



1983

**NORTHERN STATES
FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

PRESS



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HANDBOOK

NORTHERN STATES FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The Northern States Football League is an outgrowth of what was once known as the CFL. The Chicagoland Football League (CFL), has been in existence for over 15 years. The name originated from the fact that in the beginning all of the member teams came from Chicago or the surrounding suburbs.

In 1974 the Chicagoland Football League began to expand. It took its first out of state franchise into membership with the Newton Iowa Nitehawks. In 1975 the league added the Quad City Mohawks and in 1976 the Cedar Rapids Falcons and the Delavan Wisconsin Red Devils joined. In 1977 one franchise owner decided to move to Indiana finally necessitating a name change. Under the direction of new Commissioner Paul Pisellini the teams voted to change the league name to the Northern States Football League.

Each team owner's main concern is in young player development and providing the fans with exciting good-quality football entertainment.

While many other minor-league teams and conferences around the nation have come and gone quickly because of heavy payroll and financial burdens, the NSFL has progressed steadily. Most NSFL players do not receive a regular salary. Players do receive expense and travel monies and most share in a type of profit sharing program set up by individual teams based on net profits at the end of each season.

In 1980 the Northern States Football League was instrumental in forming the Minor Professional Football Association, a coalition of the strongest minor league teams and conferences in the United States. Their goal has been to develop a nation-wide minor league football playoff competition.

On November 1, 1980, the MPFA's efforts culminated in the first National Minor-League Football Association Championship Game held in Yuba City California between the California League Twin-Cities Cougars, and the Delavan Red Devils of the Northern States Football League. Every year since, the NSFL has had a team participate in the National Championship Game. In 1981 our Racine Gladiators won the MPFA National Championship.

Gary Golden Bears

2922 Wright Street
Gary, Indiana
(219)-866-1723



President Asbury Summers
General Manager Asbury Summers
Public Relations Marsha Schellton
Head Coach Stu McLean
Statistician Mike Cline

Team Colors Yellow and White
Stadium Guilroy Stadium
Location of Stadium Gary, Ind.

HOME GAMES

June 25 Grand Rapids
July 2 McHenry County
July 23 Racine (Douglas Stadium)
Aug. 6 Peoria
Aug. 27 Lincolnwood
Sept. 3 Rockford
(Kickoffs Sat. 7:30 PM)

CAPSULE HISTORY

The Gary Golden Bears team is an outgrowth of an eight-man tackle football club called the Jenny Dee Outlaws which played for many years in the Gary parks.

With the growing interest in football, especially in the Gary area, the players formed an organization known as the Gary Bears, joined the Indiana Amateur Football League, and played in towns throughout the State of Indiana. In 1979, their last year with the I.A.L., the Gary Golden Bears won the League Championship with a 9 and 1 record.

In the hopes of finding stiffer competition and a better quality of play, the Gary Golden Bears joined the Northern States Football League in 1980.

Des Moines Knights

P.O. Box 1811
Des Moines, Iowa
(515)-282-3253



President Steve Whitehead
General Manager Steve Whitehead
Public Relations Sherri Barnett
Head Coach Larry Allen
Assistant Coaches Lowell Cooper
David Davis
Statistician Dave Williford
Team Colors Black and Silver
Stadium East High Stadium
Lincoln High Stadium

HOME GAMES

June 26 Lincolnwood (Lincoln HS)
(Sun. 1:00)
July 2 Peoria (East HS)
(Sat. 7:30 PM)
July 24 Rockford (East HS)
(Sun. 1:00)
July 31 Racine (Lincoln HS)
(Sun. 1:00)
Aug. 6 Grand Rapids (East HS)
(Sat. 7:30 PM)
Aug. 13 Gary (Lincoln HS)
(Sat. 7:30 PM)

CAPSULE HISTORY

The Des Moines Knights are one of the two newest members of the Northern States Football League, and with their acceptance this past November 21st, the NSFL is proud to welcome the State of Iowa back into the fold.

Minor-League Football has always been well received in Iowa. Under this assumption President-General Manager Steve Whitehead has put together an experienced staff well-versed in the workings of minor league football management, and plans to bring good quality football entertainment to the capitol of Iowa.

Grand Rapids Broncos

301 28th Street
Grand Rapids, Michigan
(616)-247-8602



President Frank Stedman
General Manager John Stedman
Public Relations Jackie Bednarz
Head Coach Rahn Bentley
Statistician Marv Moll
Team Colors Black and Silver
Stadium Houseman Field
Location of Stadium ... Grand Rapids
Michigan

HOME GAMES

July 9 Gary (Sat. 7:30 PM)
July 16 Rockford (Sat. 7:30 PM)
July 30 McHenry (Sat. 7:30 PM)
Aug. 20 Peoria (Sat. 7:30 PM)
Aug. 28 Racine (Sun 1:00)
Sept. 10 Des Moines (Sun. 1:00)

CAPSULE HISTORY

The Greater Grand Rapids Broncos, formerly known as the Grand Rapids Cobras, joined the Northern States Football League in 1978. According to Owner Frank Stedman, the Broncos made this move to help better his then very beleaguered football club, the Cobras.

