

# Frankford Yellowjackets (10-4) 13, Green Bay Packers (7-5) 7 Saturday November 28th 1925 (at Frankford)

## PACKERS BEGIN PRACTICE FOR PROVIDENCE GAME SUNDAY

### GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(FRANKFORD) - The Frankford Yellowjackets defeated the Green Bay Packers by a score of 13 to 7 here Saturday afternoon. The game for the first three quarters was a nip and tuck affair between both teams. As when their goal lines were threatened the defense stiffened and neither team was able to put the needed punch when needed. In the first period the Yellowjackets were the first to draw blood when they worked the ball down to their opponents' 15 yard line where Hamer went off right tackle for 15 yards and a touchdown. Hamer then kicked the goal from placement, making the score: Yellowjackets, 7; Green Bay, 0. In the second period, Green Bay came back and worked the ball from midfield down to the Yellowjackets' 20 yard line. A forward pass, Mathys to Lewellen, gave the Green Bay boys their first and only touchdown when he crossed the line after catching the pass which caught the Yellowjackets by surprise. Abramson kicked the goal, tying the score at 7-7. When the teams took the field for the second half the fans were yelling "Where is Crowley?" "We want to see one of the Four Horsemen." But Crowley did not appear until the last quarter. Then after a few tries at the line, Crowley got into the spotlight by catching a forward pass which netted seven yards. For Green Bay the team stood out as a whole when it came to a share a glory though Kotal, Mathys, Lewellen, Basing and Harris stood out a little above the rest for the hometown team. Sullivan's open field runs and Stockton's forward passing coupled with Hamer's punting and Clark Craig's end playing was the outstanding feature of the game. In the last quarter, a triple pass, Hamer to Stockton to Sullivan, who ran 35 yards, gave the Yellowjackets another touchdown and a lead which they kept til the end. Behman failed to kick the goal for the extra point. A crowd of 10,000 was on hand and were treated to as fine a brand of football as has been seen on this field this season.

GREEN BAY - 0 7 0 0 - 7  
FRANKFORD - 7 0 0 6 - 13

### SCORING

1ST - FRNK - Tex Hamer, 15-yard run (Hamer kick)

2ND - GB - Verne Lewellen, 25-yard pass from Charlie Mathys (George Abramson kick) TIED 7-7

4TH - FRNK - George Sullivan lateral from Hust Stockton pass from Hamer (Bull Behman kick failed) FRANKFORD 13-7

### The Lineup

Frankford.	Positions.	Green Bay.
Craig	Left end	O'Donnel
Carton	Left tackle	Buck
Hoffman	Left guard	Abramson
McCormick	Centre	Larson
Spagna	Right guard	Gardner
Seidelsohn	Right tackle	Erg
Crowthers	Right end	Vorgara
Homan	Quarter-back	Mathya
Hamer	Left half-back	Lewellyn
Sullivan	Right half-back	Norton
Stockton	Full-back	Harris

#### Score by periods:

Frankford	7	0	0	6	—13
Green Bay	0	7	0	0	—7

Touchdowns—Hamer, Sullivan, Lewellyn. Point after touchdown—Hamer, Abramson (placement goals). Substitutions—Crowley for Norton, Kotal for Basing, Basing for Harris, Bohman for Seidelsohn, Lowe for Carton, Haas for Homan, Brudder for Hamer. Referee—Lieutenant Harmon, Army. Referee—Ed Bennis, Penn. Head linesman—Hollenback, Pa. Time of periods—15 min.



## Green Bay Team Determined to Wind Up Season With a Victory Over Steam Rollers

### PACKERS BEGIN PRACTICE FOR PROVIDENCE GAME SUNDAY

NOV 30 (Philadelphia) - The Packers spent a quiet Sunday in Philadelphia. The Quaker city lives up to the Sabbath day like Green Bay follows the customs of New Years' eve, only with reverse English. The only thing running here is the street cars and elevators in the

