

INSTANT MAGAZINE REPLAY: HAVING LOST ALMOST HIS ENTIRE SQUAD TO OUTSIDE INTERESTS, CONTRACT LOOP-HOLES, AND OTHER DISSATISFACTIONS, THE COACH EMPLOYS THE **ABZ** BROADCASTING TEAM TO FILL THE NECESSARY SPOTS IN THE SMOGGER ROSTER..

MERRYFACE--YOU'RE MY QUARTERBACK! GIFTED--YOU'RE MY FLANKER! AND CURSEWELL--YOU'RE MY MIDDLE LINEBACKER!



READY, COACH!

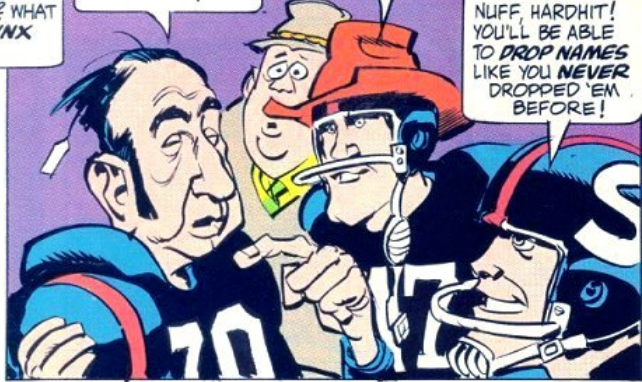
ME TOO!

NOT SO FAST! IT'S OKAY FOR YOU FORMER JOCKS TO GO OUT THERE AND GET **KNOCKED AROUND!** THAT'S ABOUT ALL YOU'RE GOOD FOR CONSIDERING YOUR NEGLIGIBLE TALENT AS **ANNOUNCERS** ANYWAY! BUT WHAT ABOUT ME? WHAT IF I SHOULD **SPRAIN MY LARYNX** OR SOMETHING?

MY RAZOR-SHARP MIND DEPENDS UPON MY **GOLDEN THROAT** TO CARRY ITS BRILLIANCE! I'M AFRAID IT'S A RISK I CANNOT AFFORD TO MAKE!

BUT JUST THINK, HARDHIT--ALL YOU NEED IS A **FEW MINUTES** OUT THERE TO GIVE YOU **HOURS--WEEKS** OF TALK ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL, **FIRST-HAND** EXPERIENCES IN PRO BALL!

SURE NUFF, HARDHIT! YOU'LL BE ABLE TO **DROP NAMES** LIKE YOU NEVER DROPPED 'EM BEFORE!



HMMM, I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT **THAT** WAY! FOR ONCE YOU CLOWNS ARE RIGHT! I ONE IT TO MY ARMY OF FOLLOWERS TO GO OUT THERE AND PERSEVERE!

NOW LISTEN, GUYS! WE'VE WATCHED 90 MILES OF FILM ON THE SHEEPHERDERS AND WE'VE LEARNED ONE KEY FACTOR--THIS TEAM LIKES TO **BOUNCE BACK!** SCORE A TOUCHDOWN, THEY'LL SCORE **TWO** IN ANGER! KICK A FIELD GOAL, THEY'LL KICK **THREE** IN REVENGE!

I GOT IT COACH! WE CAN BEAT THEM BY **NOT SCORING!**

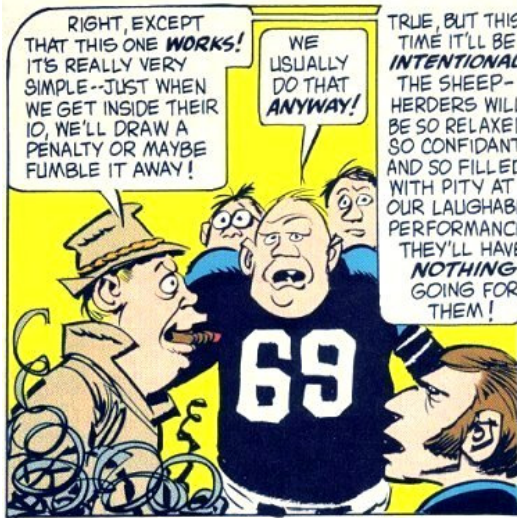
EXACTLY!

