

history of lions quarterbacks

history of lions quarterbacks is a story filled with remarkable highs, challenging lows, and an ever-evolving legacy. From the earliest days of the Detroit Lions franchise, the quarterback position has played a crucial role in defining the team's successes and struggles. Over the decades, the Lions have seen a diverse array of quarterbacks, from Hall of Fame-caliber legends to unsung heroes and short-term starters. This comprehensive article explores the evolution of Lions quarterbacks, highlighting the most influential players, memorable moments, and key trends that have shaped the team's quarterback history. Whether you're a lifelong fan, a football historian, or simply interested in the fascinating journey of Detroit's signal callers, this guide will provide valuable insights into the history, statistics, and personalities that have made the Lions' quarterback story truly unique.

- Early Years of Detroit Lions Quarterbacks
- The Golden Era: Bobby Layne and 1950s Success
- Transitions and Challenges in the Following Decades
- The Modern Era: Notable Lions Quarterbacks Since the 1990s
- Draft Picks, Trades, and Quarterback Acquisitions
- Statistical Leaders and Records
- Memorable Moments and Legacy

Early Years of Detroit Lions Quarterbacks

The history of Lions quarterbacks begins in the early 20th century, tracing back to the origins of the franchise. When the team was founded in 1930 as the Portsmouth Spartans, quarterback play was a developing art, with most teams relying heavily on the run game. The Lions' move to Detroit in 1934 marked a new chapter, and the team's first notable quarterback was Dutch Clark, a pioneering passer and rusher. Clark set the tone for future Lions quarterbacks, demonstrating versatility and leadership that became hallmarks of the position in Detroit.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, the Lions cycled through several quarterbacks, each contributing to the team's growth. While passing statistics from this era may seem modest by modern standards, these early quarterbacks laid the foundation for the high-impact passing attacks that would emerge in later decades.

The Golden Era: Bobby Layne and 1950s Success

The 1950s represent the golden era in the history of Lions quarterbacks. Bobby Layne, acquired in 1950, became the face of the franchise and one of the NFL's most influential quarterbacks. Layne's grit, leadership, and clutch performances propelled the Lions to three NFL championships in 1952, 1953, and 1957, solidifying Detroit's place among the league's elite teams.

Bobby Layne's Impact and Legacy

Bobby Layne's arrival transformed the Lions' offense. Known for his fearless play and ability to perform under pressure, Layne was a true field general who inspired his teammates. He led the league in passing yards multiple times and set numerous team records that stood for decades. Layne is often credited with instilling a winning culture and tough mentality that defined the Lions of the 1950s.

Supporting Cast and Notable Contributors

While Layne was the centerpiece, other quarterbacks like Tobin Rote also played key roles during this era. Rote famously led the Lions to victory in the 1957 NFL Championship game after Layne was injured late in the season. The combination of strong quarterback play and a talented supporting cast made the 1950s a high point in Lions quarterback history.

- Bobby Layne: 1950-1958
- Tobin Rote: 1957-1959
- Other contributors: Jim Hardy, Harry Gilmer

Transitions and Challenges in the Following Decades

After the departure of Bobby Layne, the Detroit Lions faced a long period of transition and instability at the quarterback position. The 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s were marked by frequent changes under center, with numerous quarterbacks attempting to lead the team back to championship contention. While there were flashes of brilliance, consistency proved elusive.

The 1960s and 1970s: Searching for Stability

Quarterbacks such as Milt Plum, Greg Landry, and Bill Munson each had opportunities to start, but playoff success remained out of reach. Greg Landry, in particular, stood out in the 1970s, earning

Pro Bowl honors and providing steady play. However, frequent coaching changes and roster turnover limited the Lions' ability to build sustained success around any one quarterback.

The 1980s: A Decade of Change

The 1980s saw continued efforts to find a franchise quarterback. Eric Hipple, Gary Danielson, and others led the offense during this period. While the Lions made occasional playoff appearances, inconsistent quarterback play and injuries often hampered their progress.

1. Milt Plum: 1962-1967
2. Greg Landry: 1968-1978
3. Eric Hipple: 1980-1989
4. Gary Danielson: 1976-1984

The Modern Era: Notable Lions Quarterbacks Since the 1990s

The modern era in the history of Lions quarterbacks has seen a mix of high-profile draft picks and veteran acquisitions. While some quarterbacks experienced individual success, team achievements remained limited until recent years.

Rodney Peete and the Early 1990s

Rodney Peete, drafted in 1989, brought mobility and a competitive spirit to the Lions. He led the team to several playoff appearances in the early 1990s, working alongside stars like Barry Sanders. Peete's tenure marked a period of renewed optimism for Detroit fans.

Scott Mitchell and the Mid-1990s

Scott Mitchell, signed as a free agent in 1994, delivered one of the best statistical seasons in Lions history in 1995, passing for over 4,300 yards and 32 touchdowns. Despite regular-season success, postseason victories remained elusive.

Joey Harrington Era and Draft Struggles

The Lions selected Joey Harrington with the third overall pick in 2002, hoping he would become the long-term answer at quarterback. However, Harrington struggled with turnovers and never fully realized his potential, reflecting the challenges Detroit faced in drafting and developing quarterbacks during this era.

Matthew Stafford: Franchise Leader and Record Setter

Matthew Stafford, drafted first overall in 2009, became the face of the franchise for over a decade. Known for his strong arm, toughness, and late-game heroics, Stafford set nearly every major passing record in Lions history. He led Detroit to multiple playoff appearances and was widely respected for his leadership. His trade to the Los Angeles Rams in 2021 marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new chapter for Lions quarterbacks.

Draft Picks, Trades, and Quarterback Acquisitions

The history of Lions quarterbacks is closely tied to the NFL Draft and key trades. Detroit has often used high draft picks on quarterbacks, seeking a franchise cornerstone. The team has also explored free agency and trade markets to address the position, with varying levels of success.

