

= 1920 Dayton Triangles season =

The 1920 Dayton Triangles season was the franchise 's inaugural season in the American Professional Football Association (APFA) ? later named the National Football League . The Triangles entered the season coming off a 5 ? 2 ? 1 record in 1919 in the Ohio League . After the 1919 season , several representatives from the Ohio League wanted to form a new professional league ; thus , the APFA was created . A majority of the team stayed from the 1919 team , including the coaching staff , while two players left the team .

The Triangles opened the season with a win against the Columbus Panhandles . This game is considered the first league game where two APFA teams played against each other . After a six @-@ game winning streak , the Triangles faced their first loss of the season to the future champions , the Akron Pros . This team would give the Triangles their only two losses of the year . The Triangles finished the season with a 5 ? 2 ? 2 record , which earned them sixth place in the APFA standings . No players were awarded with the first team All @-@ Pro award , Norb Sacksteder made the second team , and Frank Bacon made the third team .

= = Offseason = =

The Dayton Triangles finished 5 ? 2 ? 1 in their 1919 season in the Ohio League . The Triangles had several players added to their team for the 1920 season : Max Broadhurst , Doc Davis , Guy Early , Russ Hathaway , Chuck Helvie , Pesty Lentz , Norb Sacksteder , Ed Sauer , Fritz Slackford , and Tiny Turner . Two players ? one with a last name Albers , and one with a last name Yerges ? did not play for the Triangles in 1920 , and the coaching staff stayed the same .

After the 1919 season , representatives of four Ohio League teams ? the Canton Bulldogs , the Cleveland 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 that 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 2 : at Columbus Panhandles = = =

October 3 , 1920 at Triangle Park

The Triangles ' opening game against the Columbus Panhandles is considered by football historians to be the first football game between two APFA teams . Since kickoff times were not standardized in 1920 , it is unknown if this game or the Muncie ? Rock Island game is the first game played . The Triangles won 13 ? 0 . The Triangles ' defense made a goal @-@ line stand in the

second quarter while the Panhandles had the ball on the 3 @-@ yard line . Before halftime , the Triangles ' back Al Mahrt completed a 30 @-@ yard pass to end Dutch Thiele to give the Triangles possession on the 5 @-@ yard line . The Triangles failed to convert , however , as time ran 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 . Soon after , back Lou Partlow had a succession of runs which resulted in a touchdown . The other Triangle score came in the middle of the fourth quarter when end Frank Bacon returned a punt for a 60 @-@ yard touchdown . After both touchdowns , George Kinderdine was responsible for the extra points .

= = = Week 3 : vs. Cleveland Tigers = = =

October 10 , 1920 at Triangle Park

After the historic game , the Triangles played against the Cleveland Tigers . The owner of the Tigers , Jimmy O 'Donnell , helped with the foundation of the APFA . No team scored , and the game ended in a 0 ? 0 tie .

= = = Week 4 : vs. Hammond Pros = = =

October 17 , 1920 at Triangle Park

The Hammond Pros were the Triangles ' next opponent . In the first quarter , Mahrt had a one @-@ yard rushing touchdown . The Triangles scored three touchdowns in the second quarter : a 50 @-@ yard receiving touchdown from Mahrt , a 35 @-@ yard receiving touchdown from Reese , and a rushing touchdown from Partlow . The extra point was missed after the first touchdown . In the next quarter , Roudebush kicked a 35 @-@ yard field goal . The last score of the game was a receiving touchdown from Sacksteder . The final score of the game was 44 ? 0 before a crowd of 2 @,@ 000 .