EXACTLY? BUT, COACH-- I ONLY SAID IT AS A **JOKE!**

THIS IS **NO JOKING MATTER, FIORE!** THE COACHING STAFF HAS ENGINEERED THIS STRATEGY DOWN TO A FRIZZLE! WE CALL IT "**PREVENTIVE OFFENSE!**"



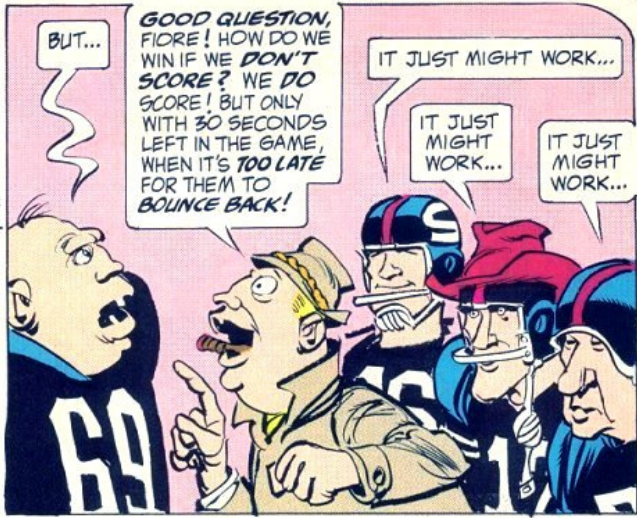
YOU MEAN LIKE THE GIANT'S "**PREVENTIVE DEFENSE**" IN REVERSE?



RIGHT, EXCEPT THAT THIS ONE **WORKS!** IT'S REALLY VERY SIMPLE--JUST WHEN WE GET INSIDE THEIR IO, WE'LL DRAW A PENALTY OR MAYBE FUMBLE IT AWAY!

WE USUALLY DO THAT **ANYWAY!**

TRUE, BUT THIS TIME IT'LL BE **INTENTIONAL!** THE SHEEP-HERDERS WILL BE SO RELAXED, SO CONFIDENT, AND SO FILLED WITH PITY AT OUR LAUGHABLE PERFORMANCE--THEY'LL HAVE **NOTHING** GOING FOR THEM!



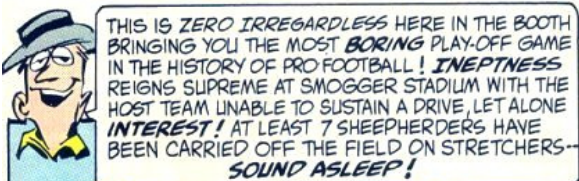
BUT...

GOOD QUESTION, FIORE! HOW DO WE WIN IF WE **DON'T** SCORE? WE **DO** SCORE! BUT ONLY WITH 30 SECONDS LEFT IN THE GAME, WHEN IT'S **TOO LATE** FOR THEM TO **BOUNCE BACK!**

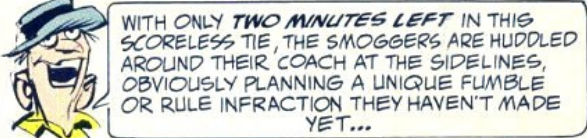
IT JUST MIGHT WORK...

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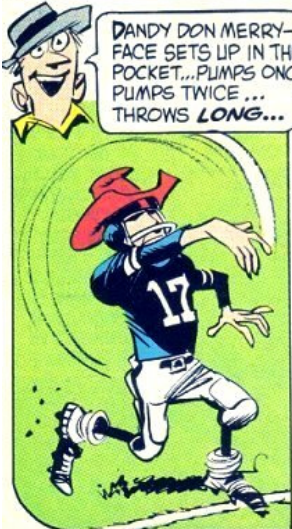
THIS IS **ZERO** IRREGARDLESS HERE IN THE BOOTH BRINGING YOU THE MOST **BORING** PLAY-OFF GAME IN THE HISTORY OF PRO FOOTBALL! **INEPTNESS** REIGNS SUPREME AT SMOGGER STADIUM WITH THE HOST TEAM UNABLE TO SUSTAIN A DRIVE, LET ALONE **INTEREST!** AT LEAST 7 SHEEPHERDERS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OFF THE FIELD ON STRETCHERS--**SOUND ASLEEP!**



WITH ONLY **TWO MINUTES** LEFT IN THIS SCORELESS TIE, THE SMOGGERS ARE HUDDLED AROUND THEIR COACH AT THE SIDELINES, OBVIOUSLY PLANNING A UNIQUE FUMBLE OR RULE INFRACTION THEY HAVEN'T MADE YET...



OKAY, GUYS--IT'S TIME TO **EAT UP THE CLOCK** IN OUR MARCH DOWNFIELD! AND THEN--OUR "PRE-VENTIVE OFFENSE" **DOUBLECROSS!**



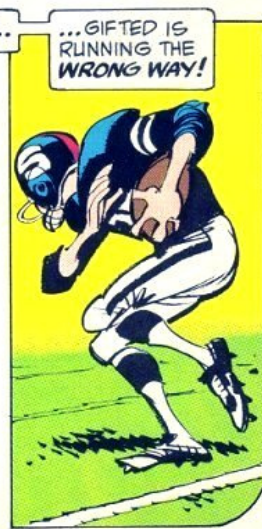
DANDY DON MERRY-FACE SETS UP IN THE POCKET...PUMPS ONCE... PUMPS TWICE... THROWS **LONG...**



...IN THE DIRECTION OF **FRANK GIFTED** STREAKING DOWN THE SIDELINES...



