



Marion Motley

This article was written by William H Johnson

On many occasions, *Sports Illustrated* writer Paul Zimmerman called him the greatest football player in the history of the game. Not the greatest running back, he stipulated, but the greatest player, period.ⁱ Marion Motley played defense whenever called upon, and Paul Brown wrote in his autobiography that “I’ve always believed that Motley could have gone into the Hall of Fame solely as a linebacker if we had used him only at that position. He was as good as our great ones.”ⁱⁱⁱ Yet, he was also a tremendous blocker,ⁱⁱⁱ and an even better runner, averaging 5.7 yards per carry over a nine season professional career.^{iv} The latter mark has only been excelled by Michael Vick and Randall Cunningham, rushing quarterbacks who were often able to exploit defensive lapses and unique in-game situations. Motley led both the AAFC and the NFL in rushing yards in different seasons, helped lead the Cleveland Browns to four AAFC titles and one NFL championship, and perhaps most importantly, was one of four professional football players that ended the sport’s 12-year defacto ban on Negroes in the game in 1946, a year before Jackie Robinson did the same in major league baseball. It was an extraordinary life, one lived – by his own admission – by an ordinary man. As in most such stories, though, the hero emerges from humble origins and relative anonymity. Motley was no exception.





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Marion Motley (no middle name), was born on either June 5, or June 10, 1920, in a home in or adjacent to Albany, Georgia.^v In various sources his place of birth is listed either as Albany (draft registration) or Leesburg (death certificate), Georgia, and while the two towns are just under ten miles apart, they are actually in different counties. As no specific birth record exists in either Dougherty (Albany) or Lee (Leesburg) county archives, the residence of Marion's father, Shakvol Motley, is the most likely birthplace. The elder Motley was a farm laborer, likely a sharecropper, in southwest Georgia, living on the outskirts of Albany and working with his father, John Henry Motley.^{vi} Shakvol, born in 1899, married Blanche Jones and, in addition to Marion, they also gave birth to a daughter, Dorothy (b. 1924), as well as sons Countee (1926) and Clarence (1928).

In 1923, Shakvol and Blanche packed up young Marion and moved to Canton, Ohio, where he took a job in a steel mill. It is not clear exactly why the Motleys left southwest Georgia for northeastern Ohio, but there are a couple of relatively obvious possibilities. One was for the money. Agricultural work in the south involved long days and seasons, out in an often unforgiving sun, but relying on the ground, the weather, and all the other potential farm maladies to cooperate in order to produce enough to barely get by. Motley's job in the steel mill was typical of those available to black men of the time, as an unskilled molder, pouring molten metal into various containers, skimming flux metal, and breathing silica dust and an array of other, toxic fumes. It was brutally hot and often deadly work, but the pay was much better, and the man didn't have to worry about weather and bugs and rain in order to feed his growing family.

The other reason that the Motley's migrated north may have been rooted in the virulent racism that oozed throughout the region. In 1920, "Jim Crow" and all the associated perniciousness was alive and well in the south, as was the omnipresent specter of lynch mobs. In 1916, in Albany, a seventeen-year-old Motley had endured the lynching of six black men who had been accused (not convicted) of killing a sheriff. The white mob had tricked the jail house guard into opening the door to the building one evening, and the mob burst through and dragged off the men in a fifteen-car convoy. The black men were discovered the next morning, hanging from trees just across a local river.^{vii} Motley may have decided that working right next to liquid steel in a foundry five or six days a week was, if not fair, then at least an acceptable price to pay for escaping that cloud.

The Motleys settled into a desegregated neighborhood near the mill. Motley later said, "...I was raised in a good family, and I was raised around whites. We never had any problems. Most of the neighborhood was Italian. We all played together, ran around together. If you were at someone's house and it was time to eat, they fed all the kids. It didn't matter if you were black or white."^{viii}



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Motley's athletic gifts blossomed during his high school years. An excellent track athlete and basketball player, his football prowess was even more spectacular. He and Jack Barthel led Canton McKinley high school to a 13-0 win over Erie Academy in 1937, an achievement that led to one of the first mentions of his name in the sporting press.^{ix} A month later, the junior back scored on an 83-yard run near the end of the first half against Steubenville, and then threw for the game-clinching touchdown in the last minute of the 13-0 win.^x That capped a heretofore undefeated season, with only archrival Massillon (coached by Paul Brown) remaining. In Motley's three-year varsity football career at Canton, his teams lost only three games, all to Massillon's Tigers.

