

= 1920 Hammond Pros season =

The 1920 Hammond Pros season was the franchise 's inaugural season in the American Professional Football Association (APFA) and second as an American football team . The Pros entered 1920 coming off a 4 @-@ win , 2 @-@ loss , 3 @-@ tie (4 ? 2 ? 3) record in 1919 as an independent team . Several representatives from another professional football league , the Ohio League , wanted to form a new national league , and thus the APFA was created .

The Pros opened the 1920 season with a 26 ? 0 loss to the Rock Island Independents . The team did not score a point until their third game , and ended the season with a 2 ? 5 record , which placed it tied for 11th place in the final standings . The sportswriter Bruce Copeland compiled the 1920 All @-@ Pro list , but no players from the Pros were on it . As of 2012 , no player from the 1920 Hammond Pros roster has been enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame .

= = Offseason = =

The Hammond Pros , who were named the Hammond All @-@ Stars , finished 4 ? 2 ? 3 in their 1919 season as an independent team . The All @-@ Stars disbanded , and three teams were created from those players : the Chicago Tigers , the Decatur Staleys , and the Pros . After the 1919 season , representatives of four Ohio League , a professional football league based in Ohio , 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 professional 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 .

= = = Roster = = =

Mose Bashaw
Tony Catalano
Edward Davis
Guil Falcon
Hank Gillo
Wilbur Henderson
Wally Hess
Max Hicks
Carol Johnson
Klinks Meyers

= = Schedule = =

The table below was compiled using the information from NFL History , which uses various contemporary newspapers . If a team has a dagger () , then that team in a non @-@ APFA team .

For the results column , the winning team 's score is posted first followed by the result for the Pros . 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 Pros , who did not have a scheduled home game , were a traveling team .

= = Game summaries = =

= = Week 3 : at Rock Island Independents = = =

October 10 , 1920 at Douglas Park

The Pros started their season in week three with a game against the Rock Island Independents . The Independents already played two games and were undefeated . There were no scores by either team in the first or third quarters , but the Independents scored 13 points in the second and fourth . Running backs Fred Chicken , Ray Kuehl , and Gerald Mansfield accounting for four touchdowns throughout the game . Quarterback Pudge Wyman throw two touchdowns ? a 35 @-@ yard one to Kuehl and a 20 @-@ yard one to Mansfield . Hammond started to purposely injure their opponents during the game because they realized the Independents were a much greater team . As a result , Rube Ursella suffered a twisted knee . Duey Lyle was kicked in the face and required seven stitches . Lastly , Ed Healey was kicked in the face needed five stitches in the cheek .

= = Week 4 : at Dayton Triangles = = =

October 17 , 1920 at Triangle Park

The Dayton Triangles were the Pros ' next opponent . For a second week in a row , the Pros did not score a point . In the first quarter , Triangle back Al 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 end Dave Reese , and a rushing touchdown from back Lou Partlow . The extra point was missed after the first touchdown . In the next quarter , back George Roudebush kicked a 35 @-@ yard field goal . The last score of the game was a receiving touchdown from back Norb Sacksteder . The final score of the game was 44 ? 0 before a crowd of 2 @, @ 000 .

= = Week 6 : at Logan Squares = = =

October 31 , 1920 at Logan Square Park

After two losses , the Pros decided to not schedule a game in week five and challenge a non @-@ APFA team in week six . Their next opponent , the Logan Squares from Chicago , Illinois , were on a two @-@ game winning streak . The scoring summary is unavailable , but the Pros defeated the Squares 14 ? 9 in front of 3 @, @ 000 attendees .

= = Week 7 : at Pullman Thorns = = =

November 7 , 1920 in Chicago , Illinois

In week seven , the Pros challenged the Pullman Thorns , a non @-@ APFA team . The Thorns were undefeated going into this game with a record of 3 ? 0 . The scoring summary is unknown . For the Pros , Hank Gillo and Mace Roberts both scored rushing touchdowns ; for the Thorns , LaForest had two rushing touchdowns . The Pros converted two extra points , while the Thorns only converted one . The final score of the game was a 14 ? 13 victory for the Pros .

= = Week 8 : at Gary Elks = = =

November 14 , 1920 at Gleason Field

After a two @-@ game winning streak , the Pros played the Gary Elks , a non @-@ APFA team , at Gleason Field , with 2 @, @ 000 people in attendance . The Elks game into the game with an undefeated 5 ? 0 ? 1 record . The Pros were the first team to score when Gilo had a 20 @-@ yard rushing touchdown in the first quarter ; the extra point was missed , however . The score would stay 6 ? 0 until Smeltzer of the Elks caught a pass from Leverette in the fourth quarter . The extra point was made , and the final score of the game was a 7 ? 6 loss for the Pros .

= = = Week 9 : at Decatur Staleys = = =

November 21 , 1920 at Staley Field

In week 9 , the Pros battled the Decatur Staleys in front of 3 @, @ 000 fans . In the first quarter , Staley back Ralph Lanum scored a 23 @-@ yard rushing touchdown . This touchdown was Lanum 's only score of the entire 1920 season . Ed Sternaman of the Staleys scored a 10 @-@ yard rushing touchdown in the second quarter . Also , George Halas caught a 15 @-@ yard receiving touchdown from Jimmy Conzelman to have the game 21 ? 0 going into halftime . In the third quarter , the Staleys did not score , but the Pros put points on the board . Wally Hess caught a 15 @-@ yard pass from Emmett Specht for a touchdown . In the final quarter , Halas scored a 26 @-@ yard receiving touchdown , and the game ended 28 ? 7 .

= = = Week 10 : at Chicago Boosters = = =

November 25 , 1920 at DePaul Field

In their final game of the 1920 season , the Pros played the Chicago Boosters , a non @-@ APFA team . The Boosters came into the game with an undefeated record of 3 ? 0 ? 4 . The scoring summary is unknown , but four players of the Boosters ? Annan , Bond , Reilly , Applehans ? scored a touchdown . The final score of the game was a 27 ? 0 loss for the Pros .

= = Standings = =

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

= = Post season = =

With a losing record , the Pros could not contend for the APFA Championship . After the season was over , the team hired Max Hicks to be the coach for the following season . The Pros ' 1920 record of 2 ? 5 ? 2 would be their best outing until 1924 ; the team folded two years later . Sportswriter Bruce Copeland compiled the 1920 All Pro team , but no player made the list . As of 2012 , no players from the 1920 Hammond Pros were enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame .