



Professional Football Researchers Association

740 Deerfield Road
Warminster, PA 18974
www.profootballresearchers.org

Name: Albert 'Al' Wistert

Position: Tackle-Guard

Teams: 1943-51 Philadelphia Eagles

In *The Hidden Game of Football* by noted historians Bob Carroll, Pete Palmer and John Thorn, the authors listed the top two-way tackles of all-time. Here are their top ten:

Al Wistert

Turk Edwards*

Bruiser Kinard*

Ed Healey*

Cal Hubbard*

Pete Henry*

Duke Slater

Joe Stydahar*

Link Lyman*

George Christensen

*Members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame

Team:

- The Eagles had never had a .500 or better season in their history before Wistert joined the team. They finished .500 or better in 8 of his 9 seasons.
- Prior to Wistert joining Philadelphia, the Eagles cumulative winning percentage was .219. During his career, it was .649.
- The Eagles have won three NFL championships in their 79-year history. Two came during Wistert's nine seasons.

Offense:

- The Eagles led the NFL in rushing yards three times during Wistert's career (including 1943 as the Steagles). They never did so before he joined the team and have done so only once in the 60 years since he retired.
- The Eagles led the NFL in points scored three times during Wistert's career. They never did so before he joined the team and have never done so since.

- Four times during Wistert's career an Eagle running back led the NFL in rushing yards. No Philadelphia RB ever did so before Wistert joined the team and only one has done so since.

Defense:

- The Eagles led the NFL in fewest points allowed twice during Wistert's career. They never did so before that.
- The Eagles led the NFL in fewest yards allowed three times during Wistert's career. They never did so before that.
- Philadelphia led the NFL in fewest rushing yards allowed five times during Wistert's career. They never did so before that.

The Professional Football Researchers Association (PFRA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and, in some cases, reconstructing professional football history. The PFRA is incorporated in the state of Connecticut and has 501(c)(3) status as an educational organization with the Internal Revenue Service.



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Honors:

- Named to at least one major first all-pro team six times (consecutively 1944-49) including five times consensus (1944-48).
- Named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame's all-decade team of the 1940s.
- Named by the Professional Football Researchers Association to the very first class of the Hall of Very Good in 2003.
- In the four seasons from 1946 through 1949, various major news agencies selected combined all-NFL/AAFC teams. Wistert was named first team on at least one of those teams in all four seasons: 1946 (AP), 1947 (AP, Sportswriters Inc.) 1948 (Sportswriters Inc., The Sporting News) and 1949 (International News Service). No other player accomplished this, including none of the 16 Hall of Famers who played all four of those seasons.
- Of the 10 all-NFL/AAFC teams selected from 1946-49, Wistert was named to six. Only Mac Speedie and Hall of Famers Steve Van Buren and Bulldog Turner were named to more.

Testimonials:

- Hall of Fame coach George Allen listed Wistert as one of the 100 best pro players of all-time in his book *Pro Football's 100 Greatest Players* and also selected him as one of the ten best defensive linemen of all-time. "He always played in perfect position and was seldom off his feet," Allen wrote of Wistert's defensive abilities. "He was a superb pursuit man and seemed somehow to get in on every play. He was a sure tackler. He was maybe best against the run, but he was among the good early pass rushers." Of Wistert as an offensive lineman, Allen wrote, "He was as fine a blocker as you could want. He didn't have the size to overpower people on the pass block, but he was a master of every kind of block."
- In *The Hidden Game of Football*, football historians Bob Carroll, Pete Palmer and John Thorn analyzed the Hall of Fame credentials of hundreds of players. They determined that of all two-way tackles not in the Hall of Fame, Wistert was the most deserving of enshrinement.

PFRA Contact:

Ken Crippen
740 Deerfield Road, Warminster, PA 18974
(215) 421-6994
Ken_Crippen@profootballresearchers.org

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