hotels. Radio connections are turned off for fears that some midwest station might jar the quiet of the Sabbath with some good like jazz melody. The Green Bay gridders are taking stock of themselves and it is safe to say that the Providence Steam Rollers are going to find the going pretty rough next Sunday because the Packers seem to have shaken off their jinx, which has been on them since the Cardinal game. Defeats are a hard pill to swallow at any stage of the game and when they come three in a row it is more than a disagreeable gulp. However, anybody who saw the Bays go against the Yellowjackets on Saturday, when they lost, 13 to 7, could not help but praise the Green Bay team. Following the game, Guy Chamberlain coach of the Frankford squad, said to Lambeau: "You have got a great team, one of the best we have faced this season and we want you back next year. Your air drive is exceptional and in Kotal and Lewellen, you have a pair of super backfielders." The Yellowjackets sure bumped into a real surprise. After the rout at Pottsville, Chamberlain's crew figured it would be easy going but Green Bay came near spilling the beans. The triple pass that paved the way for the winning touchdown was neatly executed and when Sullivan grabbed the ball, he had a flock of Yellowjackets around him...**BAYS OUTRUSHED QUAKERS:** Statistics of the game show that the Bays outrushed the Quakers and what's more completed a flock of forward passes successfully. It was the touchdown play that resulted in Lewellen scoring. Even the Philadelphia fans gave Green Bay a good hand after this wonder toss. It was a crossfield hurl and the oval traveled about forty yards. Sunday afternoon, Ed Bennis, who umpired the game, stopped at the Robert Morris hotel and talked with the writer. Bennis is secretary of the central board of officials and one of the best known gridiron arbitrators in the East. "I wanted to personally congratulate your team on their exhibition against the Yellowjackets," Bennis said. "It was the cleanest and best played game of pro football that I have worked in. The spirit shown by your team was wonderful. I could see that the Packers had at least four men in the game who were not fit for action due to injuries but they carried on in a way that won my admiration. Buck, the big tackle, was in agony every time he got hit on his injured knee but he hobbled along and his defensive play was wonderful to watch. I can't understand how he solved the Yellowjackets' attack so quickly...**PRAISES KOTAL, LEWELLEN:** Several times Green Bay suffered penalties at crucial stages but the players took their medicine without a wimper and played just that much harder. The Packers played clean football but it was hard. As a matter of fact, I never saw any pro team block so consistently. When your player, Kotal, was sent into the game, I thought it was Crowley, the famous Notre Dame star. Kotal is a flash on the field and he certainly can run back punts with the best of them. Your lanky backfielder, Lewellen, is some footballer and his punting was excellent. Once I saw him punt the ball and then dash down the field and make the tackle. I saw Penn and Cornell play Thanksgiving Day but the game on Saturday was vastly superior. Football as was played by the Philadelphia and Green Bay clubs could not be improved upon." Jimmy Crowley looked right at home in a Packer uniform. He only played a few minutes in the closing period but showed class galore when he got underway. Jimmy will cut a big figure in the Bays' attack next Sunday against Providence...**RESUME PRACTICE:** The team resumed practice today and there will be daily workouts. The members of the club are determined to wind up the season with a victory at any cost. It is expected that nearly every one of the players will be fit for the whistle in Steamroller town. Don Irmiger and William Servotte, two Green Bay boys at Penn, have been with the team since its arrival and they are doing everything possible to make the stay in Quakertown a pleasant one. George Vergara, Jack Harris and Jimmy Crowley made a pilgrimage to New York over Sunday but we back here bright and early Monday morning. Red Grange and the Bears play here on Saturday. The game will be played at Shibe Park, the home of the Athletics, and right now it is next to impossible to buy a seat for the Wheaton Iceman's appearance for love nor money.

	W	L	T	Pct.
Cardinals .....	9	1	1	.900
Detroit .....	8	1	2	.888
Pottsville .....	9	2	2	.818
Bears .....	7	2	3	.778
Philadelphia .....	11	5	0	.687
Akron .....	4	2	2	.667
New York.....	7	5	0	.583
Green Bay.....	7	5	0	.583
Rock Island.....	4	3	3	.571
Canton .....	4	3	0	.571
Providence .....	5	4	0	.555
Cleveland .....	4	6	0	.400
Hammond .....	1	3	0	.250
Kansas City.....	1	5	1	.166
Buffalo .....	1	7	2	.125
Duluth .....	0	3	0	.000
Rochester .....	0	6	1	.000
Milwaukee .....	0	4	0	.000
Dayton .....	0	7	1	.000
Columbus .....	0	9	0	.000

**SATURDAY'S RESULT**

Philadelphia 13, Green Bay 7.

