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# Milton Won With 'Steelers' in '40

By CHARLEY FEENEY

Post-Gazette Sports Writer

Harry Milton feels he is a part of the Steelers. Without Harry Milton and a handful of Pittsburghers there might not be any Steelers today.

Thirty-five years ago, Milton entered a contest to name the pro football team in Pittsburgh. The team had been known as the Pirates since it started in the National Football League in 1933.

In 1940, Art Rooney, the owner of the team, ran a contest in a newspaper, hoping that some fan with originality would come up with a name for his football team. The football team had been lost in the image of the baseball Pirates.

"I wrote down several names on a piece of paper," Milton said yesterday from his home in Silver Spring, Md. "I

wrote "Coalers — Oilers — Steelers. I wanted the name to be associated with the working people in Pittsburgh."

Milton wasn't the only person to suggest the name Steelers.

"There were six or seven or eight of us," he said. "Art Rooney gave us each two season tickets for the 1940 games at Forbes Field.

Milton, who grew up in Oakland has another vivid memory of 1940.

"My number — 153 — was the first one selected in the Army draft," he said. "I went into the Army as a buck private and came out a first lieutenant."

After the war, Milton moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked in the Foreign Service of the State Department.

He says he has gotten special satis-

faction out of being one of the few who pinned the name Steelers on Art Rooney's team.

"It's like naming a baby," he said. "I've watched the Steelers grow up. I remember the low times and now there are good times. I just can't see the Steelers losing in the Super Bowl."

Milton, now 65, and retired, lives with his wife, Frances, and two children, Marcy and Stephen, in Silver Spring. Another son Jeff, is a lawyer in Washington.

"I guess I'm going to watch the Super Bowl on television," he said. "But I must admit I would love to be in New Orleans for the game. I've always felt that I'm a little part of the Steelers."

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