Notable Drafted Quarterbacks

- Matthew Stafford (1st overall, 2009)
- Joey Harrington (3rd overall, 2002)
- Andre Ware (7th overall, 1990)
- Greg Landry (11th overall, 1968)

Quarterbacks Acquired via Trade or Free Agency

- Bobby Layne (Trade from New York Bulldogs)
- Scott Mitchell (Free agent from Miami Dolphins)
- Jared Goff (Trade from Los Angeles Rams, 2021)

Statistical Leaders and Records

A review of the history of Lions quarterbacks would not be complete without examining the statistical leaders and team records. These numbers highlight the achievements and milestones that have shaped Detroit's quarterback tradition.

- Most passing yards in franchise history: Matthew Stafford
- Most passing touchdowns: Matthew Stafford
- Single-season passing yards: Matthew Stafford (2011)
- Single-game passing yards: Matthew Stafford
- Most wins as a starting quarterback: Bobby Layne and Matthew Stafford

While statistics provide a measure of individual excellence, they also reflect the broader trends and eras within the team's history. The pursuit of new records continues as each new Lions quarterback seeks to leave their mark.

Memorable Moments and Legacy

Throughout the decades, Lions quarterbacks have delivered unforgettable moments and contributed to the team's enduring legacy. From championship victories to dramatic comebacks, these highlights have become part of Detroit's football lore.

Iconic Games and Achievements

- Bobby Layne's championship runs in the 1950s
- Matthew Stafford's 5,000-yard passing season in 2011
- Stafford's legendary comeback victories and game-winning drives
- Scott Mitchell's record-breaking 1995 season

Enduring Influence on Franchise Culture

The history of Lions quarterbacks is deeply intertwined with the team's identity. Their leadership, resilience, and performances have inspired both fans and future generations of players. Each era of Lions quarterbacks reflects the challenges and triumphs of the franchise as a whole, ensuring that the legacy of Detroit's signal callers remains a central part of NFL history.

Q: Who is considered the greatest quarterback in Detroit Lions history?

A: Bobby Layne and Matthew Stafford are widely regarded as the greatest quarterbacks in Lions history. Layne led the team to three NFL championships in the 1950s, while Stafford set numerous franchise records and was known for his strong arm and leadership.

Q: What was the most successful era for Lions quarterbacks?

A: The 1950s, led by Bobby Layne, was the most successful era for Lions quarterbacks, with the team winning three NFL championships and establishing themselves as a league powerhouse.

Q: Who holds the Detroit Lions' all-time passing records?

A: Matthew Stafford holds the all-time franchise records for passing yards, passing touchdowns, and single-season passing yards for the Detroit Lions.

Q: Which Lions quarterback had the most playoff success?

A: Bobby Layne had the most playoff success as the Lions quarterback, guiding the team to three NFL championships in the 1950s.

Q: How did the Lions acquire Bobby Layne?

A: The Detroit Lions acquired Bobby Layne in a trade from the New York Bulldogs in 1950, a move that proved pivotal in the team's history.

Q: Who was the Lions' starting quarterback before Matthew Stafford?

A: Before Matthew Stafford, the Lions had several starting quarterbacks, including Jon Kitna and Daunte Culpepper, but Stafford became the clear franchise leader starting in 2009.

Q: What is the most memorable Lions quarterback comeback?

A: Matthew Stafford is known for numerous comeback victories, with his 2013 last-second game-winning touchdown pass against the Dallas Cowboys being one of the most memorable.

Q: Which Lions quarterback was the highest NFL Draft pick?

A: Matthew Stafford was the highest draft pick in Lions history, selected first overall in the 2009 NFL Draft.

Q: Who was the Lions quarterback during their most recent playoff win?

A: Erik Kramer was the Lions quarterback during their most recent playoff win in 1991, leading the team to a victory over the Dallas Cowboys.

Q: Have the Lions ever had a Hall of Fame quarterback?

A: Bobby Layne is the only Detroit Lions quarterback who has been inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

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The History of Lions Quarterbacks: A Roar Through the Decades

The Detroit Lions. A team steeped in history, marked by moments of both exhilarating triumph and agonizing defeat. But woven through the fabric of their story, a constant thread runs – the men who've called the signals under center, the quarterbacks who've dictated the rhythm of the offense. This comprehensive exploration delves into the history of Lions quarterbacks, tracing their evolution, highlighting their successes and failures, and celebrating the legends who've defined the position in Motor City. Prepare for a journey through decades of gridiron glory and grit, as we dissect the highs and lows of one of the NFL's most iconic franchises.

The Early Years: Building a Foundation (Pre-1950s)

The early years of the Lions (then known as the Portsmouth Spartans) saw a revolving door of quarterbacks, a testament to the nascent stages of the league. Accurate records from this era are

scarce, but names like Sammy Baugh (briefly) and several others laid the groundwork for what would become a fiercely competitive position for the team. These early quarterbacks played a pivotal role in establishing the Lions' identity, albeit amidst the uncertainty of a developing league. They faced challenges in terms of both coaching strategy and the overall understanding of the quarterback's role in the game. Their contributions, though often undocumented, shaped the franchise's future.

The Golden Age and the Rise of Bobby Layne (1950s-1960s)

The 1950s ushered in an era dominated by one legendary figure: Bobby Layne. He became synonymous with the Lions, leading them to NFL championships in 1952 and 1953. Layne's swagger, arm strength, and competitive fire cemented his place in franchise history. He was more than just a quarterback; he was a character, a leader, and a symbol of the Lions' spirit. His time in Detroit represents a pinnacle for the franchise, a period defined by his undeniable talent and the success it brought.