Before they began NSFL League play Stedman 'cleaned house' and renamed his club the Broncos. Both new players and a new coaching staff alike were brought in to establish a new Grand Rapids tradition - a team that could win.

Lincolnwood Chargers

2706 Coyle Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

(312)-BR4-4063



President Bob Herman
General Manager Al Carson
Public Relations Tom Burns
Head Coach Bob Herman
Statistician Preston Pisellini

Team Colors Red, White and Gold
Stadium Niles East High School
Location of Stadium Skokie, Il.

HOME GAMES

July 10 Des Moines
July 17 Racine
July 31 Peoria
Aug. 7 Rockford
Aug. 14 Grand Rapids
Aug. 21 McHenry County
Kickoffs at 1:00 Sundays .

CAPSULE HISTORY

The Chargers were organized in 1977 and were originally known as the High Ridge Chargers, a team composed of players from the far north side and suburbs of Chicago. They entered the Cook County Football League, and made the playoffs their first year finishing in third place.

After their 1980 season, they left the Chicago league and were accepted by the National Amateur League. In their first season they made the playoffs and won the league championship.

In 1982 they resigned from the NAFL and were accepted as members of the NSFL. They made the playoffs their first year, finishing third.

McHenry County Red Devils

9304 Alden Road
Harvard, Illinois
(815)-648-4211



President Bill Downs
General Manager Bill Downs
Public Relations Geri Downs
Head Coach Don Penza
Statistician Greg Ives

Team Colors Red and White
Stadium Harvard High School
Location of Stadium Harvard, Il.

HOME GAMES

June 25 Peoria
July 16 Gary
July 23 Lincolnwood
Aug. 6 Racine
Aug. 27 Des Moines
Sept. 3 Grand Rapids
(Kickoffs Sat. at 7:30 PM)

CAPSULE HISTORY

One of the pioneer professional football teams in the nation, the Red Devils are the Northern States League's oldest franchise. Delavan organized its first minor-league football team in 1915 known as the 'Tigers', the team conducted night practice sessions by street light in front of the Police Station in Delavan, Wisconsin.

In 1920, the original Delavan Red Devils football team was organized.

In 1975 the Northern States Football league was formed and the Delavan Red Devils left the dying Central States League to join the NSFL where they have won six league championships.

Peoria Redskins

313 Sheridan Road
Peoria Illinois

(309)-676-5366



President Roy Braggs
General Manager Roy Braggs
Public Relations Jim Bowers
Head Coach Roy Braggs
Statistician Jim Bowers

Team Colors Burgundy and Gold
Stadium Illinois State University
Location of Stadium Normal, Il.

HOME GAMES

July 16 Des Moines
July 23 Grand Rapids
Aug. 13 McHenry County
Aug. 27 Rockford
Sept. 10 Gary
(Kickoffs Sat. at 7:30 PM)
Sept. 18 Lincolnwood
(Sunday 1:00)

CAPSULE HISTORY

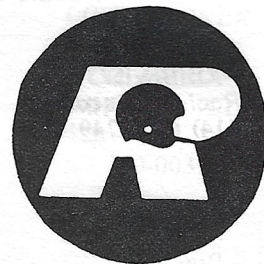
The Peoria Redskins are the newest member of the Northern States Football League. President-General Manager Roy Braggs formed the Redskins after two years of painstaking research and preparation. Roy feels that the Peoria area has a wealth of talented young football players and enthusiastic football fans.

Peoria is located in the heart of Illinois, about half-way between Chicago and St. Louis. With a general population nearing 150,000, the Redskins have generated an encouraging amount of early support from both players and fans alike. With this kind of a beginning, their potential for success looks excellent.

Rockford Rams

P.O. Box 6975
Rockford, Illinois

(815)-398-0943



President Mike Burkholder
General Manager . Mike Burkholder jr.
Public Relations .Mike Burkholder jr.
Head Coach Jack Holt
Statistician Roger Pearson

Team Colors Black and Silver
Stadium Westburn Stadium
Location of Stadium Auburn High
Rockford, Il.

HOME GAMES

July 2 Grand Rapids
July 9 McHenry County
July 30 Gary
Aug. 13 Racine
Aug. 20 Des Moines
Sept. 10 Lincolnwood
(Kickoffs Sat. at 7:30 PM)

CAPSULE HISTORY

The Rockford Rams Football team was an inspiration of General Manager Randy Olsen, longtime Rockford area resident, who had one thing in mind in the beginning, the desire to play football.

However, shortly after the end of the 1982 season Olsen's business began to demand much more of his time, ultimately forcing him to suspend operations of the team early in 1983.

