

1951 Bowman Football Cards (Los Angeles Rams)

The 1951 Los Angeles Rams football team had a solid season, finishing with a record of 8 wins, 4 losses, and 0 ties in the regular season. Coached by Joe Stydahar, they had notable players like Norm Van Brocklin, Bob Waterfield, and Elroy "Crazy Legs" Hirsch.

The 1951 NFL Championship Game, held on December 23, 1951, at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, pitted the Los Angeles Rams against the Cleveland Browns. The game marked the first time the NFL championship was played on the West Coast.





The Cleveland Browns, led by legendary coach Paul Brown, entered the game with an 11-1 regular-season record, while the Los Angeles Rams, under coach Joe Stydahar, finished the regular season with an 8-4 record.









The Rams jumped to an early lead in the first quarter, scoring two touchdowns on a pass from quarterback Norm Van Brocklin to receiver Tom Fears and a rushing touchdown by Dick Hoerner. However, the Browns quickly responded with two touchdowns of their own in the second quarter, tying the game at 14-14 going into halftime.

In the third quarter, the Rams regained the lead with another touchdown pass from Van Brocklin to Fears. The Browns answered back with a touchdown, tying the game once again. The game remained tied until late in the fourth quarter when Van Brocklin led the Rams on a game-winning drive, culminating in a 73-yard touchdown pass to receiver Bob Boyd. The Rams held on to win the game 24-17, securing their first NFL championship.

Norm Van Brocklin was named the game's MVP for his exceptional performance, completing 15 of 31 passes for 274 yards and two touchdowns. His connection with Tom Fears, who caught six passes for 120 yards and two touchdowns, proved to be crucial in the Rams' victory.

Here are the Los Angeles Rams players from the 1951 Bowman football card set:

Rams.docx	Card #	HOF		Pos	Notes
	4	▲	Norm Van Brocklin	QB K	Rookie card – the most valuable card in the set. Nickname: <i>"The Dutchman"</i> . Shared QB responsibilities with Bob Waterfield. Van Brocklin won the NFL passing title in both 1950 and 1952. On 9/28/51, Van Brocklin threw for an NFL record 554 yards. Pro Football Hall of Fame 1971. https://www.profootballhof.com/players/norm-van-brocklin/
	5		Woodley Lewis	DB	Rookie card. As a rookie, in 1950, Lewis finished the season with a team-record 12 interceptions (second in the league) and 275 interception return yards (first in the league).
	6	▲	Tom Fears	LE	Fears caught 84 passes for 1116 yards in 1950. Caught a 73-yard TD pass from Norm Van Brocklin, to win the 1951 NFL title game. Pro Football Hall of Fame 1970. https://www.profootballhof.com/players/tom-fears/
	40	▲	Bob Waterfield	QB K	In a 1951 game against the Detroit Lions, Waterfield became the first NFL player to kick five field goals in a game. It wasn't enough: the Lions beat the Rams, 24-22. Married Jane Russell in 1943. Appeared in 3 movies, inc.

					Jungle Manhunt with Johnny Weissmuller. Pro Football Hall of Fame 1965. https://www.profootballhof.com/players/bob-waterfield/
	41		Verda "Vitamin" Smith	RH	Rookie card. Named after a character in Dick Tracy . Participated in the Battle of Normandy . Averaged 33.7 yards per kick-off return in 1950. Returned 3 kick-offs for TDs in one game in 1950 – that record stood until 1967.
	42		Glenn Davis	HB	Won Heisman Trophy 1946. Army's "Mr. Outside" . Had a brief 2-year career for the Rams: 1950-51. Cut short by a knee injury. Scored the first TD of the Championship game in 1950. Dated Ann Blythe; engaged to Elizabeth Taylor; married to Terry Moore.
	76	▲	Elroy "Crazylegs" Hirsch	RE	Hirsch had 1495 receiving yards in 1951, breaking the single-season NFL record that record stood for nearly 20 years. Starred in a movie version of his own life: "Crazylegs, All-American" , in 1951. Pro Football Hall of Fame 1968. https://www.profootballhof.com/players/elroy-crazylegs-hirsch/
	77		Tommy Kalminir	HB	1947 - 25th round draft pick from Nevada-Reno. Rushed for 415 yards in 3 years for the Rams and Colts. In 1952, Kalminir appeared on the TV show "What's My Line" .
	78		Jack Zilly	End	1945 - 4th round draft pick from Notre Dame. Zilly also appeared in five movies, the best-known being "Twelve O'clock High" .
	112		Paul "Tank" Younger	FB	Undrafted Younger was signed as a free agent by the Rams in 1949. Younger was named to the first of his four Pro Bowl appearances in 1951. He was the First black player to appear in an NFL All-Star game.
	113		Bob Boyd	End	Rookie card. Caught 53 passes for 1212 yards and 6 TDs in 1954. Named to the Pro Bowl that year. Bob was known as "The Fastest man in football" .
	114		Jerry Williams	LDH	1949 - 7th round draft pick from Washington State. On 12/16/51 Williams returned a missed Green Bay Packers field goal for 99 yards and a touchdown – a record that held until 1971.



"Introducing Bob Waterfield"



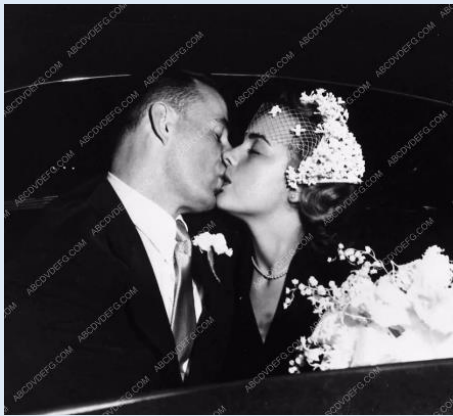
Jane Russell - Bob Waterfield



Glenn Davis - Liz Taylor



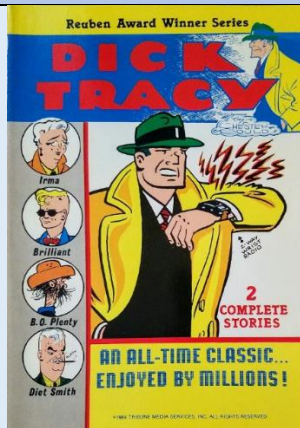
Ann Blythe - Glenn Davis



Glenn Davis - Terry Moore's wedding



"Crazylegs" Hirsch, "Tank" Younger, Woodley Lewis



Diet "Vitamin" Smith



Jack Zilly: Sgt. Ernie – Gen. Savage's Driver