**SUNDAY'S SCORES**

Bears 14, Columbus 13.  
 Cardinals 7, Rock Island 0.  
 Cleveland 7, Providence 0.  
 New York 23, Dayton 0.  
 Detroit-Buffalo (Postponed.)  
 Pottsville 49, Philadelphia 0.

**FRANKFORD YELLOWJACKET ELEVEN MAY PLAY HERE IN 1926**

DEC 1 (Philadelphia) - Even staid old Quakertown is suffering from an attack of "Grangeitis" and the appearance of the famous red and the Bears here on Saturday has kicked up more interest than a collegiate championship game. The Yellowjackets are not even given an outside chance to win but, just the same, the natives are all going out there to see the Wheaton Iceman do his stuff against Guy Chamberlain's crew. Philadelphia has not forgotten what Red did to Pennsylvania while sporting the colors of Illinois and everybody is anxious to glimpse the supergridder once more. The Bears are slated to arrive here Friday morning and they will stop at the same hotel as the Packers, the Robert Morris. According to schedule, the Bays leave here Friday night for Providence where they clash with the Steam Rollers on Sunday. Daily practice is the rule for Lambeau's aggregation and the squad is practicing daily at Frankford field. A dummy scrimmage was held on Tuesday against the Yellowjackets. The Frankford club is all shot to pieces as a result of the grueling combat with the Bays and the 49 to 0 walloping at the hands of the Pottsville Maroons. It is the prevailing opinion among the players that Pottsville will bump Detroit for a row of goalposts when they battle on Sunday in the Motor City. Marty Norton went home Monday night. His injured ankle has not mended in the way it should and he was only able to play a few minutes at a time. With Crowley on the job to

take Norton's place, it was deemed unnecessary to carry Marty along. Crowley is looking like a million dollars in practice. He has plenty of "pep" and the way he tears around is a sight for sore eyes. Unless something happens between now and Sunday, every man on the squad, with the exception of Captain Lambeau, should be fit for the whistle when it blows for the Steam Rollers encounter. It is very likely that the fans at home will have a chance to see the Yellowjackets perform next season as Sen Royal, president of the Yellowjacket club, has approved a plan by which his club will play in Green Bay and the Packers in turn do their stuff in Philadelphia again

#### **PROVIDENCE GAME TO BE SHOWN HERE ON PLAYOGRAPH SUNDAY**

DEC 2 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - When the Green Bay Packers battle the Providence Steam Rollers at Providence, R.I., Sunday, a play by play account of the game will be shown on the Playograph of the Football corporation at the Columbus Community club. Every time Jimmy Crowley carries the ball the fans here will know how much yardage he gained a second after the play ends for a direct wire to the Cycledrome at Providence has been leased to give the fans in Green Bay all the details of the game. Although the cost of the wire to Providence is considerably more than that of previous leased wires to other outside games, there will be no advance in admission prices. The same prices will prevail, the football management announces, because it is believed that the increased wire costs will be taken care of by increased patronage. The kickoff at Providence will be at 1:15 o'clock, Green Bay time. The doors of the Columbus club auditorium will be opened at 12:30 o'clock. Patrons are urged to come early and get a seat for a capacity crowd is expected as this is the last game of the season for the Green Bay eleven. According to reports from Philadelphia, the Packers are determined to close the season with a victory. The going has been tough for the Green Bay pros during the past two weeks, but Captain Lambeau's aggregation has about recovered from the bumps and bruises and expects to give Providence the game of its life Sunday. Crowley will start at halfback for the Packers and Jimmy is sure to give the fans a thrill. Chicago may have its Grange, but Green Bay has its Crowley and local fans are willing to wager that this city's contribution to the famous "Four Horsemen" will gain just as much territory as Mr. Grange once he plays a full game and is familiar with the Packer signals. The famous Rhythm Masters orchestra, now playing the Music Box, will furnish music before and during the game. This is one of the finest orchestras in the Middle West and came to Green Bay direct from the Trianon ballroom at Chicago. Frank Doyle, of Chicago, is the leader, and will entertain the audience with a violin solo. The Rhythm Masters are a unit of the great Walter Ford organization and are only playing a limited engagement here.

