

DUQUESNE AND THE NFL

Duquesne University has had a total of 22 players drafted (*complete list on page 3*). Of the 22 draftees, eight never played in an NFL game. Mike Basrak, the fifth overall pick in the 1937 draft by the Pittsburgh Steelers, was the first DU player drafted. The last time a Duquesne player was drafted was in the 19th round of the 1951 draft when Ralph Longmore was taken by the New York Yanks.

Forty-three Dukes have played in the NFL, with a total of 35 suiting up for the Pittsburgh Steelers between 1937 and 1951 (*complete list on next page*). The last Duquesne player to take the field for an NFL game is Al DeMao, who played for the Washington Redskins from 1945-53. DeMao was named one of the 70 greatest Redskins of all-time in the fall of 2002.

DU AND THE DRAFT FAST FACTS

First player drafted: Mike Basrak, 1937 1st round (5th overall) by the Pittsburgh Steelers

Most recent draftee: Ralph Longmore, 1951 19th round (227th overall) by the New York Yanks

Most Dukes drafted in one year: Six in 1943

First round picks (2): Mike Basrak (1937, 5th overall by Pittsburgh) and Boyd Brumbaugh (1938, 3rd overall by Brooklyn)

Longest stretch without a pick: 51 years entering the 2003 draft (1951 to current)

Draft picks by team (22 total):

Pittsburgh (13)

Brooklyn (2)

Cleveland (2)

New York Yanks (2)

Washington (2)

Chicago (1)

DU AND THE NFL FAST FACTS

Number of Dukes who have played in the NFL: 43 total

First players to play: Nick DeCarbo and Ray Kemp played for Pittsburgh in 1933. DeCarbo played in 11 games, Kemp in five.

Last to see action in an NFL game: Al DeMao for the Washington Redskins in 1953 (12 games)

Organizations Dukes have played for (last player in parentheses):

Boston (Steve Sinko in 1936)

Brooklyn (Joe Setcavage in 1943)

Buffalo (George Kisiday in 1948)

Chicago (John Rokisky in 1947)

Cleveland (John Rokisky in 1946)

Detroit (George Sirochman in 1944)

Miami (Al Wukits in 1946)

New York Yanks (John Rokisky in 1948)

Philadelphia (John Binotto in 1942)

Pittsburgh (Chuck Mehelich in 1951)

Washington (Al DeMao in 1953)

DUQUESNE'S ALL-TIME NFL ROSTER

43 Dukes have played in the National Football League — Last: Al DeMao (1945-53 Washington Redskins)

* - DeMao was named one of the 70 greatest Redskins of all-time in the fall of 2002

