

bengals and browns history

bengals and browns history is a fascinating tale of rivalry, geographical proximity, and the evolution of two iconic NFL franchises. The Cincinnati Bengals and the Cleveland Browns share a history that spans over five decades, marked by dramatic games, fierce competition, and a passionate fan base on both sides. This article explores the origins of both teams, their significant moments, key players, and the development of their rivalry. By delving into the bengals and browns history, one gains insight into how these teams have shaped the NFL landscape and their communities. From their founding years, through playoff battles, to the present day, the story of the Bengals and Browns is a rich tapestry of football tradition. The following sections will cover the early beginnings, the rise and fall of fortunes, and the ongoing rivalry that continues to captivate fans.

- Origins and Early Years of the Bengals and Browns
- Key Moments and Milestones in Bengals and Browns History
- The Bengals and Browns Rivalry: Development and Impact
- Notable Players and Coaches in Bengals and Browns History
- Recent Developments and Current State of the Rivalry

Origins and Early Years of the Bengals and Browns

The bengals and browns history begins with two distinct origins that reflect the growth of professional football in Ohio. The Cleveland Browns were established in 1946 as part of the All-America Football Conference (AAFC) before joining the NFL in 1950. The team quickly became a dominant force under coach Paul Brown, winning multiple championships in the 1950s. Conversely, the Cincinnati Bengals were founded much later, in 1968, by Paul Brown himself after his departure from the Browns organization. The Bengals joined the American Football League (AFL) before the AFL-NFL merger in 1970, solidifying their position in the NFL's expanding landscape. Understanding these early years is essential to grasping the foundation of their rivalry and the contrasting legacies each franchise carries.

The Cleveland Browns' Foundation and Early Success

The Cleveland Browns were named after their first coach, Paul Brown, who revolutionized the game with innovative coaching techniques and strategies. The Browns dominated the AAFC, winning all four league championships from 1946 to 1949. After joining the NFL, the Browns continued their success by securing three NFL Championships in the 1950s. Their early dominance helped establish Cleveland as a football city and set a high standard for professional football teams in the region.

The Birth of the Cincinnati Bengals

Paul Brown's founding of the Cincinnati Bengals in 1968 was a significant moment in Bengals and Browns history. After being dismissed by the Browns' ownership in 1963, Brown sought to build a new franchise in Cincinnati. The Bengals' entry into the AFL and subsequent inclusion in the NFL after the merger brought professional football back to Cincinnati. The team's early struggles contrasted with the Browns' established success but laid the groundwork for future competitive seasons and the eventual rivalry with Cleveland.

Key Moments and Milestones in Bengals and Browns History

The Bengals and Browns history is punctuated by numerous key moments that have defined both franchises. From playoff appearances to dramatic games and organizational changes, these milestones highlight the trajectory of each team over the decades. Understanding these moments offers a comprehensive view of how both teams have evolved and the factors that have influenced their success and challenges.

Playoff Appearances and Championships

The Cleveland Browns have historically been more successful in terms of championships, particularly in their early years. They have won multiple league titles, including AAFC championships and NFL championships before the Super Bowl era. The Bengals, while not as decorated with championships, have made several playoff appearances and competed in two Super Bowls in the 1980s. These playoff runs have been key highlights in their franchise histories and have contributed to the intensity of the rivalry.

Significant Games Between the Bengals and Browns

Encounters between the Bengals and Browns have often been fiercely contested, with several games standing out as defining moments in bengals and browns history. These matchups have included playoff battles, last-minute victories, and high-scoring affairs that have energized fans and intensified the competition. The games have showcased the talents of key players and have often had playoff implications, further cementing the rivalry's importance in the NFL.

Franchise Relocation and Rebirth of the Browns

One of the most dramatic episodes in bengals and browns history was the relocation of the Cleveland Browns to Baltimore in 1995, where they became the Ravens. This move saddened Cleveland fans but eventually led to the NFL's commitment to re-establish the Browns franchise in 1999. This rebirth created a new chapter in the rivalry, as the Browns sought to regain their former glory and compete once again with the Bengals in the AFC North division.

