

**GRIDIRON
GAMES** publications

Solitaire Illustrated

Official Magazine of Solitaire Miniature Electronic Football

Volume 3 Issue 1

September 2014

GAME BOARDS

What do you play your games on???

SEASON 3



Solitaire Miniature Electronic Football

The Editor's Desk ...

SCPC Season 3 has begun and if this season starts like the first two it will take several weeks for coaches to get their teams set and leagues aligned.

So for this first issue of the season I was just doing some research of the MFCA and Tudor forums, trying to find something interesting to make an article out of and I came across the "Board Museum" thread on the MFCA .

Miniature football coaches have a wide variety of game boards that they play their games on. Some play on vintage game boards from the past , some on custom built game boards and some on newer game boards.

Some use the original playing surfaces while some use vinyl (or other) field covers over the original surfaces. Stadiums are a nice addition to a game board and for those who want to play "under the lights" there are the lighted stadiums.

Here are a couple of shots of the board I plan on using this season.



It is a Munro "Joe Namath Day / Night Football" game board from the early 1970's. It has a fiberboard playing surface that is still in good shape and runs with a very smooth vibration. It has a "playing field" area of 33" x 18". This should produce some good games. It also has bigger end zones than most game boards of this size, providing more scoring opportunities and with "ALL NEW TEAMS" ...

IT SHOULD BE AN EXCITING SEASON IN THE WLAPF!!!

-Chris LeMay

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GAME BOARDS

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on the cover ... Buffalo Bills lighted stadium
by Marty T's Customz

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SEASON 3



GAME BOARDS

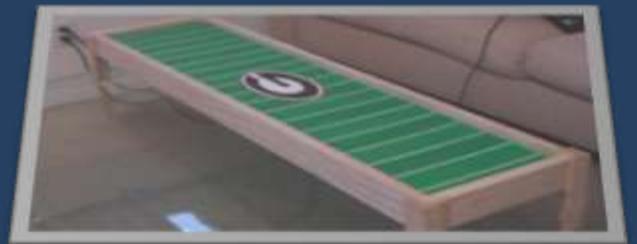
What do you play your games on???

Game board design gives many coaches of miniature electronic football an outlet for their creativity and innovation. This is a gallery of game boards from the MFCAs forum.





MARTY T CUSTOMZ





FOOTBALLFIGURE.NET

ROLLER BOARDS





Jerry McGhee BIG BOARDS



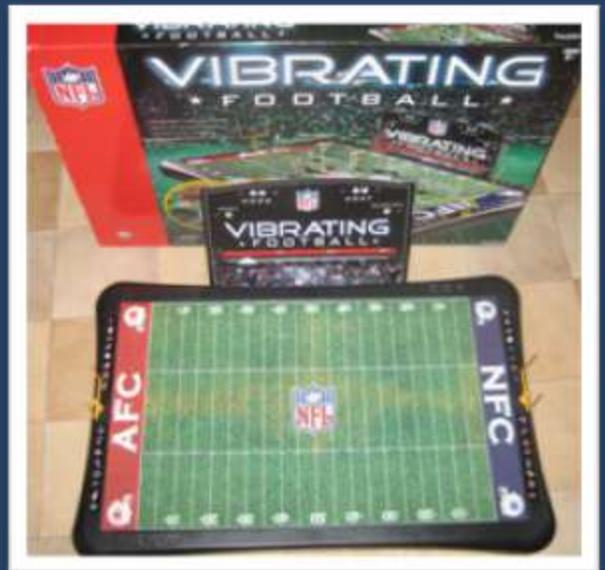
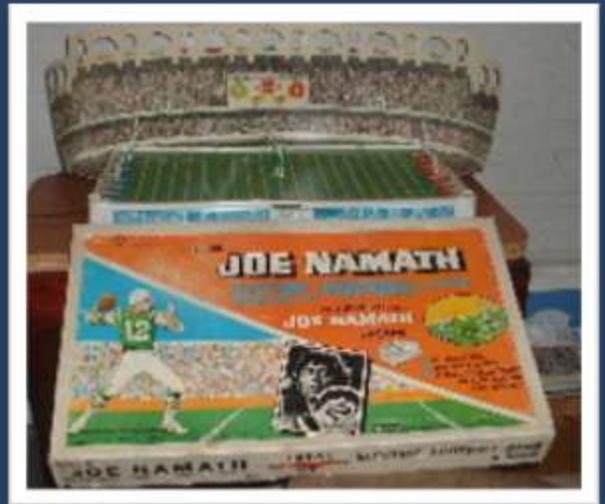
Ravenna Al's Fantasy Boards