| PLAYER | HT | WT | POS | HIGH SCHOOL | PROFESSIONAL TEAM |
|-------------------|------|-----|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mike Basrak+ | 6-2 | 220 | C/LB | Bellaire (Ohio) HS | Pittsburgh (1937-38) |
| John Binotto | 5-10 | 185 | HB/DB | Cecil HS | Pittsburgh/Philadelphia (1942) |
| Boyd Brumbaugh+ | 5-11 | 195 | FB/TB/HB | Steel Valley HS | Brooklyn (1938); Brooklyn/Pittsburgh (1939); Pittsburgh (1940-41) |
| Joe Cibusas+ | 6-0 | 220 | T | Mount Pleasant HS | Pittsburgh (1945) |
| Ben Ciccone | 5-10 | 297 | C/LB | New Castle HS | Pittsburgh (1934-35); Chicago (1942) |
| Tom Corbo | 5-11 | 210 | G/LB | Altoona HS | Cleveland (1944) |
| Nick DeCarbo | 5-9 | 185 | G | New Castle HS | Pittsburgh (1933) |
| Al DeMao+ | 6-2 | 214 | C/LB | Arnold HS | Washington (1945-53) |
| Henry DePaul | 5-11 | 225 | G | Beaver Falls HS | Pittsburgh (1945) |
| Allan Donelli | 5-7 | 165 | HB | South Fayette HS | Pittsburgh (1941-42) |
| George Gonda | 5-10 | 175 | HB/DB | Redstone HS | Pittsburgh (1942) |
| Ted Grabinski | 6-2 | 207 | LB/C/G | Ambridge HS | Pittsburgh (1939-40) |
| George Kakasic | 5-10 | 200 | G | Mingo Junction (Ohio) HS | Pittsburgh (1936-39) |
| John Karrs | 6-1 | 210 | BB/LB | Pittsburgh, Pa. (no HS listed) | Cleveland (1944) |
| Ray Kemp | 6-1 | 215 | T | Cecil HS | Pittsburgh (1933) |
| Max Kielbasa+ | 6-1 | 185 | HB/DB | Brownsville HS | Pittsburgh (1946) |
| George Kisiday | 6-1 | 220 | T | Ambridge HS | Buffalo (1948) |
| Joe Malkovich | 6-3 | 205 | C/LB | Chisholm (Minn.) HS | Pittsburgh (1935) |
| Joe Maras+ | 6-1 | 203 | C/LB/T | Hibbing (Minn.) HS | Pittsburgh (1938-40) |
| John Matisi+ | 6-2 | 218 | T | Union Endicott (N.Y.) HS | Buffalo (1946) |
| Jim McDonald | 6-0 | 195 | HB/DB | Homestead, Pa. (no HS listed) | Pittsburgh (1936) |
| Chuck Mehlich+ | 6-1 | 199 | DE/OE | Verona HS | Pittsburgh (1946-51) |
| Carl Nery+ | 6-0 | 214 | G | Springdale HS | Pittsburgh (1940-41) |
| Armand Niccolai | 6-2 | 226 | T/G/DE/OE | Monessen HS | Pittsburgh (1934-42) |
| John Nosich | 6-3 | 230 | T | Clariton HS | Pittsburgh (1938) |
| Mel O'Delli+ | 5-8 | 176 | HB/DB | South Huntington HS | Pittsburgh (1944**, '45) |
| John Perko | 6-1 | 207 | G/LB | Chisholm (Minn.) HS | Pittsburgh (1937-40); Chi.-Pitt. (1944**); Pittsburgh (1945-47) |
| John Petchel | 5-11 | 185 | BB/DB/LB | Freeland HS | Cleveland (1942, '44); Pittsburgh (1945) |
| George Platuskas+ | 6-0 | 196 | OE/DE | West Hazelton HS | Pittsburgh (1938-41); Cleveland (1942) |
| George Rado | 5-9 | 194 | G/DE | Brookfield (Ohio) HS | Pittsburgh (1935-36); Philadelphia/Pittsburgh (1937); Philadelphia (1938) |
| John Rokisky+ | 6-2 | 202 | DE/OE | Clarksburg (W.Va.) HS | Cleveland (1946); Chicago (1947); New York (1948) |
| Bernard Semes | 5-7 | 188 | HB/DE | Braddock HS | Chi.-Pitt. (1944**) |
| Joe Setcavage | 5-11 | 190 | BB/DB | Mahonoy City HS | Brooklyn (1943) |
| Steve Sinko | 6-3 | 232 | T/G | Chisholm (Minn.) HS | Boston (1934-36) |
| George Sirochman | 6-2 | 215 | G | Centerville (Ohio) HS | Pittsburgh (1942); Detroit (1944) |
| Art Strutt | 6-0 | 202 | HB/DB | Mingo Junction (Ohio) HS | Pittsburgh (1935-36) |
| Vic Vidoni | 6-1 | 210 | OE/DE | Fostoria (Ohio) HS/Bridgeville HS | Pittsburgh (1935-36) |
| Henry Weinberg | 5-7 | 190 | G/T | Mount Pleasant HS | Pittsburgh (1934) |
| Joe Wiehl (x) | 5-11 | 254 | T | Charleroi HS | Pittsburgh (1935) |
| Al Wukits+ | 6-3 | 218 | LB/C/G | Millvale HS | Phil.-Pitt. (1943*); Chi.-Pitt. (1944**); Pittsburgh (1945); Buffalo/Miami (1946) |
| John Yurchey | 5-11 | 188 | HB/DB | Bridgeville HS | Pittsburgh (1940) |
| Silvio Zaninelli | 5-10 | 207 | BB/DB/LB/FB | Avella HS | Pittsburgh (1934-37) |
| Frank Zoppetti | 5-11 | 185 | TB/DB | Cherry Valley HS | Pittsburgh (1941) |