= = = Week 5 : vs. Canton Bulldogs = = =

October 24 , 1920 at Triangle Park

In week five , the Triangles battled the Canton Bulldogs , who had the Hall @-@ of @-@ Fame back Jim Thorpe . The Bulldogs opened the scoring in the first quarter on a two @-@ yard rushing touchdown by Pete Calac . But the Triangles came back in the second quarter , scoring twice : Bacon had a four @-@ yard rushing touchdown , and end Dave Reese had a 50 @-@ yard receiving touchdown . Guyon scored a 22 @-@ yard rushing touchdown during the second quarter , but the extra point was missed . In the third quarter , the Triangles responded with a 3 @-@ yard rushing touchdown by Partlow , but Dayton missed the extra point to make the score 20 ? 14 . Thorpe then came into the game , and kicked a 45 @-@ yard field goal to bring his team within three points . In the final minutes , Thorpe kicked another 35 @-@ yard field goal to tie it . The Triangles were the first team to score on the Bulldogs since the opening game of the previous year .

= = = Week 6 : vs. Cincinnati Celts = = =

October 31 , 1920 at Triangle Park

The Cincinnati Celts were the next opponent for the Triangles . The Celts were not directly affiliated with the APFA and did not join the league until the following season . The lone score in the first quarter came from a fumble recovery by George Roudebush , who returned it for a touchdown . In the next quarter , Wehringer for the Celts ran an interception back for a touchdown . The Triangles score twice in the second quarter : a rushing touchdown from Abrell and a 35 @-@ yard field goal from Roudebush . Frank Bacon had a 30 @-@ yard interception return for a touchdown in the third quarter , en route to the 23 ? 7 victory for the Triangles .

== Week 8 : at Rock Island Independents ==

November 14 , 1920 at Douglas Park

In week eight , the Triangles played against the Rock Island Independents . The Independents had six players returning from injuries this game . In the first quarter , Rube Ursella for the Independents fumbled a punt on the 40 @-@ yard line , and the Triangles gained possession . On that possession , Bacon scored a rushing touchdown . The Independents controlled the football for a majority of the second quarter . On their final possession of the half , they traveled to the Triangles ' four @-@ inch line , but the referee signaled to end the first half . In the fourth quarter , Ed Novack and Arnold Wyman for the Independents left the game due to injury . The Triangles scored two passing touchdowns in the final 10 minutes of the game ; the first was caught by Dave Reese , and the second was caught by Roudebush .

== Week 9 : vs Akron Pros ==

November 21 , 1920 at League Park

In week nine , the Triangles played against the Akron Pros . The Pros came into this game as one of the few teams left in the APFA who were undefeated . The game started out with three scoreless quarters until Rip King threw a 15 @-@ yard passing touchdown in the fourth quarter to Frank McCormick . Fritz Pollard , a future Hall @-@ of @-@ Famer , rushed for a 17 @-@ yard touchdown , and Charlie Copley made one extra point and missed another one to beat the Triangles 13 ? 0 and give the Triangles their first loss of the season .

== Week 10 : vs. Detroit Heralds ==

November 25 , 1920 at Triangle Park

Coming off their first loss of the season , the Triangles played against the Detroit Heralds . Bacon contributed to every point in the first quarter ; he first a 3 @-@ yard rushing touchdown , and followed up by a catching a receiving touchdown . Dick Abrell contributed in the second quarter , as he scored a rushing touchdown . Sacksteder caught a receiving touchdown from Roudebush to put the Triangles up 28 ? 0 at halftime . The second half was scoreless , and the Triangles moved on to a 5 ? 1 ? 2 record with one game left in their season .

== Week 10 : vs. Akron Pros ==

November 28 , 1920 at Triangle Park

The Pros were now recognized as the top team in Ohio , and the Triangles had a rematch against the Pros . The game could have been classified as a World Championship , but the APFA had widened its battlefield with the Buffalo All @-@ Americans and the Decatur Staleys still in contention for the APFA trophy . 5 @,@ 000 fans showed up for the game . Pollard returned a punt for a touchdown in the first quarter and had one receiving touchdown in the third quarter from King , and the Triangles received their second loss of the year .

== Post @-@ season ==

Hurt by losses to the Akron Pros , the Triangles did not contend for the APFA trophy in 1920 . The Triangles ' performance of 5 ? 2 ? 2 would be the team 's best before folding in 1929 . Sportswriter Bruce Copeland compiled the 1920 All Pro team ; no players made the first team , Sacksteder made the second team , and Bacon made the third team . 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 .