Layne's Legacy: More Than Just Stats

Layne's impact extended beyond statistics. His fierce competitiveness and flamboyant personality captivated fans, and he became a true icon of Detroit sports. While his later years were marked by controversy, his contributions to the Lions are undeniable and remain a significant part of their legacy.

The Post-Layne Era: A Search for Consistency (1970s-1990s)

Following Layne's departure, the Lions struggled to find a consistent presence under center. The 1970s and 80s saw a carousel of quarterbacks, each with their own strengths and weaknesses, but none able to replicate Layne's impact. Names like Greg Landry and Scott Mitchell represent this era of inconsistency, a period marked by the ongoing search for a quarterback who could lead the team back to contention. While individual players showcased flashes of brilliance, sustained success remained elusive.

Notable Players and Their Contributions

While no single quarterback dominated this period, several players left their mark. Players like Eric Hipple showed promise, and even though they didn't lead the Lions to championships, they contributed to the team's overall narrative and provided moments of excitement for fans.

The Modern Era: From Stafford to Goff (2000s-Present)

The 21st century saw Matthew Stafford emerge as one of the Lions' most prominent quarterbacks.

His impressive arm talent and resilience marked a new era of competitiveness for the franchise. Despite never achieving a Super Bowl victory with Detroit, Stafford's dedication and consistent performance earned him a significant place in Lions history. His departure and the arrival of Jared Goff marked a significant shift, ushering in a new chapter for the team's offensive identity.

Stafford's Legacy and Goff's Future

Stafford's time in Detroit was marked by both high points and frustrating near misses. His commitment to the team resonated with fans, solidifying his legacy as a modern Lions great. Goff's performance will ultimately define the next phase of this era, determining whether he can lead the team to sustained success and a return to the playoffs.

Conclusion

The history of Lions quarterbacks is a captivating story of triumph, heartbreak, and the relentless pursuit of gridiron glory. From the relative anonymity of the early years to the iconic status of Bobby Layne and the modern era's defining figures, each quarterback has contributed to the rich tapestry of the franchise's identity. While championships may have been elusive for many, the collective impact of these signal-callers has undeniably shaped the Detroit Lions into the team we know today. The future remains unwritten, but the past provides a foundation upon which future generations of Lions quarterbacks can build their own legacies.

FAQs

1. Who is considered the greatest Lions quarterback of all time? While subjective, Bobby Layne's impact and championships solidify his place as a strong contender for the title, though Matthew Stafford's longevity and performance also earn significant consideration.
2. Which Lions quarterback holds the team's passing yardage record? Matthew Stafford holds the Lions' all-time passing yardage record.
3. Did any Lions quarterbacks win a Super Bowl? No Lions quarterback has ever won a Super Bowl while playing for the Detroit Lions.
4. How many different quarterbacks have started games for the Lions? The exact number fluctuates depending on the definition of "start," but the total number is substantial, reflecting the consistent turnover at the position throughout team history.
5. What are the biggest challenges facing Lions quarterbacks in the modern NFL? Modern Lions quarterbacks face challenges common to all NFL teams: adapting to ever-evolving defensive schemes, managing the pressure of a demanding fan base, and consistently performing at a high level in a highly competitive league.

history of lions quarterbacks: *Paper Lion* George Plimpton, 2016-04-26 The book that made a legend -- and captures America's sport in detail that's never been matched, featuring a foreword by Nicholas Dawidoff and never-before-seen content from the Plimpton Archives. George Plimpton was perhaps best known for *Paper Lion*, the book that set the bar for participatory sports journalism. With his characteristic wit, Plimpton recounts his experiences in talking his way into training camp with the Detroit Lions, practicing with the team, and taking snaps behind center. His breezy style captures the pressures and tensions rookies confront, the hijinks that pervade when sixty high-strung guys live together in close quarters, and a host of football rites and rituals. One of the funniest and most insightful books ever written on football, *Paper Lion* is a classic look at the gridiron game and a book *The Wall Street Journal* calls a continuous feast...The best book ever about football -- or anything!

history of lions quarterbacks: *Real Men Do Cry* Eric Hipple, Gloria Horsley, Heidi Horsley, 2008-09 *Real Men Do Cry*, by former NFL quarterback Eric Hipple, is an incredible story of tragedy and triumph. After his 15-year-old son died of suicide, Eric fell into a debilitating downward spiral. Bankrupt and jailed for drunk driving, he found the strength to seek therapy for his own depression and was able to make an amazing comeback. With unflinching honesty, Eric shares his journey, thus opening the door for others to realize that depression is treatable. This page-turner is packed with practical resources for families living with depression and is a valuable tool for counselors and mental health professionals nationwide. Resources include a Nine-Symptom Checklist for Depression along with Signs of Depression and Possible Suicide Risk.

history of lions quarterbacks: *Dutch Clark* Chris Willis, 2012 In *Dutch Clark: The Life of an NFL Legend and the Birth of the Detroit Lions*, Chris Willis tells the remarkable story of an athlete from a small town in Colorado who would become one of the NFL's greatest players. Throughout his seven-year NFL career (1931-1932, 1934-1938), quarterback Dutch Clark was selected first team NFL All-Pro six times, led the league in scoring three times, was team captain of the Detroit Lions, and helped the Lions win the 1935 NFL Championship in just their second season in Detroit. Supplemented with archival interviews, never-before-seen photos, newspaper quotes, and anecdotes, *Dutch Clark* tells the rags-to-riches story of one of the NFL's first stars.

