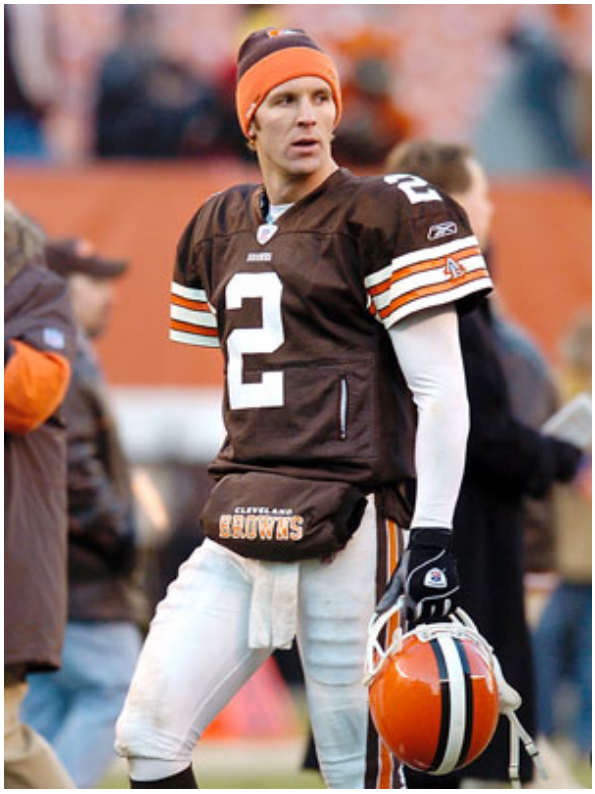


I once knew a friendly old guy named Ray (I say old, but he was probably not much older than I am now- ha). Ray enjoyed long conversations with anyone who was willing.
His tone and body language suggested he was about to confide semi-secret information. One of the things he liked to say was,
"Hate to burst your bubble, but…"
And then he'd state a point.

It was funny, because he'd say that even if his take was obvious, or whether anyone would really care one way or the other. You'd say, "How are you doing, Ray?" He might reply, "I'm doing just fine. Hard to believe this day is almost over.
Hate to burst your bubble, but I'll be glad when it's time to go home."

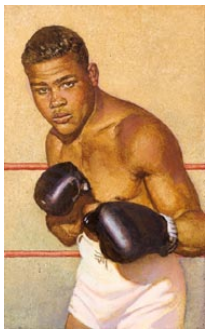
Or, "Hi, Ray. Did you have a good weekend?" "It was fine, we had the grandkids over and we spoiled them. Hate to burst your bubble, but I was happy to see their parents come and get them, too!"

With a nod to old Ray, here are my top ten myths from the history of the Cleveland Browns.

If you disagree, let me know. As they say in the tcf forums, ymmv (your mileage may vary).

Myth #10. (Mothers, cover your children's ears with your hands)

They were named after Joe Louis, the Brown Bomber.



It is true that when the Browns came to be, Louis was king- and boxing was bigger than pro football. Second only to baseball. But this myth is just crap- and was perpetuated by David Modell in an added-to-injury insult when his father moved the team.

Hate to burst your bubble, but back when Mickey McBride was forming the franchise, Paul Brown was well-established from his days as Massillon and then as the Ohio State coach. The Cleveland team was known as 'Brown's team' before it was made official.

Myth #9. **The Browns have always played to "70,000 screaming Browns fans".**

The national media has always seemed to believe this. It's not true (except for the screaming

part). Back to the early 1950s,
the Browns had dominated their league for years.
However, they did not draw as well as the NY, Philadelphia, Washington
and Chicago teams.
Professional football had yet to take root.

The Browns weren't losing money, but notably, Paul Brown courted his old Ohio State job-losing out to Miami coach Woody Hayes. He had also made overtures to other schools such as USC (to be fair, McBride was implicated for a time with organized crime, and there was an air of uncertainty around the franchise).
Also, the city was spoiled by the elite Cleveland Indians and Cleveland Barons teams.
(LeBron James had yet to 'spoil Cleveland.')

And I hate to burst your bubble, but when I was a kid in the 1970s, the Browns weren't very good and often failed to sell out. Does anyone else remember the days of adjusting the TV rabbit ears, and barely getting the game on a snowy channel 10 out of Ontario, Canada?

Myth #8. **Art Modell "had no choice" but to move.**

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EDDIE JOHNSON
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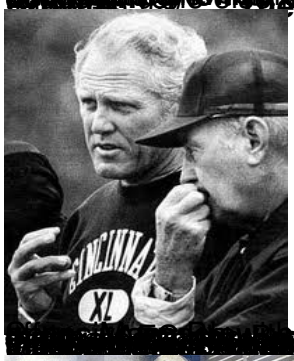
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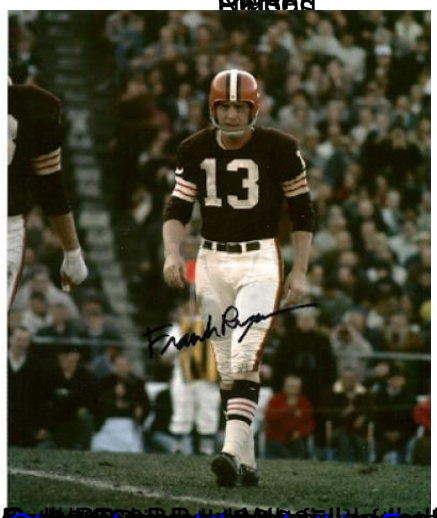
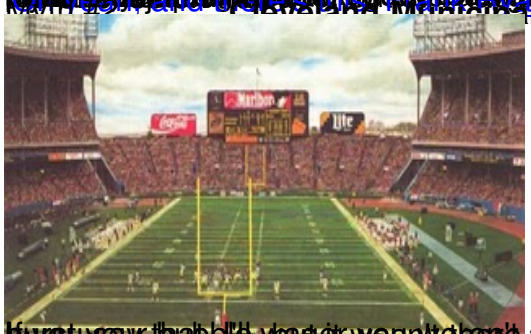


[illegible] Stadium was a Mistake by the Lake.



[illegible] Browns fan: I hate to [illegible]

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