+ - indicates draftee

* - Steelers combined with Philadelphia Eagles

** - Steelers combined with Chicago Cardinals

(x) - Joe Wiehl attended Washington & Jefferson and Duquesne

ATTENDED BUT DIDN'T FINISH AT DUQUESNE

| PLAYER | HT | WT | POS | HIGH SCHOOL | PROFESSIONAL TEAM |
|--------------------|------|-----|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Leo Elter* (a) | 5-10 | 201 | FB/HB | Shaler HS | Pittsburgh (1953-54); Washington (1956) |
| Bruce Gossett* (b) | 6-1 | 204 | K | Cecil HS | Los Angeles (1964-69); San Francisco (1970-74) |
| Forrest Hall* (c) | 5-8 | 158 | RB | Philadelphia St. Joseph's Prep HS | San Francisco (1948) |
| Val Jansante (a) | 6-1 | 190 | E | Bentleyville HS | Pittsburgh (1946-50); Pittsburgh/Green Bay (1951) |
| Bob O'Neil* (d) | 6-1 | 229 | LB/OG | Bridgeville HS | Pittsburgh (1956-57); New York Titans (1961) |
| Frank Wydo (e) | 6-4 | 225 | OT/DT | German Township HS | Pittsburgh (1947-51); Philadelphia (1952-57) |

(a) - Leo Elter & Val Jansante attended Duquesne and Villanova

(b) - Bruce Gossett attended Ferrum, Clarion, Duquesne and Richmond

(c) - Forrest Hall attended Duquesne and San Francisco

(d) - Bob O'Neil attended Duquesne and Notre Dame

(e) - Frank Wydo attended Duquesne and Cornell

DUQUESNE'S DRAFTEES

DU has had a total of 22 players drafted

Last: Ralph Longmore in 1951 (19th round) - DNP

Drafted but did not play professionally: Phil Awesh (1942), Joe Goode (1943), Joe Gottlieb (1944), Ray Donelli (1944), Mike Wolak (1945), Frank Basilone (1945), Charley Rapp (1951), Ralph Longmore (1951)

| YEAR | PLAYER, POS | ROUND | OVERALL | TEAM |
|------|--------------------|-------|---------|------------|
| 1937 | Mike Basrak, C | *1st | 5 | Pittsburgh |
| 1938 | Boyd Brumbaugh, B | *1st | 3 | Brooklyn |
| | George Platukis, E | 4th | 44 | Pittsburgh |
| | Joe Maras, T | 8th | 81 | Cleveland |
| 1940 | Carl Nery, G | 8th | 62 | Pittsburgh |
| 1942 | Al DeMao, C | 9th | 96 | Washington |
| | Phil Awesh, B | 10th | 106 | Washington |
| | John Rokisky, E | 18th | 161 | Pittsburgh |
| 1943 | John Matisi, T | 7th | 54 | Brooklyn |
| | Al Wukits, C | 9th | 97 | Pittsburgh |
| | Max Kielbasa, B | 14th | 147 | Pittsburgh |
| | Joe Cibulas, T | 23th | 237 | Pittsburgh |
| | Ben Keller, G | 24th | 249 | Chicago |
| | Joe Goode, B | 26th | 267 | Pittsburgh |
| 1944 | Joe Gottlieb, B | 16th | 157 | Pittsburgh |
| | Ray Donelli, B | 26th | 295 | Cleveland |
| 1945 | Chuck Mehelich, E | 5th | 33 | Pittsburgh |
| | Mike Wolak, B | 7th | 56 | Pittsburgh |
| | Frank Basilone, B | 12th | 112 | Pittsburgh |
| | Mel Odelli, B | 14th | 132 | Pittsburgh |
| 1951 | Charley Rapp, B | 14th | 167 | N.Y. Yanks |
| | Ralph Longmore, B | 19th | 227 | N.Y. Yanks |

