

SOME OF PHILLY'S FINEST VS. NEW YORK

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GREAT MOMENTS are born from great opportunity. Or so they say. Situated just 90 miles apart, the sports teams from Philadelphia and New York have had plenty of them.

Here are some memorable moments, Philadelphia vs. New York:

1. Chuck Bednarik knocks out Frank Gifford — Nov. 20, 1960.
Concrete

Charlie says that it was a hit like any other. But because of Frank Gifford's stature, the opponent, and the severity of the outcome — it is one that will live forever.

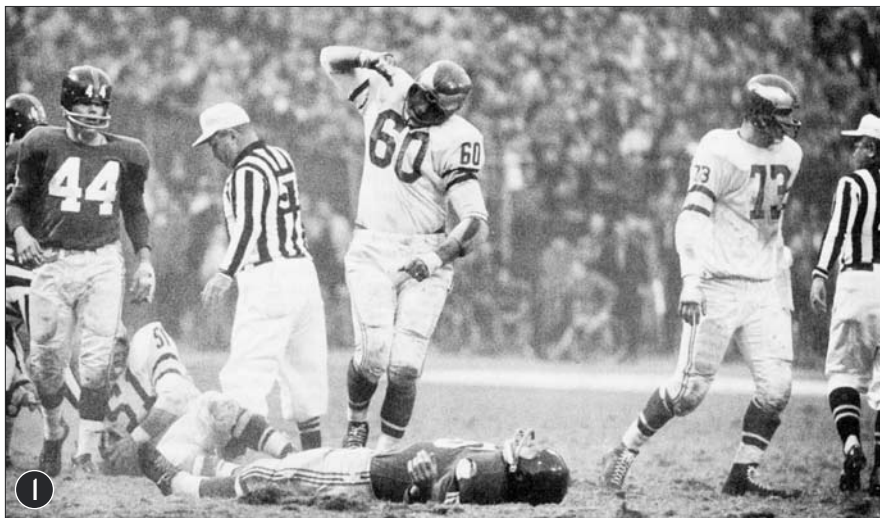
"It was one of those typically tough games between the Giants and Eagles in the middle of November," Bednarik explained to *Football Digest*. "He was doing a down-and-in pattern, and I saw him coming; I just hit him high in the chest about as hard as I could. His head snapped, and he went flying one way and the ball went flying another."

The win nudged the Eagles to their third — and most recent — NFL championship later that season. But if they hadn't beaten the Giants, who were right behind them in the Eastern Division, a matchup with the Packers probably would not have been possible.

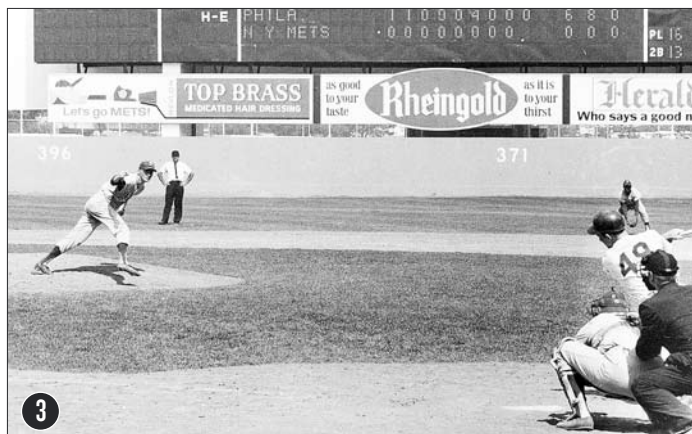
"People look at that and say it was one of the best hits ever," Bednarik said. "It will never die, and not because it helped us beat the Giants, 17-10, in an important game. If that tackle was against anybody else, in any other city, it would have been forgotten."

2. Miracle at the Meadowlands — Nov. 19, 1978.

Giants fans call it "The Fumble," but Eagles fans know it as the Miracle at the Meadowlands. With 31 seconds left and the Eagles trailing 17-12 with no timeouts, the situation was desperate. All the Giants needed to do was run out the clock.



File photo



Associated Press

1. Chuck Bednarik celebrates hit on Frank Gifford; 2. Herm Edwards returns 'Miracle at Meadowlands' fumble; 3. Jim Bunning completes perfect game; 4. Wilt Chamberlain, after scoring his 100 points; 5. Dave Schultz is restrained during Flyers' Cup years.

Rather than kneel the ball one more time, Giants offensive coordinator Bob Gibson called a "65 Power-up," which was a simple handoff to running back Larry Csonka. As the huddle broke, Csonka claimed that he told Giants quarterback Joe Pisarcik that he wouldn't take the ball if it was handed to him. Did Pisarcik hear it? Or did he ignore it?

Regardless, former NFL head coach and then Eagles cornerback Herm Edwards picked up the botched handoff and ran 26 yards for a touchdown and the win. The victory propelled the Eagles to a 9-7 finish, where they grabbed the second wild card spot.

"One play gets you feeling

like you have confidence," Edwards said years later. "You're not worried about losing anymore; now you're thinking about how you can win."

3. Jim Bunning's perfect game vs. Mets — June 21, 1964.

In just the third month of Shea Stadium's existence, Phillies righthander Jim Bunning pitched a perfect game against the Mets on Father's Day, 1964. It was the first perfect game in the National League in 84 years. It was also Bunning's first season with the



File photo

4. Wilt Chamberlain scores 100 points vs. Knicks at Hershey — March 2, 1962.

Wilt Chamberlain remains the only player in the NBA to ever score 100 points in a game. He scored exactly 100 in the Warriors' 169-147 victory over the Knicks at Hershey park Arena.

Facing embarrassment, the Knicks tried to prevent Chamberlain from scoring 100 by fouling everyone on the Warriors except Wilt to keep the ball out of his hands. Want to know the best part? He said he did it with no sleep and a brutal hangover.

5. Schultz bloodies Rolfe, 1974 conference finals — May 5, 1974.

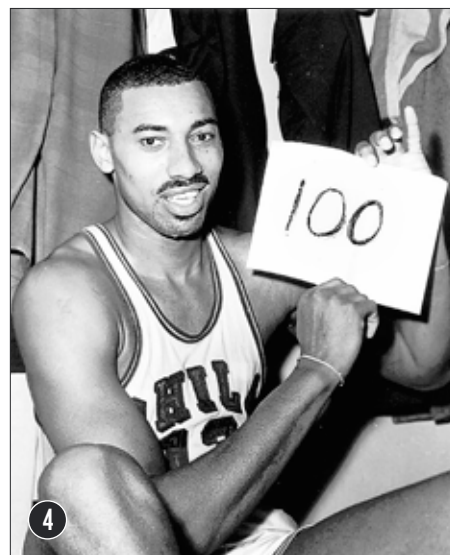
In a deciding Game 7 at the Spectrum, just 40 seconds was all it took for Dave Schultz to change the game. Rangers defenseman Dale Rolfe pushed Bobby Clarke and Orest Kindrachuk in front of his net.

Schultz came to their defense and squared off with Rolfe, a meek and usually mild-mannered player. Rolfe was defenseless.

Schultz gave Rolfe such a beating that he was bleeding everywhere. No Ranger stepped up to help him. It was no wonder that the Flyers won the game, 4-3, en route to their first Stanley Cup championship.

Honorable mention: Brian Westbrook's

punt return in 2003; 1950 Whiz Kids clinch NL pennant at Ebbets Field; NL East races in 2007, 2008. ★



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Phillies.

Not a bad debut for the future Hall of Famer and United States Senator from Kentucky.