The Bengals and Browns Rivalry: Development and Impact

The bengals and browns history is deeply intertwined with one of the NFL's most intense rivalries. Rooted in geographical proximity and historical context, the rivalry has been characterized by passionate fan bases, competitive games, and a shared desire for state football supremacy. This section explores how the rivalry developed and its significance within the NFL and Ohio sports culture.

Geographical and Cultural Factors

The rivalry between the Bengals and Browns is significantly influenced by their locations within Ohio, with Cincinnati in the south and Cleveland in the north. This north-south divide has contributed to a natural competition for fans, media attention, and regional pride. Both teams serve as symbols of their respective cities, and games between them often represent more than just football, reflecting broader cultural and community identities.

Impact on Fans and Communities

The bengals and browns history rivalry has galvanized fan engagement and shaped community identities. Both fan bases are known for their loyalty and passion, and rivalry games are among the most anticipated on each team's schedule. The rivalry has also generated economic benefits for the cities involved, with increased attendance, merchandise sales, and media coverage. The emotional investment of fans adds intensity to every meeting on the field.

Memorable Rivalry Moments

Several memorable moments have defined the bengals and browns rivalry over the years, including dramatic comebacks, game-winning plays, and controversial incidents. These moments are often recounted by fans and media alike and contribute to the lore surrounding the matchup. The rivalry's competitive nature ensures that each game has the potential for new memorable events that keep the historic contest alive and compelling.

Notable Players and Coaches in Bengals and Browns History

Integral to the bengals and browns history are the players and coaches who have left lasting legacies on both franchises. Their contributions on and off the field have shaped the teams' identities and success. This section highlights some of the most influential figures who have defined the Bengals and Browns through their exceptional talent, leadership, and dedication.

Legendary Players from the Cleveland Browns

The Browns have been home to numerous legendary players who have made significant impacts, including Jim Brown, widely regarded as one of the greatest running backs in NFL history. Other notable players include Otto Graham, Lou Groza, and Paul Warfield. These athletes helped establish the Browns as an NFL powerhouse and are celebrated for their achievements and contributions to the sport.

Iconic Bengals Players and Coaches

The Bengals have also featured prominent figures, including quarterback Ken Anderson, wide receiver Chad Johnson (Ochocinco), and coach Marvin Lewis. These individuals played key roles in elevating the Bengals' competitive level and building the franchise's reputation. Paul Brown's influence as the

founder and first coach remains a foundational element of the Bengals' identity.

Coaching Legacies and Their Influence

Both teams have been shaped by influential coaches who have left enduring marks on bengals and browns history. Paul Brown's pioneering coaching methods impacted both franchises, while later coaches like Bill Belichick (who briefly coached the Browns) and Marvin Lewis contributed to the teams' tactical evolution. Coaching leadership has been critical in navigating challenges and fostering competitive teams throughout the decades.

Recent Developments and Current State of the Rivalry

The bengals and browns history continues to evolve with recent developments in team performance, management, and player acquisitions. Both franchises have undergone rebuilding phases, aiming to restore competitive status within the NFL and the AFC North division. This section examines the current state of the rivalry and the prospects for future encounters.

Recent Team Performance and Playoff Contention

In recent years, both the Bengals and Browns have shown signs of resurgence, with playoff appearances that rekindled competitive hopes. The Bengals reached the Super Bowl in the early 2020s, showcasing a young, dynamic roster led by quarterback Joe Burrow. Meanwhile, the Browns have improved their competitiveness through strategic drafting and coaching changes, seeking to establish themselves as consistent playoff contenders.

Emerging Players and Strategic Moves

Both teams have invested in emerging talent and made significant roster moves to strengthen their squads. The development of key players like Joe Burrow for the Bengals and Baker Mayfield (until recent seasons) and Nick Chubb for the Browns has been central to their recent successes. Front office strategies continue to focus on building balanced teams capable of sustaining long-term success in a competitive division.

Future Outlook of the Bengals and Browns Rivalry

The future of the bengals and browns history rivalry looks promising as both franchises continue to develop talent and pursue championships. The geographical rivalry remains a fixture of the NFL calendar, with fans eagerly anticipating each matchup. Continued investment in player development, coaching, and infrastructure will play crucial roles in maintaining the rivalry's intensity and significance in years to come.

