



Chicago Bears (4-4) 13, Green Bay Packers (3-4-1) 10
Sunday November 3rd 1968 (at Green Bay)



Bears Shade Packers, 13-10, in Final :26, Tie for Division Lead

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(GREEN BAY) - "Football," Vince Lombardi is fond of saying, "is a game of inches." And for the Packers Sunday afternoon, it was. But for the suddenly renascent Chicago Bears, who have vaulted from last place to first in the NFL's Central Division in just three weeks' time, it was a game of yards. Two hundred and five yards, that is, all of them by the incomparable Gale Sayers, who well may be the greatest running back in NFL history. Had it not been for the Kansas comet, the Packers might have weathered one of their less artistic performances, perhaps an inevitable consequence of their highly successful effort in Dallas six days earlier. Sayers, with 24 largely breathtaking excursions, keyed the Bruins to a 10-0 lead with the aid of surprisingly deft generalship by rookie quarterback Virgil Carter. Then, after the Packers had surged into a tie following some second-half pyrotechnics by Bart Starr and Carroll Dale, the Bears called upon their surefooted accomplice, Mac Percival.

ALL NOT LOST

The torrid Texan, who had seen a string of 10 successes snapped when LeeRoy Caffey crashed through to block a 29-yard attempt earlier in the period, drilled home a free kick from the Packer 43 with 32 seconds left to seal a 13-10 Bear victory. With it, the once lowly "Midway Monsters" charged into a tie for the division lead with the Minnesota Vikings, 27-14 conquerors of the Washington Redskins. Fortunately for the Packers, however, all is not lost. The Detroit Lions also fell, 10-7 to the Los Angeles Rams, and the home forces (3-4-1) thus trail the co-leaders by a mere half game with six remaining. Percival's climatic kick, which followed Cecil Turner's fair catch of a 28-yard Donny Anderson punt and thus could not be subjected to a rush by the defense, was the first of its kind to be seen on Green Bay soil since 1964. The last one, ironically enough, also occurred against the Bears. But, a 52-yard effort by Paul Hornung, it came in the closing seconds of the first half while the Packers were en route to a 23-12 victory. Just three minutes prior to Percival's heroics, the champions lost a glittering opportunity to forge in front when Chuck Mercein's 22-yard field goal attempt drifted just outside the left upright. It was the final disaster in an afternoon of failure and frustration for the Packers, who often were just those proverbial inches - or perhaps a step - from success. The list is painfully imposing:

- Donny Anderson, bolting up the middle on a 26-yard pass and run collaboration with Starr in the first quarter, was one stride from a breakaway when tripped up by the Bears' Richie Petitbone, the last man.
- Four plays later, kicker Errol Mann was wide to the right and short with a 44-yard field goal attempt.
- Mann, later replaced by Mercein because of a stiff leg, was off target - to the left this time - on a 29-yard effort midway through the second quarter.
- With three minutes left in the half, the incredibly elusive Sayers wriggled from Tom Brown's grasp at the line of scrimmage and threaded his way 63 yards to the Green Bay 9. Four plays later, Percival kicked a 10-yard field goal for a 3-0 intermission lead.

PACKERS vs. BEARS

FIFTY CENTS / LAMBEAU FIELD - GREEN BAY, WIS. • SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1968 / 1:00 P.M.



- Sayers, pulling in Mann's second half kickoff, churned and whirled 46 yards to the Packer 44. Carter, escorted by guard George Seals, subsequently bootlegged left from the 2 for the touchdown.
- Early in the fourth quarter, Jerry Kramer's kickoff bounced through Dick Gordon's hands and, scrambling in pursuit, the Bear receiver ultimately came to rest in the end zone with Packer Phil Vandersea astride him. Two officials called it a safety but were overruled by Referee Pat Haggerty, who termed it a touchback.
- Bob Jeter shortly intercepted a Carter pass and returned 6 yards to the Green Bay 49, providing excellent field position, but Anderson, hit by the fearsome Dick Butkus, fumbled on first down and Jim Purnell recovered in mid-air at the Chicago 42.
- Minutes later, Jeter had another major opportunity when Percival's 29-yard kick shot "up the shaft" when blocked by Caffey. The Packer cornerback on the run toward Bear country, circled under it like an outfielder but it bounded off his hands and was recovered by Lionel Aldridge. Had Jeter been able to hold the ball, he had nothing but daylight ahead of him.
- Just before Mercein's boot was wide from the 22, Adderley recovered a Sayers' fumble at the 29 and appeared away but was caught from behind at the Bear 14 by Turner.

Over the route, the Bears also fumbled four other times and the Packers recovered but once, which does not speak well for the Pack's alertness. Between these misadventures, there were some bright moments. Such as in the third quarter when, faced with a now imposing 10-0 deficit, they charged 81 yards in 7 plays for their lone touchdown. Number Seven was a thing of beauty. Starr, provided with exemplary protection, arched a strike to Dale, a generous 10 yards in the van of defender Roosevelt Taylor, and the wiry Tennessean sprinted into the end zone unmolested to complete a 50-yard maneuver. That brought a boisterous response from a frequently silent capacity house and so did the Packers' only field goal of the afternoon, a 19-yard bullseye by Mercein which lifted them into a temporary tie with only three seconds gone in the fourth quarter.

CHICAGO - 0 3 7 3 - 13
GREEN BAY - 0 0 7 3 - 10

	<u>CHICAGO</u>	<u>GREEN BAY</u>
First downs	18	12
Rush-yards-TDs	47-291-1	26-107-0
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	5-14-51-0-2	10-18-154-1-0
Sacked-yards	2-14	2-19
Net pass yards	37	135
Total yards	328	242
Fumbles-lost	5-1	1-1
Turnovers	3	1
Penalties-yards	10-90	2-20

SCORING

2nd - CHI - Mac Percival, 10-yard field goal CHICAGO 3-0
 3rd - CHI - Virgil Carter, 2-yard run (Percival kick) CHICAGO 10-0
 3rd - GB - Dale, 50-yard pass from Starr (Mercein kick) CHICAGO 10-7
 4th - GB - Mercein, 19-yard field goal TIED 10-10
 4th - CHI - Percival, 43-yard field goal CHICAGO 13-10

RUSHING

GREEN BAY - Elijah Pitts 10-43, Donny Anderson 11-26, Jim Grabowski 2-19, Bart Starr 1-15, Travis Williams 2-4
 CHICAGO - Gale Sayers 24-205, Virgil Carter 11-56 1 TD, Ronnie Bull 7-23, Brian Piccolo 5-7

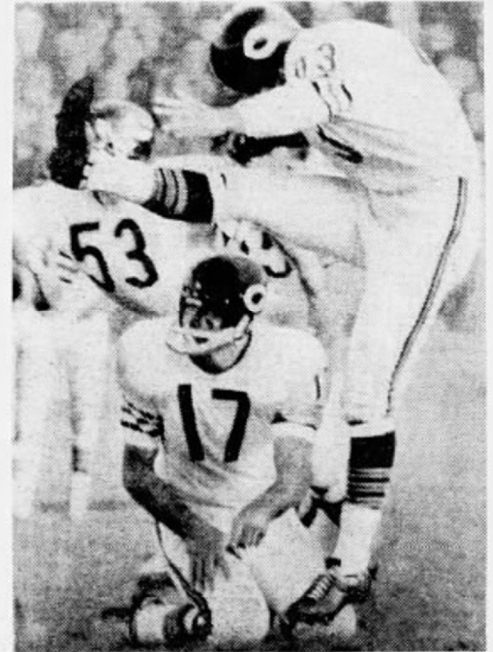
PASSING

GREEN BAY - Bart Starr 18-10-154 1 TD
 CHICAGO - Virgil Carter 14-5-51 2 INT

RECEIVING

GREEN BAY - Elijah Pitts 4-33, Carroll Dale 3-74 1 TD, Donny Anderson 1-26, Marv Fleming 1-11, Boyd Dowler 1-10
 CHICAGO - Brian Piccolo 2-19, Bob Wallace 1-15, Cecil Turner 1-12, Ronnie Bull 1-5

Bears Beat Packers; Percival Hero Again



[UPI Telephoto]
 Mac Percival, with Richie Petitbon holding, connecting on free kick field goal to give Bears 13 to 10 victory over Packers.

Victors Praise Players with Superlatives



[UPI Telephoto]

Mac Percival [83] and Richie Petitbon showing joy after successful 43-yard kick with 23 seconds remaining in game yesterday contrast with emotion of Green Bay's Bob Hyland.

