

Minnesota Vikings (2-0) 26, Green Bay Packers (1-1) 13 Sunday September 22nd 1968 (at Milwaukee)



Vikings Rap Packers, Take Undisputed Division Lead

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(MILWAUKEE) - Forrest Gregg, the Packers' peerless offensive tackle, shook his head in solemn disbelief. "I don't know how many penalties we had," he said, "but we had enough to last us a season." It may have been a slight exaggeration, pardonable under the unhappy circumstances, but the world champions had been charged with eight infractions - at a total cost of 90 yards - here Sunday afternoon. These misadventures and a swash-buckling band of Minnesota Vikings combined to scuttle the world champions, 26-13, victims of their consistently obstreperous rivals. In the process the unbeaten invaders, staked to an early 16-0 lead by two Bill Brown touchdowns and a safety, forged into undisputed possession of the NFL's Central Division lead with a 2-0 record. They simultaneously spilled the Packers into a second place tie with the suddenly renascent Detroit Lions, resounding 42-0 conquerors of the Chicago Bears, who will be the Pack's Green Bay guests next Sunday. The Norsemen obviously have come of age, a development Gregg duly noted in his post-game analysis. "Minnesota is a fine football team," he declared. "You can't make as many mistakes as we did and expect to win." Yet the Packers might have salvaged victory despite the errors on this warm (75 degrees), humid afternoon, which found another sellout crowd of 49,346 customers bulging County Stadium.

AWARDED FIRST

They might have, that is, with a favorable decision on a critical fourth down play in the third quarter. With the ball on their own and two inches to go, the Vikings elected to gamble on a quarterback sneak by Joe

PACKERS vs. VIKINGS
FIFTY CENTS / MILWAUKEE COUNTY STADIUM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1968 / 1:00 P.M.

Kapp. Though he appeared to be smothered short of the line of scrimmage by the charge of Ray Nitschke and LeeRoy Caffey, the Minnesotans were awarded a first down following an official measurement. Heartened by their success, the Vikings moved from there to a touchdown, recorded by sophomore halfback Clint Jones with a four-yard sweep of the Packers' right flank, and a formidable 23-6 lead. The decision could not have been less opportune. It came just after the champions had flown 66 yards in 10 plays with the second half kickoff to their first touchdown, a 10-yard "free lance" ramble by quarterback Bart Starr after he found his receivers covered. Although Jerry Kramer's extra point attempt ricocheted off the right upright, the Packers thus had chopped the Vikings' lead to 16-6 and were in a position to overtake their guests with nearly 25 minutes remaining.

STARR INTERCEPTED

Now the Bays were forced into the air and the Vikings Earsell Mackbee waylaid a Starr pass and returned it to the Green Bay nine yard line, an opportunity which Bud Grant's athletes shortly converted into a 29-yard Fred Cox field goal and a 26-6 advantage. The Packers still might have been able to save the situation at this point. Taking the subsequent kickoff, they drove to the Minnesota 25 but, with third-and-one, Travis Williams twice was thwarted by the Vikings' tightfisted defense. Sweeping left on the first attempt, the Road Runner was shackled by cornerback Ed Sharockman and assorted colleagues. Then, on fourth down, he swept right and was felled at the line of

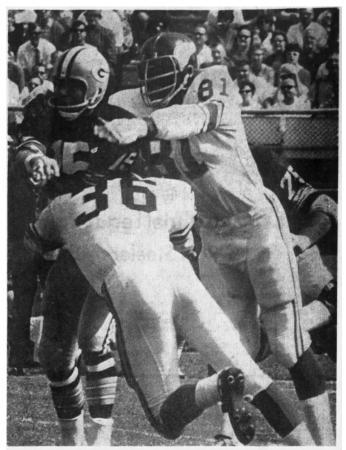
scrimmage by linebacker Lonnie Warwick. The home forces ultimately scored again, Starr climaxing a 7-play, 56-yard push with a 7-yard pass to flanker Carroll Dale, but only 4:24 remained and the day belonged to the Vikings.

ROBINSON INTERCEPTS

A hint of what lav ahead had come in the opening minutes when the visitors took the opening kickoff and barged to the Green Bay 6, with the aid of a 23-yard Kapp pass to Gene Washington. But linebacker Dave Robinson temporarily averted embarrassment, picking off a deflection (by Nitschke) in the end zone to guash the threat. The Packers then mounted a drive of their own, which foundered when Boyd Dowler was charged with offensive interference and Paul Krause intercepted a Starr pass, returning it two yards to the Green Bay 34. Aided by a defensive holding levy, the Vikings punched it home in 10 plays, the last a one-yard lunge over right guard by Brown. Penalties also loomed large in the Packers' second guarter tribulations.

PENALTY HALTS DRIVE

They appeared en route to retaliation early in that period after marching from their own 32 to the Viking 35, but a holding assessment shoved them back to their own 43 and they were forced to punt two plays later. The Minnesotans then guickly doubled their total, sweeping 74 yards in 8 plays, including a 35-yard Kapp-to-Washington collaboration which carried them to the Packer 27. Brown again applied the finishing touch, this time bursting over left tackle and into the end zone from 10 yards out. Another penalty compounded an already difficult situation following the next kickoff. With the ball at Green Bay's 26 following a 24-yard runback by Williams, Starr completed a flare pass to Jim Grabowski but the Packers were penalized back to their 11 for offensive interference.



Packer quarterback Bart Starr a bad time Packers, 26-13, in Milwaukee. (Post-Cres-Sunday. Here, Carl Eller (81) and John cent News Service Photo) Kirby (36) put the pressure on Starr dur-

Minnesota's Charging Defense gave ing a pass play. The Vikings beat the

TACKLED FOR SAFETY

On the next play, Starr retreated into the end zone to pass and, just as he appeared on the verge of eluding trouble, was felled for a safety by the Vikings' right end, Jim Marshall. The Vikes again threatened after rookie Bobby Bryant returned Donny Anderson's free kick to the Minnesota 43, but they had to settle for a 49-yard Cox field goal attempt which veered to the left of the uprights. The Packers appeared bent upon reversing the situation when they set sail from their 34 at the start of the third guarter, following a 26-yard kickoff runback by Herb Adderley. Starr's third-and-2 pass found Dowler for 18 yards and a Packer band trumpet began to sound the charge, echoed with relish by the partisan house. Williams hit for three and Starr passed to Dale for 8 more and another first down at the Minnesota 20, after which Travis swept left end to the 11. Elijah Pitts then added a yard to the 10 and it was first and goal. Back to pass, Bart found his receivers under vigilant scrutiny and, pressured, circled back to his right and the middle of the field. Sprung by a Gregg block, he suddenly cut back sharply to his left, and picking up another block from Williams, cantered into the end zone at 5:42 of the period. Then came the fateful "two inch" decision.

MINNESOTA -	7	9 10	0	-	26
GREEN BAY -	0	0 6	7	-	13

	MINNESOTA	GREEN BAY
First downs	20	18
Rush-yards-TDs	39-124-3	27-105-1
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	9-15-138-0-1	14-22-148-1-2
Sacked-yards	2-20	1-11
Net pass yards	118	137
Total yards	242	242
Fumbles-lost	0-0	3-0
Turnovers	1	2
Penalties-yards	4-28	8-90

SCORING

1st - MINN - Bill Brown, 1-yard run (Fred Cox kick) MINNESOTA 7-0

2nd - MINN - Brown, 10-yard run (Cox kick) MINNESOTA 14-0

2nd - MINN - Safety, Jim Marshall tackled Bart Starr in the end zone MINN 16-0

3rd - GB - Starr, 10-yard run (Kick failed) MINNESOTA 16-6



Swarm of Packers stops Kapp standing up . . . for two inch gain (???)

3rd - MINN - Clint Jones, 4-yard run (Cox kick) MINNESOTA 23-6

3rd - MINN - Cox, 29-yard field goal MINNESOTA 26-6

4th - GB - Dale, 7-yard pass from Starr (Kramer kick) MINNESOTA 26-13

RUSHING

GREEN BAY - Donny Anderson 9-37, Jim Grabowski 6-30, Elijah Pitts 5-15, Travis Williams 5-13, Bart Starr 2-10 1 TD

MINNESOTA - Bill Brown 17-74 2 TD, Jim Lindsey 11-33, Joe Kapp 4-11, Clint Jones 7-6 1 TD

PASSING

GREEN BAY - Bart Starr 22-14-148 1 TD 2 INT

MINNESOTA - Joe Kapp 15-9-138 1 INT

RECEIVING

GREEN BAY - Carroll Dale 5-48 1 TD, Boyd Dowler 3-41, Donny Anderson 3-24, Marv Fleming 1-18, Travis Williams 1-9, Elijah Pitts 1-8

MINNESOTA - Gene Washington 3-67, Tom Hall 2-27, Bill Martin 2-23, Bill Brown 1-15, Jim Lindsey 1-6