Summary of Key Points in Bengals and Browns History

- The Cleveland Browns were established in 1946 and quickly became NFL champions in the 1950s.
- The Cincinnati Bengals were founded in 1968 by Paul Brown, joining the NFL after the AFL-NFL merger.
- The rivalry is fueled by geographic proximity and deep-rooted fan loyalty in Ohio.
- Both teams have experienced periods of success, playoff appearances, and notable players shaping their legacies.
- The Browns' relocation in 1995 and subsequent re-establishment in 1999 marked a pivotal moment in the rivalry.
- Recent years have seen both teams improve and reignite competitive matchups in the AFC North.

Frequently Asked Questions

When were the Cincinnati Bengals and Cleveland Browns each established?

The Cleveland Browns were established in 1946, while the Cincinnati Bengals were founded later in 1968.

What is the origin of the rivalry between the

Bengals and Browns?

The rivalry began due to geographic proximity within Ohio and intensified when the Browns rejoined the NFL in 1999, reigniting competition between the two teams.

How have the Bengals and Browns performed historically in their head-to-head matchups?

Historically, the Browns held the edge in early matchups, but since the Bengals' return in 1999, the rivalry has been more balanced with both teams having periods of dominance.

Have the Bengals and Browns ever met in the playoffs?

As of 2024, the Bengals and Browns have not faced each other in an NFL playoff game.

Who are some legendary players associated with the Bengals and Browns' history?

Legendary Browns players include Jim Brown and Otto Graham, while the Bengals have had stars like Ken Anderson and Anthony Muñoz.

How has the Bengals-Browns rivalry impacted Ohio's football culture?

The rivalry has deeply influenced Ohio's football culture by fostering passionate fan bases and intense games that highlight state pride and contribute to the NFL's excitement in the region.

Additional Resources

1. Bengals Dynasty: The Rise of Cincinnati Football

This book chronicles the early years and growth of the Cincinnati Bengals franchise, from their founding in 1968 to their emergence as a competitive team in the NFL. It explores key figures such as Paul Brown and Boomer Esiason, detailing pivotal games and seasons. Readers gain insight into the team's challenges and triumphs through decades of professional football history.

2. Brownie Days: The Legacy of Cleveland's Football Warriors

Focusing on the Cleveland Browns, this book traces the team's storied history from its inception in 1946 through various eras of success and struggle. Highlighting legends like Jim Brown and Otto Graham, it captures the passion and resilience of the Browns' fanbase. The narrative delves into memorable

moments and the team's impact on Cleveland's sports culture.

3. *Rivals on the Gridiron: Bengals vs. Browns Through the Years*

This engaging volume examines the fierce rivalry between the Cincinnati Bengals and Cleveland Browns, one of the NFL's most intense matchups. Through game recaps, player profiles, and fan perspectives, the book illustrates how this rivalry has evolved and fueled both teams. It also discusses the cultural and regional significance of their contests.

4. *Paul Brown: Architect of Modern Football*

A biography and historical account of Paul Brown, the pioneering coach and founder of both the Cleveland Browns and Cincinnati Bengals. The book highlights Brown's innovative coaching techniques and his lasting influence on the game. It offers detailed insights into his leadership style and contributions to professional football's development.

5. *From Dawg Pound to Jungle: The Fans Who Define Cleveland and Cincinnati*

Celebrating the passionate fanbases of the Browns and Bengals, this book explores the culture, traditions, and stories behind the Dawg Pound and the Jungle. It captures how fan loyalty and spirit have shaped the identity of both teams through good times and bad. The author includes interviews and anecdotes from lifelong supporters.

6. *Seasons of Change: The Browns and Bengals in the 21st Century*

Covering the recent history of both franchises, this book analyzes key seasons, coaching changes, and player developments from 2000 onward. It reflects on the challenges faced by the teams and their efforts to rebuild and find success in a competitive NFL landscape. The book also highlights emerging stars and memorable playoff runs.

7. *Gridiron Legends: The Greatest Players of the Bengals and Browns*

This compilation profiles the most iconic players from both franchises, celebrating their careers and contributions on and off the field. It includes detailed statistics, personal stories, and expert commentary on athletes who have left a lasting legacy. Fans will appreciate the comprehensive look at Bengals and Browns football heroes.

