

# Pro Football's Hall of Fame

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FROM DON SMITH

HALL OF FAME TOP TWENTY SCORERS

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(Third of a series)

CANTON, Ohio -- When Lou Groza, the kicking ace of the Cleveland Browns, retired after the 1967 season, it appeared as though his career total of 1608 points scored in 21 seasons, might rank as a record for a long time.

But just four seasons later in 1971, George Blanda of the Oakland Raiders, who seemingly has forgotten that people just aren't supposed to play pro football at his age, kicked his way past Groza and into first place in the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Top Twenty scoring display.

The Hall's Top Twenty display is an attractive, three-dimensional listing of the lifetime individual leaders in scoring, rushing, passing and pass receiving and leaders are ranked on the basis of their play in all major pro football leagues, including the All-America Football Conference.

Inasmuch as 259 of Groza's points had come in AAFC play in 1946 through 1949, Blanda had been considered the official pro leader even before the 1971 season began. But when the veteran Raider kicked a field goal on October 31 against Kansas City, the 44-year-old Blanda became the leader by anyone's standard.

As a part of the Hall's policy of keeping all displays up-to-the-minute, the Top Twenty display is changed weekly during the season. Interestingly, Groza visited the Hall the following day, just in time to "help" move Blanda's name ahead of his on the all-time chart.

Elsewhere among the Top Twenty scorers, there was considerable changing of positions in 1971.

Minnesota's Fred Cox continued the steady climb he began at the time the Top Twenty display was started early in 1969. At that time, he ranked 19th and he started the 1971 season in 8th place. His 91 points scored in 1971 moved the Vikings' top point-maker up to a 6th place tie with the retired Bobby Walston. Both Cox and Walston have scored 881 points, Cox in nine seasons while Walston played an even dozen years. Ahead of Cox and certainly reachable in 1972 are Lou Michaels in 5th (955 points) and Sam Baker in 4th (977 points). For the time being, Gino Cappelletti is safely entrenched in 3rd with 1130 points.

Jim Bakken of St. Louis also jumped two places in 1971. His 87 points moved him to a career total of 844 markers, good enough for 8th place. Before the 1969 season, Bakken ranked 14th on the all-time list.

The other players among the Top Twenty scorers who were active in 1971 were not even on the list in 1969. Tops among four players in this grouping is Jim Turner, now of the Denver Broncos. Turner has scored 790 points in just eight seasons and ranks No. 10. Bruce Gossett of San Francisco also has played just eight seasons and he ranks No. 11 with 774 points.

Mike Clark of the world champion Dallas Cowboys started the 1971 campaign in 18th place, then set out for a few games in mid-season and still managed to move up three spots to 15th. He now has 720 scores in nine seasons.

The final active scorer in 1971 was Pete Gogolak of the New York Giants. Gogolak was unranked at the start of the season, but wound up in 19th spot with 639 points.

Almost certain to join the Top Twenty in 1972 is Jan Stenerud, the soccer-style kicking ace of the Kansas City Chiefs. Stenerud, in just five seasons, has scored 582 points and that is a faster scoring pace than any other pro player in history has managed so far.

The lone "casualty" in 1971 was Mike Mercer, who was displaced from the Top Twenty when Gogolak moved into the elite circle.



## LEADING LIFETIME SCORERS

(At Conclusion of 1971 Season)

Rank		Player	Pre-1970 League	Yrs.	TD	XP	FG	Total
1	(2)	George Blanda *	NFL-AFL	22	9	780	271	1647
2	(1)	Lou Groza	AAFC-NFL	21	1	810	264	1608
3	(3)	Gino Cappelletti	AFL	11	42	350	176	1130
4	(4)	Sam Baker	NFL	15	2	428	179	977
5	(5)	Lou Michaels *	NFL	13	1	386	187	955
6	(8)	Fred Cox *	NFL	9	0	317	188	881
6	(6)	Bobby Walston	NFL	12	46	365	80	881
8	(10)	Jim Bakken *	NFL	10	0	319	175	844
9	(7)	Don Hutson	NFL	11	105	172	7	823
10	(13)	Jim Turner *	AFL	8	0	256	178	790
11	(15)	Bruce Gossett *	NFL	8	0	282	164	774
12	(9)	Paul Hornung	NFL	9	62	190	66	760
13	(11)	Jim Brown	NFL	9	126	0	0	756
14	(12)	Tom Davis	NFL	11	0	348	130	738
15	(18)	Mike Clark *	NFL	9	0	324	132	720
16	(14)	Lenny Moore	NFL	12	113	0	0	678
17	(16)	Ben Agajanian	AAFC-NFL-AFL	13	0	343	104	655
18	(17)	Gordy Soltau	NFL	9	25	284	70	644
19	(--)	Pete Gogolak *	AFL-NFL	7	0	264	125	639
20	(19)	Gene Mingo	AFL-NFL	10	13	215	112	629

\* Active in 1971 season

Number in (parenthesis) indicates rank at start of 1971 season.

NOTE -- Mike Mercer (594 points) was displaced from the Top Twenty in 1971.