

Fritz Pollard Class of 1912

Lane Tech's Unsung Hero

LANE  TECH
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fritz Pollard

Pursuit of Excellence

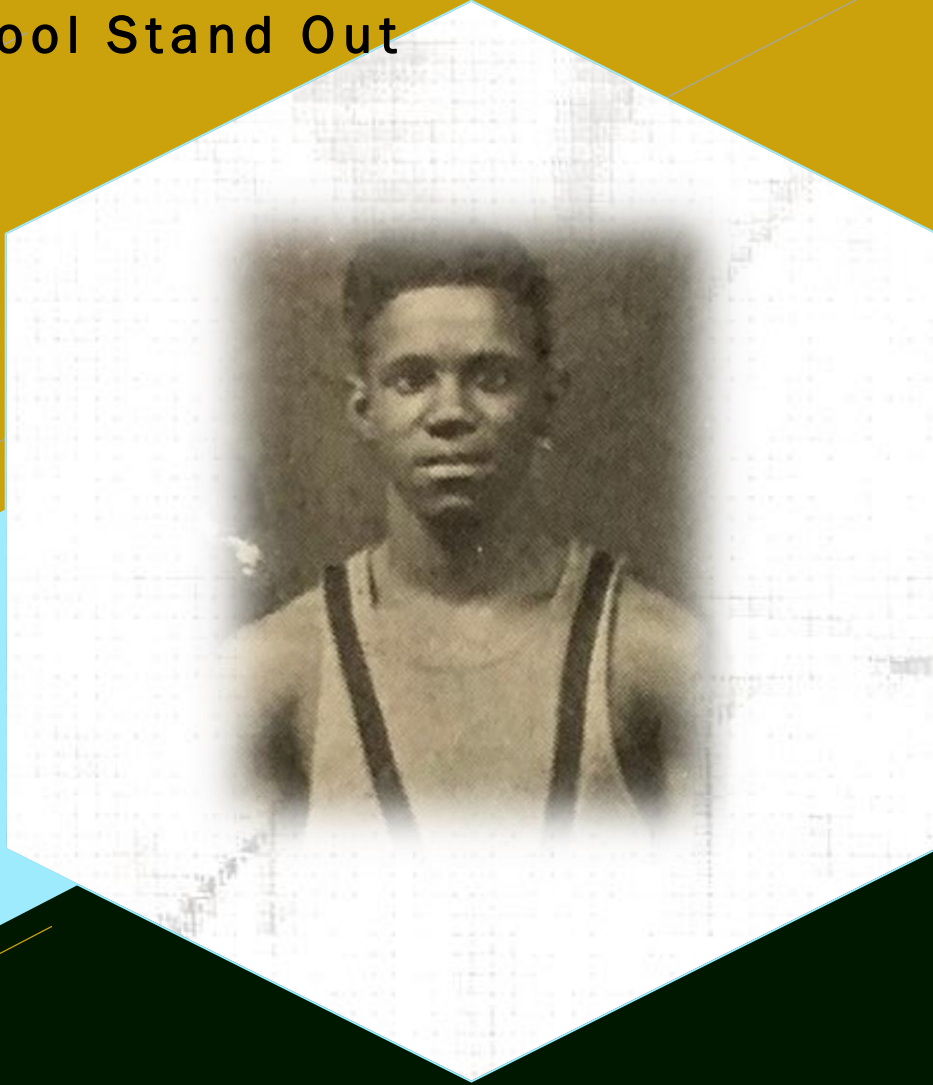


Rogers Park Roots

- Fritz was the seventh of eight children born to a multi-racial mother and African American father who relocated from Missouri to Chicago to escape escalating racial tensions and afford their family more opportunity
- They were the first black family to settle in the all-white “village” of Rogers Park
- Descended from slaves who were freed after the Revolutionary War, the Pollard family placed a high value on education and was known for their resilience and determination

