

NOVEMBER 2009 update to:

The Baltimore Colts, Me, and, the Motor City
A Tale of Incompatibility by Gerry Mantel (2008)
Co-starring the Steelers and the city of Pittsburgh

My Fellow Colt Maniacs:

Though we're well into the 2009-10 football season I thought it nonetheless appropriate to reflect upon last season—during which the legacies of the three major entities of this essay were heavily underscored: that of the Steelers, Lions, and Colts.

As y'all know, the Steelers won yet another NFL title while the Lions went 0-16, and (of utmost interest) the 50th anniversary of the Colts' historic overtime win over the Giants was well-celebrated in various formats and venues; it was indeed déjà vu all the way around, and Yours Truly "called" it ☺!

I also thoroughly enjoyed (like the rest of you, I trust) the revealing Barry Levinson "Band" doc that aired of late on ESPN; what struck me most was the NFL's apparent contempt for Baltimore well into the 90s (if not beyond), as confirmed by the anguished look on Paul Tagliabue's face at the mere mention of the city on a couple of filmed occasions (it being "too black" for him, perhaps? If not, then whatzup with that?)

Most recently, I stopped off at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH, to see what I could see, and though I found it lacking the fuzzy-warm feel of the Sports Museum at Camden Yards I can still recommend it for, if nothing else, its nice AAFC and AFL displays as well as a couple of other notable features as depicted in the attached photos (see below).

Speaking of the AFL and AAFC, also worthy of mention are a couple of neat historical sites devoted to their memories, the first of which (<http://www.remembertheafl.com>) quickly reminded me of my own delight with the Colts' shift to the AFC back in 1970 that, in hindsight, still shines under a halo of brilliance. And from what I gathered at this aforementioned address, Carroll Rosenbloom apparently felt the same way during the Sixties, sensing the rival league (soon to be conference) as the place to be— and which, BTW, still is! The AAFC website, likewise, includes some interesting short articles often referencing the first installment of Baltimore's Colts, and accessible by way of <http://www.profootballresearchers.org/AAFC.htm>.

But even better than any of that is the thoughtful, regularly expanded column regarding the post-pigskin whereabouts of the Old Colts, provided and archived on-line by the *Baltimore Sun*—titled "Catching Up With the Baltimore Colts," and found at—

http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/sports/thetoydepartment/baltimore_colts

Anyway, I suppose the bottom line, when its all said and done, is how amazingly & delightfully well the Baltimore Colts stack up—historically—with the all-time behemoths of professional sports like the Yankees, Celtics, and Canadiens ... leaving a tragically truncated legacy that I'm nevertheless proud to have been turned onto and tuned into over the years.



A Hall-of-Fame perspective of the Greatest Game Ever Played, and one of its heroes.



The ultimate key to the War Machine.



A neat old 1940s banner from the first edition of the Baltimore Colts, then members of the AAFC.



Me and My Pal, relaxing in Canton.



While Coach Shula sauntered off to the men's room, Mr. U thought it appropriate to review the next set of plays with me.

A well-deserved
HOF salute.





I'll cap off my entire presentation by taking it back to Square One—when I was born right here at Hutzel Woman's Hospital in downtown Motown ...



... born a Colts' fan, that is, and readymade (at 5'9", 155 lbs.) for the Diaper Leagues.