Vintage and Collectible



Vintage and Collectible



1 IVY PARK *by Chris Fields*



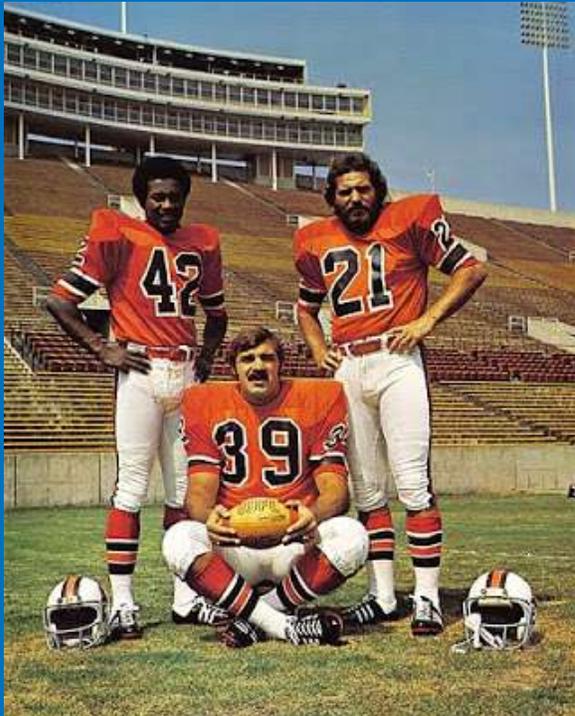


SNOW GAME!!!!





The Gridiron Uniform Database has been described as the “HOLY GRAIL” of uniform reference sites for professional football uniforms. The following is a blog by contributor Bill Schaefer that shows the painstaking research and detail that goes into the creation of this website.



JOY TO THE WORLD, THE WORLD FOOTBALL LEAGUE!!! (originally posted December 25, 2013)

For openers, let me be the first here at the GUD to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year. And now, after throwing caution to the winds and having total disregard for who's been naughty and who's been nice amongst our viewership, the Gridiron Uniform Database serves up a retro piece of holiday fruitcake...The World Football League!

After completing the USFL images a few months ago, the GUD was flooded with comments both thanking us and asking for more. Foremost on the request list was whether or not we'd ever add additional leagues to our site. The original USFL introductory blog article was updated to provide our response.

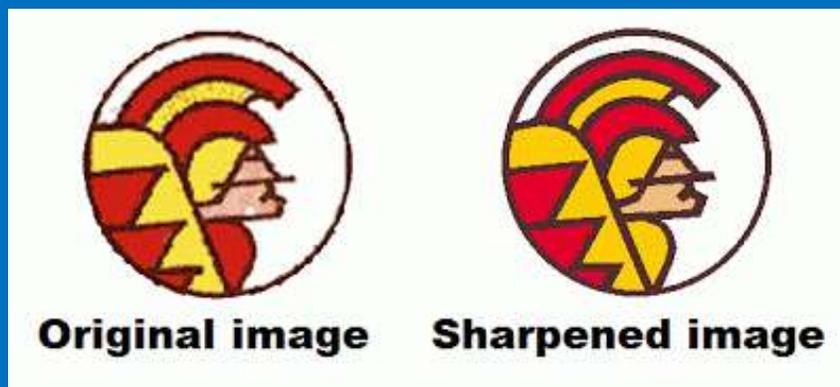
It was agreed that the NFL Europe and the World League of American Football were never created to be on par or compete with the NFL but were instead founded more as developmental leagues for the NFL and, thereby, a step below professional leagues such as the NFL,

AFL, AAFC, and USFL. Arena leagues were also discounted due to being a completely different sport. The early incarnations of the AFL from the first half of the 20th century remain a possibility for the future, however exhaustive research would need to be conducted to provide enough useful information to make such an endeavor worthwhile.

Therefore, the only other league remaining currently under consideration for inclusion on the GUD was the World Football League that operated in 1974 and 1975. Shortly after completing the work on the USFL and the ensuing update summarized above, I caught the bug.