VICTORS PRAISE PLAYERS WITH SUPERLATIVES

NOV 4 (Chicago Tribune) - Superlatives tumbled from Chicago Bear lips like perspiration from Vince Lombardi's brow today after Mac Percival stunned the Green Bay Packers with another of his last-minute cardiac specials. The Bears appeared numbed -in fact shellshocked- in the first minutes after Percival's 43-yard free kick sent them to the dressing room 13 to 10 victors over their oldest and bitterest enemies. Then, as the realization sank in that they had pounded another nail into the coffin bearing pro football's ailing monarchs, the Bears turned off the terror and turned up the sound. There were cheers and back slaps for Percival, the tall Texan who suddenly has his teammates dreaming the impossible dream. There was a game ball for slender Joe Taylor, who turned in a gem of a relief job in behalf of injured Richie Petitbon in the last quarter. There was another for Gale Sayers, who ripped the Packer defenses for 205 yards in 24 carries. And most especially, there was whooping and hollering in front of the locker where Virgil Carter, boy quarterback, slowly pulled on his civvies after becoming a man in 2 ½ hours of the most painful football any quarterback has ever had to endure...GETS HIT HARD: Carter, making his third successive winning start for the Bears since he was elevated from the taxi squad, was battered relentlessly by the Packer defense. At one point he even was knocked senseless by one of his own men - end Bob Wallace. But Carter kept coming back for more, and afterwards Coach Jim Dooley said: "Virgil took more punishment in this game than I have ever seen a quarterback take." And Tackle Bob Wetoska volunteered: "Virgil Carter is the toughest football player I have seen in 10 years in this league. They're going to have to kill him to get him out of there." This was a victory to savor and the Bears were in no hurry to clamber aboard the bus for the airport. Defensive End Ed O'Bradovich, who enjoyed his best game ever against Green Bay's Bart Starr, likened the present Bear team to the championship squad of 1963. "It's taken us a little time to get going, but this reminds me of that club. Remember how we used to hang in there every game, fighting and



[TRIBUNE Staff Photos by Ray Gora]

Virgil Carter [15] of Bears skirting left end for touch-down in third quarter of Packer game in Green Bay yesterday. George Seals [67] of Bears keeps eye open for would-be tacklers.

scrapping and praying for victory? That's what we're starting to do now." Dooley, surrounded by reporters, gave credit to his line coach, Abe Gibron, for suggesting the free kick, which was the coup de grace to Packer hopes. "When the Packers had second down and 10 at their 15-yard line," Dooley related, "Abe said, 'Let's get the fair catch when they punt so we can go for the free kick.'"...CECIL HAS TROUBLES: The Bears did just that, and Cecil Turner had some anxious seconds fielding Donny Anderson's punt on the Green Bay 43. "They told me to fair catch it no matter what, and I was a little nervous," said the rookie. "The wind took the ball a little bit and I had to run to get it, and I clutched it in my belly real good." When the Bear field goal unit then trotted out onto the field, it caught many members of the team by surprise...MANUEVER SURPRISES SOME: "I was starting to go out with the offensive unit and then they called me back," said Austin Denney. "I didn't know what the hell was going on," admitted Defensive End Willie Holman. "I never heard of such a play." It was the duty of Petitbon, who had sustained a severe blow to the head late in the third quarter, to hold the ball for Percival. "I've never seen him so nervous," said Percival. "I was still feeling weak and wobbly from the head injury," Petitbon explained, "and felt my hands trembling. I knew Mac would hit the ball just fine and I didn't want to louse it up." Richie didn't louse it up at all and Percival's kick was perfect. "I get tired of keeping my head down like I'm supposed to do," Mac laughed. "One of these days I'd like to look up and see one of those things go thru." The Bears' offensive game plan was to run at the Packers from the start and control the ball. It was successful strategy. "We wanted to run on 80 per cent of our

plays," said Sayers. "In my four years in the league, we've run on Green Bay pretty well. We thought we could do it again."...PICK ON JORDAN: The Bears' particular target was tackle Hank Jordan, who plays on the right side of the Packer defensive line. The Bears hammered away repeatedly at Jordan, double teaming him with George Seals and Mike Pyle to open the way for Sayers and Ron Bull. "We watched the Dallas-Green Bay game Monday night," said Wetoska, "and we noticed the Cowboys were hitting at Jordan's side of

the line in the first half with good success." Sayers admitted he tired at the end of his 63-yard run in the second quarter which set up Percival's opening 10-yard field goal. "Willie Wood and Bob Jeter, two very fast defensive backs, were on me and I got a little winded. They just caught me, that's all." Defensively, the Bears survived a crisis when Petitbon went out and it was necessary to move Joe Taylor over from his normal cornerback position to strong safety. "We just told him to line up opposite the slot man and we tried to help him out as much as we could," said Rosey Taylor. "Joe did the rest."

'WE DIDN'T FORGET:' DOOLEY

NOV 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – "We didn't forget what happened to us a few years ago." The speaker was the head coach of the Chicago Bears, Jim Dooley, whose charges minutes earlier had nipped the Green Bay Packers on a free kick field goal by Mac Percival in the waning seconds. Dooley, of course, was referring to the 1964 opener when Paul Hornung split the uprights from 52 yards away in a 23-12 victory. Hornung connected on the free kick in the last seconds of the first half in that one. "We were aware of the situation when the Packers took over the ball down there," Dooley pointed out, referring to Jon Kilgore's punt to the Green Bay 15 with 1:05 remaining... UP TO DEFENSE: "We knew it would be up to the defense to keep them from getting a first down. We just hoped they wouldn't make it and the defense came through by forcing that pass out of bounds," the seemingly mild mannered Bear boss explained. His reference was to a third down pass from Bart Starr to Boyd Dowler, which an official ruled was caught out of bounds at the Packer 25 with 42 seconds left. Starr had misfired on two previous passes. After Donny Anderson punted to the Green Bay 43, Chicago punt receiver Cecil Turner called for a fair catch to set the stage for Percival's heroics...SIX OFFSIDE CALLS: "They (Turner and Gale Sayers) were instructed to call for the fair catch all the way. We knew what we wanted to do," said Dooley. Dooley was asked about the seven penalties levied against the Bruins in the first half, sins that accounted for 48 yards. "Nervousness," was his quick reply. Six of those penalties were offside violations, but Dooley stressed they were not the fault of quarterback Virgil Carter. "Virgil took a tremendous punishment out there today," Dooley offered, "I think more so in this game than in any other." "Probably the most severe time

was when he ran into his own man," he added. Carter collided with receiver Bob Wallace after scrambling for five yards early in the fourth period...CALL FROM BENCH: "He was in the clear and Wallace came back to block for him. Virgil just didn't see him and ran into him," Dooley said. Carter, who engineered the Bears to a third straight victory, scored the only Chicago touchdown, an effort that was called by the coaches, according to Dooley. "It came from the bench. He just faded away from Gale (Sayers)," he said. Sayers and fullback Ronnie Bull swung to the right from the Packer two yard line on first down, but Carter kept the ball on a keeper and scored easily to give the Bears a 10-0 advantage early in the third period. Dooley shrugged his shoulders when reporters kidded him about winning games in the fading seconds, stating, "I guess we're just destined to be in a position where we can win games at the end." The Bears clipped the Minnesota Vikings in the last few seconds last week, 26-24, on a Percival field goal. "Our game plan was to run all the way," Dooley emphasized. "Green Bay has one of the finest pass defenses in the league and we felt we could run," he said...SAVED GAME: Dooley declined to say whether or not he had spotted any weaknesses in the Packer line, but volunteered, "We just used certain types of blocking in different spots." He called Turner's open field tackle of Herb Adderley "ironic, in a way." Turner, who caught Adderley from behind after the Packer defender had scooped up a Sayers fumble on the Chicago 39 and returned it to the 14 in the fourth quarter, "dropped several passes during the game but his tackle of Adderley saved the game for us." "They missed their field goal attempt right after that," he continued.

PERCIVAL MAKING HEROICS 'A HABIT;' LIKES KICK RULE

NOV 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Mac Percival grinned and said, "I'll tell you one thing, I like that rule." The Chicago Bear kicking specialist, who took advantage of the seldom-used free kick rule to boot the Bruins to victory over the Packers Sunday, remarked candidly: "I guess I'd heard of the rule but I've never seen it used in a game before." Percival, whose field goal sank the Minnesota Vikings in the final seconds last Sunday, laughed, "I'd love to make this sort of thing a habit." He insisted the pressure did not bother him, offering modestly, "I just tried to remember the fundamentals. I used my regular field goal steps and the good Lord took care of everything again." "Actually," he added, "I think Richie (holder Richie Petitbon) was more nervous than I was."...KNOCKED WOOZY: Petitbon, who was knocked woozy when kicked in the head earlier in the game, said, "I was as nervous as I've ever been. I was still shaky from that blow on the head." "The kick looked good all the way," said Percival. "I was kicking with the wind but I don't think that was a factor. It made things easier with no people coming in to try to block it." Percival put the Bears ahead, 3-0, with 16 seconds left in the first half, an effort that came from the Packer three yard line. The Bruins stalled in hopes of getting a five-yard penalty to set them in better position for the field goal try, but Percival was forced to kick from an angle at the short distance when the Packers refused the penalty. "They (Packers) just didn't fall for it. There was an angle and it was close but the kick from there is not particularly difficult." Gale Sayers, who produced a personal high of 205 yards in 24 carries, stated, "This was my biggest day in the NFL." "Our game plan was to run 80 per cent of the time. Other teams have run against the Packers and we figured we could, too," he said...GIVEN GAME BALL: Sayers, who was given



National Football League

By The Associated Press
National League
Eastern Conference
Capitol Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Dallas	7	1	0	.875	247	95
New York	5	3	0	.625	198	173
Washington	3	5	0	.375	147	221
Philadelphia	0	8	0	.000	115	240

Century Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
St. Louis	5	3	0	.625	205	175
Cleveland	5	3	0	.625	182	161
New Orleans	3	5	0	.375	144	177
Pittsburgh	2	6	0	.250	133	207

Western Conference

Coastal Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Baltimore	7	1	0	.875	259	98
Los Angeles	7	1	0	.875	180	101
San Francisco	4	4	0	.500	158	173
Atlanta	1	7	0	.125	113	260

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Minnesota	4	4	0	.500	189	137
Chicago	4	4	0	.500	140	203
Green Bay	3	4	1	.429	164	129
Detroit	3	4	1	.429	144	148

Sunday's Results

Baltimore 26, New York 0
Chicago 13, Green Bay 10
Cleveland 33, San Francisco 21
Dallas 17, New Orleans 3
Los Angeles 10, Detroit 7
Minnesota 27, Washington 14
Pittsburgh 41, Atlanta 21
St. Louis 41, Philadelphia 17.

