

Blast From The Past: My Top Ten Cleveland Browns Myths (Hate to Burst Your Bubble...)

Written by {ga=googleph2}

Tuesday, October 04 2011 11:00 PM - Last Updated Wednesday, October 05 2011 7:33 PM



I once knew a friendly old guy named Ray (I say old, but he was probably not much older than I am now- ha). Ray enjoyed long conversations with anyone who was willing. His tone and body language suggested he was about to confide semi-secret information. One of the things he liked to say was, "Hate to burst your bubble, but..." And then he'd state a point.

It was funny, because he'd say that even if his take was obvious, or whether anyone would really care one way or the other. You'd say, "How are you doing, Ray?" He might reply, "I'm doing just fine. Hard to believe this day is almost over. Hate to burst your bubble, but I'll be glad when it's time to go home."

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Hate to burst your bubble, but back when Mickey McBride was forming the franchise, Paul Brown was well-established from his days as Massillon and then as the Ohio State coach. The Cleveland team was known as 'Brown's team' before it was made official.

Myth #9. **The Browns have always played to "70,000 screaming Browns fans".**



The national media has always seemed to believe this. It's not true (except for the screaming

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part). Back to the early 1950s, the Browns had dominated their league for years. However, they did not draw as well as the NY, Philadelphia, Washington and Chicago teams. Professional football had yet to take root.

The Browns weren't losing money, but notably, Paul Brown courted his old Ohio State job-losing out to Miami coach Woody Hayes. He had also made overtures to other schools such as USC (to be fair, McBride was implicated for a time with organized crime, and there was an air of uncertainty around the franchise). Also, the city was spoiled by the elite Cleveland Indians and Cleveland Barons teams. (LeBron James had yet to 'spoil Cleveland.')

And I hate to burst your bubble, but when I was a kid in the 1970s, the Browns weren't very good and often failed to sell out. Does anyone else remember the days of adjusting the TV rabbit ears, and barely getting the game on a snowy channel 10 out of Ontario, Canada?

Myth #8. **Art Modell "had no choice" but to move.**

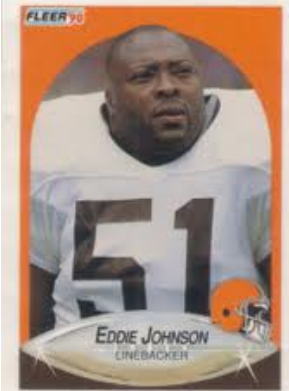
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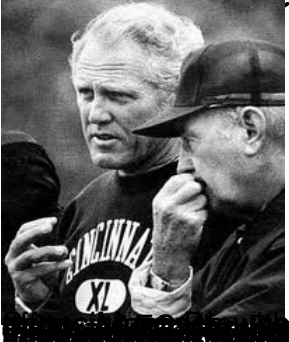
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Myth #1: The Browns started the "Barking Dog" thing. (No, it was the Oakland Raiders.)



Myth #2: The Browns' West Coast offense traces its origins to Paul Brown's Cleveland Browns.



Myth #3: Paul Brown was the first to use the term "Browns" to refer to the team.



Myth #4: The Browns were the first to use the term "Browns" to refer to the team.

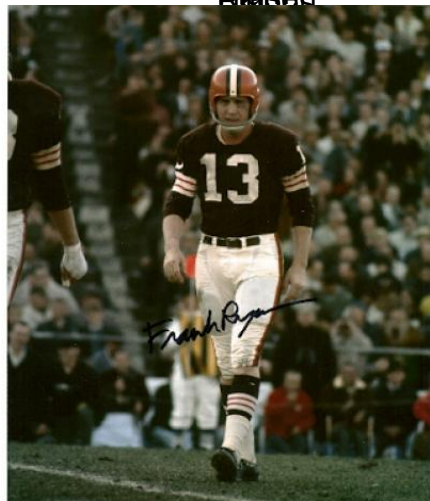
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~~State that it's not a myth that the Browns have a history of coaching from outside the city. For example, the Browns have had coaches from other cities like Miami, Ohio, and even from other states like Michigan and Ohio.~~



~~Or yeah, and there's the Frank Ryan College Bowl game. The Browns played in the first World War game in 1918 at the old Municipal Stadium. The Browns played in the first World War game in 1918 at the old Municipal Stadium. The Browns played in the first World War game in 1918 at the old Municipal Stadium.~~



~~Just to say, I don't know if you're a Browns fan or not. And if you're not a Browns fan, I hate to say it, but I don't know if you're a Browns fan or not. And if you're not a Browns fan, I hate to say it, but I don't know if you're a Browns fan or not. And if you're not a Browns fan, I hate to say it, but I don't know if you're a Browns fan or not.~~

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