

Football Findings

Artifacts From The First 100 Years of American Football

Oorang Indians

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In 1922 Jim Thorpe teamed up with the owner of an Airedale hunting dog kennel to create an all Native American football team – the Oorang Indians. Thorpe was a hunting buddy of Walter Lingo, whose Oorang Kennel was located in Marion, Ohio. The Pro Football Hall of Fame website says: “Entertainment, both prior to the games and during halftimes, was provided by the players and the Airedale dogs. There were shooting exhibitions with the dogs retrieving the targets. There were Indian dances and tomahawk and knife-throwing demonstrations.” Below is a 1922 press photo of Oorang players and an example of how such a photo was used in newspapers at the time –





JUST LIKE THEIR FOREFATHERS, the "Oo Rang Indians," Jim Thorpe's famous redskin professional football team, goes into battle with war dances and battle chants. Dressed in these aboriginal togs and wearing war paint, these Indians prance around the gridiron, putting on a ceremony before the "Oo Rangs" start playing. Like President Harding, Jim's pigskin team calls Marion, O., home.

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