Sunday's Games

Baltimore at Detroit
Green Bay at Minnesota
Los Angeles at Atlanta
New Orleans at Cleveland
New York at Dallas
Pittsburgh at St. Louis
San Francisco at Chicago
Washington at Philadelphia

American League

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New York	6	2	0	.750	231	177
Houston	4	5	0	.444	168	158
Boston	3	5	0	.375	128	217
Miami	2	5	1	.286	138	217
Buffalo	1	7	1	.125	128	243

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Kansas City	7	2	0	.778	230	124
Oakland	6	2	0	.750	253	130
San Diego	6	2	0	.750	242	153
Denver	4	4	0	.500	140	181
Cincinnati	2	7	0	.222	140	198

Sunday's Results

New York 25, Buffalo 21
Denver 35, Boston 14
Houston 27, Cincinnati 17
Oakland 38, Kansas City 21
San Diego 34, Miami 28

Sunday's Games

Houston at New York
Kansas City at Cincinnati
Miami at Buffalo
Oakland at Denver
San Diego at Boston

the game ball by his teammates in a jubilant dressing room, set up the Bears' 3-0 first half lead by snaking his way 63 yards to the Packer nine with just over two minutes remaining. "They were just trying to keep me inside and I cut in back of their defenders. There was a lot of room to run out there," he explained. Reminded that the Packers have been successful on occasions in stopping him, Sayers shot back, "The Packers have been winning so they must have stopped me." He accused the Packers of shouting signals as one of the reasons for the frequent offside penalties called against the Bears in the first half. Six times the Bruin front wall jumped offside "I know Nitschke was yelling 'hut, hut' out there, and that's illegal," the Kansas Comet opined. "But we were anxious. We came to play today, that's all." When asked about the fumble on his own 39 midway in the final period, an event which saw Green Bay's Herb Adderly pick up the loose ball and return it to the 14, only to have Chuck Mercein's field goal try go astray, Sayers said:....TWISTED AROUND: "I was just carrying the ball too loose and Davis twisted me around after he hit me." Sayers, although he expressed satisfaction in a productive afternoon on his part, stressed, "We won the game, that's the main thing. I'd feel the same way if I'd only gained two yards." Virgil Carter, frequently tabbed the "kid quarterback" who spent last season on the taxi squad, was instrumental in leading the Bruins to their third straight win. Nursing some bruised ribs, the boyish-looking Carter said, "We had a lot of success running off tackle today. We planned to run and we did."...INTENDED TO RUN: "We were double teaming Nitsche," he added. Reflecting on his two-yard touchdown run in the early minutes of the second half, Carter pointed out, "We hadn't shown that play all year. They figured we were going with Gale down there and we just had to fake it." He said, "We ran Sayers and Bull to the right and George (guard George Seals) and I pulled out to the left. I intended to run all the way." "We just had to fake Jeter (Bob) out, and he took it," the Chicago field general stated. Regarding his banged up ribs, Carter said, "I'll be all right - by Wednesday. Observing the Packer defense, Carter said, "The Packers usually keep some men to the outside, but when those two old men, Davis (Willie) and somebody else, started coming at us inside we got a chance to run outside."

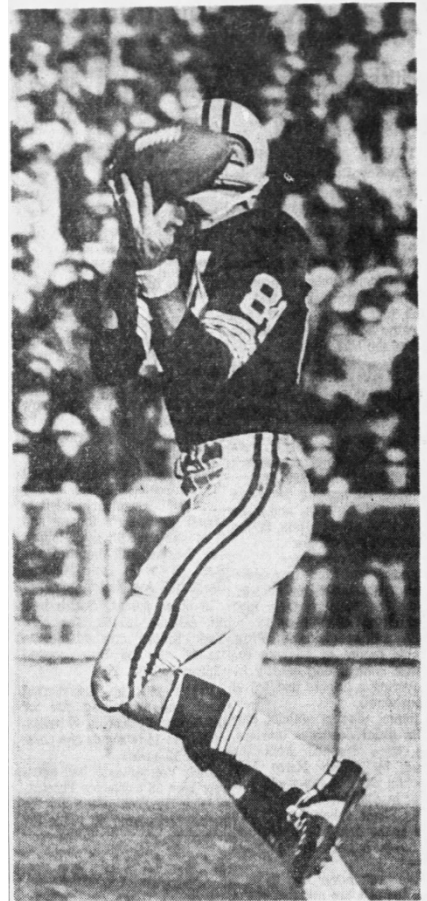
TOUCHBACK RULING IGNITES CONFUSION

NOV 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Safety, touchback or dead on the 1-yard line? The confusing situation arose moments into the fourth quarter when the Packers kicked off and the Bears' Dick Gordon apparently touched the ball and muffed it, then chased it back to the goal line and finally wound up with the ball in the end zone. Two officials signaled a safety, which would have given the Packers two points and forced the Bears to kick off from their own 20. But the officials then changed their decision and ruled it a touchback, giving the Bears the ball on their own 20. The question involves where the impetus came from that put the ball in the end zone. Gordon's apparent muff of the ball earlier was immaterial since he did not have possession. Packer Coach Phil Bengtson said that he could not see the play clearly from his sideline station but that the officials told him that

Gordon never had possession of the ball on the field of play Packer Phil Vandersea, who was the man on Gordon, reported that Gordon was in the end zone and that he reached out and pulled the ball from the 1-yard line into the end zone. Gordon said that he never touched the ball except in the end zone, but the films tend to substantiate Vandersea's version. It then becomes a matter of the officials' judgment as to whether Gordon had possession of the ball when he grabbed it at the one or if possession was established only after the ball crossed the goal line...For the first time since 1945, when he was serving as a Naval officer, Bear Owner George Halas did not make the trip to Green Bay for a Packer-Bear game. He watched the game on TV from his apartment in Chicago. But many of the fans apparently thought Papa Bear had arrived when a gentleman resembling him walked from the player runway to the Chicago bench just before the

Monday, November 4, 1968

The Post-Crescent B 10



The Packers' Carroll Dale grabs a pass from Bart Starr to complete a 50-yard touchdown play in the third quarter of Sunday's game against the Bears at Lambeau Field. (Post-Crescent News Service Photo)

game. It turned out, however, that it was Frank Halas, George's brother and the Bears' traveling secretary. Frank acknowledged the crowd's cheers, though.

RULE NO. 4 SPELLS MISERY

NOV 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – In the NFL digest of rules for players, press, radio and television, No. 4 under Kick-Off (Free Kick) heading says: "Free-kick situations also develop following fair catch and safety. Time starts with Referee's whistle. When receiving team fair catches ball, captain has option on how he wishes to put ball in play. (1) Free-kick (punt, drop-kick, or place-kick without tee) or (2) By snap. If place or drop-kick attempted and ball kicked between uprights, field goal is awarded for successful kick (3 points). All other free-kick rules apply."

HORNUNG 'KNEW WHAT WAS COMING', RECALLS OWN KICK

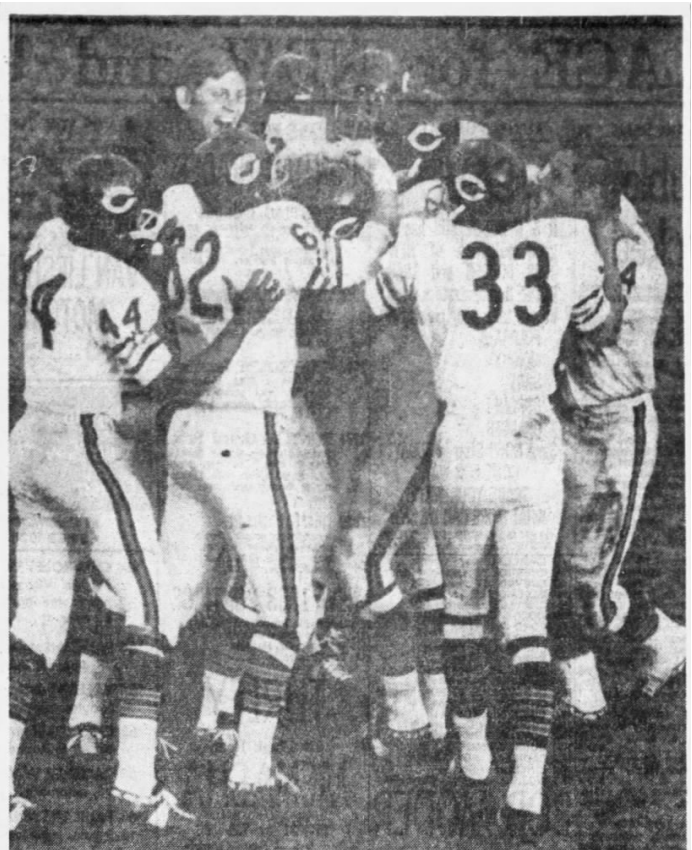
NOV 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Former Packer Paul Hornung, who watched the Packer-Bear game from the press box, said, "As soon as I saw the fair catch I knew what was coming." Hornung's referral was to the fair catch that set up Mac Percival's free kick that decided the Bears' 13-10 victory Sunday. Hornung, who on a similar situation in 1964 was successful on a free kick in a victory over the Bears at Lambeau Field, said in the locker room after the game: "I didn't think I'd ever see the same situation again. Actually, the free kick idea did run through my mind before the fair catch."