My first concern was that, aside from the famous photo of the former Dolphins' backfield wearing WFL uniforms, I'd never seen any of their uniforms. I didn't even know which team's uniform Csonka and friends (above) were wearing!

My other concern was whether or not the teams' logos were already available in graphic form for use to create helmets. No logos were actually used on the jerseys, which made things much easier from my standpoint. Like the



USFL, while the logos existed in the public domain, most were in extremely rough forms with every single logo needing improvement in some combination of color, quality, and sharpness in order to meet the level of expectations we have for the GUD. Above is one such example.



The next step in the process was to accumulate photos of each of the teams in game action. In doing so, a pattern began to become obvious and, truth be told, it brought a gigantic smile to this graphic engineer's face. Ten of the twelve teams in 1974 and another six of the eleven teams in 1975 basically all wore the exact same jersey, pants, and helmet stripe combinations with the only differences being the color combinations. I am assuming that these teams got a 'swinging deal' from a single manufacturer to supply uniforms. I believe the mass-supplier was Russell Athletic; however, I am not entirely sure.

My next issue was identifying some franchise lineages and these were just as convoluted as the USFL's.

- Birmingham's Americans became the Vulcans for 1975.
- The Boston Bulls never played a game before moving to New York before the first WFL season had even started. That team, the New York Stars, played for 14 games before moving to Charlotte, North Carolina. The Charlotte Stars played one game before further revising their identity as the Charlotte Hornets for the remainder of 1974 and into 1975.
- The Chicago Winds played only 5 games in 1975 before folding. For their final game, they replaced the plain, capital 'W' on their helmet with the logo that was reportedly supposed to have been used from the start of the season but is believed to be the victim of a late arrival after the first four games of the season were played - literally a 'one-game' logo.
- The two franchises in Chicago (1974's Fire and 1975's Winds) are unrelated.
- The Houston Texans moved in midseason during 1974 to Shreveport and became the Steamer.
- 1974's World Bowl runner-up, the Florida Blazers, moved to San Antonio for 1975 and became the Wings.
- 1974's Jacksonville Sharks were renamed the Express for 1975.
- The Portland Storm was renamed the Thunder for 1975.
- Only 4 franchises – the Memphis Southmen, the Hawaiians, the Philadelphia Bell, and the Southern California Sun – played all of their games in two seasons under the same name.

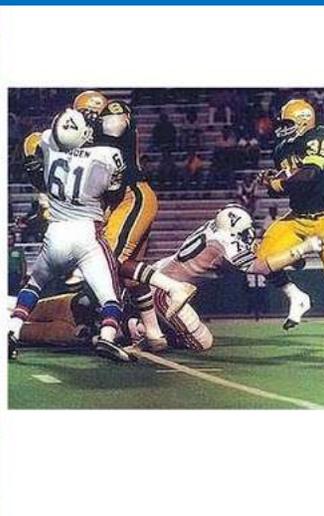
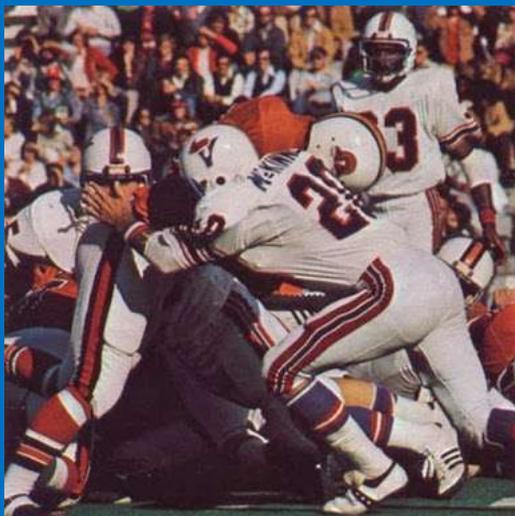
Despite completing the project to the best of my abilities, there are some lingering issues.



Memphis altered its logo by adding orange for 1975. I have seen photos showing different fonts on the orange jerseys in 1975 – identified by the orange-inclusive helmet logo. In 1974 and 1975 it appears that some players wore plain white sanitary socks below their regular orange socks while others wore striped 'sanies' below the orange regulars. Above are the 2 different logos as well as two different sets of sanies and nameplates - both from 1975.

