

Time keeps on slippin, slippin, slippin, into the future. And here we find ourselves, having been thrust headlong into the end of November. This must mean:

a) The holiday decorations at work currently feature an epic battle between black Halloween bats and smiling white snowmen.

b) For the Popelka clan, it is the season of apple cider and powdered donuts. Mmmm.

c) For Cleveland Browns followers (and to paraphrase Paul Brown), in the near term, their hopes for future are in their past. It's time to focus on next year's college draft.

d) All of the above.

That question was a gimme. And now that you are warmed up, you are ready for today's

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Browns nickname quiz!

Many of these are well known, but some are fairly obscure. I took some liberties with a few of them, but I think most of these are fair to include. I avoided the most obvious re-worked names and initials, such as "MoMass", "Diek", "PB", and "KJ".

By the way, I believe team titles and Hall of Fame players aren't the only gauges in measuring the depth and breadth of a sports franchise. I would be surprised if many other NFL teams boast of as many nicknames as the Browns.

(Here is a fun exercise: before you get started, look away, and first try to name as many as you can. I came up with an internet-assisted 32. This number is a very obvious hint for number 33 below.)

- 1. Turkey
- 2. The Toe
- 3. The Albino Rhino
- 4. Ice Cube
- 5. Man-Genius
- 6. Glue Fingers

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- 7. Automatic
- 8. Bubba
- 9. Thriller
- 10. KII
- 11. The Deuce
- 12. Bad Moon
- 13. Pork Chop
- 14 .T-Bone
- 15. Foghorne
- 16. Wizard of Oz
- 17. Wizard of Boz
- 18. Big Daddy

19. Mad Dog

20. The Assassin

21. Top Dawg

22. E-Rock

23. Flex

24. Touchdown

25 .Pepper

26. Three Mile

27. Route 66

28. Curly

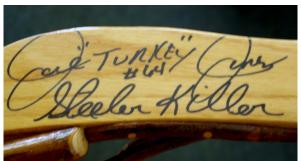
29. The Professor

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30. Big Money

31. Webstar

32. The Baabarian



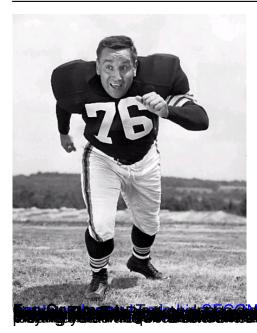
33. Bonus: Who said he didn't want a nickname- that nicknames were for "sissies"?

It's interesting how many of the nicknames come from the rosters of playoff teams. Seems like a great way for a player to endear himself to fans.

1. Description Turkey Description One fourth of what Doug Dieken has called "the best defensive line in Cleveland Browns history" (along with Jerry Sherk, Walter Johnson and Jack Gregory). Joe Jones famously ignited the home crowd by bear-hugging Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw and spiking him as the Browns eked out an 18-16 win. This was in 1976- Turkey Jones' second stint in Cleveland after playing some in Philadelphia.

In a small tradition that Art Modell stole from the Browns when he moved the team due to mismanagement and selfishness, vets sent rookies out to pick up "free turkeys" ahead of Thanksgiving every year. It was a trick, as the rookies spent a portion of their off-day searching for a mythical rural location. Some would drive up and down the highway, perhaps stopping at a farm to call and verify the address. Turkey Jones received his nickname for falling for the prank.

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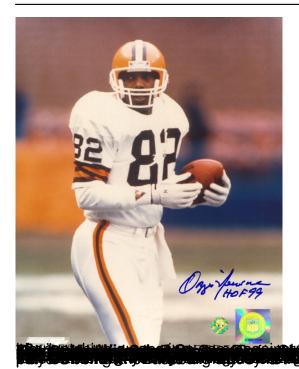
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