'STAND AND HOPE:' FLANIGAN

NOV 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – "You can't do anything...you just stand there and hope the guy doesn't make it." It was Jim Flanigan, a member of the Packers' kickoff receiving team, describing the sense of futility that prevailed as he and his teammates awaited the decisive free kick by the Bears' Mac Percival in the final seconds of Sunday's 13-10 loss in Lambeau Field. Under NFL rules, the "receiving" team is not allowed to move from its alignment while the ball is being kicked. "You might as well be in the stands," Flanigan said sadly. "You can't run it back...It's terrible." "But," he added, "they shouldn't have been that close, anyway. We did some sloppy tackling - we didn't play a good game."

'FIDDLER AROUND,' ADDERLEY SAYS OF FUMBLE RUNBACK

NOV 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Herb Adderley, running a comb through his hair in a corner of the dressing room, morosely reflected upon the two that got away. Two touchdowns, that is, either of which could have transformed defeat into victory for the Packers, 13-10 victims of the Chicago Bears under Sunday's deceptively benevolent sun in Lambeau Field. Adderley, who scooped up a Gale Sayers fumble in the fourth quarter and briefly appeared to be away before being run to earth the Chicago Bears' 14-yard-line explained, "I tried to make sure I had possession before I started running." "I fiddled around and fiddled around," he lamented. "It gave everybody else a chance to see what was going on." The Packers All-NFL cornerback was equally unhappy about a maneuver which came one exchange after that excursion...ANOTHER SIX LOST: "There was another play I would have had six points on," Herb declared. "It was a quick turn-in just in front of the Bear bench. Carter (Bear quarterback Virgil) was just trying to hit it and have the man go out of bounds to stop the clock and Robbie (Dave Robinson) knocked it down. "Robbie made a good play because he didn't know where I was, but if he had missed that ball...I moved up and I was right in line with the ball. . .The Bear coaches were yelling at Carter not to do it." Across the room, Donny Anderson was in even deeper gloom over his 28-yard punt which permitted the Bears' Mac Percival to launch his game-winning free kick field goal from the Packer 43 in the final seconds. He noted philosophically, however, "If I'd kicked it 55, he still would have tried it. "But it was a poor punt, I'll have to admit it," said Anderson, who averaged a substantial 42.2 yards for five kicks despite that final effort. Asked if the ball had slipped off his foot, he rejoined, "No, it was just a bad kick." Chuck Mercein, pressed into service when placekicking specialist Errol Mann was forced to abandon the assignment because of a stiff leg, shook his head sadly at mention of the 22-yard field goal attempt which went awry in the closing minutes. "It wasn't very far outside," he agreed, "but it wasn't. It's a game of inches But I should have kicked it straight and true, right through the middle." Another kicker, Jerry Kramer, said he hadn't been called on in the Packers' field goal crisis because "I hadn't practiced them at all." Kramer, who has been favoring his right knee since suffering a sprain in Detroit two weeks ago, reported, "I only kicked three kicks all week." "I should have gone out beforehand," he quietly observed, "but I didn't think there'd be any need." Carroll Dale, author of the Packers only touchdown, was not overly enthusiastic about his contribution at that somber point but patiently described it in detail. "They were doubling me in the slot," he began. "As I remember, it was a third down and short yardage situation and we flooded the area. We thought they might drop off a man to help on Andy (Donny Anderson), which they did. "It was more of a missed coverage than any great move on my part. It left Rosie Taylor on me one-on-one. He was playing outside and short. In other words, he was expecting help deep: It wasn't there." Elsewhere around the room, members of the defense



Happiness is a game-winning field goal with 26 seconds remaining. This is the reaction of the Chicago Bears after Mac Percival booted home a free kick for a 13-10 victory over the Packers Sunday in Green Bay. (Post-Crescent News Service Photo)



Chicago's Virgil Carter Gets Bear Hug from Pack's Dave Robinson

—Press-Gazette Photo by Emery Kroening

expressed admiration for the slightly incredible Sayers, who had amassed 205 yards against the NFL's fifth-ranked platoon. "Something else?" linebacker LeeRoy Caffey echoed. "That isn't even the word for him." "I think, though, that the whole team was too cautious today," he added. "I know I was. I was hanging outside all day instead of going in there...and he'd go for 15 and 20 yards." What makes the Kansas Comet so hard to handle? "He's got good speed, good agility," Caffey replied. "He's just an all-around good back...Of course, everybody is hurting us on the run." "He and Mel Farr (Detroit) are both great backs. There are a lot of great backs in this league...He had a great day." Caffey's fellow linebacker, Ray Nitschke, attributed Sayers' success to "a great change of pace." "He's controlled all the time," Nitschke said, adding, "nobody teaches a guy like Sayers how to run. He has an innate ability to find the hole." "There's no pattern about him - He's a great instinctive runner. He won't do the same thing twice. He's without a doubt the finest runner I've had the privilege of playing against."

KICKING 'GETS WORSE AND WORSE:' PHIL

NOV 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "It just gets worse and worse." Phil Bengtson, bearing up nobly under the almost crushing circumstances, was speaking about the Green Bay Packers kicking game. Bengtson's perplexed Pack had just dropped another football game...its fourth against three wins and a tie...because there was no kick in its offense. Recent recruit Errol Mann missed a field goal from the 44, which is a difficult boot. But then Mann missed from the 29 and Chuck Mercein missed from the 22 after making one from the 19. That brought the Packers field goal record to only six successes in 17 tries for the season. But it wasn't only the field goals on this fruitless day. Mann's kickoff to start the second half was a line drive to the 10, an

almost fatal shot since whirlwind Gale Sayers caught it without much opposition in front of him and skipped all the way back to the Packer 44 with it, thereby setting up an eventual Bear touchdown...KICKS LINE DRIVE: But it wasn't only the field goals on this fruitless day. Mann's kickoff to start the second half was a line drive to the 10, an almost fatal shot since whirlwind Gale Sayers caught it without much opposition in front of him and skipped all the way back to the Packer 44 with it, thereby setting up an eventual Bear touchdown. And Donny Anderson, who has been averaging a steady 42-yard-plus for his punting this year, got off a mere 28-yarder from his own 15 in the final minute to set up Chicago's free-kick victory. Despite this "boot," however, Anderson still managed to average 42.2 for the day, which only adds to the confounding situation. But it was the field goal misses from inside that 30 that pained the champions. Mann had hurt his leg against Dallas last Monday and Bengtson said "it was a little stiff" and he "imagined" that it bothered the former Cleveland Brown. Jerry Kramer, who began the year as the Packer placekicker, returned to duty momentarily Sunday when he boomed a kickoff over the end line, indicating his injured knee was pretty well healed. In view of this, had Kramer been considered for the field goal try from the 22 with 3:40 left in the game?...HAD MADE ONE: "We discussed it on the sidelines," Bengtson admitted. "But Chuck (Mercein) had been kicking real well all week and he had made one before that." Obviously, however, the kicking game did not bear sole responsibility for the defeat, though the scoreboard indicated it did. There was also Mr. Sayers. "He's terrible," was Bengtson's first reaction, a sort of backdoor expression of admiration. Then he added, "fantastic...fantastic. I've seen him have good days but this had to be the best." And it was. The Kansas Comet blew through the Packer defense for 205 yards in 24 carries. His best previous single day in the NFL was 197 yards in 17 carries. But his Sunday total in Lambeau Field does not include that key 46-yard kickoff return. Perhaps part of Sayers' brilliance could be traced to the Packer defense, according to Bengtson. Though he emphasized that he did not want to take anything from Sayers, Bengtson declared his resistance was "not sharp at all. Our tackling was poor."...PART OF DIFFICULTY: It was suggested that perhaps part of the difficulty was in a psychological letdown after the sensational stomping of the Cowboys Monday night. "There was some," Bengtson quietly acknowledged. "There shouldn't be but there was." The coach tried to dismiss the fact that the Packers had to take on the Bears after a short week of practice, stemming from the Monday night encounter. "Yes, it changes our practice schedule. We had Tuesday off. But at this time of the season it shouldn't affect us that much." On second thought, however, he added, "but apparently it did. We were sure dead." Bengtson termed Bear quarterback Virgil Carter a "running fool." It was complimentary because he added, "he can really run. We tried to set up for Sayers and weren't conscious enough of the quarterback run."...The Packers employed a double wing to one side formation quite a bit Sunday, spreading Boyd Dowler real wide and Carroll Dale in the wide slot to the same side. Bengtson said this was part of the team's regular offense and had been used a few times before but not with this same personnel...Bengtson was not surprised at the Bears' going for the free-kick field goal, calling it "a real intelligent play." He said he has seen the play several times but the only two times he has seen it work were Paul Hornung's boot against the Bears in 1964 and Sunday's

return the favor by Mac Percival... *And what does all this do to the Packers chances in the wild, wild Central Division? "It certainly dims them," Bengtson volunteered."

