

Football Legends of PA



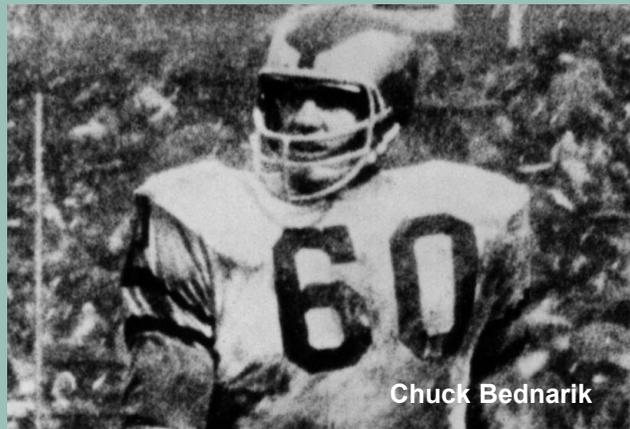
Segment Two Run Time: 23:18

Overview

Young men play for a variety of reasons. Some see it as a way to move up financially and have a better life than their parents. While many players left the game after high school, some pursued it further as college and professional athletes and coaches.

Average NFL Player Salary:
\$1,169,470 (USA Today, 2001)

Average NFL Head Coach Salary:
\$2,500,000 (Forbes.com, 2003)



Chuck Bednarik

Average High School Head Football Coach Salary (Texas): \$82,179.16
(Dallas Morning News, 2006)

This video series spotlights the most beloved names in Pennsylvania high school and professional football. It explores the players and the coaches and families who molded them. Add to what you already know about the tradition of Pennsylvania football by hearing the stories of these legends.

Discussion/Questions

1. Think about an activity that you like to do. Were you always as good at it as you are now? If not, what kept you going to become as good as you are today?
2. Think about the statement, "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog." Can you think of a time in your life when you were an underdog and overcame the odds?

Activities

1. Professional athletes make a lot of money. With a classmate, talk about what you would do if you made \$1 million a year. Would you buy things for yourself or would you donate it to help others?
2. Some towns are considered "football towns." Is it a good thing for a lot of people in the same area to be interested in the same thing? Write about how people who don't watch football might feel.

Spotlight: Chuck Bednarik

One legend from Pennsylvania is Chuck Bednarik. He was born May 1, 1925 in Bethlehem, PA. He served in WWII for 30 missions as a B-24 waist-gunner and earned the Air Medal. When he returned he played football for the University of Pennsylvania and won All-America honors during his last two seasons.



In 1949, he was the first pick in the NFL draft. He was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles. He played center on offense and linebacker on defense. He received All-NFL recognition as a center in 1950. However, he was better known as a linebacker, being named All-NFL from 1951-1957, and again in 1960.

He played for 14 seasons, and was one of the NFL's last "60-minute men", who played both offense and defense in the same game. One of his most famous moments was tackling Frank Gifford of the New York Giants. Bednarik's ferocious stop put Gifford out of the game for an entire year after giving him a severe concussion. Bednarik went by the nickname "Concrete Charlie." Also a businessman, he sold concrete for 20 years during the building boom in the 50s and 60s. Sportswriter Hugh Brown noted, "Bednarik is as hard as the concrete he sells."

More information

PA High School Football News <http://www.pafootballnews.com/>

Academic Standards

Football Legends of PA is specifically designed to address the Academic Standards for History as set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This program supports the successful achievement of standards 8.2 Pennsylvania History, as defined under grade 12 measurement criteria:

8.2.12.

A. Evaluate the political and cultural contributions of individuals and groups to Pennsylvania history from 1890 to Present.