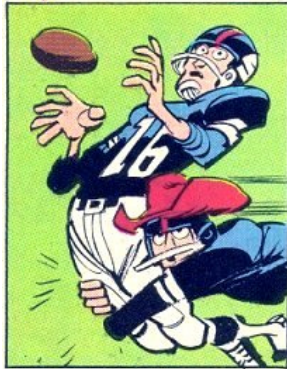
...HE'S GOT IT! BUT **WAIT...**



...GIFTED IS RUNNING THE **WRONG WAY!**



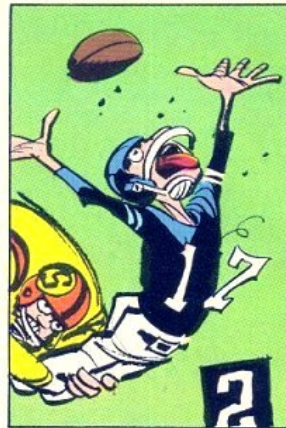
GIFTED IS ALL THE WAY DOWN TO HIS OWN FIVE YARD LINE WHERE HE IS TACKLED BY MERRYFACE...



...LOOSE BALL! MERRYFACE RECOVERS FOR THE SMOGGERS AND STARTS BACK DOWNFIELD WITH THE SHEEPHERDERS IN APATHETIC PURSUIT...



...MERRYFACE IS TACKLED ON THE SHEEPHERDER 2 YARD LINE AND FUMBLES...



...RECOVERED BY THE SHEEPHERDERS WITH ONLY 30 SECONDS LEFT TO PLAY--AND THEY ARE MAD!



YOU GUYS TRIED TO MAKE FOOLS OUT OF US, EH? WELL, WE'LL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THAT!



YOU KNOW IT! WE STILL GOT 30 SECONDS LEFT! WE SCORED 3 TIMES AGAINST THE IDAHO POTATOES IN 30 SECONDS WHEN WE WERE JUST A LITTLE ANNOYED! JUST IMAGINE WHAT WE CAN DO NOW THAT WE'RE ANGRY!



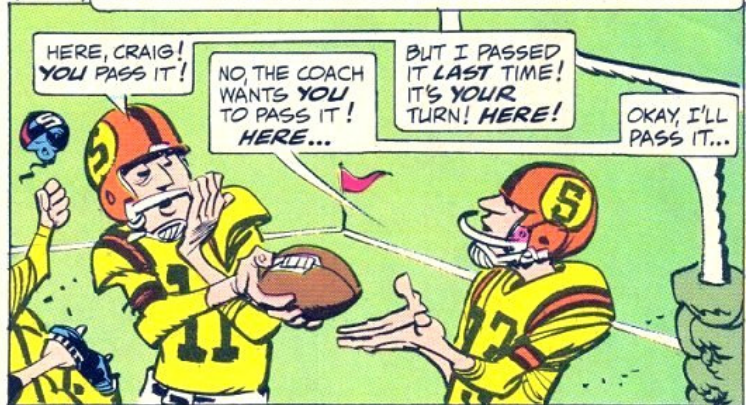
THE SHEEPHERDERS ARE LINED UP IN THEIR FAMOUS "CONFUSION" FORMATION--TWO QUARTERBACKS IN THE BACKFIELD! THAT CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING--ROGER DODGER OR CRAIG MOR-OFF THANON WILL TRY A BOMB TO ROB HAZE! THE BALL IS SNAPPED TO DODGER DEEP IN HIS OWN END ZONE...

HERE, CRAIG! YOU PASS IT!

NO, THE COACH WANTS YOU TO PASS IT! HERE...

BUT I PASSED IT LAST TIME! IT'S YOUR TURN! HERE!

OKAY, I'LL PASS IT...



I DON'T BELIEVE IT! IN THE DEFENSIVE PLAY OF THE CENTURY, HARDHIT CURSEWELL HAS DROPPED BOTH SHEEPHERDER QUARTERBACKS IN THEIR OWN END ZONE FOR A SAFETY! THERE'S THE GUN! THE SMOGGERS WIN IT 2-0!



LET'S FACE IT--A STAR IS A STAR!

YOU KNOW WHAT THAT LAST PLAY MEANS, DANDY DON?

AH, KNOW, FRANK! IF HE WAS HARD TO LIVE WITH BEFORE, IMAGINE HOW HE'S GONNA BE NOW!



TO BE CONTINUED!