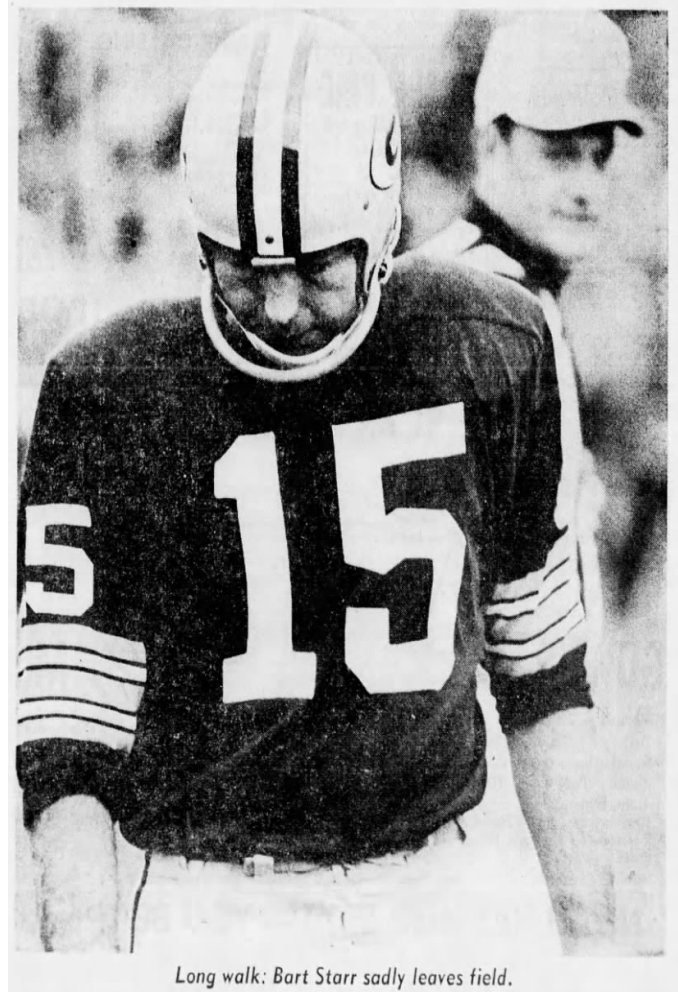
PACKERS SHOULD RETURN TO DANE'S SKULL

NOV 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The name of the game is football. Get it? FOOT-ball. It got its name when some Englishmen, once upon a time, accidentally dug up a skull that had belonged to some unfortunate Dane. As a diversion from their work, the Englishmen began kicking the skull around. Some young boys, observing this, decided to dig their own skull, which they did. And the game spread. It came to be known as "kicking the Dane's head," a name that gradually wore into "futballe" and finally to football. Perhaps Phil Bengtson should return to basics, as Knute Rockne did when he called his Notre Dame team together one day after a bitter defeat and said, "Gentlemen, this is a football." In Bengtson's case, he might try "Gentlemen, this is a Dane's skull," and progress from there. Gale Sayers or not, the Packers lost this particular game because they did not get a foot into the Dane's head. No pro team survives in the modern era of futballe without a sound kicking game. It is as vital as a sound quarterback. Somewhere the Packers have to find a kicker...a physically sound kicker. Jerry Kramer can kick...but he's playing all the way on offense and this is not conducive to staying physically sound enough to kick. Chuck Mercein can kick...but not consistently straight enough. Errol Mann can kick ... in practice... COLTS WON TITLE: Remember when Paul Hornung was having his kicking troubles. That was 1964. He missed five in one game against the Colts that year. And the Colts won the championship. The kicking trouble extends from the field goals to the kickoffs to the punting, though the latter has not been nearly as troublesome as the others. It's just that Donny Anderson seems to have a few weaklings every year and they always seem to come at the wrong time. It is

beyond everyone's comprehension why the Packers can't find one man...among all those extremely well muscled athletes...who can drive the ball into the end zone on kickoffs. The problem makes one wonder what the Packers would have done if they had been in the Bears' situation at the end of the game. The ball is on the 43 and the free kick is the obvious strategy. But who would the Packers have used in that situation...Mann, Mercein, Kramer? My guess would be Kramer. Jerry still has the strongest leg when he's right. And if he can shake the slump that struck him early this season, he could be the guy needed on the tee. His lone kickoff attempt Sunday was a thunderous effort...over the end line. Remembering this, he would have been the logical one for Bengtson to call on for the free-kick...if there had been one... KICKING DROPOUT: The importance of this kicking is personified in Mar Percival. The Bears had been looking for a reliable kicker for several years, never having been satisfied with Roger LeClerc because of his inconsistency. Then, last year, along came Percival, a Cowboy Kicking Karavan dropout. And a week ago, Mac beat the Vikings with a 47-yarder in the final three seconds. And this week...well, you know about this week. But without Percival, the Bears would now be 2-6 and drowning in the Central Division. With him, they are tied for the lead. A Dane's Head anyone?

PHIL PONDER'S KICKING WOES: HAVE TO DO SOMETHING

NOV 5 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – It was business as usual at 1265 Lombardi Avenue Monday - with one notable departure. As per custom, Packer Coach Phil Bengtson and his assistants reviewed the film of Sunday's game, this one a painful process in the wake of the last-minute loss to the Bears. They also studied the world champions' next opponents, the Minnesota Vikings, on celluloid and began to map their game plan. Along the way, however, they took time out for a major review of the Packers' most pressing problem, the kicking game. Following a flawless start by Jerry Kramer, who connected on his first four field goal attempts of the season, it has produced only one successful boot in the last four games and become a matter of increasing concern to the champions' board of strategy. The situation came to an unhappy head in Sunday's 13-10 misadventure when rookie Errol Mann, troubled by a stiff leg, missed 44 and 29-yard attempts and his successor Chuck Mercein was wide with a 22-yard effort after drilling home a 19-yarder in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter... A BIG DISCUSSION: Asked at a press conference if he is contemplating any changes Bengtson informed, "we're having a big discussion about that right now. We have several things in mind." Was one of the alternatives settling on a single kicker? "Either that," Bengtson replied, "or get a good kicker elsewhere...there are some available, but we don't know how good they are. The trading deadline is past, so it would have to be a free agent. We have to do something." The Packers' field leader emphasized in this connection that he has not given up on Mann, who was activated from the taxi squad just prior to the Bays' 28-17 victory over the Dallas Cowboys a week ago. "Heaven knows we've had a lot of kickers around here this season," he pointed out, "and he looked to be the best of the bunch." Had there been any complicating factors, such as an errant pass from center or a fumble on the hold? "No, the pass and hold



Long walk: Bart Starr sadly leaves field.



Packers' Bob Jeter [21] sliding off Bears' Mike Reilly [62] in attempt to block Mac Percival's field goal try in fourth quarter yesterday in Lambeau stadium.



[TRIBUNE Staff Photos by Ray Gora]

Jeter, after snapping Percival's field goal string at 10 in a row with successful block, reaching to field loose ball.

were good on all three field goals we missed," Bengtson said. He noted, however, that Mann "had a bruise on the thigh of his kicking leg. He got it when he was blocked on his first kickoff in Dallas. We didn't think it was an area of the leg - it was on the side - that would affect his kicking."...EXTENSIVE SEARCH: Asked how many placement specialists had been surveyed thus far in 1968's extensive search for a successor to the retired Don Chandler, Bengtson said, "we must have had over 50, including those we had here in our early camp last June." "We traded for one we thought was pretty good, Wade Traynham," he pointed out. "But we thought this kid (Mann) was better. In fact, at one time we had two we thought were better." Has he heard from any other kickers? "Every morning, either in person or by mail," the Packer headmaster dryly rejoined. "I can't remember a morning when there hasn't been." Although it obviously was a factor, Bengtson didn't pinpoint the kicking game as the sole cause of Sunday's defeat. "Number one," he said, "we let Sayers (Gale) get too many yards. And, two, we couldn't cash in on our opportunities." The Bears, he noted in connection with the former, "use a wide variety of formations, which shouldn't have bothered us, but it's hard to find where he (Sayers) is going to be." Expanding on this point, Bengtson said, "on the long run (63 yards), we had him stopped at the line of scrimmage. And, on the play where we were offside, he made 25. "Take those two away, and it would have been an ordinary day for him...RULED A TOUCHBACK: Describing what the game film had revealed about the fourth quarter "safety" which subsequently was ruled a touchback, he said, "they (two officials at the scene) signaled for a safety, so somebody who was right on the ball called it, but you can't tell by the pictures." "He (Bear receiver Dick Gordon) would have had to carry the ball into the end zone...the pictures show him in the end zone, but you can't tell whether he had possession of the ball." "That would have been a big difference," he added soberly. "They would have had to kick, which undoubtedly would have given us good field position. And the points (the Packers would have led, 12-10) would have helped, too. But our failure to capitalize on our opportunities is what cost us the ball game." On another matter, the Bears' positioning of their cornermen in close reduced the Packers' long ball threat, Bengtson admitted. "It affected us a little bit. It takes away the normal

pattern to the outside receivers. You have to concentrate on your inside receivers more then." Checking the casualty list Phil reported defensive tackle Ron Kostelnik "reinjured the ankle that he hurt a week ago." We didn't think it was particularly serious. He ran on it in practice all week. I imagine it will be about the same this week - something that will loosen up during the week and may not hold up during the game...HURTS SHOULDER: "Tom Brown also hurt his shoulder on the next to last play of the game...we don't know how serious it is at this point." How does he feel now about the Packers' chances in the NFL's Central Division race? "Well, there's no question about it," he replied, "we've got to win 'em all...and the other people have to lose some." The Packers, presently 3-4-1, trail the co-leading Vikings and Bears by a half game with six to play. "You're just not going to win many games," Bengtson summed up, "with 10 points." How, he was asked, is he surviving? Bengtson exhibited a faint smile and wryly responded, "just barely."

NEWS AND NOTIONS

NOV 5 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - The retirement of Don Chandler, which came some time ago with a surprising lack of fanfare, may turn out to be the most important development of 1968 for the Green Bay Packer. The personnel turn-over for the Packers was fairly hefty - considering they were again a championship team - but the name of Chandler has become the bold-faced one on the list of former Bays. Chandler's place-kicking has been sorely missed to date and Green Bay's inefficient "toe game" could eventually cost it the title in this the year of the crazy-quilt Central Division race. It's hardly an exaggeration to say that a reliable field goal kicker is a "must" for a championship team. Chandler was the placekicker deluxe of the 1965-7 title era, just as Paul Hornung had been in the 1961-2 period.