CRUCIAL FOURTH DOWN 'DELICATE SITUATION:' PHIL

SEPT 23 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Phil Bengtson termed it a "delicate situation." He had reference, of course, to the officials' placement of the ball after Minnesota Joe Kapp was apparently stopped on the crucial fourth-and-one inch play from the Viking 27 midway in the third quarter of Sunday's 26-13 Packer defeat in County Stadium here. "He was stopped standing up, wasn't he?" the plainly dejected but gracious Packer coach asked when it was all over. Finding nodding agreement from the cluster of sportswriters gathered around him, the Bay strategist continued, "Then it's just where he puts the ball down there." Speaking eloquently with his hands as well, Bengtson held them about a football length apart and moved them up and down to indicate dropping the ball straight down from where Kapp had been hugging it. "A very delicate situation," he repeated... TURNING POINT: Not only delicate, but perhaps the turning point of the game, it was suggested, considering the Packers came out for the second half with their adrenalin boiling. They had taken the opening kickoff and roared straight downfield for a touchdown. And the defense, in turn, set up that fourth down situation, in which Viking Coach Bud Grant boldly gave the go ahead signal. If the Vikes had failed (and the vast majority of the admittedly partisan crowd of 49,346 thought they did), the Packers were in position to turn the situation into a new game. But the officials ruled Kapp did make it, by a pinch, and Minnesota moved from there to a touchdown that all but clinched the game. "Yes, I was a little surprised they decided to

go for it," the grim Bengtson acknowledged. "It could have given us a shot in the arm...instead it took all the steam out of us and they used up a lot of time going down to score," he added...'I COULDN'T TELL': As to the officials' decision on the placement of the ball, Bengtson without hesitation declared, "I couldn't tell. But it looked to me like he stood up straight and we got to him." But there were other aspects to the crushing defeat, notably nine penalties for 90 yards and Bengtson was quick to note "We had a lot of opportunities broken up by penalties and their defense was helped by our penalties. We couldn't see them but they apparently were there." Then, in almost a whisper, he declared. "There were a lot of things we didn't understand about this game." Terming the entire day "very rough", the headmaster slumped a little further back on his chair and offered the expected and probably deserved praise to the Vikings. "They played very well. They took advantage of everything we did wrong," he began. "Kapp (Joe) did a great job getting out of trouble and getting the ball away...I mean getting it to the receiver. Their guarterbacking certainly has improved and that Washington is a helluva end."...Question: Why did you go for the long kickoff instead of an onside kick after the Packers' last touchdown? Bengtson: "We thought it was a little early for it (4:24 remained in the game). And they were stacked up for it. We thought it would be better to kick it through and hope for a fumble. We did cover the kick well."...Question: Why did you go to Elijah Pitts and Travis Williams as the running backs in the second half? Bengtson: "We just thought there would be some advantage in getting some fresh backs in there and they were available."... Ron Kostelnik suffered what was considered a minor knee hurt and Bob Jeter was hit by a cramp in his leg. Bengtson said of the two Packers injured in the game.

KAPP 'NEVER MOVED FORWARD:' NITSCHKE

SEPT 23 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – One pivotal play, a familiar "judgment call," is certain to trigger some impassioned oratory in Packerland coffee shops this week. It was, of course, Minnesota quarterback Joe Kapp's fourth down, two-inch sneak - at his own 26-yard-line - in the third quarter of Sunday's 26-13 Viking victory over the Packers here. With the Packers then in arrears by only 16-6, it was ruled a first down, eliciting highly vocal disapproval from a largely partisan house of 49,346, convinced that Kapp had been throttled by the Packer defense. The world champions make it a policy never to criticize officiating, but three members of that platoon admitted they share this sentiment when asked to comment on the play... FIRST TO HIT: "We don't think he made it." said middle linebacker Ray Nitschke, who was the first to hit Kapp. "It seemed like he stood up before he moved," Nitschke explained. "He never did move forward - he was going to pick his hole - and the defense hit him while he was standing up." Officially philosophical about the matter, Ray noted, "It was one of those judgment calls. It's a tough call any time." Capt. Willie Davis, perhaps more unhappy about the overall performance than the decision, shook his head and said, "I couldn't understand for the life of me how he marked the ball on that

-Press-Gazette Photo Frustrated Bengtson

play that was a real big play, too." Nitschke's fellow linebacker, LeeRoy Caffey, was of the same persuasion. "There's no way he (Kapp) penetrated," said Caffey, who reported, "Ray had him straight on and I came in from an angle and got him by the back of the shirt." He shrugged his shoulders and added, "That's all water under the bridge now, though. They just beat us. It's as simple as that. "That wasn't," Caffey dryly concluded, "the only play of the game."

A DAY NOT ONLY TO FORGET BUT TO GIVE BACK

SEPT 23 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – What sort of day was it? It was the sort of day you'd like to not only forget but also give back. It was the sort of day that sees an extra point attempt hit the post and bounce back. It was the sort of day that makes Don Riley ecstatic. It was the sort of day on which Willie Wood catches a line drive punt with a chance for a good runback but slips and falls on a loose spot of turf as he cuts. It was the sort of day that was more like midnight...black. It was the sort of day on which Travis Williams carries twice trying one yard for a first down and fails both times. It was the sort of day that made even Bud Grant, who is about as excitable as the Statue of Liberty, grin and gesture a few times on the sideline, It was the sort of day that saw the County Stadium fan-ogram spell out "Packers Salute Wonderful Wisconsin Week...We Like it Here" just as Bart Starr was being tackled for a safety. It was the sort of day in which the Packers had the ball for only 10:26 of the entire first half. It was the sort of day on which the Lions belted the Bears, 42-0. It was the sort of day on which the officials dealt out penalties to the Packers like they were parking tickets. It was the sort of day on which both the Packers and Vikings totaled exactly 242 yards and yet the Packers were whomped and stomped and saved some pride only because somehow the score finished reasonably close. And it was a day on which one inch...maybe two...might have made the difference in the game...You could feel something as the Packers came out of the dugout for the second half. The cheer, the roar of the crowd built up to a tremendously encouraging volume. And then Adderley raced back the kickoff in nifty fashion to the 34 and the Packers began to move. The fire was building in them. You could see it. You could feel it. Starr came up with a great third-and-four call from the Packer 49, sending the whole flow right and rolling left to hit Dowler for the first, And moments later, Starr halfbacked it into the end zone. Okay, Kramer's kick hit the post but the Pack had come back. Now it was the defense's turn. And 'Nitschke and Co. had the same charge. Third and two and Brown was stopped short on his own 27. Only an inch short...but short. But the Vikes tried for it.

The Packers bunched in the line, seven 'men across and pinching tight, Kapp kept the ball, took one step ... partly sideways, perhaps partly ahead, but seemingly not far enough ahead to even tickle his own linemen. The Packer line mushroomed up like a regiment of tanks breaking over the horizon. Kapp was stopped and shoved back standing up. The fans howled in glee. Only the official put the ball down ... an inch into a first down. And the fans, stunned, booed. The psychology would have made a master's thesis subject. Now the Vikes recovered their touch of vitamins. The Packers lost theirs. One inch...and the Packers were in perfect position to turn the whole affair into a new game. Instant replay? Forget it, the films were made from an angle. One inch...oh, maybe two. It was that sort of day.

BURNS STILL LIKES PACK

SEPT 23 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Without hesitation, Jerry Burns said he would still take the Packers if he had to pick one team that is most likely to go all the way to the world professional football championship. The former Packer defensive coach who took charge of the Minnesota

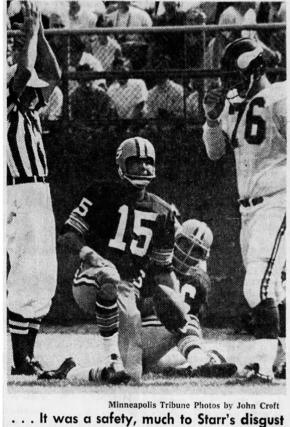
Viking offensive backs this year was speaking in the wake of the Vikes' 26-13 thumping of the Packers here Sunday. But, he insisted, he would stand on the statement made last week. "I won't change my mind. How can I? They still have a great team, running, Starr and receiving," he said of the Packers. But the onetime lowa coach admitted that the victory Sunday was particularly satisfying. "They're all big ones to win," he said in obvious delight, "but it has to be particularly big when you beat these guys." Burns said he did have some mixed emotions, however, explaining, "I said hello to Mrs. Bengtson before. And there sure is no finer guy in the world than Phil Bengtson. I don't like to see him lose...unless he's plaving us."

'IT'S DIFFICULT WHEN IT'S SECOND-AND-25.' STARR REFLECTS

SEPT 23 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Few athletes are more dedicated than Bart Starr But the Packers' veteran field general is not without a sense of humor, even in an unpleasant situation. Such, for example, as a necessarily painful analysis of Sunday's 26-13 reversal at Minnesota hands in County Stadium. Succinctly summing up what had transpired, Starr said, "We were making mistakes and had to scramble for long yardage." "It's difficult when it's second-and-25," he continued, adding wryly, "you don't have any plays designed for that." Starr, tackled in the end zone for a second guarter safety which padded the Vikings' lead to 16-0, explained, "I was trying to hit Donny Anderson on the play. I couldn't find him and I didn't realize I was that close to the end zone." "I should have unloaded the ball. What's a penalty for intentional grounding in that situation?" Commenting on Earsell Mackbee's interception, which led to the Vikings' final points (a 29-yard Fred Cox field goal), Bart informed, "I just underthrew the ball. I just didn't lead Boyd (Dowler) right. He was wide open." On a happier subject, his 10-yard run for the Packers' first



Vikings' Jim Marshall smacked Bart Starr down in end zone . . .



touchdown in the third period, Starn said, "I was hoping to hit either Boyd or Travis (Williams) but they both were covered. Had the Vikings sprung anything different defensively? "They just played real well," Starr replied. "That's why I think you have to give them some credit. They played real well." Williams, whose block cleared the final Viking on Starr's TD maneuver, reported, "I got bumped on the line of scrimmage and I just continued running my pattern. I could see Bart scrambling back there so I came back toward him, thinking he might throw to me." "Then I saw he was going to run, so I blocked the safety man or halfback - I'm not sure which it was." Carroll Dale, who registered the Pack's other touchdown on a 7-yard pass from Starr, said, "It was a Dooley (after the Bears' Jim) or pivot-out pattern." "You don't know what you're going to run when you're down deep like that," he added by way of explanation, "until you run it."...Jerry Kramer minced no words about his errant extra point attempt in the third quarter. "I just missed it," he said. "Nobody touched it...It was just carelessness. Dave Robinson wasn't sure who tipped the ball he intercepted in the first quarter to short circuit the Vikings' first threat." "I think it was Ray (Nitschke)," he said, "but I don't know. I just played the ball. After I caught it, I was going to turn around and see if it was worth bringing out and I ran into somebody (Viking flanker Tom Hall). "That," he ruefully appended, "is the last thing I remember of

the play." Willie Davis, the Pack's long-time defensive captain, was manifestly unhappy with the afternoon's performance. "I don't know why we made so many mistakes," he said in brooding wonder. "We've never done it before." "It gave them a lot of life and put us in the hole a lot! "I know we're a better football team than that and I'm sure we're going to come out and prove it."*