Fritz Pollard

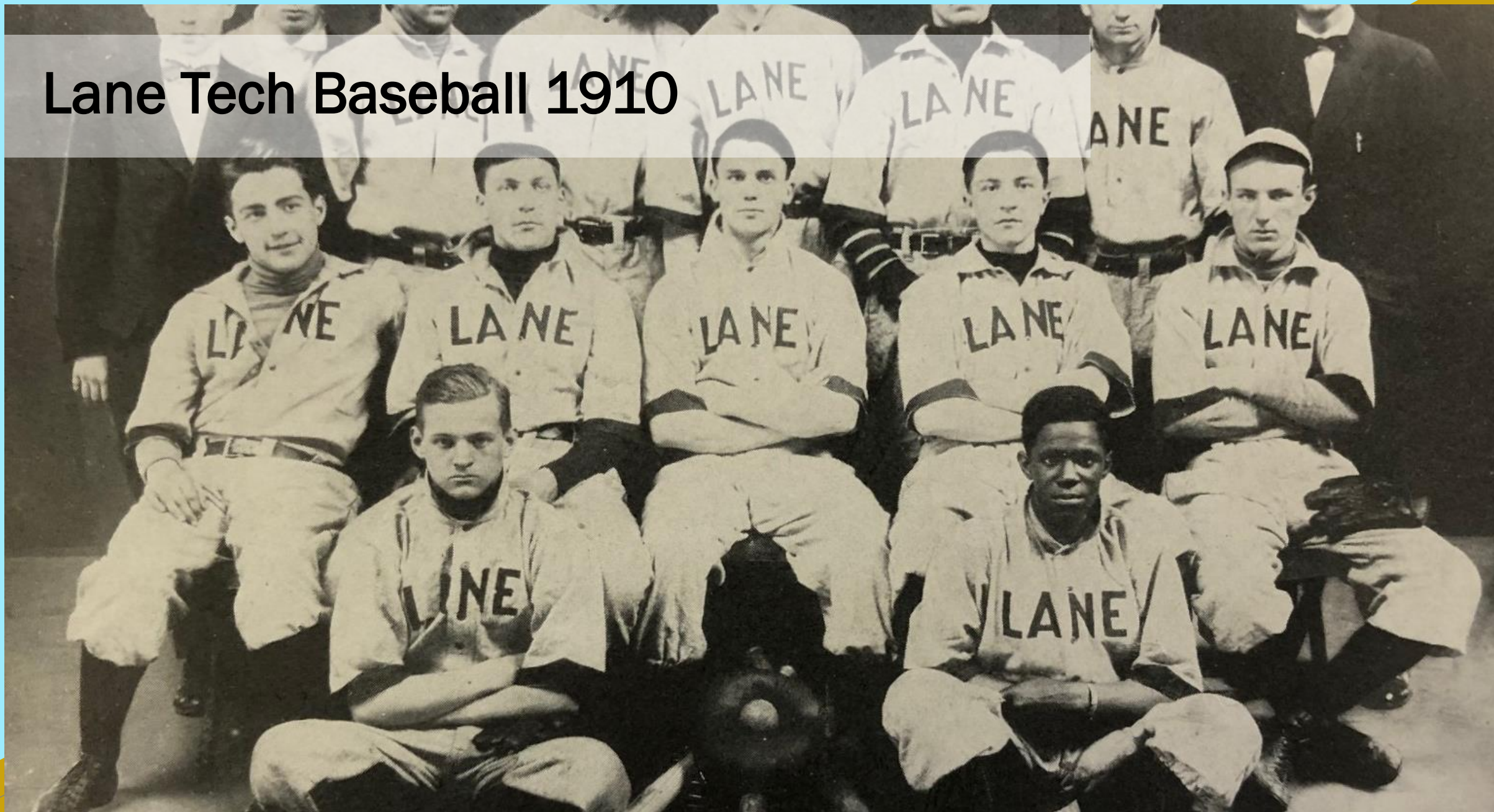
High School Stand Out



Lane Tech Hero

- Mentored by older brother Leslie, Fritz was a three-sport, elite athlete who was compared to the fleet-footed god, “Mercury” while at Lane
- He played shortstop on the “indoor” baseball team
- At a track meet in 1912 he took first in high and low hurdles, second in the half-mile and third in high jump, and won “County” three times
- Fritz compensated for his small stature with speed and agility as a running back on the football team