The Houston Texans/Shreveport Steamer franchise shows some irregularities with their nameplate fonts - a serifed font evolving into an outlined, serifed font.

Some claims exist that a few teams, namely Philadelphia and Detroit, wore both grey facemasks and colored facemasks. Indications vary as some believe this was allowed to happen with no thought towards uniformity while others claim that the grey facemasks were simply the result of the yellow paint chipping off of originally grey facemasks as the season progressed. We may never know the truth, but the photo above tends to make me lean towards a peaceful co-existence of originally grey and yellow facemasks.



The Birmingham Vulcans appear to have worn two different versions of the white jerseys in 1975. One version had blue numbers outlined in red with a typical blue nameplate font. The other version had blue numbers without an outline and a much smaller nameplate font. My guess is that the latter were similar to the mesh jerseys also worn by NFL teams in the 1970s based on the weather conditions at game time as opposed to the durene jerseys generally worn during colder weather. This may also have been the cause for the different fonts on Memphis' 1975 jerseys noted above, as well, however those Memphis jerseys showed no other disparity other than the nameplates.



The Hawaiians began the 1974 season with a helmet logo depicting a white-faced Hawaiian native but changed it at some point to a pinkish skin tone. There is a possibility that at some point the skin tone was further darkened to a brownish shade but I have been unable to find photographic proof of this as yet. Their jerseys also had enormous nameplate fonts!

There also exists the rumor that the Jacksonville Express played part of their 1975 season with a helmet logo with a white background. However, all photos I have uncovered show the logo's background color to be the same yellow as the helmet.

While similar to the USFL project in that I hope the addition of the WFL will add to the casual fans' knowledge of a very small, unique slice of pro football history, it differs in that, due to my age, unlike the USFL, I have absolutely no recollection of the league that played up until I was 3 years old. In some cases, it's been easier to find NFL photos from the 1930s and 1940s than it has been to find photos of the WFL less than forty years after it ceased operation.

As with the rest of the site, if you have any photographic proof that contradicts what we've added, by all means post your evidence in our Forum as our mission to "Just get it right" continues to live on.

Bill Schaefer

FLEA MARKET FIELDS

by Chris Lemay



Every 4th weekend here in Nashville is 'Flea Market Weekend' at the Tennessee State Fair Grounds. 'Flea Market Weekend' is a gathering of vendors from Tennessee and several other surrounding states, each peddling their antiques, collectibles and various other products and services.

I have been a regular to this flea market ever since moving back to the Nashville area over 12 years ago. I have one purpose and ONE PURPOSE ONLY for going to this flea market and that is to find ELECTRIC FOOTBALL STUFF!!!!

In my experience however, flea markets are not the best place to find electric football games. It is extremely rare to find a game, and nearly impossible to find one with players, bases and accessories intact and in playable condition. You can well imagine my excitement when my latest trip to the flea market proved to be the exception. I was not only able to find one game but two, and each contained figures, bases, scoreboards and a majority of the parts and accessories.

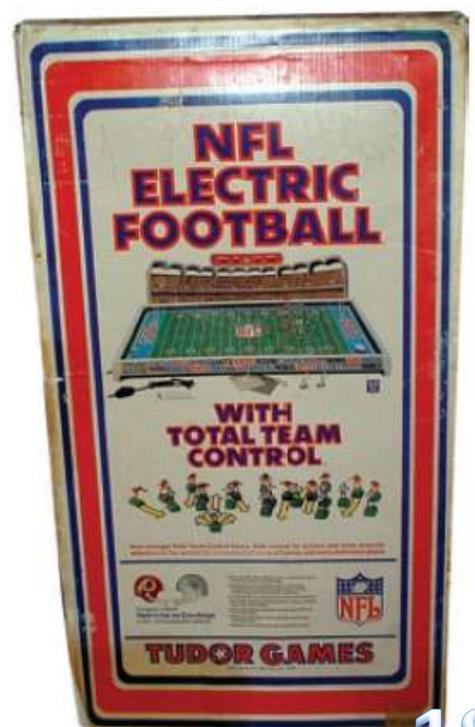
I always take an inventory and make an analysis of the games that I find, mostly to determine how they will fit into my collection of games and figures, but also to learn a little about the history of electric football. The games I found on my most recent flea market adventure were both Tudor 600 series models from the early 70's. I was able to purchase both games for only \$30.00, a very fair price for either of game boards themselves. Having figures, bases and a majority of the other accessories was an unexpected bonus.

