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A Handful Of Thought Provoking Pigskin Odds And Ends

While you already may know many of the standard stories and folklore, there probably are many interesting [football facts](#) that you're not yet aware of, so following are a few insights that might enlighten you.

Some things about the sport of football are pretty well known, such as the dimensions of the field and number of players on a side.

Interesting sidenotes

- First African-American quarterback, 1953
- Rugby was the parent sport
- There's no video film of Super Bowl I

Many females actively get into the sport by cheerleading. A halftime break regularly separates the four quarters of a given football game. Games go into overtime when the two teams have the same score at the end of regulation play.

Yet, some intriguing facts are not widely known. For instance, there's no video footage of the very first Super Bowl when the Green Bay Packers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs because the network carrying the game taped over the original footage to air a soap opera.

The Super Bowl commercial that jump-started what's become an awaited event was aired in 1974. Noxzema shaving cream was the product being sold in that commercial by Joe Namath, the New York Jets quarterback who helped win a Super Bowl crown for New York short years earlier.

The Chicago Bears opened the floodgates in 1953 by putting the first African-American quarterback in uniform. His name was Willie Thriver. Another point of interest is that salaries for soccer players now exceed those for American football players.

The rough and rugged game of rugby is considered to be the sport after which football was modeled. William Heffelfinger was the first man to play football professionally. Heffelfinger received the grand sum of \$500 to lead his Allegheny Athletic Association against the Pittsburgh Athletic Club in 1892.

But, one of the most intriguing football facts has to do with the player's income. While most people think all football players are incredibly rich, this is not true. Math quickly can compute that the short duration of a player's career somewhat erodes the glamour of that high salary. By the time the player is done with taxes, agent's fees, management fees, and the like, they often end up with significantly less than you would think. Few players end their working lives after their football careers have come to an end.

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