GRANT WANTED TO TAKE MOMENTUM AWAY

SEPT 23 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Fortified with an intoxicating 26-13 victory over the world champion Green Bay Packers, Minnesota coach Bud Grant was the picture of decisiveness Sunday afternoon at Milwaukee County Stadium. "Of course I made the decision; that's what I'm getting paid for," the second-year Viking headmaster cooly replied when asked from whence came the go ahead for a third-quarter gamble which propelled his Vikings to their second-round NFL victory. The play, a fourth-and-inches nailbiter at the Minnesota 26, saw guarterback Joe Kapp sneak for a disputed first down, and from there the Vikings marched 73 yards to pad a slightly precarious 16-6 advantage into a comfortable 23-6 lead. "It was just an occasion where we felt we had to take the momentum away from Green Bay," Grant



The Packers' Bart Starr (15) spots daylight and starts dirid-period touchdown run against Minnesota Suninclude Carl Eller (81), Jim Marshall (70), and Alan a third-period touchdown run against Minnesota Sun-day in Milwaukee. Packer linemen include Forrest Gregg (77), Ken Bowman (57), Bob Skoronski (76) and

said in explaining his decision not to punt and give up the ball. Kapp, a key figure in the Vikings' guick start in the Central Division race, had no apprehensions about the risk. "I was all for it," the lanky former Canadian Leaguer said, "and when the o.k. came, I said. 'Great, let 'er rip." The attempt almost failed but Kapp was certain it was good, "Sure, I made it." he said. "I thought I had made it easier than the officials acted." A winner in two of his three starts against the Packers since coming to the Vikings last season, Kapp doesn't claim to be a budding jinx on Green Bay but confided, "it's nice to beat the Packers, of course they're the champs." Examining the Vikings' early success, Grant commented, "we've got more to work with this year and our defense is improved. Defense - That's the name of the game." Always at their best against Green Bay, the Vikings held the vaunted Packer ground game to 22 yards en route to a 16-0 halftime lead. Two of their first-half points came on a safety when ex-defensive end Jim Marshall wrestled Starr to the ground late in the second quarter. "Page, (defensive tackle Alan) forced him out of the pocket and into me," Marshall said. "I was just lucky enough to be where I was." The safety, which gave the Vikings' their 16-0 halfway bulge, came when Starr faded back from his own 11 and was nailed by Marshall a foot behind the goal line. A hulking 260-pound veteran from Ohio State, Marshall and second-year halfback Clint Jones were particularly elated with their upset effort. "I'm very, very happy," Marshall smiled. "I know there are still 12 games to go, but they're picking us for last you know."

FILMS SHOW PACKERS' PLAY NOT THAT BAD: BENGTSON

SEPT 24 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Phil Bengtson made a somewhat heartening discovery in the Packers' projection room Monday afternoon. It will not, of course, affect the result of Sunday's 26-13 loss to Minnesota's highly representative Vikings, but makes the world champions' first defeat more palatable. "It was a little better, really, than I thought it was," Bengtson confided after a painstaking review of the game film. "Outside of the penalties and a couple of other errors, we played some pretty good football." The Packer chieftain simultaneously conceded, "It wasn't sharp, that's for sure...but it wasn't as bad as I thought it was." "We had some pretty good execution on some plays. If you tack on the gains we lost to the 90 yards in penalties, you'd probably have another 90. It was just more than we could handle." 'A similar thing happened on defense," Phil pointed out. "We'd have a penalty that would keep their drive going." "So often those offensive penalties would come on first or second down, which practically ruins the series." Phil lamented. "If they'd come on third down, you'd just punt and wait for another chance." What, he was asked, had figured in the first interception which keyed the Vikings' opening touchdown?...VIEW BLOCKED: "It was a combination of somebody blocking Bart Starr's view and the fact that he threw it (it was intended for Boyd Dowler) anticipating a certain pattern and there was an adjustment in the pattern," Bengtson explained. And the controversial "2-inch," fourth down decision in the third guarter? "You couldn't tell," Phil said. "It was really inconclusive. You can't tell when the whistle blew." At the time the play occurred in County Stadium, Viking quarterback Joe Kapp appeared to be shackled short of the line of scrimmage, the Minnesota 26-yard-line. He was, however, awarded a first down. The ruling produced some devastating consequences for the Packers. It not only deprived them of a glittering opportunity but inspired the Vikings, who drove from there to a third touchdown and a large 23-6 lead. The Packers had been considerably less fortunate in comparable early fourth quarter situation, which saw Travis Williams stopped short on successive third-and-1 and fourth-and-1 plays. Did he attribute this, Bengtson was asked, to great defense by the Vikings? "I guess you'd have to say it that way," was the forthright reply. Commenting on a happier subject, Bengtson termed Starr's impromptu 10-yard ramble for the Packers' first touchdown "well done." The champions' field leader was in the process of studying the Pack's next foe, the Detroit Lions, on film at this point and he was impressed. Watching the Lions smother the Chicago Bears, 42-0, Phil said solemnly, "They look very good...Munson (guarterback Bill) looks real sharp." "We saw the film of the



San Diego at Cincinnati

Dallas game, too (a 59-13 Cowboy blitz of Detroit) and Landry (rookie quarterback Greg) looked pretty good in that one." Bengtson said he was particularly impressed by "the speed of Farr (fullback Mel) and McCullouch (rookie flanker Earl) and the throwing of Munson." Acknowledging that another rugged afternoon looms ahead, he wryly appended. "I don't think we're going to get any easy ones all season."

NEWS AND NOTIONS

SEPT 24 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - The Packers' rating in the "Super Bowl Index" dropped Sunday afternoon. Green Bay's sub-par performance against Minnesota inspired a sell-off of Packer Super Bowl stock in some quarters. But, the less impetuous - those who know that an occasional "flat" game is unavoidable, even for the Packers, and those who prefer long-run bluechippers to short-gun glamor issues - are holding firm. If a Super Bowl Index were to measure teams' chances of reaching the January classic in Miami-based on their showing to date as well as future potential – Dallas would not be tops for the NFL. I rate the Cowboys at 95 (based on a maximum of 100). Next would come the Rams, at 90. Tied for third, on my index, are the Colts, the Vikings and the Packers, at 85. Baltimore is unbeaten, it's true, but its opposition hasn't been the best - and John Unitas' lengthy rest raises all sorts of questions. The Vikings are off to a great start but they will have to pass a few more tests before they can be rated alongside the Cowboys and the Rams. The Packers, of course, can't be dropped out of the top echelon on the basis of one game. In AFL ratings, Oakland stands alone at 95. The Jets and the Chargers would appear the next best bets (at 85) to reach the Super Bowl...It's a continuing mystery why the Packers have so much trouble with the Vikings. Against the recognized league powers, the Bays have an enviable record. For example, they've won four straight regular-season or playoff games from Dallas, five of the last six from the Colts and three out of the last four from the Rams. Yet, Green Bay has lost four of its last five starts against the Vikings, in Wisconsin. (The wonder of it all is that the Packers have swept seven straight from the Vikings at Minnesota). In any sport, some teams are habitually troublesome for others because of the particular style of ball they play - and this seems to be the case in the Viking-Packer series. Or, it could be that the Vikings consciously, or sub-consciously, play harder against the Bays than against any other team. Jim Marshall, who had guite a day against Green Bay Sunday, says "It's a challenge to play the Packers. You react well to top competition...it makes you work harder." Many fans are particularly concerned about Sunday's loss because it was the first of the four Viking wins over the Packers that was decisive - Minnesota had the edge in almost every department. The Vikings' other wins were by 24-23, 20-17, and 10-7 margins. The Packers played lackluster ball at times, and their flatness was in sharp contrast to Minnesota's fiery play. It's true, of course, that the long string of penalties slapped on the Packers usually in critical situations – were enough to frustrate any team. But, the Packers have been a team second to none in their ability to overcome adversity. There have been many games in which the Bays shrugged off a second-and-35 burden in one nifty thrust. But Sunday was not one of those days - because they didn't seem to believe in themselves, for, as Bart Starr said afterward. "You don't have any plays designed for that (second and 25)." The Vikings, on the other hand, showed supreme confidence, as best exemplified by the fourth-down gamble on their own 26-vard line. Probably no other team in football would have attempted such a play with only a 10-point lead so early in the second half. But Joe Kapp and company got away with it. The debate will rage long on whether the call was wise and especially on whether the officials' decision was accurate. The spotting of the ball was rather sloppily down - as is becoming increasingly true in NFL officiating and serves to taint somewhat an otherwise rip-snorting Viking performance. It appeared at the time that Kapp was stopped completely cold - for a slight loss, if anything. That impression was reinforced by Channel 2's stop action film Monday night. But the referee's decision is final - and the first down will stand forevermore.