His senior year in high school, 1938, was even more spectacular than his junior season. In the opener Canton defeated Lehman 48-6 on four Motley touchdown runs. The Akron Beacon observed, "Motley also does most of the Canton passing."^{xi} By the end of the year, he was known as "one of the state's finest triple-threat stars" (he also kicked), and garnered the attention of Clemson University.^{xii} Once the school found out their recruit was black, however, communication abruptly stopped. Instead, Motley accepted a scholarship to play at South Carolina State, one of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in Orangeburg, South Carolina.^{xiii}

After a year of relative football anonymity in Orangeburg, Motley was ready to move on. The opportunity came in the form of an invitation from University of Nevada coach Jimmy Aiken. Aiken had, until the year before Motley arrived, been the head coach at Canton McKinley, and had coached at the University of Akron for the entire three years of Motley's high school career. Aiken moved to Reno to accept the Nevada head coaching opportunity, and quickly reached out to the football prodigy he'd watched play in northeast Ohio, the potential star languishing in South Carolina.

Motley accepted Aiken's offer, and in spring practice in 1940, introduced himself with authority. After his first spring game, local writer Ty Cobb wrote, "Motley was hit hard and often but it usually took three tacklers to drag him down after he plowed, side-stepped and sprinted to long gains."^{xiv} One paper reported:

"Of particular interest of the team itself, is the prediction that a herculean young Negro, namely, Marion Motley, will make fans forget about Kenny Washington...Motley is 6 feet 2 inches tall, and weighs 225 pounds, runs the 100-yard dash in 10 seconds and can hit a basket from 50 yards with a pass. He blocks and tackles with the finesse of an All-American already and experts who have seen him perform most sensationally as a prep, predict that he will be a riot on the gridiron..."^{xv}

The comparison with Washington was both timely and apt. The UCLA star had graduated the year prior, in 1939, after rushing for over 9,000 yards in his college career and with a terrific reputation on the West coast, and would – along with Motley, Bill



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Willis and Woody Strode in 1946 – become one of the four black players that ended the NFL’s informal 12-year racial barrier that permanently desegregated the league. The NFL is, understandably, not entirely proud of its efforts toward racial integration, but those moves in 1946 played a supporting role in creating the opportunity on which Jackie Robinson capitalized in 1947.

Despite Nevada’s reputation as the “Mississippi of the West,” Motley was largely embraced by the University community.^{xvi} This feeling was visibly and corporately demonstrated after Motley was involved in a fatal car accident in California in March. The incident occurred on March 25, 1940, along US-40 in California (subsequently replaced by I-80), between San Francisco and Sacramento. Motley was driving toward Reno, in a car with three passengers, and in trying to pass a car, crashed into an oncoming car. Berkeley resident Tom Nobori and his wife were in the car at the time, but only the 60-year old Mr. Nobori was seriously injured, suffering a fractured skull.^{xvii}

In October, following the subsequent, injury-related death of Nobori, the California Highway Patrol upgraded Motley’s reckless driving charge to negligent homicide. On October 29, he was convicted and jailed in Fairfield, California. Unable to pay the \$1000 fine, Motley faced a year in jail. Back on campus, though, the entire university community came together and raised the entire \$1000 fine. Additionally, a local attorney travelled to Fairfield and ensured the player’s release and return to school. “I cannot tell you in words,” Motley wrote to the media, “how grateful I am for what you have done for me.”^{xviii}

Motley’s college career was quite full. A Physical Education major, he was a varsity basketball player, boxed in a local Gold Gloves tournament (eventually losing to Johnny Ebarb, who went on to a three-year professional boxing stint in the mid-1940s), and even pitched on two local, semi-pro baseball teams. One of the teams, the mostly white Reno Larks, played a three game exhibition series with the barnstorming Kansas City Monarchs, one of the most successful organizations in the history of Negro League baseball. Normally, in such series, the Monarchs would pick up a local player or two to join them for the final contest, and in July 1941, they allowed Motley to pitch a game against the Larks.

Motley walked three and struck out four that afternoon with Kansas City, and went 0-2 at the plate, but only allowed one run in six innings. It was just one more display of the young man’s superb athleticism. Yes, it was the barnstorming version of the Monarchs, but he still suited up and played alongside ‘real’ Monarchs like Sylvester Snead and Tom Young.