8. *The Art of the Draft: How the Bengals and Browns Built Their Teams*

Examining the draft strategies of both teams, this book reveals how front-office decisions have shaped the Bengals and Browns rosters over the years. It discusses successful picks, draft busts, and the impact of scouting and management philosophies. The book offers an inside look at the complexities of building a competitive NFL team.

9. *Game Day in Ohio: The Shared Football Heritage of Bengals and Browns*

This book celebrates the unique football culture in Ohio, spotlighting how the Bengals and Browns coexist within the state's passionate sports environment. It covers tailgating traditions, stadium experiences, and the local media coverage that fuels Ohio's football fervor. Readers gain an appreciation for the deep-rooted football identity that connects both franchises.

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bengals and browns history: Cleveland Browns History Frank M. Henkel, 2005 There was little fanfare when Art Mickey McBride flew into Chicago in 1945 to purchase a professional football team for Cleveland. But that act set in motion a tradition that has brought the city of Cleveland together on Sunday afternoons for (most of) the sixty years to follow. Cleveland Browns History is the story of championship seasons, legendary coaches, and Hall of Fame players. Coach Paul Brown led his teams to seven league title games in their first 17 seasons. Running backs Marion Motley, Jim Brown, and Leroy Kelley each rushed over opposing defenses and straight into Canton, Ohio, along with fellow Browns like Otto Graham, Ozzie Newsome, and Len Ford. The Kardiak Kids in 1980 had too many nail-biters for some fans, but won the AFC Central in typical fashion--by three points in the final game of the season. All these stories, plus those of the many unsung heroes to don the NFL's only logo-less helmet, fill the pages of this book, sure to delight any Cleveland Browns fan.

bengals and browns history: Paul Brown's Ghost Jonathan Knight, 2018-10-02 Paul Brown was a football genius and the father of two NFL franchises—the Cleveland Browns, who carry his name, and the Cincinnati Bengals. Arguably the most important figure in the history of the sport, he was a renowned coach and owner, and when he passed away on August 5, 1991, the game lost a giant. But for the Browns and Bengals, his death would herald a new era of bad luck, poor judgment, and comic folly that soon had fans whispering about a curse. Paul Brown's Ghost explores the mystery surrounding the greatest ghost story in NFL history: why these two once-proud franchises have been perpetually denied good fortune in such dramatic, yet different ways—as if they're being haunted by their mutual patriarch. Jonathan Knight takes readers through a haunted house filled with tales that explain the fraternal—almost biblical—connection between the teams. He examines the colorful characters and memorable moments that both defined and defiled the history of a rivalry that evolved from three decades of bad blood between Brown and Cleveland owner Art Modell. From coaches they shared to draft picks they both lusted after, the Browns and Bengals are connected in ways even their die-hard fans may not realize. Readers will discover the key role the Bengals played in the original Browns' move to Baltimore, how the Browns were instrumental in the Bengals' financially crippling new stadium deal, and how the Bengals actually almost became the new Browns. Through the lens of the enduring legacy of one of football's pioneers, Paul Brown's Ghost is a witty, whimsical look at decades of absurd incompetence set against the offbeat rivalry between football's two most hard-luck teams.

bengals and browns history: Hidden History of Cincinnati Jeff Suess, 2013-09-24 A deep dive into the complex history of the Queen City, Cincinnati, Ohio, from after the American Revolution to today. So many colorful stories are lost to time. The last passenger pigeon on earth, Martha, died in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914. Just outside the city, a young Annie Oakley beat her future husband in a shooting contest. The deadliest maritime disaster in American history was the explosion of the steamboat Sultana, built in the Queen City. The nation's first train robbery occurred in the Cincinnati area, and some clever victims hid jewelry in their hair and bodices. From the Black Brigade's role in protecting the city against Confederate siege to the original 1937 Cincinnati Bengals, author Jeff Suess reveals the triumphs and tribulations of the first major American city founded after the American Revolution.