history of lions quarterbacks: *Quarterback* John Feinstein, 2018-11-13 A major new book from #1 New York Times bestseller and sports-writing legend John Feinstein, *QUARTERBACK* dives deep into the most coveted and hallowed position in the NFL - exploring the stories of five top quarterbacks and taking readers inside their unique experiences of playing the position and holding the keys to their multi-billion-dollar teams. In the mighty National Football League, one player becomes the face of a franchise, one player receives all the accolades and all the blame, and one player's hand will guide the rise or fall of an entire team's season - and the dreams of millions of fans. There are thirty-two starting quarterbacks in the NFL on any given Sunday, and their lives are built around pressure, stardom, and incredible talent. Legendary bestselling sportswriter John Feinstein, in his most insightful book yet, shows readers what it's really like to play the glory position and to live that life - mapping out a journey that runs from college stardom to the NFL draft to taking command of the huddle and marching a team down the field with a nation of fans cheering. Feinstein builds his profile around five NFL starting quarterbacks - Alex Smith, Andrew Luck, Joe Flacco, Ryan Fitzpatrick and Doug Williams. With incredible inside access, we get the full quarterback experience...being drafted #1 overall, pushing through grueling injuries, winning Super Bowls, being named a starter on multiple teams, being the first African American QB to lead a franchise to a title. Feinstein shows us exactly what it's like in the locker room, huddle, heat of battle, and press conferences, through spectacular moments and embarrassing defeats. He explores the controversies of a league embroiled in questions of substance abuse and racism, TV revenue, corporate greed, and the value placed on player health. And in the end, Feinstein addresses the ways in which each quarterback - some just a year out of college -- is handed the keys to a franchise worth billions of dollars, and how each team's fortunes ride directly on the shoulders of its QB. This is Feinstein's most fascinating behind-the-scenes book.

history of lions quarterbacks: Detroit Lions All-Time Greats Ted Coleman, 2022-01-01 Get to know the greatest players in the history of the Detroit Lions, from the legends of the past to today's biggest superstars. This action-packed book also includes a timeline, team facts, additional resources links, a glossary, and an index.

history of lions quarterbacks: The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly: Minnesota Vikings Steve Silverman, 2007-08-01 Capturing the best and the worst moments in the history of some of America's favorite teams, this entertaining and informative series for sports fans includes information on the best and worst teams and players of all times, the greatest and worst moments in franchise history, dramatic comebacks and blown leads, overrated and underrated players and coaches, and more, all complemented by archival photographs.

history of lions quarterbacks: Tom Brady Vs. the NFL Sean Glennon, Pat Kirwan, 2012-09 Showcasing one of professional football's best players, this book spotlights the life and career of gridiron great Tom Brady. More than just a biography, it relates Brady's story while also establishing his prominent place in NFL history. By examining his skills and statistics in a variety of categories and comparing him to other great quarterbacks-including Peyton Manning, Joe Montana, Bart Starr, Johnny Unitas, Roger Staubach, and more-the guide makes a strong case for Brady as football's best signal caller. Along the way, his best moments as a Patriot are revisited, from championship seasons and his favorite receivers to his relationship with legendary coach Bill Belichick. With detailed sidebars on Brady's celebrity status, fashion sense, much-talked-about hair, and supermodel wife, this is a must-have for faithful New England fans and pro football buffs alike.

history of lions quarterbacks: 100 Things Lions Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die Paula Pasche, 2012-08-01 Whether it's for a die-hard booster from the days of Dick Lane or a new supporter of Matthew Stafford, the top facts and activities concerning the Detroit Lions that all fans need to know and do in their lifetime can be found here. Culled by an area journalist of team history from eight decades, the book collects every essential piece of Lions knowledge and trivia, including must-do activities, and ranks them all from 1 to 100. Topics cover everything from who scored the first touchdown in franchise history to the members of the Lions Hall of Fame, and even includes the best place to grab a bite in Detroit before the game. This is a treasury of information that true fans might know about their beloved Lions but will love to reminisce over and a guide that will help new fans get up to snuff.

history of lions quarterbacks: The First America's Team Bob Berghaus, 2011-10-18 The 1962 Green Bay Packers are still considered one of the most successful teams in the history of the National Football League. This book examines how the team was built, exploring how four of the five assistants on Lombardi's coaching staff went on to become head coaches. The team was rich with personalities, from the glamour-conscious Hourning to the emotional Nitschke to the determined Starr. Of course, the strongest personality of all was Lombardi, who shaped these many unique individuals and talents into a team that changed the game forever. The Packers of this era won five championships in seven years, including the first two Super Bowls, creating a dynasty in the smallest market in professional sports. Despite playing in little Green Bay, the players on Lombardi's team became national heroes.

history of lions quarterbacks: Strong Arm Tactics John Maxymuk, 2016-04-05 Signal caller, gunslinger, field general--the quarterback goes by many lofty nicknames. It's arguably the toughest, most high-pressure position to play among all sports. The quarterback touches the ball on every offensive snap, is responsible for reading the defense, adjusting the play, and executing complex schemes that require tremendous physical and mental prowess. He is expected to be the undisputed team leader, whether he's an established veteran or an untested rookie. If he succeeds, he's the most likely player on the field to be canonized by fans and broadcasters. If he fails, he'll be vilified in the press and his home field fans will start cheering for the backup. This book traces the interesting history of the professional quarterback, from the early years when the quarterback was a blocker (and the appellations quarterback, halfback, and fullback were literal and geographically correct) to the modern-day player who must be the eyes, ears, brains, and, of course, the accurate, strong arm

of the offense. The narrative history in Section I is rich with statistical analysis. The author employs realistic metrics for statistical comparison across multiple eras, and includes all-time rankings as well as specific rankings among different styles of quarterbacks. Section II compares quarterbacks within their respective eras, putting their accomplishments in context with those of their contemporaries. Section III breaks down the quarterback position, team-by-team, for current NFL franchises. Appendices provide detailed passing records; additional statistics on everything from relative passer ratings to fourth quarter comebacks; and listings of first round draft picks, trades involving quarterbacks, awards, and uniform numbers.