Lane Tech Baseball 1910





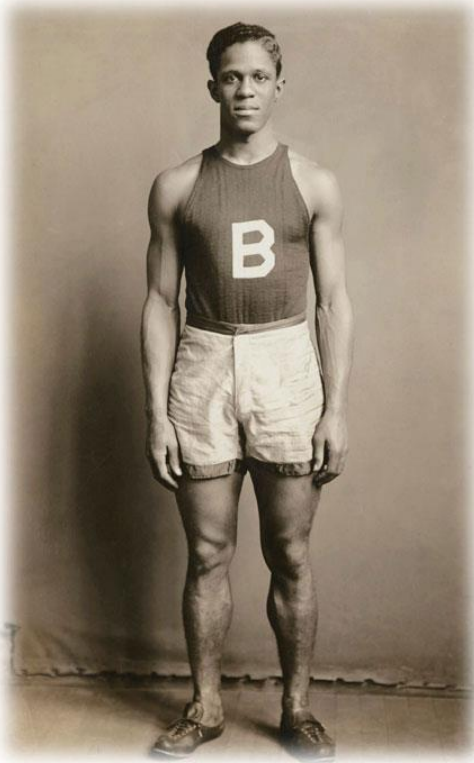
Lane Tech Track 1910



Lane Tech Football 1911

Fritz Pollard

Collegiate Trailblazer



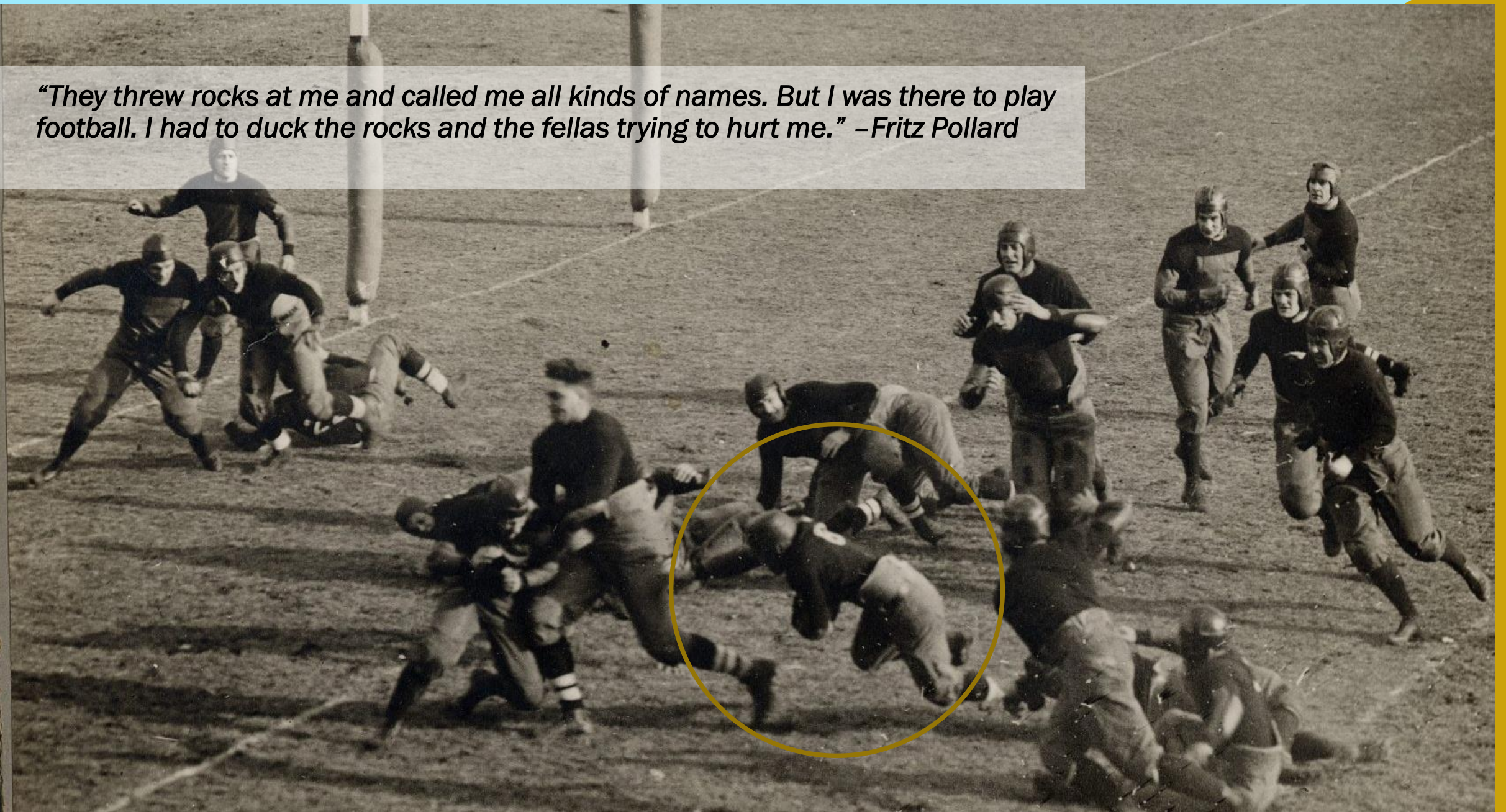
Breaking Barriers at Brown

- Nicknamed the “Human Torpedo”, Pollard was the first African American to play for Brown University where he was credited for almost single-handedly beating both Yale and Harvard in the same week scoring 6 touchdowns and running for more than 540 yards
- First African American to play in the Rose Bowl in 1916, and to be named to Walter Camp’s All-American team
- First African American inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1954



Brown University Football 1916

"They threw rocks at me and called me all kinds of names. But I was there to play football. I had to duck the rocks and the fellas trying to hurt me." –Fritz Pollard