It further pleased me that both games were in their original boxes. I've found that the boxes are a very good source of

information about the games. The box often describes the game and its contents, and the box's graphic artwork can help to date the games.

The first of my two flea market finds is described as, 'NFL ELECTRIC FOOTBALL with Total Team Control,' and contains the Redskins and Cowboys in their 'official pre-painted uniforms.' The box pictures a game board with a grandstand score board, Redskins and Cowboys helmets with double bar face masks, the NFL logo, and the two teams on TTC bases with arrows indicating the many directions that the players can move in. It also describes the bases as, "New stronger Total Team Control bases with side control for quicker and more accurate adjustment." It says, "You control the movement of every offensive and defensive player."

This game board is marked as a model 645 on the side and as a model



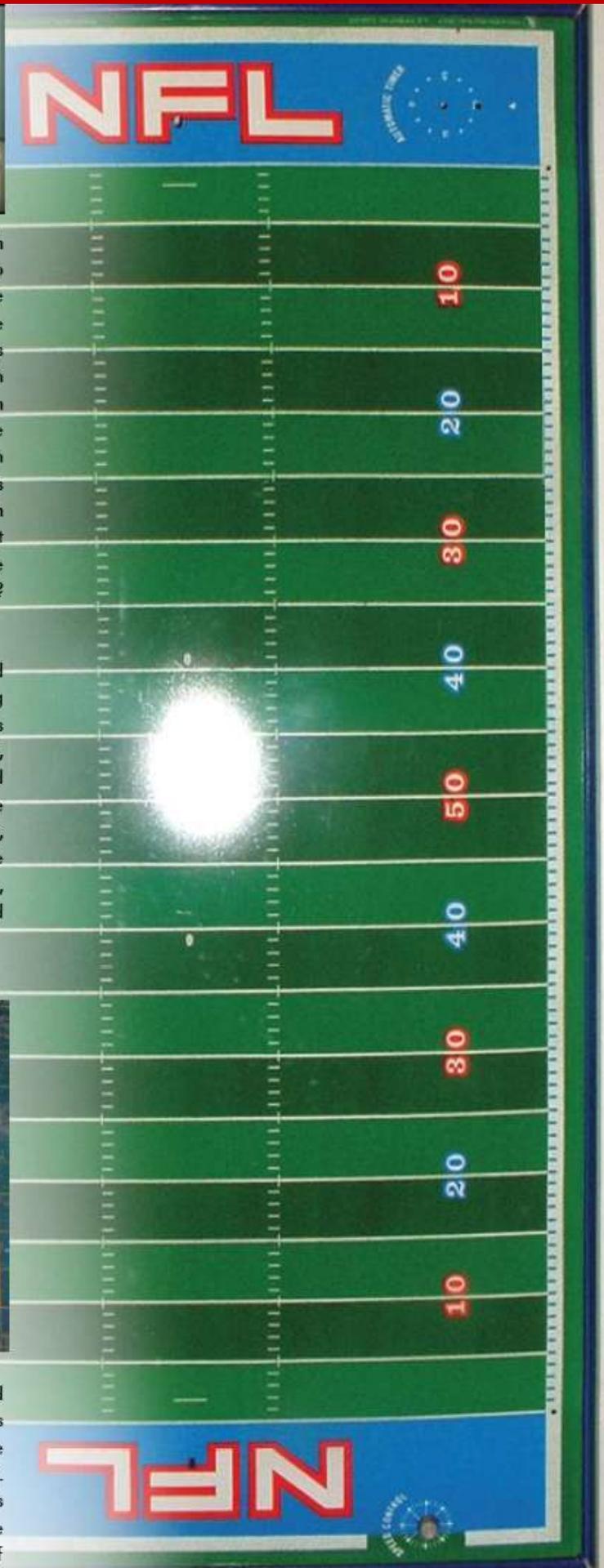


620 on the playing surface. It is in overall good condition with some dents and scratches. The names of all the NFL teams (prior to the 1976 expansion) are on the sides of the game board but the scoreboard shows only the NFL helmets of the 16 teams prior to the AFL/NFL merger, so I'm not sure this is the original scoreboard. It is not the one pictured on the box. The on/off switch is removed from the power cord but is still with the game. This is a very common problem with vintage game boards and this type of switch. The "W" shaped connector inside the switch is always breaking from the constant flipping on and off of the switch. The easiest solution is to just remove the switch and tape the wires back together, which was done on this game board. The same thing happened to my first game board. One suggestion from my experience is don't just tape the wires back together without separating them. What can I say? I was 12 at the time.