history of lions quarterbacks: Quarterbacks James J. Bogdan, 2024-09-19 *Quarterbacks* details the remarkable history and contributions of Western Pennsylvania quarterbacks who were the foremost leaders in changing the landscape and dynamics of football into America's premier pastime. About the Author James J. Bogdan is just a football fan that appreciates the contributions of his local quarterbacks.

history of lions quarterbacks: When the Lions Roared Bill Contz, 2017-09-01 *The 1982 Penn State national championship team* was not only one of Joe Paterno's best, it was one of the best teams college football has ever seen. In *When the Lions Roared*, Bill Contz, one of the squad's offensive tackles, details that special season and the experience of playing for a legendary coach. Featuring dozens of interviews with former players, this book provides anecdotes from the epic contests of that season while also proving statistically why this Nittany Lions team stands up against all of the talented teams that came before and after. Also featuring a foreword and reflections by Todd Blackledge, Penn State's 1982 starting quarterback, this is an essential read for Nittany Lions faithful.

history of lions quarterbacks: The Quarterback Whisperer Bruce Arians, 2017-07-11 What is an elite NFL QB and what separates that player from the others? One answer is the coach they share. In the recent history of the biggest game on earth, one man is the common thread that connects several of the very best in the sport: Peyton Manning; Ben Roethlisberger; Andrew Luck; and the resurgent Carson Palmer. That coach is Bruce Arians. A larger than life visionary who trained under the tutelage of Bear Bryant, Arians has had a major impact on the development and success of each of these players. For proof beyond the stats, go to the sources. Bruce is gonna love you when you need some loving, but he's gonna jump on you when you're not doing right. -- Peyton Manning He coaches the way players want to be coached. -- Ben Roethlisberger He made players comfortable around him and let everybody have their own personality. He didn't force anybody to be someone they weren't. It may sound a little corny or cheesy, but there's merit to that. I felt comfortable being myself and I felt he had my back. -- Andrew Luck We're a resilient group. It trickles down from the head coach. I think good teams, really good teams, and hopefully great teams take on their coach's mentality. I think that's what B.A. brings . . . -- Carson Palmer Known around the game as the 'quarterback whisperer', Arians has an uncanny ability to both personally connect with his quarterbacks and to locate what the individual triggers are for that player to succeed. No two quarterbacks are the same. And yet with Arians they always share success. In this book Arians will explain how he does it.

history of lions quarterbacks: Rocket Men John Eisenberg, 2023-09-05 An acclaimed sportswriter offers an inside look at the Black quarterbacks whose skill and grit transformed the NFL In *Rocket Men*, John Eisenberg offers the definitive history of Black quarterbacks in the NFL—men who shaped not only the history of football but the cause of civil rights in America. From early pioneers like Fritz Pollard to groundbreaking modern standouts like Marlin Briscoe and James “Shack” Harris, Black quarterbacks had to be twice as good as their white counterparts to get playing time—and even then, many never got that chance. That didn't begin to change in earnest until the 1990s and the 2000s, when racist notions about what Black quarterbacks supposedly couldn't do began to fade, paving the way for today's stars like Patrick Mahomes and Lamar Jackson. Drawing on deep historical research and exclusive interviews with Black quarterbacks and players, coaches, and talent evaluators who have worked alongside them, *Rocket Men* is a celebration of the

athletes and activists who transformed the game.

history of lions quarterbacks: *NFL Head Coaches* John Maxymuk, 2012-08-16 The 466 men who have held the increasingly demanding and prestigious position of Head Coach in the National Football League and the two leagues that merged into it (the All America Football Conference of the 1940s and the American Football League of the 1960s) form an exclusive club. This book essentially answers three questions about every professional head coach since 1920: Who was he? What were his coaching approach and style, in terms of both leadership and gridiron tactics? How successful was he? Every entry begins with standard background information, followed by each coach's yearly regular season and postseason coaching record, and then his statistical tendencies toward scoring, defense and play calling. The entry then addresses the three questions noted above.

history of lions quarterbacks: *Distant Memories* Danny Jones, 2008-04-22 The 26 men featured in this book have one thing in common: They were all great football players. These legends were the superstars of the NFL and AFL during the glorious 60s and the fun-loving 70s. However, only 2 of these legends are in the Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. These stars revolutionized the game of Pro Football with their brilliant performances and were Pro Footballs biggest gate attractions. As the years go by, and the 60s and 70s have become a distant memory, these outstanding football players and mavericks have been unappreciated and forgotten. These heroes and legends of the fall contributed to the success of the NFL and made Pro Football the most popular and exciting sport in America. *Distant Memories- The NFLs Best Ever Players of the 60s and 70s* focuses on Pro Footballs forgotten stars and legendary heroes from the glorious past. Its about pioneers and great players from yesteryear. I have always wanted to write a book like this. Since I was a former amateur football player and have the knowledge and resources about football, I thought I would be the right person to write this book and do it with class and style. I have watched every football player in this book play every week and have seen all of the weekly highlight shows. I have followed their entire careers and I have seen every touchdown they scored. I watched all NFL and AFL games on TV in the 60s and 70s. In 1970, when the AFL and NFL merged to become one league, I watched every game on TV during the 70s. I can remember my golden Sunday mornings and early afternoons when I played football during the 70s. I always hurried home from my games so I could watch the NFL on TV. You can ask my wonderful mother. She knew where I was every Sunday afternoon during the football season when I was young. I would like the players in this book to finally receive the recognition they deserve for their outstanding accomplishments. Danny Jones
<http://www.starsofthenfl.com/index.html>

history of lions quarterbacks: *America's Quarterback* Keith Dunnavant, 2011-09-13 The definitive, authorized biography of Bart Starr, quarterback for the University of Alabama and for the Green Bay Packers during the 1960s. A must-read for fans of the Crimson Tide, the Packers, and football greats. No one can touch Bart Starr's record setting 5 NFL Championships including 3 straight. *America's Quarterback* tells the story of the man who helped create the legend of Vince Lombardi and the Green Bay Packers. Set against the changing landscape of the last half of the 20th century, this biography traces Starr's life from childhood in Alabama to stardom in Green Bay and beyond. Not a simple sports story, Keith Dunnavant traces the story of one man reaching for the American dream while professional football emerged from the shadows to capture the nation's imagination. It's a story of the tension between a coach and a player as different as fire and ice, and how they came to trust and revere each other. It's a story of triumph tempered by tragedy, and the world-class athlete who quietly, persistently, achieved a level of greatness unsurpassed by any quarterback since. A remarkable blend of personal memory and historical narrative, *America's Quarterback* is a tribute to an American hero and the perfect companion to the classic *When Pride Still Mattered*.