EVEN DETROIT WONDERS WHICH LIONS WILL SHOW UP AGAINST PACK SUNDAY

SEPT 25 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – What, the man was asked, came over the Lions? "We haven't figured it out yet," was the reply, "but when we do, we're going to bottle it." The speaker, via long distance, was Elliott Trumbull, the Lions' assistant public relations director, and the reference, as may have been divined, was to Detroit's 42-0 demolition of the Chicago Bears Sunday. That had to be the most startling development of a surprising weekend that included the New Orleans' Saints resounding upset of the Washington Redskins, coming as it did in the wake

of Detroit's 59-13 humiliation at the Cowboys' hands in Dallas a week earlier...MUNSON TURNABOUT FELT: "We are waiting to find

out," Trumbull quipped, "which are the real Detroit Lions. Somewhere in between, I suppose. We don't know how far." The Packers will have an opportunity to determine the merits of this matter for themselves, of course, in Lambeau Field Sunday afternoon when they meet their fellow tenants of second place in the NFL's Central Division. As always is the case, more than one factor entered into the Motor City operatives, titanic turnabout. But the most important single element, Trumbull suggested, was the return to action of quarterback Bill Munson, sidelined by injuries for the Dallas game. "Munson's being in there made a tremendous difference, with all due respect to Greg Landry (the Lions' rookie signal caller)...He had a great day - completed 16 of 23. passed for three touchdowns and scored one himself....SWITCH DEFENSIVE ENDS: "Bill is a quiet guy off the field," Trumbull added in explanation, "but he takes over on the field and the boys respect him. "We also forced the breaks we intercepted eight passes - and got the momentum...The strangest part of it, probably, is that it didn't figure because of our injuries. "Mike Lucci, our regular linebacker, was out and we exchanged our defensive ends around because Larry Hand is out for the season. Joe



DONNY ANDERSON, the bonus baby of the Green Bay Packers, appears to have four arms if you can believe this picture. Actually, only two of the arms are Anderson's. The

tackled Anderson from behind at Milwaukee County Stadium Sunday. The Vikings won the game, 26-13, and lead the Cenral Division with a 2-0 record. (AP Wirephoto)

Robb, our left end, moved over to the right side and John Baker, whom we acquired from Pittsburgh and who had been sidelined with a broken arm, took over at left end and he did very well. Bill Swain, the linebacker we got from the Giants in the off season, moved in there for Lucci and he intercepted a pass and ran it back 50 yards for a touchdown. It was just our day - everything went right." Trumbull added, "The fans (Detroit's are notoriously fickle) gave Munson a standing ovation when he left the game in the fourth guarter. "Landry replaced him and took the team 80 yards for a touchdown, so we could do no wrong."...PACKER PATTER: Lucci's status remains uncertain for Sunday's match, Trumbull reported. "Mike has twisted ligaments," he said, "and he's doubtful." Two other Lions, guard John Gordy and running back Nick Eddy, have been out since training camp with knee injuries and are not expected back until mid-season...The Lions currently are working out at the University of Detroit. They will not be able to use their customary Tiger Stadium home until after the World Series, which begins next Wednesday...Understandably impressed by the magnitude of the Lions' triumph over the Bears, the Packers began testing their defense in Tuesday's practice, one day earlier than usual. The offensive linemen shaded the defensive linemen, four touchdowns to three, in their weekly touch football game by dint of Capt. Bob Skoronski's interception and touchdown runback, a maneuver set up by Bob Hyand's deflection...The Pack's Willie Wood ranks second among NFL punt return leaders with a 9.3 average for four runbacks, according to the latest official figures, and Herb Adderley is third in kickoff returns with a 35.8 average, also for four returns. Travis Williams, who last year set three league records for kickoff returns, presently is 10th with a 26.3 average for three runbacks. Although his production dropped to 37 yards in Sunday's 26-13 loss to the Vikings, Donny Anderson stands fourth in individual rushing with 129 yards in 21 attempts, a robust 6.1 average. Quarterback Bart Starr is seventh in passing with 28 completions in 40 attempts for a 70.0 percentage, 368 yards and 3 touchdowns. His two most frequent targets, Boyd Dowler and Carroll Dale, share seventh place in receiving with the Cowboys' Lance Rentzel and Detroit's freshman speedball, Earl McCullouch. Each has caught eight passes, Dowler for 151 yards and Dale for 121.

CENTRAL RUGGED: BOWMAN

SEPT 25 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – "A couple of years ago, when they split this thing up, they said we had a runaway in our division. That has proved to be totally false." It may be theorized that Ken Bowman was speaking from a recent and painful experience, namely the Packers 26-13 misadventure with the Minnesota Vikings over the weekend, and it might well have been an influencing factor. But the world champions' unsung center, one of the Packers more effective performers in Sunday's embarrassment, proceeded to document his point. "Take the case of the Chicago Bears," said Bowman, relaxing at that juncture in the Packers' then untenanted classroom at Lambeau Field. "They were laying it on teams in the other conference throughout the pre-season. Last Sunday they come up against another team in our division (the Detroit Lions, who confront the Packers in Green Bay Sunday afternoon and they get beat, 42-0."...'REALLY TIGHTENED UP': "I think it's really tightened up in our division so you can't count anybody out." Analyzing the Vikings, who now loom as a certain contender for the Central Division title, the former University of Wisconsin athlete noted, "It looks like (Joe) Kapp's really developed at quarterback." The Minnesotans' huge front four (Carl Eller, Alan Page, Gary Larsen and Jim Marshall) also is making a greater contribution, he observed, "because they've gotten together and are playing more as a unit. Take Eller, for example. In the past, he's been content to just hold his job. This year, he's gone out with a purpose – to prove he's one of the best, if not the best, defensive ends in the league. When you go out there with that attitude, you can't help but be great." Although the competition is more formidable than ever, the youthful veteran finds no reason to doubt the Packers! potential to repeat as champions...NO REASON TO HANG HEAD: Asked if he considers the present team the equal of last year's triple titlists, the 25-year-old Rock Island, Ill., native promptly

		M OFFE		
	Team	Avg.	Avg.	Avg
Dallas		444	182	262
Baltimo	re		143	224
Detroit		362	120	242
	ork	354	183	171
San Fr	ancisco .		107	226
Minnes			155	168
		310	145	165
	geles		120	187
	Iphia		146	156
Clevela	nd	294	120	174
Pittsbu	rgh	289	91	198
New O	rleans	287	134	153
Washing	gton	282	77	205
Atlanta		242	83	158
Chicago		24	1 113	
6t. Lou	is	236	5 90	14
	TEA	M DEFE	INSE	
	,			
		Yards	Rushing	Passin
Minneso	ota	000	Rushing 93	145
Minneso Los An	ota	238	93 64	145 185
Minneso Los An	geles	238	93 64 77	145 185 176
Los An	geles	238 249 253	93 64 77	145 185
Los An Dallas Green	geles	238 249 253 260 261	93 64 77	145 185 176
Los An Dallas Green	Bay	238 249 253 260 261	93 64 77 107	145 185 176 152
Los And Dallas Green I Baitimo Cievelas	Bay	238 249 253 260 261 277	93 64 77 107 84	145 185 176 152 176
Los And Dallas Green I Baitimo Clevelar New Or	Bay	238 249 253 260 261 277 283	93 64 77 107 84 144	145 185 176 152 176 133
Los An Dallas Green I Baltimo Clevelar New Or San Fre	Bay ore rleans	238 249 253 260 261 277 283 287	93 64 77 107 84 144 117	145 185 176 152 176 133 166
Los And Dallas Green I Baltimo Clevelar New Or San Fre Pittsbur	Bay ore rleans ancisco .	238 249 253 260 261 277 283 287	93 64 77 107 84 144 117 133	145 185 176 152 176 133 166 154
Los And Dallas Green Baltimo Clevelar New Or San Fre Pittsbur St. Lou	Bay re rleans ancisco rgh	238 249 253 260 261 277 283 287 304	93 64 77 107 84 144 117 133 126	145 185 176 152 176 133 166 154 228
Los Any Dallas Green Baltimo Cievelar New Or San Fro Pittsbur St. Lou New Yo	Bay ore rleans ancisco is ork	238 249 253 260 261 277 283 287 304	93 64 77 107 84 144 117 133 126 143	145 185 176 152 176 133 166 154 228 173
Los Any Dallas Green Baltimo Cievelar New Or San Fro Pittsbur St. Lou New Yo	Bay Bay	238 249 253 260 261 277 283 287 304 316 325	93 64 77 107 84 144 117 133 126 143 165	145 185 176 152 176 133 166 154 228 173 159
Los Ani Dallas Green Baltimo Clevelai New Or San Fri Pittsbur St. Lou New You Washing Detroit	Bay Bay Bay Bre Bre	238 249 253 260 261 277 283 287 304 316 325	93 64 77 107 84 144 117 133 126 143 165 174	145 185 176 152 176 133 166 154 228 173 159
Los Ani Dallas Green Baltimo Clevelai New Or San Fri Pittsbur St. Lou New You Washing Detroit	geles Bay ore nd rleans ancisco rgh is growk growk grown	238 249 253 260 261 277 283 287 304 316 325 341	93 64 77 107 84 144 117 133 126 143 165 174	145 185 176 152 176 133 166 154 228 173 159 167 243

rejoined, "No question about it. We have a lot of fine football players and there is no reason for anyone to hang his head. "I know a lot of Monday morning quarterbacks are chalking us off, but that's happened many times in the past. I still feel we have the nucleus of one of the best teams we've ever had in Green Bay." He admits, however, he can't remember a game, "in the immediate past," in which the Packers have made as many mistakes as they did in Sunday's unpleasantness with the Vikings. A more substantial citizen as a result of a daily off-season weightlifting regimen, Ken has added approximately 15 pounds and now scales between 243 and 245. "Last year I used to hit somebody and splatter," he grinned. "The old splatter block. This year I have a little more weight and strength behind it and I feel I'm doing an adequate job of hitting somebody and driving him out."...'NOT AS EFFECTIVE': "I feel it's about the right weight at my position. Although quickness is essential at center, if you're any lighter than 245 you're not as effective on the drive blocks you have to make." Ken, who is working toward a law degree in the off-season, married his high school sweetheart and they have two sons, the older of

whom already has begun to follow in his father's footsteps. "Lance Lincoln, who is 6, is real interested in football," Bowman reported. "He has the same problem I had for so many years, keeping one foot in front of the other...But he's not afraid to get hurt a little."