bengals and browns history: Cleveland Browns A - Z Roger Gordon, 2015-10-27 A must-have book for any Cleveland Browns fan, this updated edition of Cleveland Browns A to Z is compiled alphabetically for easy accessibility. The book offers a complete history of the tradition-filled franchise and includes more than five hundred different items of interest. Imagine yourself in chilly Cleveland, where the frigid winds freeze fans in the stands and frustrate such legendary kickers as Lou Groza and Don Cockroft. Discover the origin behind the country's most rabid followers, who sit in the east end zone's Dawg Pound and bark their support for the team. Revel in a ream of statistics, from Hall of Famers like Jim Brown and Otto Graham to passing yards leaders to the win-loss record for when the team plays in domes. Cleveland Browns A to Z is a handy reference guide of notable information that makes up Browns history, especially regarding statistics. Cleveland Browns A to Z brings you the history of the Browns and will delight those with a penchant for sports trivia with its array of facts and heightened attention to detail. From Abe Abraham to Eric Zeiler, this book has all the information Browns Backers would ever want to know about their team. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Sports Publishing imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in sports—books about baseball, pro football, college football, pro and college basketball, hockey, or soccer, we have a book about your sport or your team. Whether you are a New York Yankees fan or hail from Red Sox nation; whether you are a die-hard Green Bay Packers or Dallas Cowboys fan; whether you root for the Kentucky Wildcats, Louisville Cardinals, UCLA Bruins, or Kansas Jayhawks; whether you route for the Boston Bruins, Toronto Maple Leafs, Montreal Canadiens, or Los Angeles Kings; we have a book for you. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to publishing books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked by other publishers and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

bengals and browns history: History of the NFL First 100 Year's You Sure Started Somethin' R.D. Griffith, 2021-12-16 Are you searching for a book about American Football that has it all? R. D. Griffith will take you on a comprehensive drive through the history and highlights of American Football, its salient details, from its inception at the turn of the century to its centralized embodiment now in the modern era, the NFL. He will share with you the challenges the game faced through the Great Depression and two World Wars, including the spicy anecdotes of the people comprising the great game of American Football throughout the years.

bengals and browns history: Kardiak Kids Jonathan Knight, 2003 In this text, Jonathan Knight paints a portrait of the Cleveland Browns' storybook 1980 NFL season, describing its impact on the city of Cleveland. Taking readers from the year's beginning to its end, the author shows how everybody fell in love with the team.

bengals and browns history: Legends of the Jungle Mark Powell, 2017-03-24 Boomer Esiason still holds the Cincinnati Bengals record for most passing yards in a game and is tied for the most 300-yard passing games. Jim Breech is the team's all-time leading scorer in points and remains a beloved figure more than twenty years after his retirement. Cris Collinsworth led the team in receptions and receiving yards several times in the 1980s and topped the team in receiving touchdowns three times. But these great players and many others aren't in the Bengals Hall of Fame, and it's for a simple reason: It does not exist. That needs to change, according to die-hard fan Mark Powell. By creating its own Hall of Fame or Ring of Honor, the team would be paying tribute to its great players and personalities. But it would need to determine who is eligible and who should be honored first. Get a detailed look at one of the NFL's most interesting franchises, discover its rich history, and decide for yourself who deserves to be among the Legends of the Jungle.

bengals and browns history: 100 Things Browns Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die Zac Jackson, 2019-10-15 Most Browns fans have taken in a game at FirstEnergy Stadium, remember the way they felt when it was announced that Cleveland was getting back the Browns, and are psyched to see Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry lighting up scoreboards together. But only real fans know the exact number of Joe Thomas' consecutive snaps streak, remember who the Browns were playing when Jerome Harrison rushed for 286 yards, or have barked with the Dawg

Pound. Featuring traditions, records, and lore, this lively, detailed book explores the personalities, events, and facts every Cleveland Browns fan should know. Whether you were there for the rise of Bernie Kosar or are a more recent supporter of Baker Mayfield, these are the 100 things every fan needs to know and do in their lifetime. Beat reporter Zac Jackson has collected every essential piece of Browns knowledge and trivia, as well as must-do activities, and ranks them all from 1 to 100, providing an entertaining and easy-to-follow checklist as you progress on your way to fan superstardom.