Other accessories in this game are a rule book (dated 1968/69/71/72/73), 2 yellow Y-type goalposts with 1 retaining collar, the 2 timer wheels (white plastic, minutes wheel and seconds wheel), yard marker, 10 yard chain, 3 goal line flags (white plastic, with the magnets and orange fluorescent stickers), 3 scoreboard knobs (white plastic), 4 large black scoring discs, 3 smaller blue scoring discs, 10 red team name strips (Bills, Jets, 49ers, Browns, Steelers, Dolphins, Eagles, Broncos, Colts, Bengals, Vikings). 12 blue team name inserts (Colts, Bears, Packers, Vikings, Eagles, Lions, Saints, Cardinals, Browns, Falcons, Cowboys), and one partly used sheet of white numbers (yellowed but still usable).



The teams in this game are the Redskins, in dark uniform, and Cowboys, in white uniform, which is consistent with the teams listed on the box. All players are in good shape except for one Redskins DB figure that has a broken arm, a very common injury. The Cowboys are numbered with blue numbers and the Redskins with white and blue numbers; why I don't know. All 23 bases are TTC. The 2 TTQB's are white plastic. There is also an extra team of white unpainted figures.



The second game is 'NFL SUPERBOWL ELECTRIC FOOTBALL' with 'Total Team Control' and contains two "Super Bowl Teams," According to the box it was available "Only at Sears." The box graphics depict the Raiders and another team, possibly the Bills.

The game board does not have the model number printed on it anywhere but definitely is a 600 series as it is the same size as the first one. The box does have model no 630/633 printed on it. This board is in the best condition that I have ever seen for a vintage board. It looks like it has never been played with! There are no scratches, dents or rust on the playing surface or underneath. The side graphics are of stadium lights. The score board has stadium lights at the top as well.

The accessories with this game include the 2 yellow Y-type goal posts with retaining collars, a white speed control knob, a minute wheel and a second wheel, 4 goal line flags, two 10 yard chains, 7 scoreboard knobs, 3 small, blue scoreboard point discs, and 3 team-name scoreboard inserts (Packers, Browns, Dolphins).

The players with this game are the Redskins, in dark uniforms, and the Dolphins, in white uniforms; possibly the Super Bowl 7 teams. The Dolphins are numbered with aqua numbers and the Redskins with silver numbers. I'm not sure if these are the Redskins' original numbers. The 22 bases are TTC and the QB's are white plastic.