VIKINGS THIRD IN TOTAL DEFENSE; PACKERS FOURTH

SEPT 25 (New York) - The New York Giants shook up the NFL Sunday when they blocked three of four extra point attempts by the Philadelphia Eagles. The NFL office reports that last time three were missed in one game was in 1950 when both Ted Fritsch of Green Bay and Doak Walker of

LEADING GROUND GAINERS Avg. 177 Woodeshick, Phil. Kelly, Clev. Sayers, Chi. 27 148 Anderson, G.B. 129 McCall, N.O. 127 Reeves, Dal. 25 123 Lang, Phil. Mason, L.A. 5.2 22 115 Lewis, S.F. 112 LEADING PASSERS Att. Com. TDS Jurgensen Wash. 45 27 448 Meredith, Dal. Munson, Det. 26 15 25 23 35 279 Kapp, Minn. 329 Gabriel, L.A. 44 26 26 359 Tarkenton, N.Y. 362 40 54 37 368 Starr, G.B Morrall, Balt. 32 20 39 477 Ryan, Clev. 436 Recd. Yds. Gain Williams, St.L. 156 Willard, S.F. McNeil, S.F. 10 40 13.5 0 135 Orr, Balt. 221 20331 Jefferson, Pitt. 19.6 Morrison, N.Y. 109 McCullouch, Det. Dowler, G.B. Rentzel, Dall. Dale, G.B. 212 151 26.5 0 2 ... 8 15.1 LEADING SCORERS Brown, Minn. Richter Wash. .. 5 0 0 30 24 24 20 18 080 Reeves, Dall. Gogolak, N.Y. McCullouch, Det. 0 0 18 Morrison, N.Y. Cox, Minn. Durkee, N.O. Clark, Dall. Gossett, L.A. 17 3 5

Detroit were the victims. The record is four against Joe Aguirre of Washington by Philadelphia, Oct. 8, 1944. As Spider Lockhart also blocked one for the Giants in Pittsburgh the previous week, the three blocked by Jim Katacavage, Bob Lurtsema and Bruce Anderson attracted unusual interest...DEFENSE KEYED UP: "Emotion has a lot to do with it," said Jim Trimble, assistant coach of the New Yorkers. "The defense is keyed up about this thing. They really think they can block those points now." In two games the Giants have blocked four of seven extra point attempts by the Steelers and Eagles. The team statistics show Dallas No. 1 in total offense and also in passing. The Giants lead in rushing with a 183-yard average. The Minnesota Vikings are No. 1 in total defense, the Los Angeles Rams first in defense against the rush and Dallas tops on pass defense. Dallas has dumped the passer 10 times for 76 yards, best in the NFL, and Detroit leads with eight interceptions, all in one game against the Chicago Bears. The Bears, incidentally, have had 10 passes intercepted.

JURGENSEN STILL TOPS PASSERS

SEPT 25 (New York) – Don McCall of the New Orleans Saints, widely unknown in NFL circles until last Sunday, has popped into the limelight with 127 rushing yards against Washington. As a result of that one day's burst, the former Southern California runner has moved up to fifth place in the individual rushing statistics in the second week of the season. Oddly enough, the four men in front of McCall all played for losing teams last week. Tom Woodeshick ran 15 times for 129 yards against New York but the Philadelphia Eagles lost the ballgame. Woodeshick's 177 yards for two games puts him in first place. Leroy Kelly of Cleveland, Gale Sayers of Chicago and Donny Anderson of Green Bay also outrank McCall. It was a remarkable comeback for McCall, who suffered four cracked vertebrae in a preseason game with Minnesota. At USC he played behind Mike Garrett as a junior but led the team in rushing in the 1967 Rose Bowl. He was drafted by the Saints on the strength of his Rose Bowl play. Bill Brown of the Minnesota Vikings continues to show the way in scoring with two more touchdowns against Green Bay and a total of five for 30 points for the year. Despite the Redskins' defeat in New Orleans, Sonny Jurgensen still tops the quarterbacks in standings based on his percentage completion (60.0), touchdown passes (6), percentage of interceptions (2.2) and average gain (9.96). Dave Williams of St. Louis is the leading pass receiver with 11 for 156 yards. San Francisco has the next two, running back Ken Willard with 10 for 49 yards and flanker Clifton McNeil with 10 for 135 yards. Rookie Earl McCullouch of Detroit has the highest average gain (26.5 yards) and Pat Richter, Washington's tight end, has caught the most touchdown passes, four.

PACK MUST STOP WORLD'S FASTEST HUMAN...AT 20 YARDS

SEPT 26 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Packers have a more than casual acquaintance with the world's fastest human, namely the Dallas Cowboys' Bob Hayes. He earned the appellation, of course, by streaking the 100-yard dash in 9.1 seconds as a collegian, a record which still stands. Now the NFL's defending champions must cope - for the second time - with a Detroit Lion who has been rated by his college track coach as "the fastest man in the world for 20 yards." As may have been suspected, this fleet phenom is Earl McCullouch, the rookie split end who has provided the Lions with one of the game's most potent long ball threats...CLOSE SCRUTINY: McCullouch



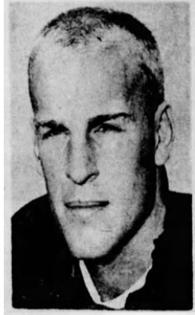
Kostelnik-77

Defensive Tackle — Cincinnati Height 6-4, Weight 260 Born in Colver, Pa., Jan. 14, 1940

Eighth year in pro ball . . . Packers second round draft choice for 1961 . . . Physical Education Major . . . Played in North-South game . . . Recovered from shoulder injury in 1963 and won starting position in 1964 . . . Plays defensive left tackle . . . Recovered two fumbles in 1966 . . . Credited with being in on 14 tackles against Dallas in 1966 NFL Title game. During off-season works for Main Line Industrial Supplies. Residence: Green Bay, Wisconsin.

can't equal Hayes' time for the century, but he has been caught at an exceedingly brisk 9.3 for that distance, which suggests he will bear close scrutiny when the Packers engage their Michigan neighbors in Lambeau Field Sunday afternoon. Travis Williams is the only member of the world champions who can match that figure but he, of course, is not available on defense. As indicated, the Packers and the former University of Southern California luminary have met before. That was in the College All-Star game in August and it was not an entirely pleasant experience for the Bays. although they emerged with a 34-17 decision. McCullouch scored both All-Star touchdowns, on passes from guarterbacks Greg Landry (now a Lion teammate) and Gary Beban, a member of the Washington Redskins' taxi squad at the moment. The ex-Trojan, who will present a major challenge for the Pack's veteran Willie Wood, also has made a substantial contribution to the Lions' cause...LEADING SCORER: Currently Detroit's leading scorer and pass receiver, he has caught eight passes in the Lions' two appearances for 212 yards - a glossy 26.5 average - and 3 touchdowns. He also has carried the ball once for 5 yards. McCulloch, who set the existing NCAA indoor and outdoor hurdles records while at USC, is not a sprinter turned football player, as so many previous NFL speedballs have been, Lion publicity director Lyall Smith assures. "He's more of a football player turned sprinter," Smith says. "He's not afraid to go up for the ball. He also has good hands. And if he gets into the open, there is no way you're going to catch him." McCullouch's value to the Lions, psychological as well as physical, was graphically illustrated in their 42-0 bruising of the Bears in Detroit last Sunday. "The play that started us off against the Bears was a 37-yard touchdown pass from Bill Munson to McCullouch," Coach Joe Schmidt later noted. "Bill went for the touchdown on the very first play after Lem Barney had intercepted a pass and later he did the same thing with Mel Farr after an interception. The idea is to hit them right off after a break."...PACKER PATTER: The current Lions bear only a passing resemblance to their 1966 squad. Twentyfive members of the 40-man roster are new to Detroit's Honolulu blue and silver silks the last two years, 16 of them this season. Among the latter are three of the Lions' five

running backs, Bill Triplett, Dave Kopay and Jim Welch, acquired from the Giants, 49ers and Colts, respectively, via the trade mart. "This is the first time since 1946," publicist Smith pointed out, "that the Lions have started out a season without at least one holdover quarterback". Munson, obtained from the Rams in an off-season exchange, and rookie Landry are the present signal callers, Milt



Vandersea -83

Tight End — University of Massachusetts Height 6-3, Weight 235 Born in Whitinsville, Mass., Feb. 25, 1943

Drafted in 16th round as future in 1964 as fullback . . . All-Yankee Conference 1965 . . . two years football . . . gained 396 yds. in 100 carries and scored 6 TDs senior year . . . Hotel Management Major . . . Used on special teams in 1966 before being selected by New Orleans in expansion draft . . . returned to Packers between '67 and '68 seasons as final part of Taylor trade with Saints . . . Can play fullback or linebacker. Residence: Whitinsville, Massachusetts.

Plum and Karl Sweetan having been traded away. Welch, a defensive back for eight years with the Colts, had never carried the ball in the NFL until last Sunday, when he collected 16 yards in two attempts. The Lions are planning to employ him as a swing man - as a fifth offensive back and a backup man in the secondary. Defensively, the Lions are operating with two new defensive ends, Joe Robb and John Baker, and a new safety, Mike Weeger. Robb and Baker were acquired from the Cardinals and Steelers, respectively, while Weeger, a second year man, was employed only on special teams last season...The Packers took their first look at the Lions on film Wednesday afternoon, following a lively, 90-minute practice. The session, spiced by an impressive offensive drill, was climaxed by a defensive stint against the Detroit offense.

DOWLER CERTAIN PACKERS WILL COME BACK, BLAMES PENALTIES

SEPT 26 (Green Bay) – The Green Bay Packers have been knocked down before, and they've come right back. Veteran Boyd Dowler thinks they'll do it again Sunday when the Detroit Lions invade Lambeau Stadium. It was a long, frustrating afternoon as the Packers picked up 90 yards in penalties and lost to the Minnesota Vikings Sunday. "Minnesota is a good, sound team," Dowler said of the Vikings,



B. Brown-78

Defensive End - Arkansas A.M. & N.

