



File: Joe Foss

american FOOTBALL LEAGUE

609 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.
HA 1-2424

December 6, 1963

Mr. Pete Rozelle, Commissioner
The National Football League
1 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York

Dear Pete:

Much talking has been done of late by the public and press as to when the American and National Football Leagues will meet in a championship game. I feel strongly that the time has arrived for the inauguration of such an annual game.

Therefore on behalf of the AFL, I re-issue an official challenge to the NFL for the first game to be played at the conclusion of the 1964 season with the winners of the respective league divisional playoffs opposing one another.

The '64 season, as you're well aware, Pete, will be our fifth year of operation, certainly a sufficient period for our teams to have achieved a high talent and maturity level.

It was in the exact same year of their existence that the Cleveland Browns moved from the defunct All-America Conference into the NFL. The Browns, as you'll recall, quickly proved a representative of the so-called "neophyte league" of that era was more than capable of holding its own. They won the league title that very first year.

Nevertheless, any argument as to which team would win the initial AFL-NFL game is of secondary importance. The overriding fact is the establishment of a World Series of professional football is necessary to the continued progress of our game if we're to be true sportsmen and not merely businessmen in sports.

Pro football has now attained the status where many regard it as our national sport. What could be more fitting then than for us to match baseball in having an annual classic between the leagues?

BOSTON PATRIOTS • BUFFALO BILLS • KANSAS CITY CHIEFS • DENVER BRONCOS
HOUSTON OILERS • NEW YORK JETS • OAKLAND RAIDERS • SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Pete Rozelle
National Football League
New York, New York

December 6, 1963

I think now is the time for action rather than talk, Pete, and if you concur I'll be available to commence arrangements for the game at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



JOE FOSS
Commissioner

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