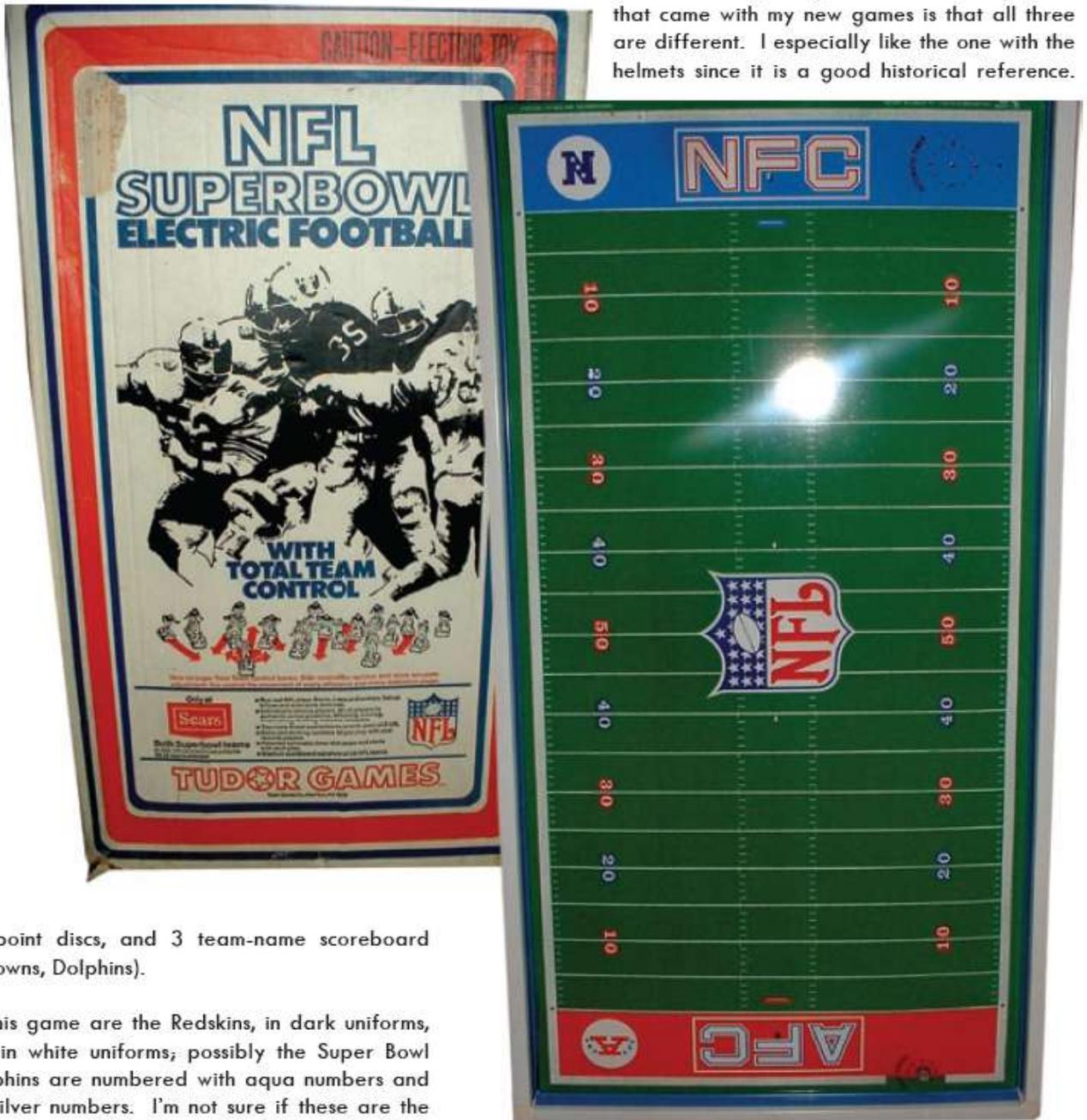
So what is the significance of all this?

To a collector, like my self, just finding games from this time period is exciting enough. Typically model 600 series game boards sell on ebay for anywhere from \$50.00 to \$200.00 depending on condition, accessories, and the teams included. To find these two games in the condition they are in, with these accessories,

with these teams, and bases for just \$30.00 is probably the best deal I have ever found in the 13 years that I have been collecting electric football games.

The model numbers used for the 600 series game boards (610, 620, 630, 645, etc..) are usually just indicators of the various graphics on the sides and playing surface as well as what NFL teams are included with the game.

The interesting thing about the scoreboards that came with my new games is that all three are different. I especially like the one with the helmets since it is a good historical reference.



The grandstand scoreboard with the Super Bowl game definitely portrays Atlanta's Fulton County Stadium. At the bottom you can see a coach talking to a Falcons' player on the sideline. Another interesting note is that the graphic is a half picture for the left side that is just flipped horizontally to complete the full grandstand effect.

The goal posts have the padding molded on the bottom. Later versions had a separate pad that slide onto the upright. Yard

markers, 10 yard chains, and goal line flags didn't always have the orange fluorescent stickers to go on them either. This feature was exclusive to the 600 series games.

It's always good to find scoring knobs, scoring discs, and especially team name inserts. In my experience, these items are often lost, discarded, or in poor condition. I will use the extras I got to complete other scoreboards that I have in my collection.

It is also good to find a game with its rule book. The rule book is perhaps the best source of information as to the date a game was manufactured since the copyright dates are published. The pictures are good references for the teams and the uniforms of that era. It is also interesting to see the other products that Tudor made which are often shown in the rule book.