Learning of the Rams demise two weeks before the NSFL April meeting, and always dreaming of owning a sports franchise, Rams fan, Mike Burkholder stepped in and purchased the team outright. Burkholder was accepted by the NSFL at their monthly meeting in Chicago.

Racine Gladiators

P.O. Box 573
Racine, Wisconsin
(414) 634-1749



President Ron Waisman
General Manager Joe Mooney
Head Coach Pete Bock
Statistician Frank Laboda jr.

Team Colors Black and Gold
Stadium Horlick Field
Location of Stadium ... Racine, Wisc.

HOME GAMES

June 25 Rockford
July 2 Lincolnwood
July 9 Peoria
Aug. 20 Gary
Sept. 3 Des Moines
Sept. 10 McHenry County
(Kickoffs Sat. at 7:30 PM)

CAPSULE HISTORY

In the latter part of 1978, an unsuccessful team known as the North Shore Gladiators decided to find greener pastures and relocated their base of operations in Racine, Wisconsin. In the

period of one short year, they managed to field a contender finishing in second place in the NSFL with a record of 11 and 4, breaking attendance records and coming off the season with a host of all-league players.

In 1982 the Gladiators took leave of the NSFL to try a year of traveling with the American Football Association where they finished with a record of 11 and 1. This season, they have accepted the Northern States League's invitation to rejoin the NSFL.



PAUL PISELLINI
COMMISSIONER

135 COLUMBIA
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS
60126
(312) 530-0039

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

JOE SWETISH

1339 RAPIDS DRIVE
RACINE, WISCONSIN
53404
(414) 632-5697

JOE BARTECKI

1113 N KEDVALE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
60651
(312) 252-6237

ROBERT SCHREIBER
TREASURER

1933 B AVENUE N E
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA
52402
(319) 363-7555

TOM BURNS
OFFICIALS COORDINATOR

5260 N LARNED
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
60630
(312) 545-5489

PRESTON STEPHENS
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

3931 N PANAMA
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
60634
(312) 530-7723

RAYMOND LANGER
ATTORNEY

590 S YORK ROAD
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS
60126
(312) 941-1011

PAT PISELLINI
HEAD STATISTICIAN

135 COLUMBIA
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS
60126
(312) 279-4626

NORTHERN STATES FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1983. SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 JUNE 25 - 26

GRAND RAPIDS AT GARY
PEORIA AT MC HENRY COUNTY
ROCKFORD AT RACINE
LINCOLNWOOD AT DES MOINES

WEEK 2 JULY 2

PEORIA AT DES MOINES
MC HENRY AT GARY
LINCOLNWOOD AT RACINE
GRAND RAPIDS AT ROCKFORD

WEEK 3 JULY 9 - 10

GARY AT GRAND RAPIDS
PEORIA AT RACINE
MC HENRY AT ROCKFORD
DES MOINES AT LINCOLNWOOD

WEEK 4 JULY 16 - 17

DES MOINES AT PEORIA
GARY AT MC HENRY
ROCKFORD AT GRAND RAPIDS
RACINE AT LINCOLNWOOD

WEEK 5 JULY 23 - 24

GRAND RAPIDS AT PEORIA
LINCOLNWOOD AT MC HENRY
RACINE AT GARY
ROCKFORD AT DES MOINES

WEEK 6 JULY 30 - 31

MC HENRY AT GRAND RAPIDS
GARY AT ROCKFORD
PEORIA AT LINCOLNWOOD
RACINE AT DES MOINES

WEEK 7 AUGUST 6 - 7

GRAND RAPIDS AT DES MOINES
PEORIA AT GARY
RACINE AT MC HENRY
ROCKFORD AT LINCOLNWOOD

WEEK 8 AUGUST 13 - 14

GARY AT DES MOINES
MC HENRY AT PEORIA
RACINE AT ROCKFORD
GRAND RAPIDS AT LINCOLNWOOD

WEEK 9 AUGUST 20 - 21

PEORIA AT GRAND RAPIDS
GARY AT RACINE
DES MOINES AT ROCKFORD
MC HENRY AT LINCOLNWOOD

WEEK 10 AUGUST 27 - 28

LINCOLNWOOD AT GARY
DES MOINES AT MC HENRY
ROCKFORD AT PEORIA
RACINE AT GRAND RAPIDS

WEEK 11 SEPTEMBER 3

GRAND RAPIDS AT MC HENRY
DES MOINES AT RACINE
ROCKFORD AT GARY

WEEK 12 SEPTEMBER 10 - 11

GARY AT PEORIA
MC HENRY AT RACINE
LINCOLNWOOD AT ROCKFORD
DES MOINES AT GRAND RAPIDS

WEEK 13 SEPTEMBER 18

LINCOLNWOOD AT PEORIA



PLAYOFFS.....SEPTEMBER 24

CHAMPIONSHIP....OCTOBER 8