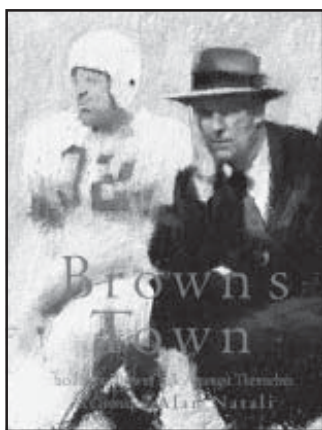


Brown's Town

Twenty Famous Browns Talk Amongst Themselves

Now Available!

BY ALAN NATALI



Brown's Town
by Alan Natali

ISBN 1-882203-61-5

7 x 10

576 pages/clothbound

Publication date: 9/15/01

\$35.00

"The most honest,
real book on what it
was like to play for
Paul Brown; to be a
Cleveland Brown."

—Vince Costello,
middle linebacker,
Cleveland Browns

"A FIGURE OF ICY RESOLVE," he was called. Dictatorial and remote, he once scolded a player for yawning during halftime and cut rookies for the sin of slovenly attire. He was compared to both Thomas Jefferson and an undertaker. Yet the more perceptive understood that his true counterparts were innovative business tycoons—men who found a better way to do something.

PAUL BROWN, THE SON of an Ohio railroad dispatcher, entered professional football in 1946 by way of Ohio State (where he won a national title) and Massillon High (where he developed the best prep team in America) and immediately set about applying modern corporate practices to what was a loose, almost intramural game. In his time, he singlehandedly revolutionized it—its management, its expression, and its technology. He invented the facemask, the messenger guard, detailed playbooks, and broke the major sport color line a year before Jackie

Robinson entered major league baseball. "I take colored boys because I think they can win for me," he said, after signing Bill Willis.

HIS ORIGINAL BROWNS in the All-American Conference are considered the greatest talent roundup in the history of pro sports. In 1950, in his first NFL game—when the Browns crushed the defending champions, Philadelphia—his offense proved itself to be the prototype of the modern pro offense.

THE SPORTSWRITERS CALLED him "the Great God Brown" and one of his players compared him to Christ. This Christ-with-a-playbook walked on NFL teams as Brown himself became the first wizard of the game's modern age. "Before Paul Brown," said Sid Gillman, "coaches just rolled the ball out on the practice field."

HE WAS FEARED, HATED—and almost universally respected. "The divine-right monarch," said defensive end Paul Wiggin, who

also said, "I think I would have killed for him."

THROUGH THE MINDS, hearts, and voices of some of the best-loved Browns, Alan Natali follows his bestselling *Woody's Boys* with a sprawling testament to the man, team, and era that made pro football into America's sport. In his second "voice biography" of iconic American coaches, Natali gives us a carefully constructed portrait of one of the most complex and significant figures in the history of American sport. But *Brown's Town* is much more than that. Through his own eloquent prose and the detailed voices of nearly two dozen players like Lou Groza, Otto Graham, Dante Lavelli, Gary Collins, and Walt Michaels, and others, Natali has also given us a fascinating mosaic of team personalities, the saga of the Cleveland Browns, the evolution of professional football—and America at mid-century.

Contact: Tammy McKay 937.382.3196

P.O. Box 214, 37 1/2 West Main Street, Wilmington, OH 45177 800.852.9332 www.orange frazer.com