This Is the Only Field Goal the Bears' Mac Percival has missed in his last 12 attempts. The Packers' Lee Roy Caffey (60) blocked it during Sunday's game at Lambeau Field. Other defenders in-

clude Herb Adderley (26) and Bob Jeter (21). After having his streak broken at 10 straight, Percival came back in the last 26 seconds to win the game on a 43-yarder.

When Hornung fell into a kicking slump – in 1964 – after his return from suspension, the Packer title hopes went down the drain as they lost one narrow decision after another. Most of the NFL's 1968 title-contending teams are stocked with excellent kickers, and there's no need to remind anyone that the Bears' Max Percival leads the list. Among the others are Dallas' Mike Clark, Los Angeles' Bruce Gossett, Baltimore's Lou Michaels, Minnesota's Fred Cox, St. Louis' Jim Bakken, Detroit's Jerry De Poyster and Cleveland's Don Cockroft. When the Packers had Chandler, they didn't have to concede a thing in the kicking department. If they haven't installed a "hot line" to the Southwest to tell Don that it's not too late for him to join them for the final six games of 1968, they'd better get with it. I imagine Don would find it hard to turn down an appeal, especially if he were permitted to join the team on a weekend-only basis...Sunday's game against the Bears was the most conspicuous example of Packer kicking inadequacy...since the two field goal misses from inside the 30 directly affected the outcome. But, there were several earlier games in which field goal misses were costly or botched-up kickoffs gave the opposition excellent field position. In fairness to Errol Mann and Chuck Mercein – who missed the key kicks – it must be conceded that the Packers could have won over the Bears in other ways than via the field goal route. The Packers, as a whole, were only a faint carbon of the team that had unhorsed the Cowboys six days earlier. The defensive unit was too often guilty of sloppy tackling, and the offensive unit lacked the drive and imagination to cash in on breaks. What is the Packers best offensive weapon this year, as it has been through most of the 3-season title era? A Bart Starr pass, of course. Yet, for some mysterious reason, that weapon wasn't used even once when the Bays were in their final threatening position on the Bear 12. Instead, two runs and a Donny Anderson option "against the grain" (to his right) were called before the missed field goal. Starr's passes, whether from the 3-yard line or the 50, cut the Cowboys apart – yet they weren't used enough at crucial times Sunday. In their first 12 plays, the Packers threw only one pass – and that was successful. Obviously, their game plan was to run more against the Bears, but when that strategy wasn't producing, it should have been altered. It's a virtual certainty that it will take a bold Starr rather than a conservative Starr to give the Packers a chance to beat their old nemesis, Minnesota, next Sunday. Many of us pundits misread the signs when we thought the win in Dallas had given the Packers all the momentum they would need for the stretch drive. But, since inconsistency has reared its ugly head again – many of the pre-Dallas doubts have returned. The Bays are rapidly exhausting their "quota" of losses – and it's possible that even one more could be fatal. Yet, it's pretty hard to think in terms of six straight wins for the Packers from here on in – when they still haven't been able to put two wins back-to-back. The Bays are in trouble, because as of now, they're trailing each of their Central Division rivals in the point department...and, total points in individual series determine the champion if the race ends in a tie. A team that can't post a reasonable record against others in its division doesn't deserve the title. And, thus far, the Packers are 0-3-1 against their "Central" foes. Green Bay has two more chances to rectify that situation – Sunday in Minnesota and Dec. 15 in Chicago...The Packers, of course, fell out of their 4-way tie with Dallas, Los Angeles and Baltimore in the Super Bowl Index because their road to January classic now looks rockier than that of the other members of the "Big 4." The Colts, with their impressive win over New York, outrank their chief rivals slightly with a rating of 92 (out of a possible 100). Dallas and LA – though not looking too potent against Detroit – remain at 90. Until something occurs to break the Central log-jam, the Packers must be rated even, at 70, with the three other division teams. The Bears, with two straight wins scored in the final seconds, must be convinced by now that they're the team of destiny. Only time will tell... The field goal problem seems to be contagious, since the state's only major collegiate team also had its kicking woes last weekend. The Wisconsin Badgers missed six field goals, but even then they could have won it by a 2-point conversion gamble, which missed by inches. When a team is "snake-bit," nothing seems to work. The



[UPI Telephoto]

That Magic Toe Again

Bobby Joe Green, Chicago Bears' punter who is recuperating from knee surgery, touching Mac Percival's toe, which made winning kick for second consecutive time in closing seconds in Bears' victory over Packers Sunday.

winless Badgers did themselves proud by refusing to give up – no matter what the setbacks, no matter what stage of the ball game – against the heavily-favored Hoosiers. And John Coatta's decision to gamble for a win, on the 2-point play, also must be applauded. What the UW needs now is a win, not a tie.

DESPITE DEFEAT, PACKERS NO OUT OF RUNNING IN DIVISION
NOV 5 (Green Bay) – A fourth consecutive NFL championship still is the goal for the Green Bay Packers. Yet they seem to be going about it in an unusual manner. "It looks as if we might lose our way into the Central Division title," a Packer said following Sunday's 13-10 loss to the Chicago Bears. That defeat knocked the Packers out of a share of the division lead with a 3-4-1 record. But former co-leader Detroit also lost. Now Chicago and Minnesota are tied for first. But both have four defeats to go along with four victories. Although it's still anybody's race, Packers' Coach Phil Bengtson sees a hard road ahead for his team with only six games left in the regular season... **WIN THEM ALL:** "We have to win them all," Bengtson said. "And the other people have to lose some." That might not be so easy. The Packers have to play, in order, Minnesota, New Orleans, Washington, San Francisco,

Baltimore and Chicago. The Minnesota Vikings have the toughest schedule, facing the Packers, Detroit, Baltimore. Los Angeles, San Francisco and Philadelphia. Chicago meets San Francisco, Atlanta. Dallas, New Orleans, Los Angeles and Green Bay, while Detroit goes against Baltimore, Minnesota, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Washington. The Packers could tie either Chicago or Minnesota and still have a shot at the crown. But a final deadlock with Detroit would send the Lions to the playoffs. In case of a tie, under league rules, the team that scored the most points in their two-game series would get the nod. Detroit downed the Packers in their first meeting and fought to a tie in the rematch. Like the champions they are, the Packers are facing their title drive realistically. When asked what the Chicago loss meant to Green Bay's championship hopes, Bengtson replied: "It dims them, I'd say."

CHANDLER HOPES PACKERS WON'T CALL

NOV 6 (Green Bay) – Don Chandler says there is no feeling like missing field goals. "The pressure is the biggest problem and this affects every kicker," he said. "Then a field goal is a very critical play because it can make the difference between winning and losing." Chandler should know. As the Packers leading scorer last season, he hit 19 of 26 field goals and won two games with his toe as Green Bay drove to its third straight NFL title. Without Chandler this season, Green Bay has lost two games by three points or less and tied one. And, Packer kickers have made only six of 17 field goal attempts. "It seems to be getting worse and worse every week," Coach Phil Bengtson said after Sunday's 13-10 loss to Chicago on a last-minute field goal. Errol Mann and Chuck Mercein made only one of four field goal tries. "I feel real bad for Phil's sake," Chandler said of Bengtson's fourth loss-against three victories and a tie....**HE'S A GOOD ONE:** "When I left, I thought Kramer would do the kicking. He's a good one. But then he got hurt," Chandler said by telephone from his Tulsa, Okla., home. Jerry Kramer was the Packers' kicker when the season started. But the All-Star guard suffered a leg injury that has cut his kicking effectiveness. Chandler retired this year to devote full time to his real estate business in Tulsa. "My partner and I had \$3.5 million worth of apartments under construction, and I felt I couldn't leave him for another six months." Chandler said about his July 13 retirement. With Chandler gone, Bengtson said the Packers have had a flood of applicants for his job, and three have had game tryouts. "They've ranged from soccer-type kickers to coaches working with kickers," Bengtson said. "We've got a couple in mind and will probably do something soon." What about Chandler coming back? "I'm not ruling that out," Bengtson said. "I think a couple of our veterans have already talked to him. However, coming back with no work could be a big problem even for a great kicker like Don. I mean

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he would be so darn stiff after the first few days. It would take some time for him to get his kicking leg in shape." "But Chandler told us earlier that he didn't want to return on a part time basis," Bengtson said, adding, "Still, we haven't given up the idea that we may call him." "I haven't heard a word from the Packers, Chandler said. "and I don't want to put anybody on the spot." "I don't think it would be fair to

Mercer Joins Packer Kicker Caravan

TEAM OFFENSE			
Team	Avg. Yards	Avg. Rushing	Avg. Passing
Dallas	370	159	211
Baltimore	331	130	201
San Francisco	328	127	200
New York	318	146	172
Cleveland	316	138	178
Detroit	303	134	169
Green Bay	298	122	175
Chicago	295	185	110
Pittsburgh	287	122	165
St. Louis	287	131	155
Los Angeles	287	123	163
Minnesota	280	148	132
New Orleans	279	107	172
Washington	267	82	185
Philadelphia	258	103	155
Atlanta	243	89	153

TEAM DEFENSE			
Team	Avg. Yards	Avg. Rushing	Avg. Passing
Los Angeles	212	75	136
Baltimore	252	102	149
Dallas	253	82	170
Minnesota	257	129	128
Green Bay	272	150	122
San Francisco	275	126	149
Cleveland	284	129	155
New Orleans	291	143	147
Detroit	296	117	178
Washington	312	165	147
New York	315	136	179
St. Louis	317	110	207
Pittsburgh	319	122	97
Chicago	331	137	194
Philadelphia	347	158	188
Atlanta	415	165	250

the other players if I came back now," he said. "They've been there since the training camp started. I don't want to be a prima donna." Chandler said he hasn't been doing any kicking. "It would just be a matter of days to be ready to go again," he said. "I'd talk to them if they called. But I hope they don't. It would put everybody on the spot." The Packers already are on the spot. They have only six games left, including clashes with Minnesota, Baltimore and Chicago. And the Central Division race is still up for grabs. It could wind up that a field goal in the right spot would bring Green Bay into the championship game.

