

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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ALBION FOOTBALL TEAM



Super Bowl is now history. Let's however, take look at a local football team back in '98. That's most a hundred years ago! These boys here, and their coach, were indeed, real pioneers of the game that became one of America's greatest pastimes.

On the floor, left to right are: Murray Hardenbrook, Rover the mascot and Guyler Leslie. In the second row: Fred Hilsbaugh, Pete Galarneau, Bill Rose, Bert Squire, _____, and Bob Clark. Top row: John Wilson, Frank Mason, Eugene Barnum, Clayton Blood and George Wall.

Let's now take a real close look at the picture. If we only observe the faces, we can easily see in them youths of today and that this was an integrated group. In other words, people never change. However, aside from the timeless character of the boys, let us look at how they are dressed and their gear. Four of them are wearing nose guards around their necks. Note the two players who are wearing protective head gear or what must have preceded helmets. All seem to be well added with quilted knee and thigh wear. Bulky heavy sweaters and/or laced up vests seem to complete the outfits. Note there is no standardization here or what appears to be a regulation uni-

form. Clayton Blood has his name letter on his vest. Pete Galarneau has "Football" on his, while Guyler Leslie seems to have a painted star on his sweater. Note the football itself. It appears to be much larger and more bulbous in appearance than our modern footballs.

They all appear to be somewhat casually posed along with the St. Bernard, in what was probably a local photographer's studio. Unlike an official team picture of today's macho boys, this one of yesteryear shows them seated on frivolous white wicker furniture in front of a cyclorama depicting a rococo theme more fitting for a princess.

But like I said, these boys were pioneers and their aches and pains from broken bones, torn ligaments, bloody noses, cracked skulls, dislocated shoulders and internal injuries were all part of a very rough game. Standardizing parts, required equipment and safety devices have helped in some degree to reduce accidents. These boys of '98 would not have understood the word macho but they certainly would have understood masculine, aggressive and vigorous as words closely associated with what they were playing — Football.