history of lions quarterbacks: *That First Season* John Eisenberg, 2009 The untold story of Vince Lombardi's first season as coach of the 1959 Green Bay Packers.

history of lions quarterbacks: *The Pro Quarterback* Murray Olderman, 1966 Portrays the all-time great pro-quarterbacks, defining and illustrating the nature of their jobs and emphasizing

the development of the T Formation.

history of lions quarterbacks: *Quarterback Walk-on* Thomas J. Dygard, 1989 When the fourth-string quarterback for a Texas college team suddenly finds himself next Saturday's starter, he has a plan for winning.

history of lions quarterbacks: **History of the NFL First 100 Year's You Sure Started Somethin'** R.D. Griffith, 2021-12-16 Are you searching for a book about American Football that has it all? R. D. Griffith will take you on a comprehensive drive through the history and highlights of American Football, its salient details, from its inception at the turn of the century to its centralized embodiment now in the modern era, the NFL. He will share with you the challenges the game faced through the Great Depression and two World Wars, including the spicy anecdotes of the people comprising the great game of American Football throughout the years.

history of lions quarterbacks: *Heart of a Lion* Bob St. John, 1991

history of lions quarterbacks: *Riddell Presents the Gridiron's Greatest Quarterbacks* Jonathan Rand, 2004 NFL coaches love to say that quarterbacks always get too much credit for winning or too much blame for losing. Football fans know better. The great quarterbacks are difference makers. They make the split-second decisions that produce big plays, elevate their teammates, and lead the way to Super Bowl glory. The great quarterback is, in short, the most irreplaceable player on the field. The San Francisco 49ers could not have won their first four Super Bowls without Joe Montana, a genius at picking apart defenses and pulling out last-minute victories. The Pittsburgh Steelers would not have won four Super Bowls in six years without the powerful arm and irrepressible leadership of Terry Bradshaw. The New York Jets could never have pulled off the most famous NFL upset of all time, a Super Bowl III win over the Baltimore Colts, without the swagger and skill of Broadway Joe Namath. He guaranteed a victory, then made good on his guarantee. In *Riddell Presents The Gridiron's Greatest Quarterbacks*, fans will meet the legendary field generals who grace the annals of professional football. Author Jonathan Rand ranks the top 25 quarterbacks of all time and recalls the greatest triumphs, extraordinary talents, and powerful personalities that made them and their teams winners. From Sammy Baugh and Sid Luckman, who put the quarterback position on the map, to Bart Starr, John Unitas, Bradshaw. Montana, John Elway, Dan Marino and Brett Favre, these are players of diverse skills, sizes, and temperaments who each arrived at the destination of greatness. Rand also details the rise of the African-American quarterbacks, who overcame decades of racism and cynicism to make their mark, the trade secrets of the great comeback quarterbacks, and how it feels to get buried under enormous defensive players and be the most marked man on the field. Through the words of these great quarterbacks and their teammates, coaches and opponents, readers will gain an understanding as to why the gridiron's greatest quarterbacks and the gridiron's greatest players are so often the same people.

history of lions quarterbacks: *Get Your Own Damn Beer, I'm Watching the Game!* Holly Robinson Peete, Daniel Paisner, 2005-08-15 A guide for women football fans explains each component of the game of football, describes the role of each position player, outlines common plays, and provides descriptions of some of the most memorable moments in NFL history.

history of lions quarterbacks: **Ebony**, 2001-10 EBONY is the flagship magazine of Johnson Publishing. Founded in 1945 by John H. Johnson, it still maintains the highest global circulation of any African American-focused magazine.

history of lions quarterbacks: **Warpaths** Alan Hoskins, 1999-10-01 From the team's meager beginning as the Dallas Texans in the fledgling American Football League in the sixties, through the ups and downs of the seventies and eighties, to the rebirth of their winning ways in the nineties, *Warpaths: The Illustrated History of the Kansas City Chiefs* follows one of the NFL's most popular teams through victories, setbacks, and struggles for respect.

history of lions quarterbacks: **Showdown** Thomas Smith, 2012-09-04 A classic NFL/civil rights story—the showdown between the Washington Redskins and the Kennedy White House In *Showdown*, sports historian Thomas G. Smith captures a striking moment, one that held sweeping implications not only for one team's racist policy but also for a sharply segregated city and for the

nation as a whole. Part sports history, part civil rights story, this compelling and untold narrative serves as a powerful lens onto racism in sport, illustrating how, in microcosm, the fight to desegregate the Redskins was part of a wider struggle against racial injustice in America.

history of lions quarterbacks: *Historical Dictionary of Football* John Grasso, 2013-06-13 Gridiron football or American football or just plain football is the most popular sport in the United States in the 21st century. Although attempts have been made to develop the sport outside North America, it is still predominantly a North American sport with similar games (but significant rules differences) played in the United States and Canada. The Historical Dictionary of Football covers the history of American football through a chronology, an introductory essay, appendixes, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has over 600 cross-referenced entries on both amateur (collegiate) and professional players, coaches, teams and executives from all eras. This book is an excellent access point for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about the sport of football.