bengals and browns history: History Lover's Guide to Cincinnati, A Robert Schrage, 2023
A tour of the Queen City's rich heritage One of the oldest cities in the Midwest, Cincinnati has history in its bones. In the 1800s, the city was often styled the Paris of America due in part to ambitious architectural projects like the Music Hall, Cincinnati Hotel, and city hall. Many of these historical structures still exist. The city also has sundry links to American presidents, whose stories can still be seen if you know where to look. Thriving destinations like Over the Rhine and Findlay Market provide glimpses of Cincinnati as it once was and how it is today. Offering something for native and visitor alike, author Robert Schrage leads a trip through the past and present of one of the nation's most historic cities.

bengals and browns history: The NFL, Year One Brad Schultz, 2022-08-05 For many football fans, the National Football League season of 1970 was a landmark year in the history of the game. The NFL and the American Football League finally began playing as a merged league--one that featured such legendary figures as George Blanda, Tom Dempsey, Vince Lombardi, George Allen, Sid Gillman, Lamar Hunt, and Al Davis. The NFL, Year One focuses on several key games throughout this thrilling initial season. One saw the Raiders and Browns play in Cleveland. This contest serves as the backdrop for the story of forty-three-year-old Oakland kicker Blanda, who went on that season to win or tie four consecutive games in the last seconds, becoming a hero to middle-aged American men. Among other notable games that Brad Schultz examines are the Browns-Jets game that marked the debut of Monday Night Football with commentators Keith Jackson, Howard Cosell, and Dandy Don Meredith; the Chiefs-Vikings game that served as a rematch for the Super Bowl IV competitors; and the Colts-Jets game that ultimately set the scene for the 1970 players' strike. Schultz also demonstrates how the season continues to influence the NFL today. Meticulously researched and thoroughly entertaining, The NFL, Year One is a riveting account of one of the most important and compelling seasons in NFL history. Any fan will surely enjoy Schultz's revisiting of the game's amazing 1970 season.

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cast of characters, from Billy Cannon to Joe Namath to its Foolish Club of team owners, arrives on the 50th anniversary of the AFL's first season to recount the startling success of an upstart league that prevailed against long odds.

bengals and browns history: Cincinnati Bengals Luke Hanlon, 2025-08-01 This title introduces football fans to the history of the Cincinnati Bengals franchise. The book features exciting photos, informative sidebars, a timeline, a map of NFL teams, a glossary, and an index. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Abdo & Daughters is an imprint of Abdo Publishing, a division of ABDO.

bengals and browns history: National Football League Franchises Frank P. Jozsa Jr., 2016-07-29 The National Football League (NFL) is the most influential, popular, and prosperous professional sports league in America. As such this book focuses on the development and maturity of the organization and its members, but most importantly, how each of them performed in seasons and postseasons and then to what extent they have succeeded as a business enterprise despite competition for market share from other types of entertainment. Each chapter contains two core themes as sections—Team Performances and Franchise Business. The former highlights which and how teams won division and conference titles and championships like Super Bowls while the latter lists and compares financial data including their revenue, gate receipts, and operating income. By linking and comparing the historical performances of NFL teams to financial information about them as business organizations, this book provides a unique contribution to the literature on the sports industry. This book connects franchise popularity and all-time records with recent estimated market value, net worth, and other financial data. In sum, National Football League Franchises explains why particular teams located in large, midsized, or small markets win more games and titles than others. In addition, it provides ways to individually, and by division and/or conference, to compare teams from a financial perspective.

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bengals and browns history: The NFL's Official Encyclopedic History of Professional Football National Football League Properties, inc. Creative Services Division, 1977

bengals and browns history: Montana Keith Dunnavant, 2024-06-04 A carefully researched and fluidly written biography of one of the NFL's greatest quarterbacks (Booklist). Montana is one of the best sports books I've ever read. —Pat Williams, founder of the Orlando Magic In Montana, acclaimed author Keith Dunnavant sketches the definitive portrait of a man who repeatedly defied the odds, on and off the field. While leading the San Francisco 49ers to four Super Bowl championships over a nine-year period, establishing a new standard for passing efficiency, and twice earning the league's Most Valuable Player award, Montana became the signature quarterback of the

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