

= 1920 Buffalo All @-@ Americans season =

The 1920 Buffalo All @-@ Americans season was the franchise 's inaugural season with the American Professional Football Association (APFA) , an American football league , and fifth total as a team . The All @-@ Americans entered 1920 coming off a 9 ? 1 ? 1 record in 1919 as the Buffalo Prospects in the New York Pro Football League (NYPFL) . Several representatives from another professional football league , the Ohio League , wanted to form a new national league , and thus the APFA was created .

Buffalo reshaped itself for the 1920 season . Only two players from the 1919 season stayed , and the team went into new management . Tommy Hughitt (one of the returning players) became the new coach , and Frank McNeil became the new owner . The All @-@ Americans opened the season with a 32 ? 6 victory over the local semi @-@ pro team West Buffalo , en route to a 9 @-@ win , 1 ? loss , 1 @-@ tie (9 ? 1 ? 1) record . Its only loss of the season was a 3 ? 0 game against the Canton Bulldogs . A meeting was held by the officials of the APFA to determine a winner , with each coach having a vote . The All @-@ Americans stated their cases ; they believed they should deserve the championship trophy because they had the most wins and were undefeated against the Akron Pros and the Decatur Staleys . The officials , however , awarded the Brunswick @-@ Balke Collender Cup to the Akron Pros because they had a 1 @.@ 000 winning percentage . Had standings been counted as they are as of today , the All @-@ Americans would be co @-@ champions .

The sportswriter Bruce Copeland compiled the 1920 All @-@ Pro list , but no players from the All @-@ Americans were on it . That is because Copeland wrote for the Rock Island Argus and did not see any players from the easternmost teams in the league . As of 2012 , no player from the 1920 All @-@ Americans has been enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame .

= = Offseason = =

In the 1919 season , the franchise was named the Buffalo Prospects , and finished with a 9 ? 1 ? 1 in the NYPFL . As a result , they won the New York Championship . After the 1919 season , the Prospects went under new management , and the name was changed to the All @-@ Americans . Tommy Hughitt became the coach , and several players from the 1919 squad left . Of the 33 players on the 1919 team , only Barney Lepper and Tommy Hughitt remained on the team for the 1920 season .

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 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 = =

The table below was compiled using the information from The Pro Football Archives , which used

various contemporary newspapers . A dagger () indicated a non @-@ APFA team . For the results column , the winning team 's score is posted first . For the attendance , if a block has " N / A " , then that means there is an unknown figure for that game . The green @-@ colored cells indicates a win ; the yellow @-@ colored cells indicates a tie ; and the red @-@ colored cells indicate a loss .

= = Game summaries = =

= = = Week 2 : vs. West Buffalo = = =

October 3 , 1920 at Canisius Field

To open the season , the All @-@ Americans defeated the local , semi @-@ pro team West Buffalo . Running back John Weldon scored a rushing touchdown early in the first quarter . Quarterback Tommy Hughitt and Weldon added touchdowns in the second quarter to make the score 19 ? 0 going into halftime . Hughitt scored from a yard out in the third quarter to make the score 25 ? 0 . West Buffalo got on the scoreboard when Bob Langdon intercepted a Buffalo pass and ran it back 75 yards for a touchdown . This was West Buffalo 's only points scored their entire year . Buffalo finished off the scoring in the fourth quarter and won the game 32 ? 6 .

= = = Week 3 : vs. All @-@ Buffalo = = =

October 10 , 1920 at Canisius Field

For their second game of the season , the All @-@ Americans played against another local team , the Buffalo All @-@ Buffalo . Once again , the All @-@ Americans shut out their opponents , winning 51 ? 0 . In the first quarter , Weldon scored a rushing touchdown . In the second quarter , the All @-@ Americans scored three times : Running back Ockie Anderson returned a punt for a touchdown , Hughitt ran for a rushing touchdown , and Weldon caught a receiving touchdown from Hughitt . To start the second half , Anderson scored another rushing touchdown , and that was the only score of the third quarter . In the final quarter , Anderson kicked a 35 @-@ yard field goal . Also , defensive end Murray Shelton recovered a fumble and returned it for a touchdown . Hughitt 's rushing touchdown was the final score of the game .