1916
BROWN-21
HARVARD-0

WERE THE DECIDING FACTOR...
HE SCORED TWO TOUCHDOWNS



FRITZ
Pollard

THE VERSATILE
POLLARD
SCORED ONE
TOUCHDOWN
ON A LINE PLUNGE

AND SET UP

THE GUY
DOES
EVERYTHING

NO HUNT
THESE
ELIS LOOK

WE WERE
OUR AND
TO BE

Fritz Pollard

NFL Role Model

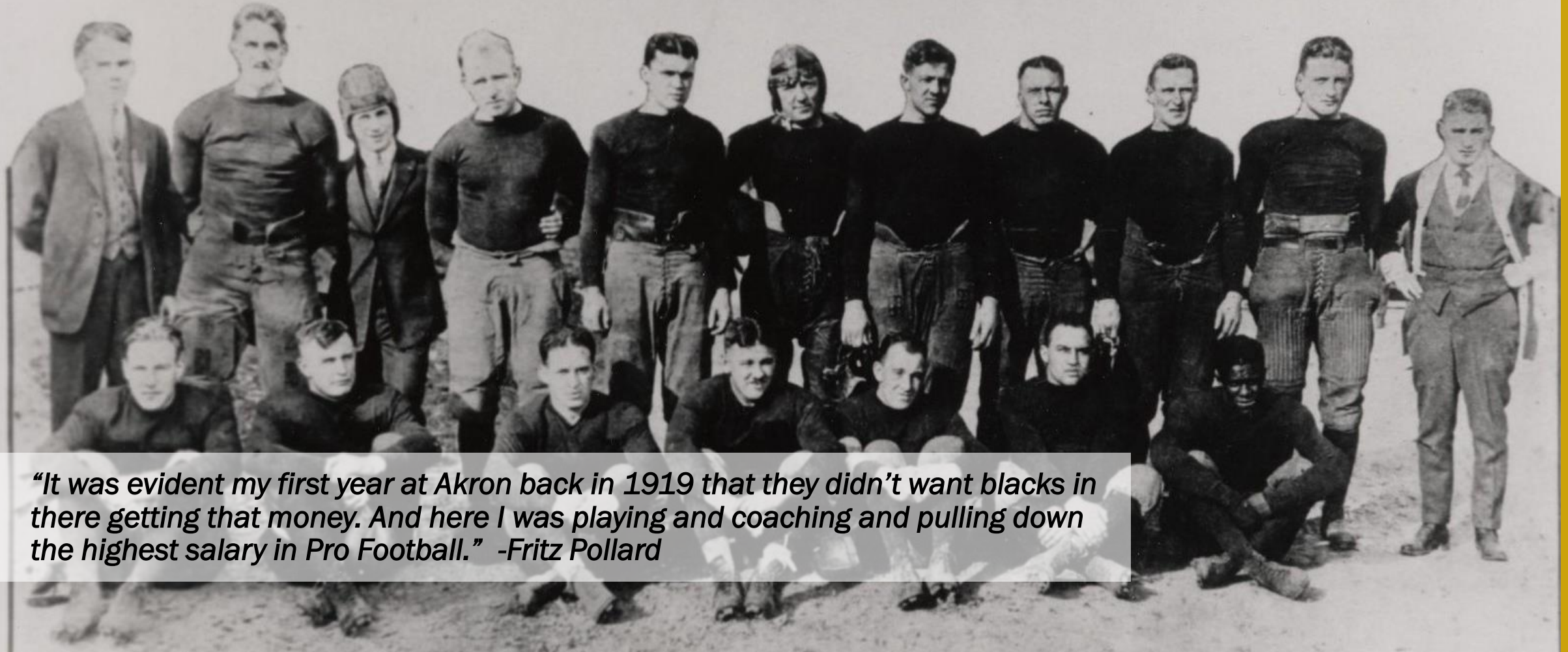


Professional Football Firsts

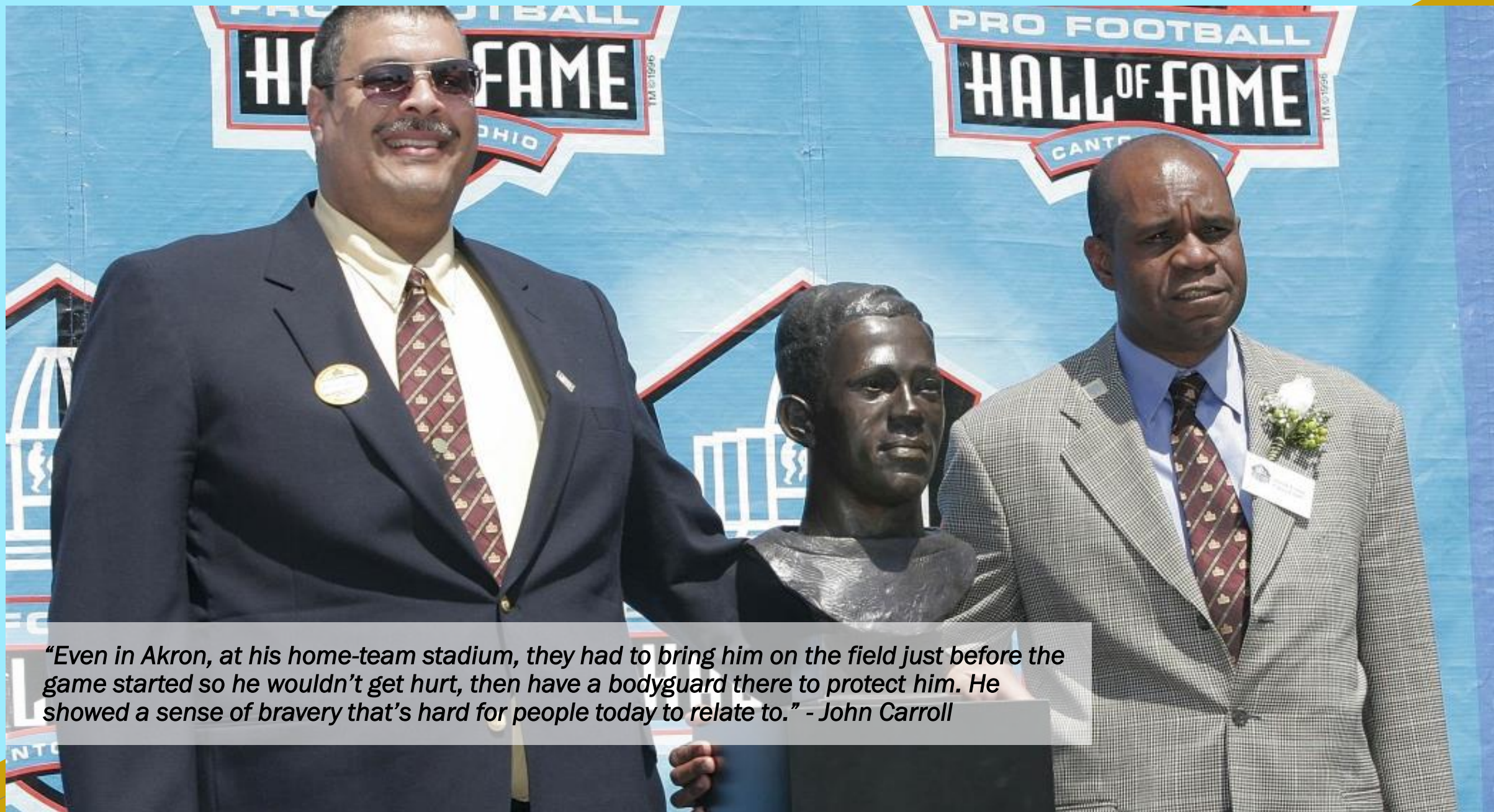
- One of the first two African American athletes to play in pro football & first African American quarterback
- One of the highest paid pro football players in the early 1920's
- First African American coach in pro football
- Inducted into the NFL Football Hall of Fame in 2005
- Fritz Pollard Alliance Foundation advocates for more BIPOC coaches and front office sports executives in the NFL

WORLDS CHAMPS

Akron—1920—Professionals



"It was evident my first year at Akron back in 1919 that they didn't want blacks in there getting that money. And here I was playing and coaching and pulling down the highest salary in Pro Football." -Fritz Pollard



“Even in Akron, at his home-team stadium, they had to bring him on the field just before the game started so he wouldn’t get hurt, then have a bodyguard there to protect him. He showed a sense of bravery that’s hard for people today to relate to.” - John Carroll

THE FRITZ POLLARD ALLIANCE FOUNDATION

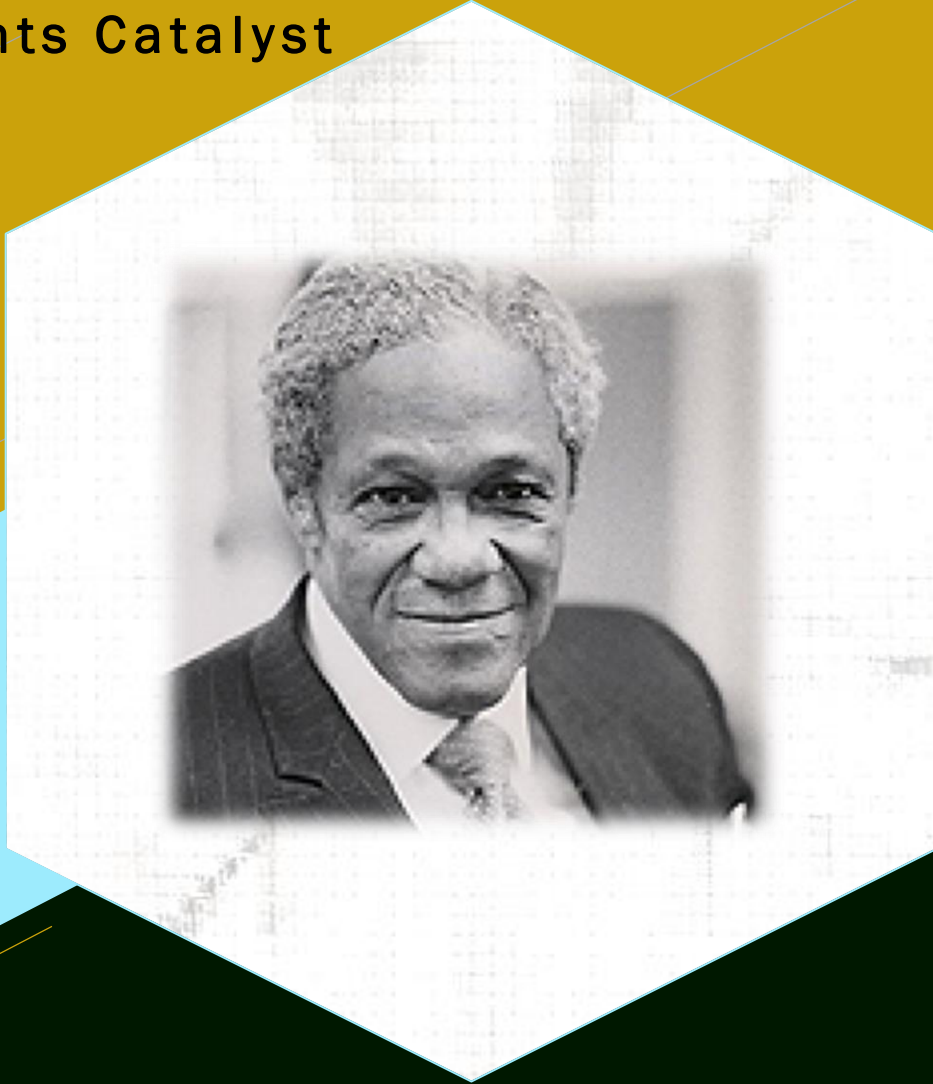
WORKS WITH THE NFL TO SUPPORT A MORE DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE LEAGUE