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On the football field, Motley's star was even brighter. From 1940 through 1942, Marion played fullback and linebacker as one of the best "that has ever been seen on the university gridiron."^{xxix} Feats ranging from a 105 yard kickoff return against San Jose State (he also had a 67-yard touchdown run in the same game) on November 8, 1941,^{xx} to his final game on November 11, 1942, where he ran for 125 yards in a 14-0 win over the University of California at Davis.^{xxi}

Perhaps even more significantly, he met Eula Coleman, a Texas native visiting her sister in Reno. Within a year the two were married, and soon had a son, Ronald. They would also have sons Raymond and Phillip, and Motley later sired a son named George with a different woman,^{xxii} but the marriage only lasted until 1962.

The burden of fatherhood and the effects of several brutal hits on his knees, though, drove Motley to leave the university and return to a mill job in Canton in 1943 in order to support his new family. "I spent three years at Nevada," he told Stuart Leuthner, "and hurt my knee, so I came home to Canton and got a job with Republic Steel. My knee was pretty bad because the muscle around it had been torn, but I was burning scrap iron with a torch, and it got awful hot where I was working. All that heat seemed to help the knee, and it healed up just fine."^{xxiii}

In December 1944, in the latter phases of World War II, Motley joined the Navy, and quickly found himself in bootcamp at the Great Lakes naval training base. Paul Brown, formerly coach at Massillon High School, had joined the Navy and been assigned to Great Lakes as football coach, and immediately had Motley assigned to the team. In their final game together in the Navy, Brown and Motley led the team to a 39-7 win over Hugh Devore's 17th ranked Notre Dame squad on December 1, 1945. Motley's biggest contribution may have been his 44-yard interception return for a touchdown.

With the war over, however, Motley separated from the Navy soon after that game. Back at Republic Steel in early 1946, Brown arranged to sign Motley for his namesake entry in the All-America Football Conference (AAFC), the Cleveland Browns. Rooming with star lineman Bill Willis, the two players, along with Woody Strode and Kenny Washington, became the first four black players to take the professional football field since the defacto color line had been erected in 1933.^{xxiv} This was, and remains, especially noteworthy in that it was six months before Jackie Robinson did the same in major league baseball.

Needing to work, and again with a functioning knee, Motley later remembered, "I was set to come back to Reno for that last season (1946) until the Browns talked to me. (I had) a family to support and couldn't turn down the offer."^{xxv} There are variations in the account of how Brown signed Motley to play for his team in 1946, but the consistent



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elements are that the coach, aware that Motley may have not fallen to him in a draft, had an intermediary bring the player to the Cleveland practice field for a “tryout.” Brown immediately signed Motley, made him Bill Willis’ roommate, and set about dominating the AAFC for the four-year life of the league.^{xxvi}

That dominance began on September 6, 1946, against the Miami Seahawks. In front of more than 60000 spectators, at the time the “largest ever to see a professional league football game,” Paul Brown introduced his “T” formation offense to the world. Outgaining the hapless Seahawks 314 yards to 22, and outscoring them 44-0, “Miami had nothing except nice white uniforms and these were only white until the Browns had rolled them in the dirt in the early minutes of the game.”^{xxvii} Motley caught a 35-yard pass from Otto Graham to set up the Brown’s first field goal, and “blossomed out as an offensive fullback threat last night. Hitherto he has been considered mainly a defensive power.”^{xxviii}

The Browns rattled off six more wins, including a game in Los Angeles in which Motley scored on runs of 49 and 68 yards, respectively, and logged 143 rushing yards on only eight carries. That is just a yard shy of producing a rushing average of 18 yards per carry. Marion Motley had arrived. He and Bill Willis endured pain, to be sure, as much about their race as their rookie status. Just about every time Motley hit the ground, someone stepped on his hand. When he ran, he was assaulted well beyond the norms of football, occasionally by members of his own team. He’d be held. He’d have phantom penalties called on him for obscure offenses imagined only in the mind of some of the white officials. Yet, eventually, his superiority on the field, and his value to his team, caused a behavioral change. Now, after an opponent stepped on him, or flung an epithet his way, there were white teammates ready to fight with him.