Height 6-7, Weight 265 Born in Bonita, La., Feb. 23,

Third year in pro ball . . Free agent who played 1964 and 1965 seasons with Wheeling Ironmen of Continental League . . . Played 8 games for Toronto in Canadian League in 1965 . . . Had try-outs with 49ers in 1964 and '65, lasting until last cuts . . . Started first game against Lions in 1966 for Packers . . . Plays defensive tackle on short yardage and goal line defenses. Residence: Bastrop, La.

who won 26-13. "But they aren't 13 points better than we are." "We've been kicked in the teeth before," said Dowler, a Packer since 1959. "And when we're knocked down, we come back pretty good." Dowler blamed the 90 yards in penalties for the Packers' Sunday of frustration. Two penalties for offensive interference were pinned on him. The first wiped out a 21-yard pass from Bart Starr to Donny Anderson; the second pushed the Packers inside their 10 and Starr was dropped in the end zone on the next play. "You're not allowed to block or screen a defender when the ball is in the air," Dowler explained. "The Vikings were playing aggressively and when I saw my man react, I blocked him. It was a stupid thing to do." "The same thing happened on the other play," he said. "Sometimes it seems the offensive man can't do much if the defensive man plays aggressively, but the rule always has been that way. Of course, sometimes they call it a lot closer." Although he is counting on a Packer comeback, Dowler has no illusions about the Lions, who blanked Chicago 42-0 last week. "The Lions had to play good to beat the Bears like they did," he said. "They've got some fine young offensive players."

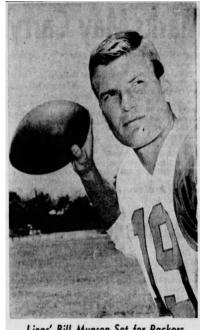
GEORGE HALAS TERMS LOMBARDI'S BOUQUETS 'PRAISE FROM CAESAR'

SEPT 26 (Chicago) - A chipper George Halas, retired coach of the Chicago Bears, greeted friends from around the nation Wednesday night in a gala testimonial. More than 1,000 - including hordes of old Bears - overflowed the Chicago Athletic Club in an evening of jolliness. Not a drop of sentimentalism that usually accompanies such an occasion was spilled. As oldtimers were

introduced, the biggest standing ovation was for grizzled Bronko Nagurski, who went through brick walls for Halas in vestervears. NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle praised Halas for "intense and dedicated spirit." Art Modell, owner of the Cleveland Browns and NFL president, guipped: "I'm here and Vince Lombardi is here. What the hell are the winners doing tonight?" Lombardi of Green Bay, who also has stepped down from coaching, cracked: "A real executive goes around with a worried look on his assistants." Halas, meanwhile, was busy at the rostrum editing congratulatory telegrams. Before he was introduced, someone said he is the kind of guy who gets a hole-in-one in golf and marks a zero on his card. "When Lombardi got up and said what he did about me, his warmth came to me as never before," chuckled Papa Bear. "In my line of work, when any person like Lombardi says what he did it is indeed praise from Caesar."

PERSISTENCE PAYS FOR CRENSHAW

SEPT 27 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Fortunately for the Packers, mountainous Leon Crenshaw is an incurable optimist. After three years in the minor leagues and being



Lions' Bill Munson Set for Packers

released by both the Dallas Cowboys and the world champions, the 25-year-old defensive tackle might have been pardoned for calling it a career...CONTRIBUTING FACTORS: But, happily, he didn't. Big Leon who tried out with the Cowboys in 1965 and played out the season with the Rhode Island Indians of the Continental Football League after being waived, returned in July for a fourth attempt. There admittedly have been contributing factors, specifically injuries to incumbents Henry Jordan and Ron Kostelnik and reserve Bob Brown, but this time Crenshaw made the major league grade. Obviously his arrival could hardly have been more opportune, a point underscored in last Sunday's 26-13 loss to the Minnesota Vikings when he held forth at some length in behalf of Kostelnik, who re-injured a knee. The 6-foot-6, 277-pound Tuskegee Institute alumnus, who spent the 1966 and 1967 seasons with the Packers Lowell, Mass., farm club, made his presence felt with impressive frequency, once stopping Viking fullback Bill Brown for no gain and hurling halfback Tom Lindsey for a one-yard-loss on successive plays. As a result, he is likely to be seen regularly in a backup role in future, beginning with Sunday's struggle against the Detroit Lions at Lambeau Field...STAUNCH CONSERVATIVE: Defensive Line Coach Dave Hanner, a staunch conservative, praised Crenshaw's performance against the Vikings. "I thought he did a good job." Hanner said. "He's improving all the time. "He's big and strong and he moved on the ball real well," Dave, a five-time former all-pro, added. "He gives you 110 percent on every play...I have a lot of confidence in him." Leon, proud of the fact he is the first Tuskegee grad ever to crash a major league football roster, returns the bouquet. "Coach Hanner and Coach Bengtson have helped me a lot," he says. "Every move I make, Coach Hanner tells me what I'm doing wrong. What he is saying helps me understand my own moves. I can really feel it myself now...EYES ON THE BALL: "For example, I might not have enough weight forward in my stance and he tells me about it," the amiable giant informed. "And he tells me to keep both eyes on the ball. That way you get off to a quick start. "The biggest thing he's helped me with is staying low. It enables you to move with authority. You don't get pushed back and taken out." "The big thing on the pass rush," Crenshaw added, "is using your hands correctly.

And Coach Hanner has taught me to use finesse. That's helped a lot." Reviewing his efforts against the Vikings, he ruefully observed, "I wish I could have done more to help win the game." How did he rate his performance? "Not too bad," Leon replied, emphasizing the "too." "I made a couple of good tackles and I was in on the quarterback once. "I jumped offside once, too, in the fourth quarter," he forthrightly admitted. "Probably just over anxiousness."...MUST IMPROVE RUSH: This misadventure aside, Crenshaw concedes he is a better football player now than when he came to camp. "I'm putting more of what I've learned to use." he said. Leon, who came in at a billowy 315 a year ago and cheerfully admits he is constantly battling the bulge, appended, "I don't have to worry about conditioning now so I can concentrate on technique. "What concerns me most now is improving my pass rush. I have to work on that. Of course, the more playing time you get, the more you get used to game situations and you can improve your techniques." Had he ever despaired, the huge Alabamian was asked, of earning a major league berth? "No, not really," was the prompt reply. "I always figured I could make it if I got a shake. I figure my trouble was that I as trying to make the best clubs - Dallas and the Packers. So you can see what kind of thing I was up against."...PACKER PATTER: The Packers, who Thursday continued preparations for Sunday's guests with their last heavy workout of the week, will be seeking their 11th victory over Detroit in their last 12 meetings. The Lions, incidentally, fell only one shy of the league record when they intercepted eight Bear passes in last Sunday's 42-0 romp. They set the mark of nine against the Packers on Oct. 24, 1943 and it was tied by the Pittsburgh Steelers against the Philadelphia Eagles Dec. 12, 1965. As a result of last weekend's binge, the invaders' Lem Barney and Mike Weger share the NFL interception lead with three...The Lions are scheduled to arrive at Austin Straubel Field at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon. They will headquarter at the Hotel Northland.

ALINSKY CALLS ON PACKERS TO BOYCOTT GAMES UNTIL OPEN HOUSING LAW PASSES

SEPT 27 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The black members of the Packer football team should take the lead in applying pressure for fair housing in Green Bay - not just in law, but in fact, community organizer Saul Alinsky said Thursday. Alinsky, nationally famous for organizing minority groups to attain their goals against political odds, spoke to nearly 900 persons at St. Norbert College Thursday night and met with students and the press during the afternoon. "It seems to me your black football players are good enough to play on the field - at least I assume there's open occupancy on the gridiron. There aren't any areas they aren't allowed to cover, are there? - Then they should carry the ball in this, too," Alinsky said in an interview...WON'T IMPROVE HOUSING: He called fair housing ordinances "innocuous" and said they won't really produce the better housing itself. "It has to come from strong, constant organization on the part citizens who are human beings, and not just artifacts of prejudice from a past period." But it might be interesting, he challenged, to see the reaction if the Packers said they wouldn't play in a segregated setup - "And that's what you have here." Alinsky said he couldn't understand why the black Packers haven't taken a stand on the issue. "Certainly they must know it's more important to beat Jim Crow than the Vikings. And the only way to do it is to block the hole for yourself," he said. He added he addressed them personally because "if the word of this gets around it's not going to look too good." Before the evening ended Alinsky, a native of Chicago, expressed incredulity that "you have only a few black families in the area."...FIVE STUDENTS: He told St. Norbert faculty and students that if they had only about five black students "it's because you're keeping them out. Every college in the country is recruiting black students. He wouldn't accept a faculty member's statement that "certain elements" were opposed to recruitment but told the students they had enough power to have more black students if they wanted them. He said the population makeup was no excuse because not one student



Robinson-89

Outside Linebacker—Penn State Height 6-3, Weight 245 Born in Mt. Holly, N. J., May 3, 1941

Sixth year in pro ball. . . . Packers first round draft choice for 1963. . . Played guard, tackle and end at Penn State. . . Civil Engineering Major. . . Played in Hula Bowl, Gator Bowl, All-American Game and All-Star Game. . . Named to All-American team by AP, UPI, NEA, Look, Time and Post magazines. . . Moved into starting linebacker position after Nitschke's injury in 1963 Thanksgiving game . . . Started in 1964 but knee injury hobbled him. Started again in 1965 and 1966. Plays left outside backer . . . Sporting News All-Pro team 1966 . . . Played in 1967 and 1968 Pro Bowl Game . . . Most Valuable lineman in Pro Bowl 1968 . . . 5 interceptions for 60 yards in '66 and recovered fumble to ice Western Division Crown against Baltimore Pressured Dallas QB into throwing interception in NFL Title game in final goal line stand. . All-Pro AP, UPI and NEA 1967. Residence: Lindenwald, N. J.