The Fritz Pollard Alliance Foundation honors those whose lives embodied the strength, determination and will to change the course of history for generations to follow.

Fritz Pollard

Civil Rights Catalyst

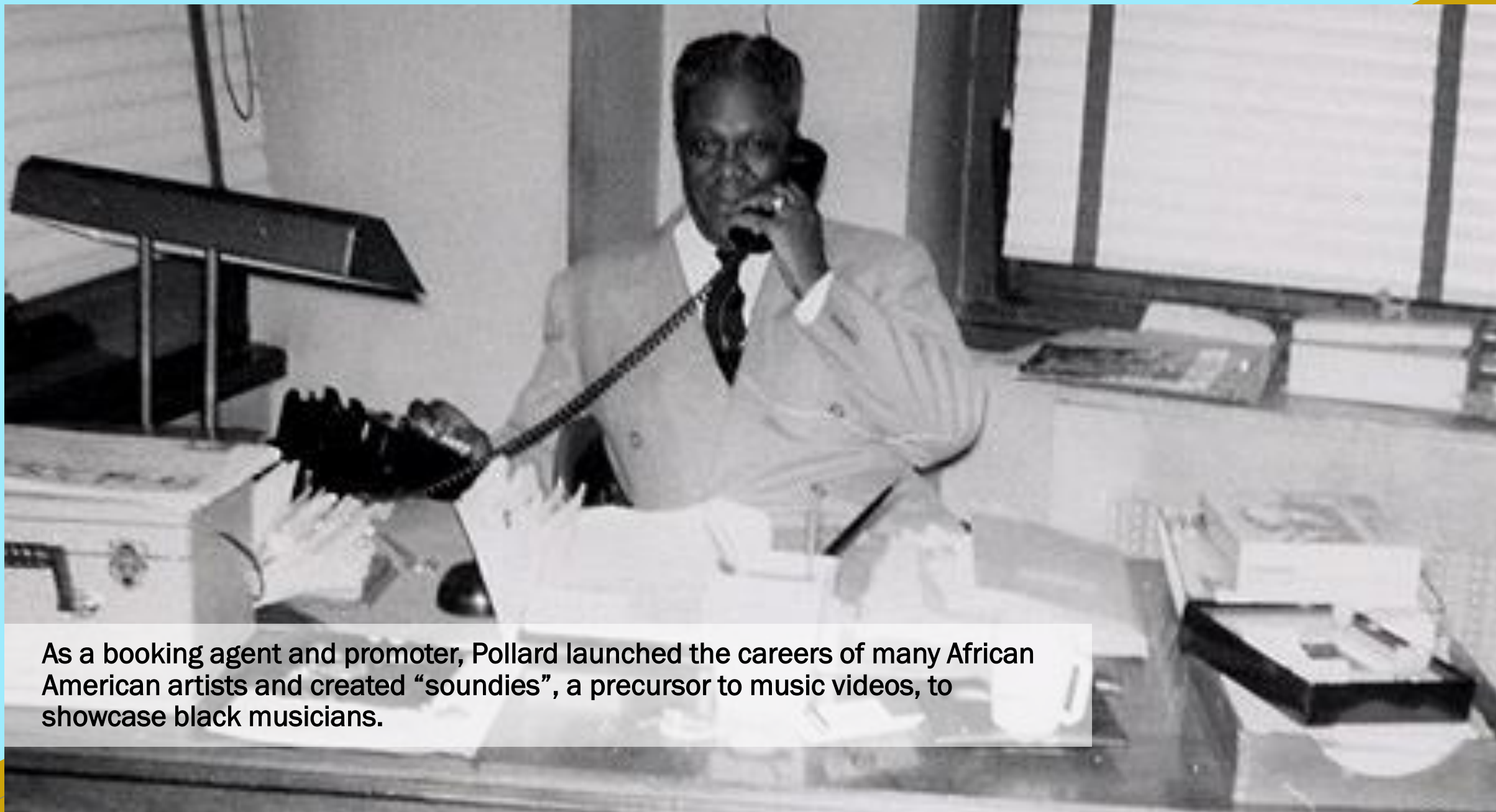


Achievements in Leadership

- Actively hired and showcased African American football players
- Founded the Chicago Black Hawks and Harlem Brown Bombers all-black barnstorming football teams
- Published the first black-owned tabloid, The New York Independent News
- Founded and operated a talent agency, music production company, PR firm, tax consultancy and investment firm