#### **PACKERS' PRACTICING HARD FOR PROVIDENCE BATTLE ON SUNDAY; LARSON HURTS KNEE**

DEC 2 (Philadelphia) - The jinx that has been camping on the trail of the Packers ever since they left Green Bay put in an appearance again here on Tuesday and as a result Ojay Larson is out of the lineup. The husky center threw his knee out while jumping a two foot fence en route to the clubhouse after practice. He tumbled in a heap and had to be carried to the clubhouse. Larson was rushed to a doctor and the injured member given immediate attention. It is an old ailment of Ojay's and he claims that his knee will right itself before Sunday. The practice on Tuesday was a lengthy drill with Crowley working at a halfback job all the way through. Jimmy has taken to the Packer formation like a duck does to water and Sunday he is going to give the Steam Rollers something to think about. The Yellowjackets are working on the same field but as yet no dummy scrimmage has been staged. Chamberlain, the Philadelphia coach, has housecleaned his machine. Several of the veterans, including Secrist and Haws, have been given the gate while Jones of Cleveland and Brudder of Buffalo are among the new arrivals. The Frankford management make an attractive offer for three of the Green Bay players but the proposal was turned down flat as the Big Bay Blues are standing pat for Sunday's game at Providence. The team will leave here for Providence Friday at noon, taking the day ride to the Rhode Island metropolis. Arrangements have been made to practice Saturday morning in the Cyclo-drome in Providence. According to the word from Pottsville, the Maroons are dickering for a game with the Cardinals in Chicago on December 31. It is understood that Chris O'Brien is not very anxious to play but orders from league headquarters may result in the game being staged.

**Packers' final game Football Sunday, Dec. 6th, Packers and Providence, Play by Play, Columbus Club. Kick off 1:15 p. m. Doors open 12 o'clock. Added feature: The Rhythm Masters Eight Artists from the Music Box, playing and singing the world's newest. A regular \$2.00 entertainment for 50c. Children 25c. Jimmy Crowley at left half. Come Early.**

***Packer-Providence Game On Sunday Will Be Given Play by Play at Columbus Club***

### PACKER-PROVIDENCE GAME ON SUNDAY WILL BE GIVEN PLAY BY PLAY AT COLUMBUS CLUB

DEC 3 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The last stand of the Green Bay Packer football team against the battling organizations of the East will be relayed to Green Bay and interpreted over the "Play-O-Graph" of the Press-Gazette at the Columbus Community club auditorium next Sunday afternoon. Special arrangements for complete and detailed returns on the game were completed today after a series of telegrams had been flashed to and from the football officials in charge of the Providence team. The football supremacy of the East has been contested throughout the season by the three professional teams which the Packers shall have met after the game Sunday. There have been strong teams defeated by squads which were thought to be weak and many have been the surprises which have developed in the first year during which the professional game has aroused a great deal of interest in that section...CROWLEY TO PLAY: Sunday the field at Providence will be covered with stars. Jimmy Crowley, the pride of Green Bay, will start the game, dispatches from the team have announced. He will be teamed with Lewellen, a combination which should make the hair of Green Bay fans stand straight. Crowley, having been with the team now more than a week, practicing daily beside the regular backfielders, has the signals in the palm of his hand and is ready to play the first real professional game of his luminous career. Crowley, with no exception, is the football hero of the East. For three years the eyes of the greatest football critics in this section of the country have been glued upon the boy from Green Bay and the press box will be undoubtedly filled with sportswriters who are anxious to see the "horseman" ride once more. Crowley, it is thought, will not disappoint them, for he is said to be in perfect condition...ORCHESTRA TO PLAY: The kickoff will be at 1:15 o'clock and the doors will open at 12:30 o'clock. The Rhythm Masters, now playing at the Music Box, will furnish music before and during the game. The football management was able to get this great orchestra through the courtesy of C.A. Garceau.