in an afternoon coffee hour named Green Bay as his hometown. When he asked their hometowns they told him Skokie, Ill., and Peshtigo and Milwaukee. But faculty member Frank Wood challenged his condemnation of the college as un-Christian in its segregation. "I attended your alma mater, the University of Chicago," he said, "there were thousands of black people within a few miles and I didn't see any of them in my classes."...DROPPED THE SUBJECT: Alinsky said he had blacks in his classes there, but would drop the subject. Since 1939, Alinsky has concentrated on organizing the poor, the low income class, whether they were Poles in Chicago or Negroes in Rochester, N. Y. But his new school in Chicago will train organizers of the middle class, which makes up three fourths of the American population. The middle class feels totally lost, he said, "because they grew up with the idea that if they earned the house and two cars and colored TV they'd be happy. The whole theme at Expo 67 in Canada was "Now that we have it, why are we so unhappy?" "The middle class is worse off than the poor," he said, "because they still have the illusion they'll get something." He said the middle class is characterized by lack of involvement and surface politeness. They're afraid of involvement and embarrassment by confrontation, he said. But he feels he can teach organizers to reach them by taking issues which lie dormant and making the middle class see they are threats. Progress comes from response to threats, in his opinion, and the middle class needs to feel the excitement of getting involved, of acting. MUNSON, SENSATION IN DETROIT, TESTS ROADABILITY VS. PACK

SEPT 28 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The fact the NFL schedule finds the Packers performing in Green Ba Sunday could be a salutary circumstance - for two reasons. The home field, of course, is alleged to be an advantage to the host team, although this may not be as evident in the NFL as it is in the college ranks. And, perhaps equally as important, Detroit Lion guarterback Bill Munson will not be playing

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at home. Completed 19 of 22 This negative could be a plus for the Packers, although the jury is still out on Munson's "roadability." Whatever that may be, the former Los Angeles Ram field general has been little short of incredible in his two Tiger Stadium appearances at Detroit. In his "unofficial" Motor City debut, Munson completed 19 of 22 passes for 144 yards and escorted the Lions to a 14-7 victory over the Baltimore Colts, who own one of pro football's more miserly defenses. Recovering from rib injuries suffered in Detroit's preseason finale against the New York Jets, the

former Utah State athlete was so spectacular he drew a standing ovation from Lion fans when he left the field in the fourth quarter of a 42-0 breeze over the Bears. Munson hit 15 of 23 passes for a .652 completion percentage and 279 yards against the Bruins. Three of his pitches went for touchdowns and he scored a fourth himself on a sneak. At the same time, Lion runners rambled for 173 yards, most of them under his direction, to mount an awesome total offense effort of 468 yards to 167 for the Bruins. Munson's favorite target, rookie split end Earl McCulouch, presently shares seventh place among NFL receivers with the

Packers Boyd Dowler and Carroll Dale and Lance Rentzel of Dallas. Each has caught eight passes in two appearances.

MCCULLOUCH, MUNSON TO PUT PRESSURE ON BAYS' DEFENSE SUNDAY

SEPT 28 (Green Bay) - Take one world-caliber hurdler, equip him with sprinter speed, sticky hands and football pads, and you come up with rookie Earl McCullouch of the Detroit Lions. McCullouch, one of the top receivers in the NFL, and his teammates will face the Green Bay Packers Sunday afternoon at Lambeau Field here. Game time is 1 p.m. (CDT). Coach Phil Bengtson took his first regular season loss as Packer mentor last week in Milwaukee as the Packers bowed to the Minnesota Vikings 26-13. But he might have tradition going for him this week, in addition to everything else. The Packers, under former coach Vince Lombardi, never lost the third game of the season. After the first two games this year, the Packers are 1-1, the same as Detroit. The Lions lost their season opener to Dallas, then blasted the Chicago Bears last weekend 42-0 behind McCullouch and veteran quarterback Bill Munson...ACQUIRES MUNSON: Detroit got Munson from the Los Angeles Rams in a trade that saw the Lions give up three veterans and a No. 1 draft choice. The trade looked good last week as Munson connected on 15 passes in 23 attempts for 279 yards and three touchdowns. Green Bay can retaliate with Bart Starr, one of the NFL's finest field generals, and two top receivers in Carroll Dale and Boyd Dowler. Starr has completed 70 per cent of his passes, hitting 28 of 40 for. 368 yards and three touchdowns. He has had three intercepted and will face one of the top defensive secondaries in the league. Lem Barney and Mike Weger have both picked off three passes to lead the NFL in interceptions. None of the Packers has more than one theft. Cornerbacks Bob Jeter and Herb Adderley of Green Bay expect to have their hands full this Sunday trying to cover McCullouch, one of the top rookies in the league this season. In the College All-Star game against the Packers, McCullouch latched on to two scoring passes, one against Jeter and one against Adderley. "He's the fastest man in the world for 20 yards," Adderley said after the All-Star game. "He ran a quick turnout once. Before I backed two steps, he had gone five yards and turned out...He made me nervous. On the touchdown pass against him, Adderley said McCullouch "just ran away from me." Green Bay hopes this will be the week everything falls together correctly. After all, tradition is on the Packers side.

LOMBARDI BOOK GOES ON SALE

SEPT 29 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The recently published "Lombardi Era" book will be on sale at the Packer-Lion game today. The book, featuring the nine years of Vince Lombardi's career as Packer head coach, is published by the Packer Yearbook publishers Art Daley and Jack Yuenger and sold by the Wisconsin Jaycees.

IT'S 'MOMENT OF TRUTH' FOR PACKERS AND LIONS

SEPT 29 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – "This game is going to be the moment of truth for us." A Detroit spokesman thus appraised today's Packer-Lion exchange in Lambeau Field, a hand-to-hand struggle for second place - and perhaps a share of the penthouse - in the infant Central Division race. He had reference, of course, to the Lions' somewhat erratic start, which has seen the invaders decimate the Bears 42-0 after suffering a 59-13 embarrassment in Dallas. The same might be said of the Packers, who are more than casually interested in determining the validity of their championship hopes, jolted by Minnesota's surging young Vikings last time out. If they are to win an unprecedented fourth straight NFL title, there obviously could be no more propitious time than 1 o'clock this afternoon (WNFL) for the



Aldridge-82

Defensive End — Utah State Height 6-4, Weight 245 Born in Evergreen, La., Feb. 14, 1941

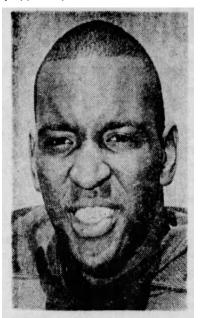
Sixth year in pro ball . . . Fifth year starter with Packers at right defensive end . . . Fourth round choice for 1963 . . . All-Skyline Conference tackle and Co-Captain of Utah State . . . Played in East-West Shrine, Hula, Gotham and All-American Bowl games . . . Sociology Major . . . Tied for club lead in fumble recoveries in 1966 . . . Works for WTMJ radio and TV in Milwaukee during off-season . . . Sporting News All Pro 1964. Residence: Milwaukee. Missed 3 pre-season and 2 league games in 1967 with broken leg. Started every game after being out only 5 weeks.

reigning world champions to assert themselves. Another defeat at this point would leave them with a 1-2 record and an arduous road back in a relatively short 14-game season, in which there is a high premium on every contest...STARTLING TURNABOUT: Although the Packers reportedly are favored by the oddsmakers, today's antagonists will be coming off diametrically opposite performances. The Lions

were slightly unreal In their laughter with the Bears, amassing 468 yards and intercepting eight Chicago passes to come within one of the all-time NFL single game records they share with the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Packers, in contrast, were not their customarily precise selves. They were assessed eight penalties for 90 yards, the bulk of them for offensive and defensive holding, which played a major role in their misadventure with the ambitious Vikings. They will not be able to afford a repeat performance, they are well aware, against their current guests, who have just as many weapons as the Minnesotans. The Lions, who long suffered from a quarterback problem, apparently have found a spectacular solution to it in purposeful Bill Munson, acquired in an offseason trade with the Los Angeles Rams. He passed for 279 yards and three touchdowns in last Sunday's bombing of the Bears, following a recovery from rib injuries that had sidelined him for two weeks. To complement their new field general, the Lions have come up with one of the game's greatest home run threats, split end Earl McCullouch, the rookie from USC who is rated the fastest man in the world for 20 yards and can streak the 100-yard dash in 9.3 seconds. McCullouch, a Packer tormentor in the College All-Star game when he caught two touchdown passes for the losing (34-17) collegians, is Detroit's leading receiver going into action with 8 catches for 212 yards...VETS AVAILABLE: They also have veterans Gail Cogdill and Jim Gibbons available, at flanker and tight end, respectively, both highly competent performers. And to complicate matters for the defense, they have taken to throwing to running back Mel Farr, the NFL's offensive rookie player of the year in 1967. Farr, who is Detroit's rushing leader, has averaged 46 yards for three receptions. His running mate in the Lion backfield, at least at the outset, is scheduled to be Bill Triplett, the ex-Giant who alternates with former 49er Dave Kopay. The Lions also are no bargain defensively, despite their uneven performance to date. Cornerback Lem Barney, the NFL's defensive rookie of the year last season, and safety Mike Weger presently share the league interception lead with three each, all acquired against the Bears. They operate behind a formidable front four keyed by the gifted Alex Karras, one of the league's premier defensive tackles...ROBB, BAKER NEW: Somewhat revised since the Packers last saw the Lions, it now includes ex-Cardinal Joe Robb and former Steeler John Baker at the ends, along with holdover Jerry Rush at right tackle. The champions' primary objective, of course, will be to avoid a repetition of last Sunday's costly errors, improve an attack which produced a modest 242 yards against the Vikings, and tighten a defense which uncharacteristically permitted 26 points. Coach Phil Bengtson also will be concerned with mounting an early lead, since the enemy has taken to employing the Packers' familiar ball control tactics. The victorious Vikings adopted that approach in Milwaukee and the Philadelphia Eagles, with less success, in the Packers' opener a week earlier. There is every reason to think the Lions will follow suit. The home forces' Bart Starr is, however, the acknowledged master of this strategy and very possibly will re-establish the point for the visitors' benefit. He also has thrown the home run ball more frequently of late, to such targets as Boyd Dowler, Carroll Dale and Donny Anderson, which is likely to keep the Lions loose.