The next week, in a loss to the 49ers at Kezar stadium in San Francisco, “Motley got his helmet ripped right off his head and still managed to gain 40 more yards...(he also notched) a 63-yard run to set up a Browns’ touchdown.”^{xxix} In the 1946 AAFC Championship game, against the New York Yankees, Motley led the Browns with 98 rushing yards on 13 carries, including a 50-yard gain, and scored the first of Cleveland’s two touchdowns in their 14-9 win. On the season, as a 26-year old rookie, Marion ran for 601 yards on 73 carries (an 8.2 average), caught 10 passes for 188 yards, scored six touchdowns, returned three kickoffs for 53 yards, and also played defense in all 13 games (including one interception.). Paul Zimmerman captured the conundrum of evaluating Motley when he wrote about the 238 pound back:

“There’s a statistical table at the end of this chapter (in his book on professional football), detailing the numbers that made up Motley’s professional career, but it’s a kind of meaningless way of evaluating this remarkable player. It would be like trying to describe a waterfall in terms of gallons per second, or a sunset in



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terms of light units. Never has there been a set of statistics to measure the force and intensity of a man's hitting power, or his effectiveness as a pass blocker, unless you use a seismograph...^{xxx}

In 1947, Motley and the Browns again ran roughshod over the AAFC, finishing with a 12-1-1 record and a second championship. It was in 1948, though, that Motley enjoyed the finest professional season of his career. Not only did the team romp to an undefeated 14-0 record, and a third AAFC title, but Motley led the league with 964 rushing yards, logged another 192 yards receiving (14.8 yards per reception), and returned fourteen kickoffs for 337 yards. For those 1156 yards from scrimmage, every time he touched the ball, Motley averaged a 6.3-yard gain. The Sporting News named him to their 1st Team All-NFL/AAFC team, and the AAFC dubbed him 1st Team All-Conference as well. He was similarly recognized by the New York Daily News, UPI, and the Associated Press as well. It was, by any standard, a career year.

With three boys now, Marion and Eula had settled into a home in Canton, and enjoyed relatively normal off-seasons during these years. In January 1949, Motley found himself honored at Sport Magazine's first (of what would become an annual event) Awards Dinner at the Hotel Astor in New York City.^{xxx} In an awkward report the following day, after he failed to return home on schedule, Eula called the Cleveland police and filed a missing person's report when she did not hear from him. Later that day, he told reporters that he definitely was not "...missing. I'm leaving tonight. I'll be in Cleveland tomorrow. I don't know anything about being missing. It all sounds phony to me. I just stayed over."^{xxxii}

He worked as a sales representative for a local beer company in the off season, and kept in shape with basketball, playing with Mac Speedie, Horace Gillom, Dante Lavelli, Lou Groza, and Otto Graham on the Cleveland Browns basketball team.^{xxxiii} The squad played all comers in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, and sold out almost every game.^{xxxiv}

Once the football season began, the last year of the AAFC's brief existence, Cleveland again won the championship, with Motley scoring one of Cleveland's three touchdowns in that final win over San Francisco. He had reduced his linebacking duties due to some nagging, but minor, knee problems that were aggravated in pre-season scrimmaging.^{xxxv} His offensive output was a bit off his 1948 production, but Motley remained the finest blocking fullback in the league, and could still rip off a long run if the opportunity arose.^{xxxvi}

In 1950, the National Football League effectively absorbed the AAFC, and Cleveland was assigned to the American Conference with the New York Giants, the Steelers, the



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Eagles, the Chicago Cardinals, and the Washington Redskins. Despite his declining health, Motley still staged one of the greatest days in football history against the Pittsburgh Steelers. On October 29 Motley rushed for 188 yards on only eleven carries for a 17.1 yard-per-carry average, a single-game NFL record that stood until 2002, when Michael Vick ran for 173 yards on ten carries against Minnesota.

It was an epic rookie season for the Cleveland franchise. They posted a 10-2 record and defeated the New York Giants (8-3) and the Los Angeles Rams (30-28) to claim the NFL championship, extending their professional consecutive-championship streak to five. Motley led the team, and the NFL, with 810 rushing yards, and yards-per-carry (5.8), while also catching passes for another 151. Back on defense for the whole year in the new league, Motley also recovered three fumbles in the regular season and one more in the playoffs. For his efforts, he was named 1st Team All-Pro by the Associated Press, the UPI, and the New York Daily News, and named to the Pro Bowl. It was a successful season by any imaginable definition.