* - confirmed only first round picks in school history

OTHER

| | | | | |
|------|-----------------|------|----|------------|
| 1944 | Val Jansante, E | 10th | 91 | Pittsburgh |
| 1947 | Frank Wydo, T | 3rd | 29 | Pittsburgh |

*Jansante attended Duquesne and Villanova
Wydo attended Duquesne and Cornell*

DU AND THE STEELERS

35 Dukes have played for the Steelers

Last: Chuck Mehelich (1946-51)

A total of 35 former Dukes have suited up for the Pittsburgh Steelers, including the first Duquesne player ever drafted (Mike Basrak, 1st round, fifth overall in 1937). The last DU player to play for Pittsburgh was Chuck Mehelich in 1951. Pittsburgh has drafted more Duquesne players (13) than any other team:

| PLAYER, POS | TEAM | YEARS |
|----------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Mike Basrak, C/LB+ | Pittsburgh | 1937-38 |
| John Binotto, B | Pittsburgh | 1942 |
| Boyd Brumbaugh, B | Pittsburgh | 1938-41 |
| Joe Cibulas, T+ | Pittsburgh | 1945 |
| Ben Ciccone, C | Pittsburgh | 1934-35 |
| Nick DeCarbo, G | Pittsburgh | 1933 |
| Henry DePaul, G | Pittsburgh | 1945 |
| Allan Donelli, B | Pittsburgh | 1941-42 |
| George Gonda, B | Pittsburgh | 1942 |
| Ted Grabinski, C | Pittsburgh | 1939-40 |
| George Kakasic, G | Pittsburgh | 1936-39 |
| Ray Kemp, T | Pittsburgh | 1933 |
| Max Kielbasa, B+ | Pittsburgh | 1946 |
| Joe Malkovich, C | Pittsburgh | 1935 |
| Joe Maras, C | Pittsburgh | 1938-40 |
| Jim McDonald, B | Pittsburgh | 1936 |
| Chuck Mehelich, E+ | Pittsburgh | 1946-51 |
| Carl Nery, G+ | Pittsburgh | 1940-41 |
| Armand Niccolai, T/K | Pittsburgh | 1934-42 |
| John Nosich, T | Pittsburgh | 1938 |
| Mel O'Delli, B+ | Pittsburgh | 1944**, '45 |
| John Perko, G | Pittsburgh | 1937-40, '44**, '45-47 |
| John Petchel, QB | Pittsburgh | 1945 |
| George Platukas, E+ | Pittsburgh | 1938-41 |
| George Rado, G | Pittsburgh | 1935-37 |
| Bernard Semes, B | Pittsburgh | 1944** |
| George Sirochman, G | Pittsburgh | 1942 |
| Art Strutt, B | Pittsburgh | 1935-36 |
| Vic Vidoni, E | Pittsburgh | 1935-36 |
| Henry Weinberg, G | Pittsburgh | 1934 |
| Joe Wiehl, T | Pittsburgh | 1935 |
| Al Wukits, C+ | Pittsburgh | 1943*-44*-45 |
| John Yurchey, B | Pittsburgh | 1940 |
| Silvio Zaninelli, B | Pittsburgh | 1934-37 |
| Frank Zopetti, B | Pittsburgh | 1941 |

* - Steelers combined with Philadelphia Eagles

** - Steelers combined with Chicago Cardinals

Listed on Steelers all-time roster but not verified in Total

Football II (page 1,560):

| | | |
|-------------|------------|------|
| George Kase | Pittsburgh | 1939 |
| Tony Rizzo | Pittsburgh | 1938 |