MERCER JOINS PACKER KICKER CARAVAN

NOV 6 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Another candidate moves front and center in the Packers season long "kicking caravan" today. The latest in a succession of more than 50 who have aspired to the retired Don Chandler's mantle, he is Mike Mercer, a widely traveled placement specialist who last saw service with the Buffalo Bills of the AFL. In announcing Mercer's arrival, Coach Phil Bengtson said, "We're reasonably sure he will be activated" for the Packers Sunday invasion of Minnesota. Mercer, who was the AFL's field goal leader in 1966, was summoned Tuesday in an

effort to shore up the Pack's somewhat erratic kicking game. Jerry Kramer, largely inactive as a kicker at the moment because of a recent knee injury, Chuck Mercein and Errol Man have connected on only two of 13 attempts since Kramer opened the season with four consecutive successes. Terming Mercer "The most experienced one available," Bengtson noted, "he has a pretty good record."...SERVES AS SPECIALIST: Poetically enough, the former Northern Arizona College athlete launched his professional career with the Vikings in 1961 and served as their specialist until 1963, when he gave way to Fred Cox. Mercer moved on to the Oakland Raiders in the AFL the following season, for whom he kicked 116 consecutive extra points and 32 field goals, in 58 attempts over a 3-year span. Released by the Raiders after the 1966 season, he was signed by Buffalo in 1966. During the course of the year, he was dealt to the Kansas City Chiefs on a lend-lease basis. In the historic climax to that '66 season, the 6-foot, 217-pound Iowa native kicked a 31-yard quarter field goal that sent the Chiefs into a 10-7, second-quarter lead over the Packers in the first Super Bowl. En route to the Los Angeles classic, Mercer amassed 98 points and connected on 21 of 30 field goal attempts to lead the AFL. Mercer's contract reverted to Buffalo in 1967 and he emerged as the Bills' leading scorer with 73 points, accumulated by dint of a 25-for-25 conversion record and 16 field goals in 27 attempts. The majority of his field goal efforts were from long range, including a 51-yarder he drilled home in the Buffalo's '67 opener against the New York Jets to establish a Bills record. "This year," Bengtson informed in explaining the 32-year-old veteran's current availability, "he pulled a muscle during training camp. In the meantime, the Bills put a kid named Bruce Alford in there and he had pretty good success the first couple of weeks, so when Mercer got well, they kept Alford and let Mike go." Since being released by Buffalo, Mercer has been practicing on his own at his Lafayette, Calif., home while awaiting another opportunity. A 2-way specialist, he doubled as punter for both Minnesota and Oakland, averaging 43.9 yards per kick for the Vikings in 1962 and 41.5 and 41.4 for the Raiders in 1964 and 1965.

STARR FALLS TO 2ND IN PASSING; PACK LEADS PASS DEFENSE

NOV 6 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Despite a 10-for-18 performance against the Chicago Bears last time out, Bart Starr has been edged from the NFL's individual passing lead by Don Meredith of the Dallas Cowboys, according to the latest official statistics. The Packer field general, now second, owns a substantially superior percentage record, 64.2 to 56.9, but Meredith has completed more passes, 111 to 86, and amassed more yards, 1,585 to 1,315. Five other Packers rank among the NFL's individual leaders in other departments. Donny Anderson has climbed to fifth in punting with a 42.3 average and ranks eighth in rushing with 468 yards in 100 attempts. Herb Adderley is fourth in kickoff returns on a 28.0 average for 9 runbacks and Travis Williams is 13th with a 23.8 average for 17 returns. Tom Brown is seventh in punt returns with a 7.1 average for 12 returns. Carroll Dale is 12th in pass receiving with 26 catches for 567 yards, a 21.8 average and tied for 12th in scoring with 42 points. On a team basis, the Packers have taken over the lead in pass defense. They have permitted only 981 air yards, an average of 122.6 per game. They rank fifth overall with a total yield of 2,182, including 1,201

LEADING GROUND GAINERS				
	Aff.	Yards	Gain	TDS
Sayers, Chi	127	824	6.5	2
Kelly, Clev.	156	763	4.9	6
Woodeshick, Phil.	107	527	4.9	2
Hoak, Pitt.	90	524	5.8	2
Farr, Det.	106	499	4.7	3
Willard, S.F.	127	483	3.8	2
Brown, Minn.	125	473	3.8	9
Anderson, G.B.	100	468	4.7	2
Perkins, Dall.	104	444	4.3	1
Jones, Minn.	98	440	4.5	1

LEADING PASSERS				
	Aff.	Com.	Yds.	TDS
Meredith, Dall.	195	111	1,585	14 8.13
Starr, G.B.	134	86	1,315	14 9.81
Tarkenton, N.Y.	171	96	1,399	12 8.18
Brodie, S.F.	238	145	1,688	14 7.09
Munson, Det.	167	94	1,284	9 7.69
Jurgensen, Wash.	209	125	1,461	12 6.99
Morrall, Balt.	194	110	1,698	17 8.75
Nelsen, Clev.	151	80	1,044	9 6.91
Gabriel, L.A.	211	108	1,479	11 7.01
Hart, St. L.	156	74	1,147	9 7.35

LEADING PASS RECEIVERS				
	Recd.	Yds.	Gain	TDS
McNeil, S.F.	48	676	14.1	5
Taylor, Wash.	33	382	11.6	1
Jefferson, Pitt.	32	619	19.3	7
Williams, St. L.	32	514	16.1	4
Rentzel, Dall.	31	487	15.7	2
Hawkins, Phil.	29	529	18.2	2
Hayes, Dall.	29	512	17.7	5
Abramowicz, N.O.	29	509	17.6	4
Washington, Minn.	29	501	17.3	5
McCullough, Det.	28	577	20.6	5

LEADING SCORERS				
	TDS	FG	PAT	TP
Clark, Dall.	0	10	31	61
Brown, Minn.	10	0	0	60
Percival, Chi.	0	14	14	56
Bakken, St. L.	0	10	25	55
Durkee, N.O.	0	13	15	54
Gogolak, N.Y.	0	10	24	54
Gossett, L.A.	0	11	21	54
Michaels, Balt.	0	8	29	53
Cockroft, Clev.	0	10	20	50
Cox, Minn.	0	9	22	49



Minnesota's Bill Brown (30) will put the Green Bay Packer defense to the test Sunday. Brown leads the National Football League in touchdowns via rushing. He is shown here reeling off a gain against Washington last Sunday. Defenders include Jim Carroll (60) and Tom Roussel (54). (AP Wirephoto)

rushing...PACKER PATTERN: Fullback Bill Brown of the Minnesota Vikings, the Packers opposition in the Twin Cities Sunday, is the NFL's No. 2 scorer with 61 points, one less than Mike Clark of the Dallas Cowboys. Brown, who led a week ago, also is seventh in rushing with 473 yards in 125 carries...Teammate Gene Washington is tied for sixth in pass receiving with 29 catches for 501 yards and five touchdowns...Sparked by Leon (Hands) Crenshaw's two touchdown catches, the defensive linemen scored a rare shutout of the offensive linemen in the Packers weekly touch football game Tuesday. Following the customarily brief opening practice, the world champions adjourned to the classroom to hear a report on the Vikings from scout Wally Cruice...The NFL apparently is returning to the ball control approach first exemplified by the Packers when they began stringing championships in the early 60's. For the first time since 1965, NFL teams are calling more rushing plays than pass plays. Thus, teams are rushing 52.18 per cent of the time and attempting passes 47.82 per cent.

CAFFEY A FLEETING HERO

NOV 6 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "I thought it was a big play at the time," LeeRoy Caffey mused, a little sadly, "but it didn't turn out to be." The large, economy-sized linebacker, fleetingly a major hero in Sunday's last minute contretemps with the Bears, was meditating upon his block of a Mac Percival field goal attempt in the fourth quarter. Elaborating on that explosive item, a somewhat rare accomplishment on the pro football scene, Caffey pointed out, "At that particular time we were tied 10-10. I told Lionel (Aldridge) and Jeter (Bob) both, 'We've got to block it.' And I have to give them a lot of credit-they did their jobs real well."...I SHOT THE GAP: Caffey, who

has to be one of the game's more mercurial 250-pound practitioners, explained, "We worked it the same way we always do whenever we line up against a field goal or extra point attempt. 'Lionel pulls the end down and Jeter goes to the outside. The blocking back moves in to pick Bob up and that leaves a gap. I shot the gap...Lionel did a real fine job of pulling his man. 'We use that approach all the time. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't.' The strapping blond isn't sure how many of these spectaculars he has engineered but estimates, "I've blocked four or five, maybe six...I know I blocked one in Los Angeles last year."...HAVING BETTER YEAR: Continuing his analysis, Caffey noted, "Dave Robinson has the same situation I have, on the other side, but the degree of opportunity depends on the position of the ball. That time the angle was on my side." "I don't know if anybody touched me. I'd have to see the films - but I don't think so...I don't know if it was a late kick or what." Although the Packers defense is not having one of its more artistic seasons as a whole, Caffey appears to be more effective than he was in 1967, it was suggested. "I feel I'm having a better year, he conceded, then added wistfully, "I'd rather see it a winning year." "Last year, I was hurt-hurt more than people realize," the former Philadelphia Eagle revealed. "This year I felt good right from the start. I felt like I was going to have a good year. And I wanted to have one for Phil Bengtson - I have a lot of respect for him. Another thing, I was all-pro one year (1966) and didn't even get a mention the next. I just made up my mind I was going to have a better year."...MATURITY MAKES DIFFERENCE: "I think maturity has a lot to do with it," the 27-year-old Caffey continued. "I think as you get older, you realize more. When you're young, you probably aren't as dedicated as you should be." The amiable Texan is at a loss to explain the Packers defensive problems. "It's hard to say," he observed after pondering the matter. "A lot of us have been discussing it. One thing, we've had a lot of injuries. I think everybody is trying. It's little things that have been hurting us. It seemed like last year, you'd make a mistake and there'd be somebody there to cover for you. This year, it seems several of us are making mistakes at the same time. Actually, I don't think we have played that badly, though. Since the guys have got well, the defense has played pretty well."