history of lions quarterbacks: 1982 Chacahoula ,

history of lions quarterbacks: *City of Champions* Stefan Szymanski, Silke-Maria Weineck, 2020-10-13 The changing fortunes of Detroit, told through the lens of the city's major sporting events, by the bestselling author of *Soccernomics*, and a prizewinning cultural critic From Ty Cobb and Hank Greenberg to the Bad Boys, from Joe Louis and Gordie Howe to the Malice at the Palace, *City of Champions* explores the history of Detroit through the stories of its most gifted athletes and most celebrated teams, linking iconic events in the history of Motown sports to the city's shifting fortunes. In an era when many teams have left rustbelt cities to relocate elsewhere, Detroit has held on to its franchises, and there is currently great hope in the revival of the city focused on its downtown sports complexes—but to whose benefit? Szymanski and Weineck show how the fate of the teams in Detroit's stadiums, gyms, and fields is echoed in the rise and fall of the car industry, political upheavals ushered in by the depression, World War II, the 1967 uprising, and its recent bankruptcy and renewal. Driven by the conviction that sports not only mirror society but also have a special power to create both community and enduring narratives that help define a city's sense of self, *City of Champions* is a unique history of the most American of cities.

history of lions quarterbacks: **The Georgia Bulldogs Fans' Bucket List** Jason Butt, Jim Donnan, 2017-09-01 Every Georgia Bulldogs fan has a bucket list of activities to take part in at some point in their lives. But even the most die-hard fans haven't done everything there is to experience in and around Athens, Georgia. From taking part in the Dawg Walk to meeting Uga, author Jason Butt provides ideas, recommendations, and insider tips for must-see places and can't-miss activities near Sanford Stadium. But not every experience requires a trip to campus; long-distance Dawgs fans can cross some items off their list from the comfort of their own homes. Whether you're attending every home game or supporting from afar, there's something for every fan to do in *The Georgia Bulldogs Fans' Bucket List*.

history of lions quarterbacks: *We Are Penn State* Lou Prato, 2013-09-01 No college football program has ever had to deal with the obstacles, hostility, and challenges encountered by the players and coaches of the 2012 Penn State Nittany Lions, and this book is an account of that unforgettable season in which the team rebounded from a disillusioning 0-2 start to surprise everyone and finish with an 8-4 record, third best in the Big Ten Conference. The turmoil at Penn State began in early November 2011 with the shocking arrest of retired assistant coach Jerry Sandusky for multiple charges of sexual child abuse, and within days legendary head coach Joe Paterno was fired in what would be termed the biggest scandal in college football history. By the end of January, Paterno was dead from lung cancer and a new head coach without any Penn State connections, Bill O'Brien, began putting together his staff while finishing up his job as offensive coordinator of the Super Bowl bound New England Patriots. *We Are Penn State* tells the story of how this team overcame unprecedented NCAA sanctions, including a four-year bowl ban and the loss of 45 scholarships over the same period, the transfer of several of its star players, and overwhelming predictions that the 2012 season would be a disaster to put together a successful season and restore

some dignity to what was once considered one of the elite programs in college football.

history of lions quarterbacks: *Chicago Tribune Index* , 2007

history of lions quarterbacks: When Lions Were Kings Richard Bak, 2020-06-10 An in-depth look at one of the most storied dynasties in Detroit sports history. During the 1950s, the Detroit Lions were one of the most glamorous and successful teams in the National Football League, winning championships in 1952, 1953, and 1957, and regularly playing before packed houses at Briggs Stadium. In *When Lions Were Kings: The Detroit Lions and the Fabulous Fifties*, journalist and sports historian Richard Bak blends a deeply researched and richly written narrative with many rare color images from the decade, re-creating a time when the Motor City and its gridiron heroes were riding high in the saddle. Representing a city at its postwar peak of population and influence, coach Raymond Buddy Parker and such players as Les Bingaman, Bob Hunchy Hoernschemeyer, Yale Lary, Joe Schmidt, Jack Christiansen, Jim Doran, Lou Creekmur, and Leon Hart helped sell the game to a country discovering the joys of watching televised football on Sunday afternoons and Thanksgiving Day. Quarterback Bobby Layne and halfback Doak Walker were celebrity athletes during this golden age of pro football—a decade when the game first started to replace its slower-paced cousin, baseball, as the national pastime. While the quietly modest Walker was a darling of Madison Avenue advertisers, the swaggering Layne became the first NFL player ever to grace the cover of *Time* magazine. Along with detailed profiles of the players, coaches, and games that defined the Lions' only dynastic era, Bak explores such varied topics as the team's languid approach to desegregation, the wild popularity of bubble gum trading cards, and the staggering physical cost players of the period have suffered in retirement. *When Lions Were Kings* is a lively portrait of the golden age of professional football in Detroit that will delight younger fans and inform die-hard followers of one of the NFL's oldest franchises.

history of lions quarterbacks: **Mad Ducks and Bears** George Plimpton, 2016-04-26 George Plimpton's follow-up to *Paper Lion*, one of his personal favorites among his classic books -- repackaged and including a foreword from Steve Almond and never-before-seen content from the Plimpton archives. In *Mad Ducks and Bears*, George Plimpton's engaging companion to *Paper Lion*, Plimpton focuses on two of the most entertaining and roguish linemen and former teammates -- Alex Karras (*Mad Ducks*) and John Gordy (*Bears*), both of whom went on to achieve brilliant post-football success. A more reflective, less madcap book than Plimpton's other work, *Mad Ducks and Bears* is no less truthful and searching. In this fond exploration of football's values and follies, Plimpton rejoins his two teammates to discuss their careers in this brutal but captivating game. The result is an astute exploration into the fascinating lives and motivations of the players at home, in the locker room, and on the field.