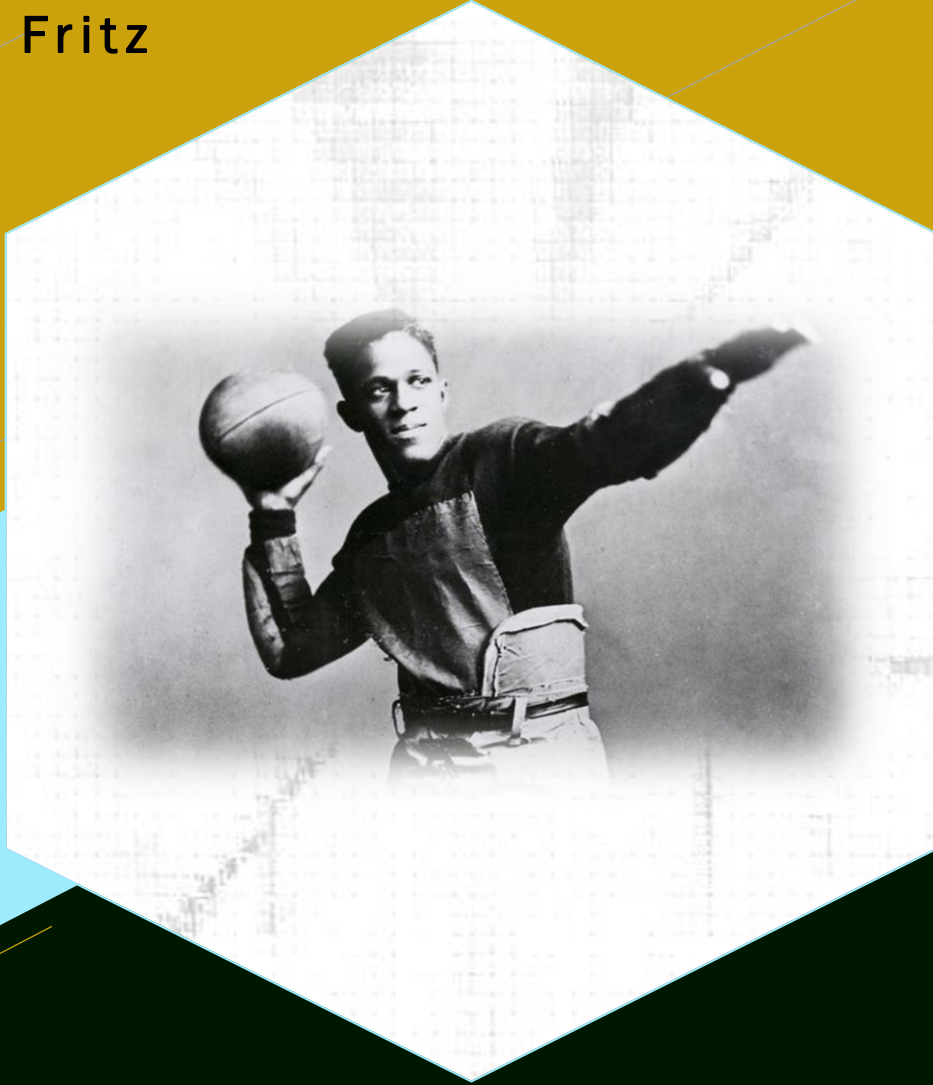
Fritz Pollard with his son Fritz Pollard Jr. who played football at the University of North Dakota and was a member of the US Track team at the 1936 Olympics along with Jessie Owens and Ralph Metcalf, winning bronze in the 110 hurdles.



As a booking agent and promoter, Pollard launched the careers of many African American artists and created “soundies”, a precursor to music videos, to showcase black musicians.