### PACKERS SCRIMMAGE AGAINST FRANKFORD AT ATLANTIC CITY

DEC 4 (Atlantic City, NJ) - So far as the Packers are concerned, they will take their chances on the Green Bay variety during the summer months. Trade winds and gulf currents may hit this burg but there hasn't been anything but a northwester whooping it in here since the Bays arrived. The gang worked out Thursday afternoon at the airport field, home ground of the Atlantic Roses, while a flock of city dignitaries, including Mayor Bader, owner of the Atlantic City team, looked on. Among those also present were the Philadelphia Yellowjackets. Before practice Guy Chamberlain gathered his crew together and said: "We are going to have a dummy scrimmage against the best forward passing club in the pro league. Keep your eyes open, we all can learn a lot." Possibly they did but the Packers shot forward passes all around them. And in the meantime, it rained in torrents. A mist came in off the ocean and darkened things up. It was necessary to halt activities long before 4:30 o'clock...LARSON STILL OUT: The Bays' hospital list isn't clearing up but those fit for the fray are confident of putting the skids under Providence on Sunday. There is a lot of "pep" in the team and this is a good sign. Atlantic City is one of the show places in the country and the Bays are making the best of it although 11 bells find the whole crew hitting the hay. The manpower chairs on the Boardwalk did a thriving business all morning as the boys were out jaunting in the pushmobiles at \$1.25 per hour with three in the cab. Ojay Larson is hobbling around with a cane but he is right in style as 70 percent of the male population here carry a hobble stick. Larson has lost his crutch three times and on each occasion it was found in Whitey Woodin's room...CROWLEY IS POPULAR: Jimmy Crowley seems to thrive on the salty air and he looked good in practice. He knocked down a half dozen of the Yellowjackets without half wrinkling a hair. Many of the hotel guests go out of their way to meet Jimmy. He sure gets a lot of attention from everybody. Even Chamberlain, the Yellowjacket coach, asked him to show Sullivan, one of the star Hornet backs and a Pennsy product, the correct way to glide off tackle. Friday night the Yellowjackets and Packers are to be guests at a football banquet, tendered by the Morton hotel, and Mayor Bader of Atlantic City is going to be the toastmaster. However, nothing harder than saltwater is going to be served. If the sun shines Friday, some of the movie newsreel cameramen are going to snap both teams in action. The Packers leave early Saturday morning on the return trip to Philadelphia where they will hop a flyer for Providence, arriving early in the evening, which will give them time enough to shake off their "train legs."

### PACKERS PLAY PROVIDENCE STEAM ROLLER ELEVEN SUNDAY

DEC 5 (Providence, RI) - With the team in fair shape, the Packers headed to Providence early today where on Sunday they will tackle the Steam Rollers at the Cycledrome. This will be the closing contest of the season on the Bays' schedule. The Packers had a damp stay in Atlantic City. It rained all the time that the Bays sojourned in the famous resort city. Two practices were staged despite a continuous downfall and the club went through the workouts without any more additions to the hospital list. It is doubtful if either Buck or Lambeau will start Sunday's game as the damp weather has not improved their injured legs to any great extent. Abramson will probably be moving over to Buck's tackle while

### Abramson and Crowley to Take Their Places; Locals Leave Sunday Night On Homeward Trip Via New York.

#### THIS WEEK'S GAMES

December 5

Bears vs. Frankford.

December 6

Buffalo at Columbus.

Bears at New York.

Green Bay at Providence.

Green Bay	Providence
O'Donnell, Wilkins, l. e.	l. e. Garvey
Abramson, Buck l. t.	l. t. Spellman
Woodin l. g.	l. g. Share
Earpe, Larson c.	c. Eekstein
Gardner r. g.	r. g. Sheehan
Jean r. t.	r. t. Kozewolski
Harris, Vergara r. e.	
	r. e. Maloney, Golembowski
Kotal, Mathys q. b.	
	q. b. Ogden, Pearce
Lewellen l. h. b.	
	l. h. b. Wentworth, Burke
Crowley, Lambeau r. h. b.	
	r. h. b. Connors, Ripel
Basbig f. b.	f. b. Naird
Referee Crowell, umpire McCarthy,	
headlinesman, Holloran.	