= = = Week 4 : vs. McKeesport Olympics = = =

October 17 , 1920 at Canisius Field

The McKeesport Olympics , a team from McKeesport , Pennsylvania , was the All @-@ Americans next opponent . This game had to be played outside of Pennsylvania because of that state 's blue laws which disallowed football on Sundays . In fact , this was one of only two away games for the Olympics . Hughitt scored a rushing touchdown in the first quarter to start the game . In the second quarter , Hughitt threw a touchdown pass to offensive lineman Heinie Miller to bring the All @-@ Americans ' lead to 14 ? 0 going into halftime . The Olympics scored their only points of the game in the third quarter . A player with the last name of Schreiner caught a receiving touchdown . The All @-@ Americans answered when offensive lineman Lou Little blocked a field goal and ran it back for a touchdown . The final score of the game came when Shelton caught a receiving touchdown in the fourth quarter from Hughitt .

= = = Week 5 : vs. Toledo Maroons = = =

October 24 , 1920 at Canisius Field

For the All @-@ Americans ' next game , they played against the Toledo Maroons . Based in Toledo , Ohio , the Maroons were an independent team but became part of the APFA in 1922 . Coming into the game , the Maroons had not scored a point for the entire season , and that streak continued this game . Six thousand people were in attendance for the 38 ? 0 All @-@ Americans

victory . In the first quarter , Anderson returned a 40 @-@ yard and a 50 @-@ yard punt for two touchdowns . Hughitt scored a rushing touchdown in the second quarter , and Weldon kicked a 35 @-@ yard field goal to make the score 24 ? 0 at halftime . Anderson scored the final two touchdowns of the game . He scored two rushing touchdowns : one in the third quarter and one in the fourth quarter .

= = = Week 6 : vs. Rochester Jeffersons = = =

October 31 , 1920 at Canisius Field

In week six , the All @-@ Americans played their first game against an APFA team , challenging the Rochester Jeffersons . The All @-@ Americans received the kickoff , and on its opening drive kicked a 30 @-@ yard field goal . The Jeffersons ' first drive resulted a turnover on downs . Weldon scored a 3 @-@ yard rushing touchdown on the resulting All @-@ Americans ' drive . Rochester running back Jim Laird scored all of his team 's points . In the second and the fourth quarter , he kicked a 30 @-@ yard and a 33 @-@ yard field goal , respectively . The All @-@ Americans ' final score of the game came from a blocked punt . Red Quigley was punting from his own end zone when Swede Youngstrom blocked the punt , and defensive guard Bill Brace ran it back .

= = = Week 7 : vs. All @-@ Tonawanda Lumberjacks = = =

November 7 , 1920 at Canisius Field

The All @-@ Americans next game was against the All @-@ Tonawanda Lumberjacks , who would join the APFA the following year . Anderson scored a rushing touchdown to put the All @-@ Americans up 7 ? 0 at the end of the first quarter . The All @-@ Americans followed up with three touchdowns in the next quarter . Anderson rushed for two , and running back Barney Lepper rushed for another one . Hughitt scored the All @-@ Americans ' last touchdown of the game in the third quarter when he rushed for a touchdown . The final score of the game was 35 ? 0 . This game was the Lumberjacks only loss of the season , and the only game in which they failed to score a point .