NOTES AND NOTIONS

SEPT 29 (Appleton Post-Crescent) – Chalk up today's Lambeau Field game as the first big head-coaching test for Phil Bengtson...much bigger than his debut in the Packers' game against the College All-Stars...even bigger than his first NFL head-coaching experience against the Eagles. Let's face it, the Packers had a pretty bad time of it last Sunday. Nothing but a gilt-edged Packer performance today will suffice against the adrenalized Lions. This was the area in which Bengtson's predecessor, Vince Lombardi, sparkled beyond compare - that is, getting the Packers "up" for a crucial game or getting the team back on the track after an occasional poor performance. For recent examples, one can recall how the Packers took the Giants apart in New York last year after having played some lackluster football...or the rousing game they played against the Rams in the Western title playoff after having been something less than classy against Pittsburgh. Or, how about that "must" game the 1965 Bays won from the Colts in Baltimore's fog? Lombardi had put his team in near isolation for most of the week getting the players mentally prepared. As we have noted previously, various point totals were assigned to Lombardi's value - anywhere from



Fleming-81

Tight End — Utah Height 6-5, Weight 240 Born in Longuien, Texas, Jan. 2, 1942

Sixth year in pro ball . . . Packers' eleventh round choice for 1963 . . . Has been clocked at 10.1 in 100 . . . All-Skyline Conference and played in East-West Shrine game . . . Physcial Education Major . . . Strong blocker . . . Catches ball in a crowd well . . . Best day of career in 1966 when he caught 5 passes for 41 yards and 1 TD against Vikings in Mpls. . . . Caught 3 for 54 yards against Dallas in 1966 NFL Title game . . . for 22 yds. against Kansas City and 4 for 35 yds. against Oakland in AFL-NFL Title games . . . Slowed by Achilles injury in 1967. Residence: Compton, California.

three to 10 points a game. This, of course, is an intangible factor and incapable of ever being proven. But, hardly anyone would deny that Lombardi's "touch" must have made a difference when other factors seemed equal. Now, it's Bengtson's turn to prove he can effect a turnabout in the Packers. And, of course, it's up to the players to prove that they like to play for Phil and want nothing more than to win

for him - as they often proclaim...Memo to pro football czar Pete Rozelle and his cabinet, who supposedly never relax their efforts to improve the game: Your No. 1 priority should be to increase officiating accuracy. There simply must be more exact methods of placing the ball after a scrimmage play, of spotting tie ball for a measurement and of assessing a penalty. If there's as much guesswork involved in time-keeping as there obviously is in ball spotting, we can only conclude that pro games probably run anywhere from 57 to 63 minutes. The famous fourth-down, 2-inch play at Milwaukee last Sunday underscored the unscientific methods that are used in marking the ball - but this was by no means an isolated incident. Officials handle the ball excessively - at the expense of exactness, In the Eagle game, two weeks ago, I noticed two instances in the first quarter in which officials were a half-yard to a yard off in assessing a penalty and in spotting the ball after a scrimmage play. Instead of taking a walk of "approximately" five yards on a penalty, why couldn't officials use a tape or rule of "exactly" five yards? If football is game of inches, as has been proven time and again, the highest attainable degree of accuracy must be the officiating goal.

LIONS, PACKERS AT CROSSROADS

SEPT 29 (Detroit Free Press) - Although he no longer glowers from the sidelines like an angry gargoyle, the man who made the Green Bay Packers into the monsters of the decade in professional football is still an overpowering figure. For the first time in 10 years, the Detroit Lions play a Packer team coached by somebody other than Vince Lombardi Sunday at Lambeau Stadium. Kickoff is 2 p.m. (Detroit time). So many rumors and half-truths swirl about his round Italian face that it is difficult to remember that Lombardi is just the general manager now and that a fellow named Phil Bengtson runs the club on the field. You can almost take your pick of stories:

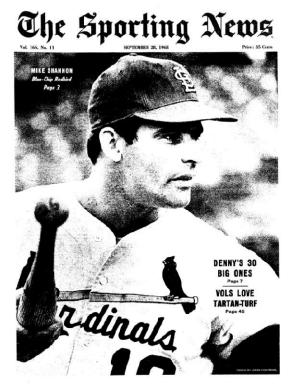
	ineups
	OFFENSE
DETROIT	GREEN BAY
Shoals	E Dowler
Walton	LG Gillingham
Flanagan	C Bowman
	RT Kramer
Bradshaw	RT Gregg
Gibbons	QB Starr
Triplett	RB Anderson
Farr	RB Grabowski
Coadill	FL Dale
	DEFENSE
DETROIT	GREEN BAY
Robb	LE Davis
	LT Kostelnik
Rush	RT Jordan
Baker	RE Aldridge
Naumoff	
Swain	
	RLB Caffey
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- Lombardi will return as head coach of the Packers next season with Bengtson moving gracefully back into the shadows.
- Lombardi will move to the New York Jets as general manager, head coach and part-owner, a report that ought to thrill Joe Namath.
- Lombardi is so restive that he might return to the Packers before the season is over. (This particular story picked up speed after Green Bay blew its game with Minnesota last Sunday.)

Nearly every tourist who comes to Green Bay for the football game wants to know how Lombardi spends his time. Does he hover close to Bengtson? Does he pace back and forth on the practice field during the week, bemoaning the impulse that made him give up coaching? "There have been absolutely no problems," says Bengtson, hoping to end all debate on the matter. As a matter of fact, Lombardi spends most of his working days in the Packers executive suite. He rarely goes near the club when it's working out. During games he sits as calmly as possible in the press box, holding his classic temper so that no one will suggest that he is second guessing his successor...As the Lions will undoubtedly discover Sunday, the Packers haven't changed much. Their personnel has been altered only slightly. They play the same variety of football. Still, people keep making comparisons. "I expected they would," said Bengtson. "It's something I have to live with." Green Bay is an eight-point favorite in this third match of the NFL season for both clubs. The Packers are (1-1). So are the Lions. Both teams feel they need a victory. The Packers want to prove that they haven't changed, that they're still tyrants even stairs. "We've played two games, one real bad and one real good," says Lions' head coach Joe Schmidt. "A win over the Packers would prove that the loss to Dallas was the fluke." Both Green Bay and Detroit are in good shape physically. The Lions' only casualty, offensive tackle Charlie Bradshaw, will be able to start.

PACKER JORDAN WINS BATTLE WITH PIERCING PAIN

SEPT 28 (Sporting News) – Last August 3, the day after he had started his 12th year as a professional football player. Henry Jordan awoke in the Drake Hotel in Chicago with a back as stiff as an overstarched shirt. And so began three weeks of tribulation which all but ended one of the notable careers in Green Bay Packer history. For a decade, Jordan had survived and prospered as an undersized defensive tackle in the NFL by means of intelligence and agility. Now he could barely walk, and as the days passed, apprehension grew that maybe this was the injury that would not heal, that at 33, Jordan might indeed have been overmatched at last. At last, he might have to guit. "He did guit," said another Packer veteran. "Nobody believed him, because he did the same thing last year and then changed his mind. But, for a day, he was retired." Jordan had never gone that far publicly and still won't, although now the crisis and the pain have eased, and Jordan is back at his old stand. Evidently for the duration. But it had been a close thing. He had come to training camp last July with a set of orthopedic inserts for his shoes. and fresh from a series of chiropractic manipulations, and with new hope...Two Years of Trouble: "My back has hurt for two years," he said. "This is the first time in those two years it hasn't been sore. "Maybe this time I found something that will help." But then practice began, and with it contact, and with the contact came the back pain. "I have a board under my mattress in the dormitory," he said then. "I've been sleeping on the floor at home, but there aren't any rugs at the dorm and I'm not going to go sleeping on that tile floor." And then, on August 2, the pain became something more. Jordan was in his customary starting spot, against the



College All-Stars, but that was his last time there for nearly a month. "I got kicked," he said the next day. "This is something I've lived with, but it didn't just suddenly get bad. It was an injury." It was a singularly persistent injury. Jordan checked into a hospital for treatment the week after the game - this was the period of his brief, and temporary, decision to retire-and he watched the Packers lose to the New York Giants from the press box. The next week was little better - no practice to speak of. The Packers lost again, this time to the Chicago Bears, and Jordan was a spectator once more. He was in uniform now, but still in pain. He had spent the night before the game on the floor of his room in the team's hotel in Milwaukee, seeking a firm rest for his back, and he was beginning to worry. "They tell me it's an inflamed disk in my back," he said. "I don't know what that means. But I surely don't know how I'm going to get rid of it."...PACKERS WERE SLIPPING: The answer, as it turned out, seemed to be that he would not get rid of it. As Jordan headed into his third week of inactivity, the Packers were carrying a two-game losing streak into an exhibition against the Dallas Cowboys, who were reported to be thirsting for revenge for their defeat by the Packers in the championship game of last December. "Jordan has to play," one of the Packer coaches said. "There's no way he's ever going to play again unless he does it." So Jordan did. He lumbered across the field before the game in a shambling sort of gait that looked as though he was somehow carrying his aching back carefully, so as not to bump it. But then the game began, and Henry was back in business, absorbing the shocks of his trade and bouncing up again with the balance of the wrestler he once was. "At least I got into it again," he said afterward. "But it still hurts. It's sore, all right." The Packers won that game, and the next one against Pittsburgh, and the next one against Cleveland, gathering momentum as they went. And, by now, Jordan was playing hard again, his timing was sharpening, and he had made his adjustment with pain. "I'm not going to quit," he said. "More pain just means I have to find something else to cure this thing. "I just have to keep looking for a cure, that's all." And, in the meantime, he plays on. No. 74 seems good for another season, after all.