Crowley is drawing the assignment in place of Lambeau. Information gleaned from the Yellowjackets about Providence is not very encouraging, as the Steam Rollers are credited with having a first class machine. Laird is said to be a wonderful line plunger. Wentworth is one of the fastest backs in the east while Maloney doesn't have to take his hat off to any of them when it comes to performances around end. They left Atlantic City early Saturday morning and stopping off two hours in Philadelphia before taking the train for Providence. The Yellowjacket management asked the Packers to be their guests at the Bear game but the invitation was turned down because it was deemed best that the team get a good sleep in a Providence hotel instead of spending the night on the train. Philadelphia has grown "Grange crazy" and hundreds were hanging around the Robert Morris hotel, where the Bruins stayed just to get a glimpse of the "Red" wonder. Following tomorrow's game in Providence the Bays will hit the trail for home, arriving on Thursday. New York and Washington will be visited en route. Vergara and Abramson will stop in New York, Crowley is to join the "Four Horsemen" in Philadelphia, Eddie Kotal is going to Florida, Walter Jean will drop off at Akron and Ojay Larson of course stays in Chicago. The rest of the squad heads for Wisconsin.

*Green Bay Professionals In  
Fair Shape for Battle; Buck  
and Lambeau Will Not Start*

### THE FRANKFORD YELLOW JACKETS

The Frankford Yellow Jackets were a professional American football team, part of the National Football League from 1924 to 1931, though its origin dates back to as early as 1899 with the Frankford Athletic Association. The Yellow Jackets won the NFL championship in 1926. The team played its home games from 1923 in Frankford Stadium (also called Yellow Jacket Field) in Frankford, a section in the northeastern part of Philadelphia, noted for the subway-elevated transit line that terminates there.

The Frankford Athletic Association was organized in May 1899 in the parlor of the Suburban Club. The cost of purchasing a share in the association was \$10. However, there were also contributing memberships, ranging from \$1 to \$2.50, made available to the general public. The Association was a community-based non-profit organization of local residents and businesses. In keeping with its charter, which stated that "all profits shall be donated to charity", all of the team's excess income was donated to local charitable institutions. The beneficiaries of this generosity included Frankford Hospital, the Frankford Day Nursery, the local Boy Scouts, and the local American Legion Post 211. The officers of the Association never received a salary or compensation for their work on behalf of the team. The association's clubhouse was originally located at the current site of Frankford High School. The field at this site, known as Wistar Field, became the first official home of the Yellow Jackets. Several years later, when the construction of the current high school was proposed, the team moved to Brown's Field. The Association initially fielded a baseball team, however soccer and football clubs were also formed. The Association's football team played several games in 1899, including victorious contests against the Pioneer Athletic Association, Jefferson Medical College, the Philadelphia Athletic Club, and a team from Atlantic City. The original Frankford Athletic Association apparently disbanded prior to the 1909 football season. Several of the original players from the 1899 football team kept the team together, and they became known as Loyola Athletic Club. In keeping with Yellow Jackets tradition, they carried the "Frankford" name again in 1912, to become the Frankford Athletic Association.

In the early 1920s, the Frankford Athletic Association's Yellow Jackets gained the reputation as being one of the best independent football teams in the nation. In 1922, Frankford absorbed the Philadelphia City Champion team, the Union Quakers of Philadelphia. That year Frankford captured the unofficial championship of Philadelphia. During the 1922 and 1923 seasons the Yellow Jackets compiled a 6–2–1 record against teams from the National Football League. This led to the Association being granted an NFL franchise in 1924.

The Yellow Jackets assembled in September 1924 under coach Punk Berryman to begin preparing for the upcoming season. The team included players Harry Dayhoff, Russ Stein, Joe Spagna, Whitey Thomas, Al Bedner, and Bob Jamison. The team often played 15 to 20 games a season. Frequently, they would schedule two games on the same weekend, typically one at home on Saturday and, because of Pennsylvania's blue laws, an away game on Sunday. In their very first game as a member of the NFL, the Yellow Jackets defeated the Rochester

*Frankford*  
**YELLOW JACKETS**

Jeffersons 21–0. Frankford finished the season with an overall record of 17–3–1, with an 11–2–1 record in league play. They finished third in league standings only behind the Cleveland Bulldogs and Chicago Bears; under modern standings tabulation procedures, Frankford would have finished in first place.

In 1925 the Frankford Athletic Association enlisted the services of Guy Chamberlin, who served as a player-coach for NFL championship teams such as the 1922 and 1923 Canton Bulldogs and the 1924 Cleveland Bulldogs. After a 9–0–1 start, Frankford lost several key players, including Chamberlin, to injuries. After a 49–0 defeat to the Pottsville Maroons, Frankford's captain Bull Behman was suspended indefinitely from the team for indifferent play. He was accused of not giving his best during the past few weeks because of some dissension with other players. The move helped improve the team, which posted a 13–7 record in league play.