= = = Week 8 : vs. Columbus Panhandles = = =

November 14 , 1920 at Canisius Field

With 9 @, @ 000 fans in attendance , the All @-@ Americans played an APFA opponent , the Columbus Panhandles . At the end of the first quarter , the Panhandles were winning 7 ? 6 . After that , the game " proved disastrous " , according to football historian Chris Willis , to the Panhandles . The final score was 43 ? 7 . The Panhandles ' only score was a receiving touchdown from Homer Ruh . The All @-@ Americans had six rushing touchdowns , four of which came from Smith . The other two came from Anderson and Hughitt . From these six rushing touchdowns , five of the extra points were converted , and the All @-@ Americans ' defense got a safety .

= = = Week 9 : vs. Canton Bulldogs = = =

November 21 , 1920 at Buffalo Baseball Park

In week nine , the All @-@ Americans played the Bulldogs . Jim Thorpe , who was later inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame , started the game for the Bulldogs , but he came out at halftime because he believed it would end in a tie . Both teams were slowed by a muddy field , and the football became soggy after three quarters . Neither the All @-@ Americans nor the Bulldogs could gain a lot of yards during the game . The lone score of the game came with under four minutes to play : a field goal from the Bulldogs ' Al Feeney . He never missed a field goal the entire 1920 season , and the final score of the game was 3 ? 0 .

= = = Week 10 : vs. Cleveland Tigers = = =

November 28 , 1920 at Buffalo Baseball Park

Following their first loss of the season , the All @-@ Americans challenged the Cleveland Tigers . The owner of the Tigers , Jimmy O 'Donnell , helped with the foundation of the APFA . A total of 5 @, @ 000 fans showed up to the game . The only score of the game came in the third quarter . Anderson scored an 8 @-@ yard rushing touchdown . This loss for the Tigers would be their final game of the season .

= = = Week 11 : vs. Canton Bulldogs = = =

December 4 , 1920 at Polo Grounds

The following week , the All @-@ Americans played their second game against the Bulldogs , winning 7 ? 3 . The Bulldogs did not get a first down or complete a pass during the game , but Thorpe kicked a field goal in the third quarter after a fumble recovery for the team 's only score . In the fourth quarter , All @-@ Americans tackle Youngstrom blocked a Thorpe punt and returned it for a touchdown . The Sunday Chronicle named Thorpe , Henry and Lowe as the Bulldogs ' stars , while Anderson , Youngstrom , and Miller were the standouts for the All @-@ Americans .

= = = Week 11 : vs. Akron Pros = = =

December 5 , 1920 at Buffalo Baseball Park

The All @-@ Americans had the Akron Pros as their next opponent . The All @-@ Americans were tired from their victory against the Canton Bulldogs the day before . Before the start of the game , Bob Nash of Akron was sold to the All @-@ Americans for \$ 300 and 5 % of the Akron @-@ Buffalo gate , making the first deal in APFA history . The reason for the trade was because rain caused a low amount of fans , and the game would not have been profitable for the Pros . However , Nash did not appear in the game for either team , and Scotty Bierce replaced Nash for the Pros . The rain caused sloppy game play as well as a small crowd of 3 @, @ 000 people . The All @-@ Americans had an opportunity to score in the final minutes of the game . Fritz Pollard fumbled the ball , and Heinie Miller recovered it . Buffalo had the ball on the 12 @-@ yard @-@ line , but the officials called the end of the game . It resulted in a 0 ? 0 tie .

= = Post @-@ season = =

Since there were no playoff system in the APFA until 1932 , a meeting was held to determine the 1920 APFA Champions . Each team that showed up had a vote to determine the champions . The All @-@ Americans stated that they should win the award because they had more wins and were not beaten by the Akron Pros . Since the Akron Pros had a 1 @. @ 000 winning percentage , however , the Pros were awarded the Brunswick @-@ Balke Collender Cup on April 30 , 1921 . Ties were not counted in standings until 1972 , which is why Akron is credited with a 1 @. @ 000 winning percentage . The sportswriter Bruce Copeland compiled the All @-@ Pro list for the 1920 season . No player from the All @-@ Americans were on the list .

= = Roster = =

= = Standings = =

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