Of course, the best things to find with any game are the players, bases and TTQB's. The first thing I always notice about NFL teams is their paint job. Tudor did descent enough jobs with painting the uniforms; I don't usually have too much trouble recognizing a particular team, but it is interesting to see how helmet logos and different striping schemes are depicted on these figures. They are by no means historically accurate but usually are good representations of the NFL teams.

The Redskins figures are made from amber plastic which was used for just about any team that had gold or dark yellow pants. This practice likely saved on paint. The Packers, Saints, and Steelers are some of the other teams that used amber plastic. White plastic was used for the other teams, again to save on paint, especially with the away uniforms. I was extremely excited to get the Dolphins in white uniforms because when I was a kid AFL teams were not available in white uniforms, except for the Jets. Not until after the AFL / NFL merger where AFL or AFC teams available in white away uniforms.

The bases are all TTC bases. I'm not sure if they are the much sought after wide tops though. The figures have the single hole in the base for single clip bases. I guess when Tudor came out with the TTC bases they started including them in all the 600 series games sets.

The TTQB's are the white plastic 'BIG HEAD' version, probably the best Tudor ever made. These are always a good find because they are capable of kicking BOOMING 100 yard field goals.

I always examine the boxes for any unusually markings such as price tags and shipping labels that may proved further clues about the game. The Super Bowl game has a partial shipping label with a Huntsville, AL address on it, so it's not so surprising to find it at a Tennessee flea market. The NFL Electric Football has a price tag of \$18.95 on it. It is very hard to get boxes in good condition. They are just about always torn and have some wear. I am thinking of cutting the top panels out of these and framing them to start a collection of electric football graphic art packaging.

The most surprising thing found on the NFL Electric Football game was at the top, written with an ink pen and in large letters. "To Ken from Santa," the writing said. I can just imagine, like so many of us, the excitement that a little boy named Ken felt when he found this game under the tree on Christmas morning!!!! Reminds me of when I got my first game and the excitement I felt that Christmas, at the time I certainly did not realizing the impact that electric football would have on the rest of my life.

Since I don't have a local league to play in, collecting, along with playing solitaire, is the way that I most enjoy this game and hobby. I have in my collection several games made by the other manufactures of electric football such as Gotham, Coleco, and Munro, but the Tudor games made in the 1960's and '70's are definitely the most valuable and most sought after of all. These are the games that bring back all the great childhood memories and the excitement of being able to play electric football again.

Now that's significant!





A11FL Update



Well, pretty much as expected, we have another failed professional spring football league. On July 9th 2014 the A11FL announced the following:

“Dear Fans - For the last few months our investment team has been actively working on financing for a new Professional Spring Football League that will feature NFL rules. Details about the new league name will be released when we are able, but as of today the new league will no longer be branded as the A11FL.”



Branding the SCPC



The SCPC introduces NEW LOGO for SEASON3

By a majority vote of the SCPC Rules Committee, we have adopted a new logo for Season 3 of the Solitaire Coaches Points Challenge. The logo depicts the silhouette of a solitaire miniature electronic football “coach”, with an “SCPC” hat overlooking the action on a game board. When I designed this logo I was trying to create a simple, recognizable “brand” logo for the SCPC.

Every company, business, or organization needs a logo that immediately identifies them when that logo is seen by the general public.

While we fully support the MFCAs and the “Solitaire Leagues of the MFCAs”, I believe that we need a brand and logo that will allow the SCPC to stand on its own and include not only MFCAs Solitaire Coaches but anyone who chooses to play Miniature Electronic Football in a “solitaire” format.

3.3 BOX STOCK



4.0 INCLUSIVE



3.3 INCLUSIVE



UNLIMITED



Begins

September 1, 2014

SEASON 3

**3.3
BOX STOCK**

**3.3
INCLUSIVE**

**4.0
INCLUSIVE**

UNLIMITED



Solitaire Miniature Electronic Football

**UNLIMITED TEAMS - MULTIPLE LEAGUES - PRO - COLLEGE - FANTASY
ANY RULES - NATIONAL RANKINGS - POST SEASON BOWL GAMES
DIVISION & NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

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<http://miniaturefootball.org/scpc/enter-scpc-game-info-here/>