history of lions quarterbacks: 4th and Goal Every Day Phil Savage, Ray Glier, 2017-08-29 *4th and Goal Every Day* tells the improbable story of how Alabama won 5 national titles in 9 seasons. Fans want to know, "How does Alabama do it?" With a Preface by Alabama Football Coach Nick Saban and a Foreword by ESPN's College Gameday Host Rece Davis. Phil Savage first worked with Nick Saban when they both joined the Cleveland Browns' coaching staff in 1991. They were reunited in 2009 when Savage became part of the Crimson Tide Sports Network as the radio color analyst. Since then, Savage has enjoyed an up-close view of the Alabama program's dedication to recruiting, its commitment to practice, and devotion to fundamentals. Now comes his 360-degree perspective on Alabama football and Coach Nick Saban's unique coaching style, a style that has led the Crimson Tide to five Southeastern Conference titles, three consecutive College Football Playoff appearances and four national championships. Savage details Coach Saban's year-round preparation, his willingness to adjust and his belief in "complimentary football." The book offers a close look at their player development and practice habits and gives a glimpse of the Crimson Tide's approach of playing every single down like it's 4th and goal. You won't find another person who can intelligently discuss Alabama football in public better than Phil Savage. Together with Ray Glier, this in-depth story chronicles how the Crimson Tide re-emerged as one of the true superpowers in college football.

history of lions quarterbacks: The Official NFL 2000 Record and Fact Book National Football League, Workman Publishing, 2000-07 For twenty years an indispensable resource of vital stats, information, trivia, and more, The Official NFL Record & Fact Book is the only record book authorized by the NFL and distributed to media around the world. It contains all essential information, including: all-time NFL individual and team records; a complete listing of 1999 team and individual statistics; the top individual rushing, passing, receiving, and quarterback sack performances of 1999; 2000 NFL draft summary; game-by-game summaries of the 1999 season; official records for postseason games, Super Bowl, and Pro Bowl; career coaching records; all-time team-versus-team results; and a special Inside the Numbers statistical highlights section.

history of lions quarterbacks: Eli Manning Ralph Vacchiano, 2012-02-17 Super Bowl XLII was one of the most amazing moments in New York Giants history. From the final drive, to “the catch,” to beating the then undefeated New England Patriots and giving them an 18-1 record; it was an incredible day for all Giants players and fans...especially Eli Manning. That was only the beginning. With the rematch in Super Bowl XLVI, the New York Giants stormed into Indianapolis, facing the New England Patriots again in the Super Bowl, and just like the first meeting, they once again came out victorious. Eli Manning once again came out as the Super Bowl MVP, which he highlighted with the incredible pass to Mario Manningham in the final minutes of the game. **Eli Manning: The Making of a Quarterback** is written by longtime Daily News writer, Ralph Vacchiano, and tells the story of the “ELite” quarterback, with amazing details of his first Super Bowl victory and updated through his most recent win in 2012. You will follow Eli from the bold draft-day trade that brought him to New York, through his dramatic ups and downs on and off the field, his first training camp, and his last minute heroics in Super Bowl XLII, to his courageous come-from-behind victory in Super Bowl XLVI. Complete with exclusive interviews with NFL stars, coaches, and executives and a foreword by former Giants General Manager Ernie Accorsi, Vacchiano uses his unfettered access to the World Champion Giants to present a true behind-the-scenes look at the quarterback and team that defied the odds twice and proved themselves to be the best of the best. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Sports Publishing imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in sports—books about baseball, pro football, college football, pro and college basketball, hockey, or soccer, we have a book about your sport or your team. Whether you are a New York Yankees fan or hail from Red Sox nation; whether you are a die-hard Green Bay Packers or Dallas Cowboys fan; whether you root for the Kentucky Wildcats, Louisville Cardinals, UCLA Bruins, or Kansas Jayhawks; whether you route for the Boston Bruins, Toronto Maple Leafs, Montreal Canadiens, or Los Angeles Kings; we have a book for you. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to publishing books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked by other publishers and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

history of lions quarterbacks: Paper Lion George Plimpton, 2016-04-26 The book that made a legend -- and captures America's sport in detail that's never been matched, featuring a foreword by Nicholas Dawidoff and never-before-seen content from the Plimpton Archives. George Plimpton was perhaps best known for Paper Lion, the book that set the bar for participatory sports journalism. With his characteristic wit, Plimpton recounts his experiences in talking his way into training camp with the Detroit Lions, practicing with the team, and taking snaps behind center. His breezy style captures the pressures and tensions rookies confront, the hijinks that pervade when sixty high-strung guys live together in close quarters, and a host of football rites and rituals. One of the funniest and most insightful books ever written on football, Paper Lion is a classic look at the gridiron game and a book The Wall Street Journal calls a continuous feast...The best book ever about football -- or anything!

history of lions quarterbacks: Lost Treasures from the Golden Era of America's Game Danny Jones, 2011-04-29 Lost Treasures from the Golden Era of America's Game: Forgotten Heroes and Legends of the 50s, 60s, and 70s, focuses on Pro Football's forgotten stars from the glorious past. They were outstanding players who somehow slipped through the cracks of immortality and

should be in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio but are not. Its been over 40 years for some legends and its a mystery if they will ever be selected to Footballs highest honor. Many of them have just been forgotten. These men defined a bygone era of Pro Football with their brilliant performances. They were the men who made the game and were some of the most exciting players to ever play Pro Football. Many of these guys were pioneers and trailblazers in the 50s, 60s, and 70s. They were stars who showed us how to play their positions and did it in a professional manner. These players provided excitement and happiness to millions of fans across the country and were part of the most popular sport in the world. Lets hope they receive recognition for their accomplishments and be selected to the Hall of Fame. These heroes and legends were just too good to be forgotten. Fans of all ages will enjoy this book. <http://www.starsofthenfl.com/index.html>

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