

= 1920 Muncie Flyers season =

The 1920 Muncie Flyers season was the franchise 's inaugural season in the American Professional Football League (APFA) ? later named the National Football League . The Flyers entered the season coming off a 4 ? 1 ? 1 record in 1919 . Several representatives from the Ohio League wanted to form a new professional league ; thus , the APFA was created . The 1920 team only played in one game that counted in the standings : a 45 ? 0 loss against the Rock Island Independents . This game and the Columbus Panhandles ? Dayton Triangles on the same date is considered to be the first league game featuring two APFA teams . The Flyers tried to schedule other games , but the opponents canceled to play better teams . As a result , the Flyers had to play the rest of the season 's game versus local teams . In week 10 , the Flyers won a game against the Muncie Offers More AC for the Muncie City Championship . No players from the 1920 Muncie Flyers were listed on the 1920 All @-@ Pro Team , and no player has been enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame .

= = Offseason = =

The Muncie Flyers , playing as the Muncie Congerville Flyers , finished 4 ? 1 ? 1 as an independent team in 1919 . They concluded this season with a win over Avondale AA and won the Muncie City Championship . 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 , 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 agreed on a name for the circuit : the American Professional Football Conference .

Earl Ball , the Flyers ' manager , heard about this gathering on August 29 and was interested in participating . The original four representatives 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 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 , and representatives of each team voted to determine the winner of the APFA trophy .

= = Regular season = =

The Flyers hosted a practice game against the Muncie Tigers on September 26 , 1920 , but the result of the game is unknown . The Flyers ' first game of the season was against the Rock Island Independents . The Independents beat the Flyers 45 ? 0 . As a result , the Staleys , who were supposed to play the Flyers the next week , cancelled because they wanted to play a better team . The Flyers tried to schedule game for the next few weeks but were unsuccessful . Since there were no rules to keep players on teams , several Flyers ' players left and played for other teams . The Flyers scheduled a game against the Cleveland Tigers three weeks later , but the game was cancelled because the Tigers decided to play against the Panhandles instead . The same result happened next week against the Dayton Triangles . The Flyers were challenged by the Gas City Tigers and Muncie Offers More AC ? two teams of Muncie . These games are not counted in the APFA standings .

= = = Schedule = = =

The table below was compiled using information from The Pro Football Archives and The Coffin

Corner , both of which used various contemporary newspapers . A dagger () represents a non @-@ APFA team . 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 final APFA standings .

= = Game summaries = =

= = = Week 2 : at Rock Island Independents = = =

October 3 , 1920 at Douglas Park

In their only APFA game counted in the standings , the Muncie Flyers played against the Rock Island Independents . It is considered to be one of the first games played with two APFA teams . Since kickoff times were not standardized , it is unknown if the Muncie ? Rock Island or Columbus ? Dayton game is the first game . In the first quarter , the Independents scored three touchdowns : two from Arnold Wyman and one from Rube Ursella . In the second quarter , Ursella kicked a 25 @-@ yard field goal , and Wyman scored from an 86 @-@ yard kickoff return . In the third quarter , Sid Nichols had a 5 @-@ yard rushing touchdown , and Waddy Kuehl scored a 7 @-@ yard rushing touchdown , en route to a final score of the game was 45 ? 0 .

= = = Week 10 : at Gas City Tigers = = =

November 25 , 1920 in Gas City , Indiana

It took the Flyers eight weeks in order to have a game played ; they accepted the Gas City Tigers ' challenge to play in Gas City , Indiana on November 18 . The Tigers were 9 ? 0 and outscored their opponents 443 ? 9 this season . Halfback Mickey Hole scored a 45 @-@ yard rushing touchdown three minutes into the game . On the next possession , the Flyers scored again ; Kenneth Huffine scored the touchdown , and Cooney Checkaye kicked the point after , which made the score 13 ? 0 . Near the beginning of the second quarter , Checkaye scored , but the extra point was missed . The Tigers scored their only touchdown in the game in the third quarter . The final score of the game was 19 ? 7 .

= = = Week 10 : at Muncie Offers More AC = = =

November 28 , 1920 , at Walnut Park

After their first victory of the season , the Flyers were challenged by the Muncie Offers More AC . The game was labelled as the Muncie City Championship . Since most of the other local teams ' seasons were finished , both Muncie teams hired as many as 20 players for the game . The field was muddy , which caused Offers More AC to fumble the ball several times . In the third quarter , the Flyers scored two touchdowns to give them a 14 ? 0 lead going into the fourth quarter . The Flyers added 10 more points ? a touchdown and a field goal ? in the final quarter to win the Championship 24 ? 0 .

= = = Week 11 : at Gas City Tigers = = =

December 5 , 1920 in Gas City , Indiana

The Flyers last game of the 1920 season was against the Gas City Tigers . The Tigers signed up several players to help them defeat the Flyers . The first quarter was scoreless , as the only near score was from a failed drop kick from the Flyers . The first score of the game came in the second quarter . Weaver of the Tigers returned a punt 85 yards for a touchdown . On the Tigers ' next possession , they dropped a pass in the endzone on fourth down . Early in the third quarter , a

member of the Tigers fumbled , and the Flyers recovered it on the 5 @-@ yard line . Huffine score a rushing touchdown on that possession to tie the game 7 ? 7 . The last score of the game came from the Flyers ; Checkaye returned a punt 60 yards for a touchdown to give the Flyers a 13 ? 7 victory . The Tigers almost scored on their final possession on the game but fumbled .

= = Post @-@ season = =

Without any APFA wins , the Flyers could not contend for the APFA Championship . However , with wins against the Gas City Tigers and the Muncie Offers More AC , the Flyers claimed to have won the Indiana State Championship . Sportswriter Bruce Copeland compiled the All @-@ Pro list for the 1920 season , but no player from the Flyers was on the list . Ken Huffine decided to be affiliated with the Chicago Stayles after the 1920 season , and Cooney Checkaye took over the role the following season . It did not help , and the Flyers ' final year in the APFA was 1921 . As of 2012 , no players from the 1920 Muncie Flyers have been enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame .

= = Standings = =

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

= = Roster = =