

= = Regular season = =

The Panhandles played their only home game at Neil Park . Joseph Carr made the team play mostly away games because they were able to travel on the railroads for free . This cut down on stadium cost and saved the team money . The regular season schedule was not a fixed schedule but was created dynamically by each team as the season progressed . Over the course of the 1920 season , the Panhandles played a total of 11 games . Of those 11 games , five were against APFA teams , and the others were against non @-@ APFA teams . Every game played against league teams resulted in a loss .

The records kept for the 1920 season included games played against APFA and non @-@ APFA teams . The Panhandles opened the season with a 14 ? 0 loss to the Dayton Triangles in the first football game with two APFA teams . The previous week , considered week one , the Rock Island Independents played against the St. Paul Ideals in the first APFA game . The Panhandles lost their next five games without scoring a point , until a 10 ? 0 win over the Zanesville Mark Greys . The Panhandles ended the season with a 24 ? 0 victory and finished with a 2 ? 7 ? 2 record .

= = = Schedule = = =

Table gathered from The Columbus Panhandles and NFL History which uses various newspapers . For the results column , the winning team 's score is posted first followed by the result for the Flyers . For the attendance , if a cell is greyed out and has " N / A " , then that means there is an unknown figure for that game . The green @-@ colored cells indicates a win ; and the red @-@ colored cells indicate a loss . The games against the local teams are listed , but are not counted in the standings . This is why the record column does not change following the result of those games .

= = Game summaries = =

= = = Week 2 : at Dayton Triangles = = =

October 3 , 1920 at Triangle Park

The Panhandles ' opening game against the Dayton Triangles is considered to be the first football game between two APFA teams . The Panhandles lost 14 ? 0 to the Triangles . Despite the first two quarters resulting in ties , the crowd was excited . In the second quarter , the Triangles made a goal line stand while the Panhandles had the ball on the 3 @-@ yard line . Before halftime , the Triangles ' Al Mahrt completed a 30 @-@ yard pass to Dutch Thiele , which resulted in the Triangles to having the ball on the 5 @-@ yard line . The Triangles ' did not score on that possession due to the clock running out .

Early in the third quarter , the Triangles started a possession on their own 35 @-@ yard line . Four consecutive run plays carried them to midfield . Then , Lou Partlow had a long run to the 10 @-@ yard line . The possession ended with a rushing touchdown from Partlow . The other Triangle score came in the middle of the fourth quarter . Frank Bacon returned a punt return for a 60 @-@ yard touchdown . After both touchdowns , George Kinderdine was responsible for the extra points .

= = = Week 3 : at Akron Pros = = =

October 10 , 1920 at League Park

Following the loss , the Panhandles played against the Akron Pros . Running back Frank McCormick of the Pros rushed for two touchdowns to give Akron a 14 ? 0 lead in the second quarter . Bob Nash later recovered a fumble in the end zone for the first score from a fumble recovery . Harry Harris and fullback Fred Sweetland also contributed for the Pros , each scoring one rushing touchdown . The defense added another safety in the fourth quarter ? which was the first safety in APFA history ? to give to Panhandles their second loss of the season , 37 ? 0 .

= = = Week 4 : at Fort Wayne Friars = = =

October 17 , 1920 at League Park

In their third game of the season , the Panhandles played against the non @-@ APFA Fort Wayne Friars . In the first ten minutes of the game , Lee Snoots was injured and had to miss the rest of the game . In front of 5 @,@ 000 fans , the Panhandles lost 14 ? 0 . Huffine for the Friars scored two rushing touchdowns , one in the first and one in the third . This was the Panhandles ' fourth straight loss to the Friars .

= = = Week 5 : at Detroit Heralds = = =

October 24 , 1920 at Mack Park

Following the loss , the Panhandles traveled to play the Detroit Heralds , an APFA team . The Panhandles ' passing attack helped them outgain the Heralds , but , according to the Ohio State Journal , it was a close game and " one play decided the outcome . " The Heralds ' left end , Fitzgerald , intercepted a pass from Frank Nesser and ran it back for an 85 @-@ yard touchdown .

= = = Week 6 : at Cleveland Tigers = = =

October 31 , 1920 at League Park

In week 6 , the Panhandles played against the Cleveland Tigers . 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 : at Zanesville Mark Greys = = =

November 7 , 1920 at Mark Athletic Field

The Panhandles recorded their first victory of the season with a 10 ? 0 win against the non @-@ APFA Zanesville Mark Greys . On the day before the game , the Zanesville Signal ran an advertisement to help promote the game , and the city of Zanesville was " excited " to host the Panhandles . In the first quarter , Jim Flower caught a touchdown pass from Frank Nesser . In the same quarter , Nesser kicked a 35 @-@ yard field goal . The points scored in the first quarter ended a streak of 28 straight scoreless quarters .

= = = Week 8 : at Buffalo All @-@ Americans = = =

November 14 , 1920 at Canisius Field

In front of 9 @,@ 000 fans , the Panhandles played their last against an APFA opponent , the Buffalo All @-@ Americans , in week 8 . Coming into the game , the All @-@ Americans had a 6 ? 0 undefeated record . At the end of the first quarter , the game near @-@ even ; the score was 7 ? 6 , Panhandles . After that , the game " proved disastrous " for the Panhandles . The final score was 43 ? 7 ; the only score was a receiving touchdown from Homer Ruh . The Panhandles ' defense allowed six rushing touchdowns , four of which came from the All @-@ Americans ' Smith . The other two came from Anderson and Hughitt . From these six rushing touchdowns , five of the extra points were converted , and the Panhandles ' offense allowed a safety .

= = = Week 9 : at Zanesville Mark Greys = = =

November 21 , 1920 at Mark Athletic Field

In the Panhandles ' rematch against the Mark Greys , the final score was a 0 ? 0 tie . Chris Willis stated the game was a " nightmare " for the Panhandles , and the game felt like a loss for them . The Zanesville Signal claimed the Mark Greys outplayed the Panhandles in every aspect and called the game " one of the best ... of the season . " According to Pro @-@ Football @-@ Reference.com , this game was the seventh game in NFL history to result in a 0 ? 0 tie .

= = = Week 10 : at Elyria Athletics = = =

November 25 , 1920 at Lorain Athletic Field

Following the tie to the Mark Greys , the Panhandles traveled to Lorain , Ohio to play against the Elyria Athletics on Thanksgiving Day . The result of the game was another 0 ? 0 tie , making it the seventh time in nine games the Panhandles were held scoreless . Chris Willis stated this tie was not as bad as the previous weeks because the Athletics had old players from the Akron Indians , a winning team in the Ohio League .

= = = Week 10 : at Youngstown Patricians = = =

November 28 , 1920 at Idora Park

In their second game in three days , the Panhandles played against the Youngstown Patricians . It was a low @-@ scoring , 2 ? 0 loss . The lone score came from a safety in the second quarter . The Panhandles were about to punt , but it was blocked . The ball landed in the end zone , and a Panhandle player landed on the ball . According to the Youngstown Vindicator , the football 's condition was damaged due to the water on the field and several fumbles occurred throughout the game .

Even though the Nesser brothers " starred on several occasions " , the Patricians ' defense was

more dominant . It was called a " stone wall " and stopped the Panhandles several times on short @-@ yardage plays . According to the Vindicator , the number of first downs the Panhandles got were less than five .

= = = Week 11 : vs Columbus Wagner Pirates = = =

December 5 , 1920 at Neil Park

In week 11 , the Panhandles played their only home game of the season against the Columbus Wagner Pirates . In front of a crowd of 2 @, @ 000 , the Panhandles won their second game of the season 24 ? 0 . In the first quarter , Frank Nesser scored the first points of the game with a 42 @-@ yard field goal . Even though the first half score was 3 ? 0 , the Panhandles heavily outplayed the Wanger Pirates . In the third quarter , Snoots ran for two rushing touchdowns . In the last quarter , Frank Nesser also contributed with a rushing touchdown . Despite Nesser kicking a field goal early in the game , Jim Flowers was the person who kicked the extra points in the game . This victory over the Wagner Pirates allowed the Panhandles to win their " city 's championship " .

= = Standings = =

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

= = Roster = =

The list of players and the coaching staff is gathered from Uniform Numbers of the NFL : Pre @-@ 1933 Defunct Teams , The Columbus Panhandles , and Pro @-@ Football @-@ Reference.com.