The Yellow Jackets had a part in the 1925 NFL Championship controversy. A dispute arose over a game that the nearby Pottsville Maroons had played against the Notre Dame All-Stars in Philadelphia; the Yellow Jackets asserted that their nearby rivals had infringed on their territorial rights by playing the game against a non-league opponent in Philadelphia. The league agreed and suspended the Maroons, allowing the Chicago Cardinals to win the 1925 title. However the NFL reinstated the Maroons the following year after fears that the team would join Red Grange's upstart American Football League, which posed a threat to the league.

The Yellow Jackets began the 1926 season with an exhibition game against the Atlantic City Roses, which Frankford won 45–0. Their NFL campaign started just six days later, in a disappointing 6–6 tie at home against the Akron Pros. The first weekend in October saw the club post two solid victories over the Hartford Blues. They then played a two-game series against the Buffalo Rangers. During the Saturday game, the Yellow Jackets defeated the Rangers 30–0 in Frankford. The Jackets then headed to Buffalo for the Sunday game; however, the Rangers canceled due to "wet grounds". The Yellow Jackets prepared for another two-game set, this time against the New York Giants, resulting in a pair of 6–0 Frankford victories. The Canton Bulldogs were next on the schedule; Frankford won the first game 10–0, while the second game was canceled due to rain. During the final weekend of October, the Yellow Jackets had a league-leading 6–0–1 record. However they had an upcoming two-game set with their toughest opponent yet, the Providence Steam Roller. The Yellow Jackets managed to split the series. The team's November schedule included only single-game weekends, and a Thanksgiving Day game. This played to the Yellow Jackets' advantage. The team posted victories over the Chicago Cardinals, Duluth Eskimos, and Dayton Triangles. This string of victories left Frankford in great shape in the standings as the team headed into its Thanksgiving Day game with the Green Bay Packers. For the next five seasons the Frankford-Green Bay Thanksgiving Day game would become an annual tradition. Frankford went on to win the game 20–14, due mainly to a touchdown pass from Hust Stockton to Two-Bits Homan. The Yellow Jackets then posted a 7–6 victory over the Detroit Panthers two days later. After a win over the Chicago Bears, the Yellow Jackets played a second two-game series against the Providence Steamroller. Frankford won the first game 24–0, but the second was cancelled because of heavy snow. Frankford then had to play their final game of the season against the Pottsville Maroons, who were still upset after their NFL championship title had been stripped from them after complaints from Frankford. The game resulted in a scoreless tie. However, a 14–1–2 final record left the Yellow Jackets alone atop the NFL standings. Since a Championship Game would not exist in the NFL until 1933, the team with the best regular season record was named the NFL Champion. This gave the Yellow Jackets undisputed claim to the league crown. The Jackets' 14 wins during the 1926 championship season set an NFL record for regular season victories that stood until 1984, when it was broken by the 15–1–0 San Francisco 49ers. One day after capturing the title, however, Theodore "Thee" Holden and Guy Chamberlin stepped down as president and coach of the Frankford Athletic Association.

James Adams took over as president of the Frankford Athletic Association in 1927. He hired Charley Moran as the team's new coach. However, Moran's son Tom briefly served as the team's interim coach that year after Charley took a leave of absence to officiate in the 1927 World Series between the New York Yankees and the Pittsburgh Pirates. The Jackets suffered as a result of these changes and held a 2–5–1 record after eight league games. This led to Ed Weir becoming the team's player-coach. Weir had fellow players Russ Daugherty, Charlie Rogers, and Swede Youngstrom serve as assistant coaches. Under Weir's leadership the team finished with a 6–9–3 record in 1927. The Jackets rebounded in 1928 with an 11–3–2 league record, behind only the Providence Steam Roller. In 1929, Bull Behman became coach of the Yellow Jackets. The team finished with a 9–4–5 record for third place in league standings.