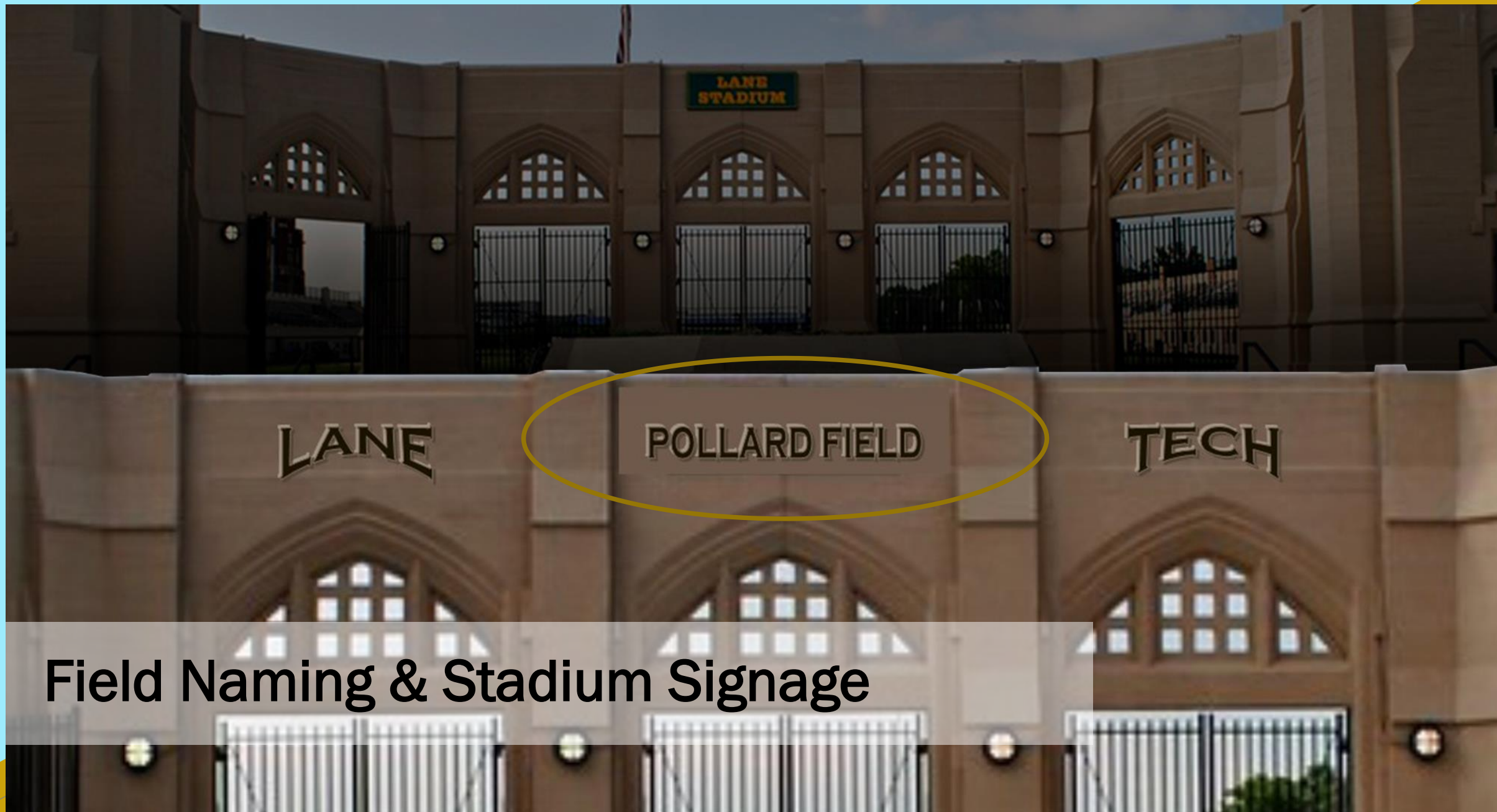
Fritz Pollard

Honoring Fritz

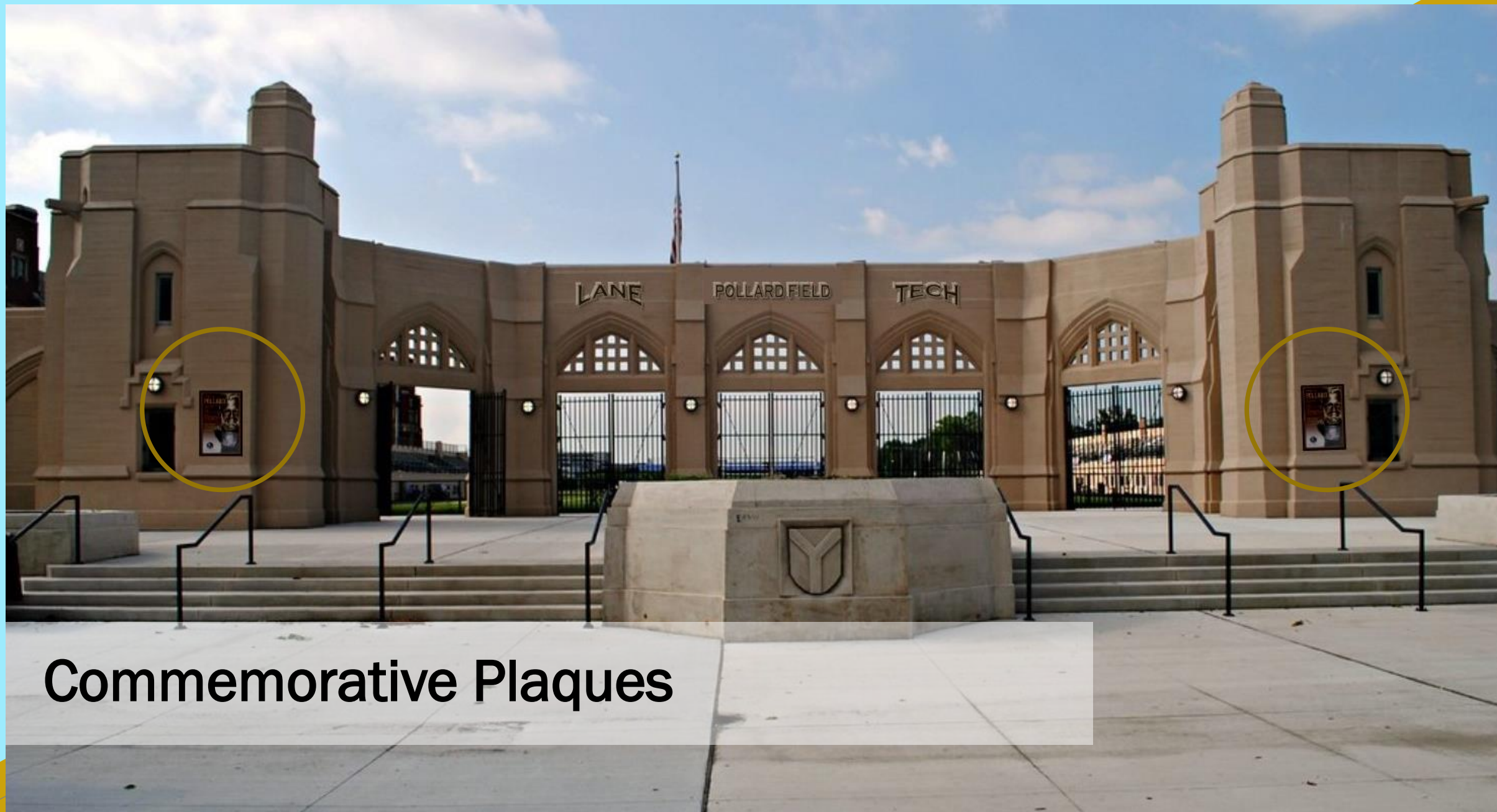


“Pollard Field” Proposition

- Name the football field at Lane Stadium “Fritz Pollard field”
- Install commemorative plaques at the stadium entrance, highlighting Pollard’s achievements
- Coordinate companion curriculum on sports history and racial equity relative to Pollard for current Lane students



