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# Washington Redskins Matchcover Sets

by  
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As a lifelong Washington Redskins fan, it was natural for me to collect Redskin covers when I began collecting matchcovers two years ago. What fun it has been. Although I still need ten covers to finish my run of the eight sets, I have really enjoyed this hobby and collecting these sets. Let me share these with you.

The Redskins first set was produced in 1939, consisting of 20 different players and followed by three additional sets for the next three years (1940-1942). In 1951 and 1952, sets were released. The final two sets, "Famous Redskins," were issued in 1959 and 1960. The key cover in each of the sets is "Slingin' Sam Baugh," the legendary Hall of Fame quarterback. He appears in each set except the final 1960 set.

Here's a short description and checklist of the players in the eight sets:

**1939:** Sponsored by Ross Jewelry, produced by Universal Match Corp. Lists home schedule on back. Colors: gold with red lettering. Twenty different players' photos appear on the inside, with signature under photo. Called "Autograph Set" for this reason. Players in set: Barber, Baugh, Bradley, Carroll, Erickson, Farkas, Filchock, Flaherty, Irwin, Justice, Karcher, Krause, Malone, Masterson, Millner, Parks, Pinckert, Slivinski, Stralka, Turner.

**1940:** Sponsored by Ross Jewelry, produced by Universal Match Corp. Lists home schedule on back. Colors: gold with red lettering. Twenty different players' photos appear on the inside, with signature under photo. Also called "Autograph Set." Players in set: Barber, Baugh, Carroll, Edwards, Farkas, Farman, Hoffman, Irwin, Malone, Masterson, Millner, Parks, Pinckert, Russell, Shugart, Slivinski, Stralka, Todd, Young, Zimmerman.

**1941:** Sponsored by Home Laundry, produced by Maryland Match Co. The quality is much better in this "Autograph Set" than the first two. Lists home schedule on back. Colors: dark brown with metallic gold lettering. Same format, 20 players with signatures. Nice set. Players in set: Aldrich, Barber, Baugh, Carroll, Davis, Farman, Farkas, Filchock, Flaherty, Masterson, McChesney, Millner, Moore, Seymour, Shugart, Stralka, Titchenal, Todd, Young, Zimmerman.

**1942:** Sponsored by Home Laundry, produced by Maryland Match Co. My personal favorite. Very colorful. The logo jumps out at you. Colors: gold with deep burgundy lettering. Lists home schedule on back. Same format, 20 players with signatures. The ultimate "Autograph Set." Players in the set: Aldrich, Baugh, Beinor, Carroll, Cifers, Davis, Edwards, Farman, Farkas, Flaherty, Kreuger, Masterson, McChesney, Moore, Seymour, Shugart, Stralka, Todd, Wilkin, Young.

**1951:** Sponsored by Arcade Pontiac, produced by Universal. A very attractive design. Colors: gold and black background, with burgundy, gold, and black lettering. Although inside cover says "one of twenty different players," only 17 exist. According to Bill Hubbard's Sports Matchcover Guide, three plates were destroyed, as confirmed by a representative with Universal. Therefore, the set is considered complete with 17 covers. Players in set: Ball, Baugh, Berrang, Brown, DeMao, Drazenovich, Dudley, Gilmer, Goode, Karras, Lipscomb, Niemi, Peebles, Quirk, Staton, Taylor, Tereshinski.

**1952:** Sponsored by Arcade Pontiac, produced by Universal. Almost identical in appearance to the 1951 "Autograph Set." These two sets are often mistakenly listed as one set. The subtle difference is the gold outline lettering behind "Arcade" is slightly wider on this set. Otherwise, it's the same appearance as the 1951 set. This set is considered complete at 19 covers. Players in set: Ball, Badaczewski, Baugh, DeMao, Dowda, Drazenovich, Gilmer, Heath, Justice, Karras, LeBaron, Lipscomb, Niemi, Papit, Quirk, Ricca, Taylor, Tereshinski, Todd.

**1959:** "Famous Redskins," sponsored by 1st Federal Savings and Loan, produced by Universal. Colors: white and black with burgundy and gold lettering. Twenty different players are featured, and their photos are on the back with Redskin logo and "Famous Redskins." A small bio appears inside the cover. Printed on older gray back coated stock. No schedule. Players in the set: Bagaras, Battles, Baugh, Brito, Castiglia, DeMao, Drazenovich, Dudley, Fiorentino, Irwin, LeBaron, Millner, Moore, Schrader, Smith, Sommer, Tereshinski, Todd, Wilkin, Witucki.

**1960:** "Famous Redskins," also sponsored by 1st Federal Savings & Loan and produced by Universal. Same style and coloring as the 1959 set. The only difference in this set and the previous 1959 set is the paper stock. This set was printed on white, thinner shinekote stock. Players in the set: Anderson, Bossler, Edwards, Guglielmi, Hartman, Hecker, James, Justice, Krause, Lemek, Mont, Olszewski, Paluck, Peebles, Russell, Schrader, Stevens, Sutton, Toneff, Torgeson.

I'm still looking for 1939, Slivinski; 1940, Farkas, Farman, Irwin, Millner; 1941, Davis, Farkas, Farman, Masterson, Moore. Any help would be greatly appreciated. I'd trade or purchase. Thank you and happy collecting.

*Ed. These are really great sets. I think I only have two complete ones and sporadic singles in the others... sigh!*