The Yellow Jackets began to decline mainly because of financial hardships brought on by the Great Depression in 1930. Shep Royle, president of the Franklin Athletic Association, arranged for coaches Bull Behman and Wally Diehl to attend a coaching clinic in Chicago run by Glenn "Pop" Warner and Dick Hanley, in the hopes that it would improve their coaching techniques and develop a way to better utilize their players. At the same time, however, the Association's management decided to retain only a few veteran players, replacing most of the squad with rookies direct from college. This resulted in a string of ten consecutive losses, the worst losing streak in Yellow Jackets' history. To end the streak, Frankford purchased eleven players from the Minneapolis Red Jackets, and George Gibson took over the team's coaching duties from Behman. The Legion Post also tried to rally to the Yellow Jackets, pledging its support. However, the effects of the economic depression and poor performance on the field combined to reduce the team's fan base. The season finally ended with a 6–13–1 overall record and a 4–13–1 record in league play.

Before the start of the 1931 season, Frankford Stadium was severely damaged by a fire, forcing the club to find another location for its home games. However, most facilities suitable for professional football were already booked. The Yellow Jackets had to overcome this scheduling problem by playing at three different locations around the city of Philadelphia: Philadelphia Municipal Stadium, and Baker Bowl. Philadelphia Municipal Stadium and Shibe Park were located outside of the Frankford area, making attendance difficult for local fans. The team had hoped to draw broader support from Philadelphia at large. Herb Joesting took over as head coach in 1931. However the team was in terrible shape. Some members of the press began referring to the team as the Philadelphia Yellow Jackets, in an attempt to increase fan support, which failed to materialize. By October, NFL President Joe Carr, after witnessing the poor attendance at Frankford's home loss to the Portsmouth Spartans, approved a plan for the Yellow Jackets to finish the season as a traveling team. Carr hoped that this move would allow the team to curb spending and rebound financially. On October 26, 1931, the Yellow Jackets defeated the Chicago Bears, 13–12, at Wrigley Field. This game marked the last time a Philadelphia-based NFL team would win an away game over the Bears until October 17, 1999, when the Eagles defeated the Bears 20–16 at Soldier Field. The 1928 Yellow Jackets win over the Packers marked the last time in 51 years a Philadelphia NFL team won a road victory over the Packers; the Eagles' 1979 win at Green Bay finally ended that streak.

The Frankford Athletic Association not only fielded the Yellow Jackets football team, but also the Yellow Jackets' Band and the Frankford Legion Post 211 Drum & Bugle Corps. The Association also sponsored bus and train trips for fans to travel along to games in such places as Pottsville and New York City, where even the host teams' sportswriters took notice of their enthusiasm. The club occasionally sponsored half-time exhibitions by the Frankford Midgets, as well as a women's football team. During their time in the NFL, Frankford's Ignacio Molinet became the league's first Latino player. Today the Philadelphia Fire Department's Engine 14, stationed in Frankford, have adopted the Yellow Jackets moniker on their fire trucks.

The victory over the Bears would be the last game the Yellow Jackets played. The Yellow Jackets suspended operations the following day. Unable to find a buyer, the Frankford Athletic Association returned the franchise to the league. The NFL spent over a year searching for a new team to operate in Philadelphia. On July 9, 1933, the NFL granted an expansion franchise to Bert Bell and Lud Wray and awarded them the assets of the failed Yellow Jackets organization. Bell and Wray named their team the Philadelphia Eagles, after the symbol of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. This has led to assumptions that the Yellow Jackets changed their name to the Eagles and returned to the league after sitting out the 1932 season. However, that is not the case. Bell and Wray did not buy the Yellow Jackets team, but rather the NFL rights to the Philadelphia area that formerly had belonged to the Frankford Athletic Association. Due to the period of dormancy, the Eagles do not claim the Yellow Jackets' history as their own, and the NFL considers the Eagles a 1933 expansion team for record-keeping purposes. Additionally, Bell and Wray assembled an almost entirely new team; only one player from the 1931 Yellow Jackets ended up with the 1933 Eagles. For the first few years of the Eagles' existence, however, they wore powder blue and yellow uniforms similar to those worn by the Yellow Jackets; these are also the colors of Philadelphia's flag. Replicas were later worn as 1934 throwbacks in a game against the Detroit Lions on September 23, 2007 as part of the team's 75th anniversary season. Many members of the media mistakenly stated that the Eagles were still known as the Yellow Jackets that year. (SOURCE: Wikipedia)



## Frankford Yellow Jackets

1925: 13-7-0