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A Few Interesting 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

- Average length of career, about four years
- There's no video film of Super Bowl I
- First African-American quarterback, 1953

Many females actively get into the sport by cheerleading. A halftime break regularly separates the four quarters of a given football game. The outcome of some games isn't known until the end of an overtime period forced when their scores were identical at the conclusion of the regular game.

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.

While Super Bowl commercials now receive great fanfare every year, the first really popular Super Bowl commercial was aired in 1974. Joe Namath, a Super Bowl winning quarterback only years before, starred in that commercial selling Noxzema shaving cream.

The Chicago Bears opened the floodgates in 1953 by putting the first African-American quarterback in uniform. His name was Willie Thriver. Here's another interesting fact: soccer now has overtaken American football as the sport with the highest paid athletes and highest valued teams.

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. Playing for the Allegheny Athletic Association against the Pittsburgh Athletic Club in 1892, Heffelfinger received \$500 for his efforts.

But, one of the most intriguing football facts has to do with the player's income. Don't be deceived and believe that all professional football players are spot-on rich. Math quickly can compute that the short duration of a player's career somewhat erodes the glamour of that high salary. After taxes, agent's fees, management fees and the like, that \$750,000 annual salary is far less than the average person would think. And after their average four years as an active player is behind them, most players are forced to seek a second vocation.

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