Over the next three seasons, the Browns made it to the NFL title game each year, but came up short to the Los Angeles Rams (1951) and the Detroit Lions (1952-53). In training camp in 1954, after a collision with a defensive player, Motley decided to hang up his cleats. On September 10, 1954, he decided to retire rather than be relegated to the distant end of the bench.^{xxxvii} Paul Brown later traded the player's contract to the Pittsburgh Steelers for Ed Modzelewski, but the Steelers cut Motley for good in November after just two carries and eight yards.

Life after professional football was not especially easy for Marion. His Cleveland tavern failed, and in 1962 Eula divorced him. Neither Paul Brown nor Otto Graham offered him an assistant coaching job, even after he approached both about such an opportunity, and his sole coaching opportunity came with a girl's football team in Cleveland for one year before the team failed. He kicked around a series of lower-paying jobs, ranging from parking lot attendant to the post office before he finally accepted a supervisory position with the Ohio lottery system.

In 1968, Motley became only the second black player, after Emlen Tunnell, enshrined in the Professional Football Hall of Fame. That the Hall is in Motley's hometown of Canton made the honor even more special. It was an unprecedented, and still unequalled, career. 4720 yards rushing, 1107 yards receiving, 1122 yards returning kickoffs, two interceptions (one for a touchdown) and four fumble recoveries on defense, and a long list of tackles, blocks, and deceptions, all culminating in five professional championships over a nine year career. During his introduction of Motley at the latter's enshrinement ceremony, Bill Willis (later a Hall of Famer in his own right), said: "Whenever you think of Paul Brown, you think of Marion and you think of Otto Graham. But you can neither



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think of Otto Graham, Paul Brown, or the Cleveland Browns without thinking of Marion Motley.”^{xxxviii} Motley spoke only briefly that day, always one to put team first and self a very distant second. There was, though, no disputing Motley’s right to be immortalized.

After the enshrinement, Motley enjoyed a bit of a resurgence, attending ceremonies, signing autographs, and working as an ambassador for football, the Hall of Fame, and the NFL. In 1998, Motley finally went to a doctor to deal with some pain he’d been suffering, pain beyond the aches of a decade in professional football. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and he deteriorated quickly. He was moved into a bed in his son Raymond’s home in Canton, and he remained there until he died on June 27, 1999. The memories of the man remain bright in those close to him. Both granddaughter Bianca Bloom and grandson Joe Dose remember a dignified man, ubiquitous cigar on one side of his mouth, unbound to the memories of his distant football past, a man who’s ethos carried not a hint of superiority, of glory earned on distant fields decades earlier.

To those that knew him, Motley was a gracious and classy act off the field, and a monster during the game. Mike Brown, son of coach Paul Brown and – in 2020 – owner of the Cincinnati Bengals, said: “Jim Brown may have been a great runner, but Marion was a better runner. He could really run. He was a complete player. He was a great blocker. Marion was a great player...my dad always felt Marion was the greatest back he ever had.”^{xxxix}



End Notes:

- ⁱ Paul Zimmerman. "The Monster In My Memory" Sports Illustrated, July 5, 1999. Online: <https://vault.si.com/vault/1999/07/05/THE-MONSTER-IN-MY-MEMORY> Accessed: November 11, 2020
- ⁱⁱ Paul Brown. *PB: The Paul Brown Story* (Atheneum, 1979); 132
- ⁱⁱⁱ Paul Brown; 131
- ^{iv} All statistical information, unless otherwise noted, is drawn from the website Pro-Football-Reference, online at: https://www.pro-football-reference.com/players/M/MotlMa00.htm#all_defense Accessed November 10, 2020.
- ^v Marion Motley military draft registration (D.S.S. Form 1, order number 2-1786), 1941 and signed by Motley while in college in Nevada, states the date of birth was June 10, 1920. The social security death index records available digitally state that he was born June 5. The latter date is most often found on sites like Pro-Football-Reference, but there is some doubt as to which date is accurate.
- ^{vi} Shakvol Motley military draft registration (P.M.G.O Form No. 1), April 12, 1918. Of note: In some sources, such as family trees on sites like Ancestry.com, he is listed as Shakeful Motley, which was likely the proper pronunciation, but his given name was Shakvol.
- ^{vii} "Mob Storms Jail; Takes Six Blacks" *The Atlanta Constitution*, January 21, 1916; pg. 1
- ^{viii} Mark Craig. "Motley Broke Barriers and Tackles" *News-Journal* (Mansfield, OH), September 11, 1999; pg. 20
- ^{ix} "Steubenville Drops First Game to Erie (East)" *Evening Independent* (Massillon, OH), October 11, 1937; pg. 10
- ^x "Canton Wins From Big Red; Magics Lose" *Evening Independent*, November 8, 1937; pg. 13
- ^{xi} "Sout Triumph over Canton Not Impossible, Says Wargo" *Akron Beacon Journal*, September 21, 1938; pg. 19
- ^{xii} "Massillon-Canton Tilt Should Decide Honors" *Akron Beacon Journal*, November 15, 1938; pg. 25
- ^{xiii} Joe Santoro "Marion Motley changed Nevada sports and professional football" *The Nevada Appeal*, June 27 2020 Online: <https://www.nevadaappeal.com/sports/marion-motley-changed-nevada-sports-and-professional-football/> Accessed: November 13, 2020
- ^{xiv} As reported by Santoro, June 27, 2020.
- ^{xv} Herman Hill. "'Reno-ated' Nevada Team Has 'Second Kenny Washington'" in *New Star, Claim* *The Pittsburgh Courier*, September 21, 1940; pg. 16
- ^{xvi} "During the 1950s, African Americans in Las Vegas began referring to their city and state as the "Mississippi of the West"; reported by Michael S. Green, a local history professor, in the *Nevada Law Journal*, Vol 5: 57, pp 57-70.



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- xvii “Grid Player Faces Charge of Homicide” *The Sacramento Bee*, April 8, 1940; pg. 8
- xviii Santoro.
- xix Santoro.
- xx “Spartan Streak Snapped By Nevada” *The San Francisco Examiner*, November 9, 1941; pg. 47
- xxi Santoro.
- xxii Motley acknowledged a fourth son in an interview with Helen Blue of the University of Nevada Oral History project in the late 1990s. Motley’s granddaughter, Bianca Bloom, in an interview on October 26, 2020, noted that a man named George showed up at Motley’s 1999 funeral, and identified himself as Motley’s son. That was her only exposure to the fourth Motley boy.
- xxiii Stuart Leuthner. *Iron Men: Bucko, Crazylegs, and the Boys Recall the Golden Days of Professional Football* (New York: Doubleday, 1988) pg. 231
- xxiv Alex Gelhar “Forgotten Four Artfully Depicts Pro Football Integration in 1946”
Online: <https://www.nfl.com/news/forgotten-four-artfully-depicts-pro-football-integration-in-194-0ap3000000392534> Accessed: November 18, 2020
- xxv Santoro.
- xxvi “Marion Motley Joins Browns” *News-Journal* (Mansfield, OH), August 10, 1946; pg. 6
- xxvii Jim Schlemmer. “Browns Roll Over Hawks, 44-0, Before 60,135” *Akron Beacon Journal*, September 7, 1946; pg. 10
- xxviii Schlemmer.
- xxix Santoro
- xxx Paul Zimmerman. *The New Thinking Man’s Guide to Professional Football* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1947); online Amazon Kindle, location 6459 of 7775.
- xxxi Tom Carroll. “Local Scene” *Dayton Daily News*, January 14, 1949; pg. 36
- xxxii “Marino Motley Says He Isn’t Missing”, *The Times Recorder* (Zanesville, Ohio), January 22, 1949; pg. 2
- xxxiii “Cleveland Brown Gridders Not Loafing During ‘Vacation’” *The News Messenger* (Fremont, Ohio), March 11, 1949; pg. 13
- xxxiv “Browns’ Stars Booking Games” *Marysville Journal-Tribune* (Ohio), January 19, 1949; pg. 6
- xxxv “Erring Browns in Tie With Frisco Eleven” *The Akron Beacon Journal*, August 20, 1949; pg. 11
- xxxvi “Adamle Gets Defensive Position” *The Daily Times* (New Philadelphia, Ohio), August 10, 1949; pg. 8
- xxxvii Phil Dietrich. “Battles, Motley: The Elite of Their Time”, *The Akron Beacon Journal*, July 28, 1968; pg. 44
- xxxviii Bill Willis, Introduction of Marion Motley at the Professional Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement in 1968.



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^{xxxix} “Marion Motley” *Zanesville Times Recorder* (obituary), June 28, 1999; pg. 5