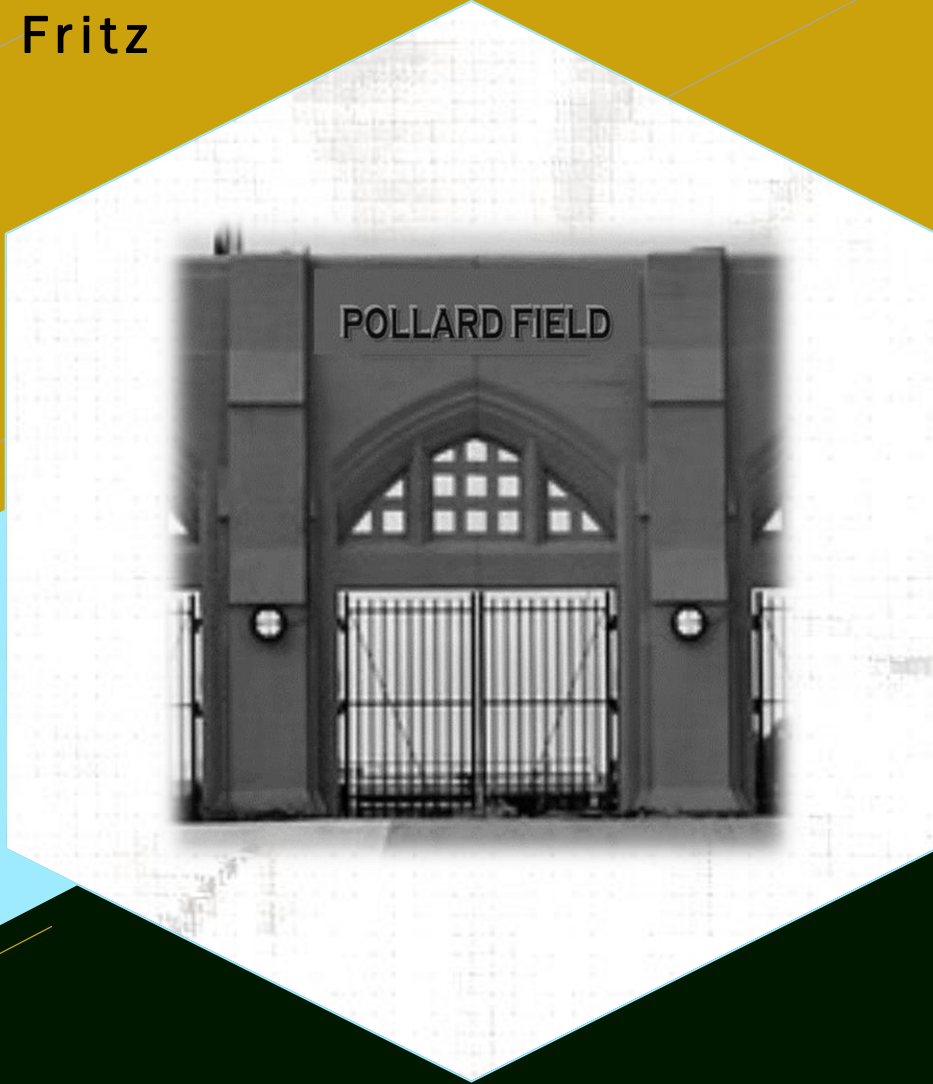
Field Naming & Stadium Signage



Commemorative Plaques

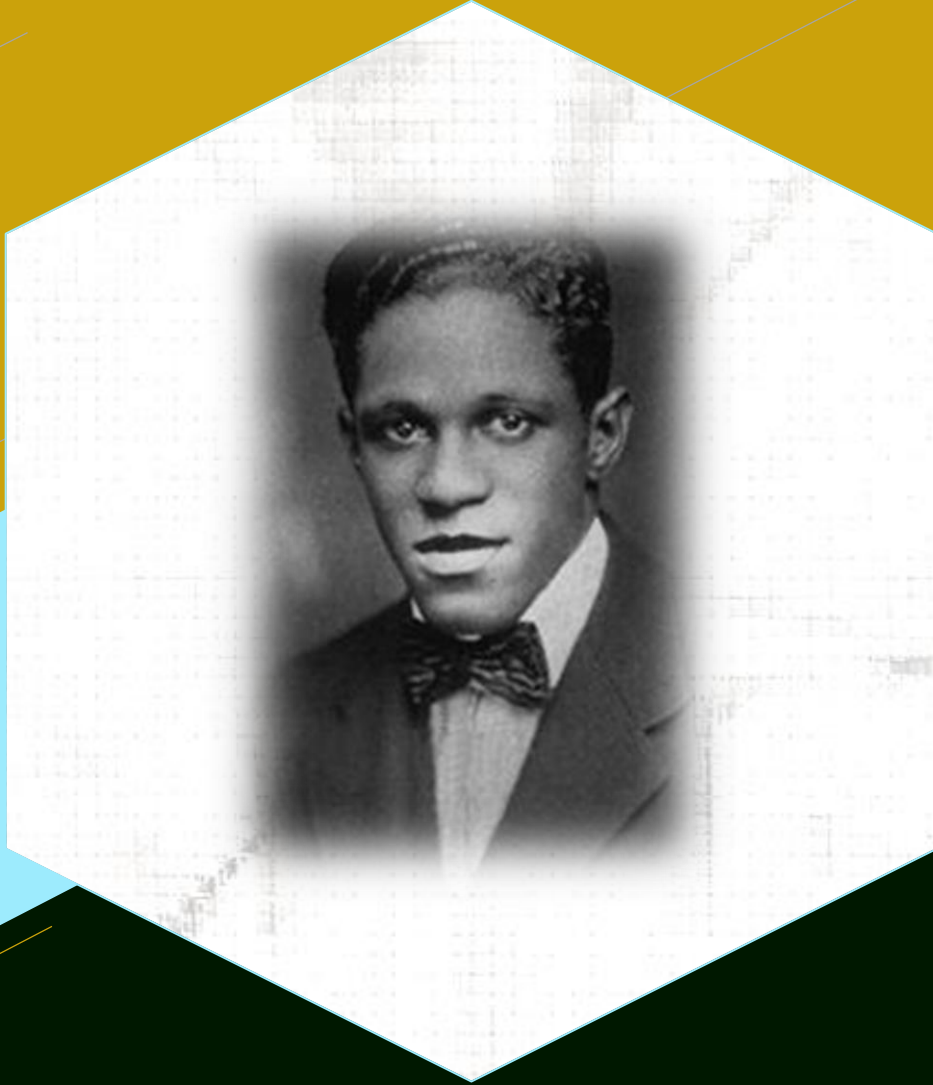
Fritz Pollard

Honoring Fritz



Pollard Field Commitment

- LTAA to coordinate funding, design, fabrication & installation in collaboration with Lane Tech College Prep and CPS
- Project will bring together a range of stakeholders; BIPOC, athletes, historians, football fans/alumni/boosters, social justice advocates, families, teachers and five generations of Lane Tech alumni



Fritz Pollard Class of 1912

We build on foundations we did not lay
We warm ourselves by fires we did not light
We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant
We drink from wells we did not dig
We profit from persons we did not know