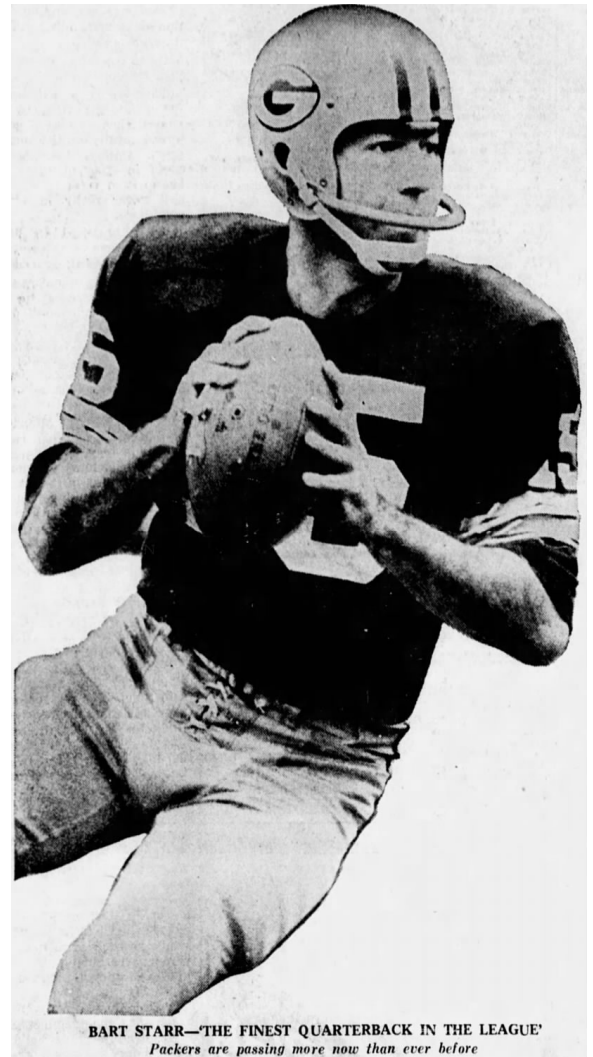
PACKERS CHANGING FROM BALL CONTROL TO PASSING GAME

NOV 6 (Minneapolis Star Tribune) - Green Bay, which built its championship dynasty on grind-it-out, ball-control football, appears to be heading in the other direction - adding more passing every year. "The ball control that Green Bay had been noted for years ago is no longer true," Viking coach Bud Grant said. "They might be a pass control team, but they certainly are not a ball-control team where they ram it down your throat." Strangely, while the Packers are passing more, the rest of the NFL is doing just the opposite. For the first time since 1965, the 16 NFL teams have logged more running than passing plays through the first eight games. The Packers still run more than they pass - with 245 rushes and 184 passes in eight games - but their offense has become more and more dependent on passes in crucial situations. "I'm sure they feel they have a better advantage moving the ball through the air because they have the people to do it with," Grant said. "Donny Anderson has been having a fine year, yet they still are throwing the ball more. I think this probably is a result of the great quarterback they have, Bart Starr, who in our opinion is still the finest in the league, and the great receivers they have - Boyd

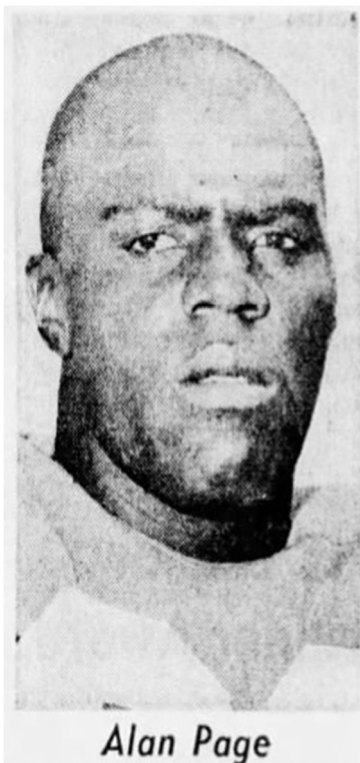
Dowler and Carroll Dale particularly." The Packers even have added a couple of formations recently – passing formations. "It becomes increasingly difficult to run the ball against the varied defenses," Grant said, "and as the season goes on they put you on these computers and they know more about you than you know about yourself sometimes." Starr has completed 86 of 135 passes (a 63.7 percentage) for 1,315 yards and 14 touchdowns. Yet the Packers have been able to post only a 3-4-1 record. "I agree that Green Bay has not been getting the good bounce as they have in the past," Grant said. "It's strange that the winning teams get the bounces. It's almost divine. Things happen because the squad believes that whatever the score, whatever the time...whatever, the ball is going to come their way and they're going to win the football game. I think Green Bay believed that profoundly for years and they possibly still believe that. When it goes against you and you start wondering, it's going to happen again – and maybe now you're in a little bit of trouble."...VIKING NOTES: Green Bay is looking for a kicker and possibly will sign one this week. The Packers have made only 6 of 16 field goal attempts this season...Charlie West, Vikings' rookie cornerback, was talking about Fred Carr, his ex-teammate at Texas-El Paso, who is now a linebacker with the Packers: "He's about 6-foot-5, over 230 pounds and is a step faster than I am. In college we blitzed about the first three quarters and then went into a zone, which is why he didn't have many interceptions."

PACKERS FACE RESOURCEFUL VIKI DEFENSE

NOV 7 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Packer offense, which has found the enemy uncommonly tightfisted for the most part in 1968, faces another major challenge in Minnesota this week. With the Vikings, niggardly in the extreme save for two frolics with the Bears, the name of the game is defense. This is not to suggest the Viking attack is less than representative - it has more than a few imposing weapons - but the heart of Minnesota's NFL entry has been in its defensive platoon...CONFINED COWBOYS: For impressive example, the Vikings confined the explosive Dallas Cowboys, owners of the NFL's No. 1 offense, to a mere 177 yards in a losing (20-7) effort two weeks ago. Then, after being frisked for 409 yards by the Bears, they rebounded to shackle Sonny Jurgensen and the Washington Redskins with just 133, including only 41 rushing. As a result, the Vikings canter into Sunday's showdown as the fourth stingiest team in the league - one step ahead of the Packers. They have allowed only 2,061 yards in fashioning a 4-4 record, 1,036 rushing and 1,025 passing. Strangely enough, the Vikes have been unable to cope with the Bears, having permitted them 412 yards in their first meeting and a total of 821 in two encounters - better than 40 percent of the total they have yielded in eight games...SECOND TO PACKERS: Aided by the addition of former Redskins Paul Krause, who is one of the league's leading interceptors, they rank second only to the Packers in pass defense and are runners-up to the league-leading Los Angeles Rams in quarterback traps with 29. Nine of those, it should be noted, were registered against the redoubtable Jurgensen in Minnesota's 27-14 decision of the Redskins last Sunday. They apparently were traceable, in large part, to a change in tactics. Describing them in the Minneapolis Star, sports writer Dick Gordon reported, "Except on rare occasions, the Vikings employed five backs and only two linebackers in their secondary. On frequent long-yardage, second and third down situations, rookies Charles West and Bobby Bryant came in to make it seven backs and NO linebackers...RELISH THE LUXURY: "Neither Grant (Bud) nor Washington's Otto Graham said this was unprecedented. But the former emphasized the key to it all was "that we turned our front four loose. We figured if Washington beat us, it had to be by passing. So the front four didn't have to be concerned with traps or screens or counters or anything like that. They just concentrated on Jurgensen. And obviously Jim Marshall, Gary Larsen, Carl Eller and Alan Page relished the luxury of their assignment. Such contributions by the defensive platoon as a recovered fumble and a blocked punt leading to a pair of scores and a record-tying 98-yard punt return for the final Viking touchdown by West were overshadowed by other statistics. Seven times the front four got to Jurgensen for total yardage losses of 45 yards before he told Graham the handicap of a plaster vest protecting his broken ribs was too much. And when he did manage to get his aerals off he could find the target just 12 times with an 18-yarder the longest gainer. While giving full credit to the Viking front four, Jurgensen figured he was a liability to the team. 'I hope I can get this thing (the vest) off. Now I can't throw when I'm off balance.' " 'By off-balance does he mean on the way to the ground?' " Grant was moved to ask...CENTRAL SHOWDOWN: "Graham minimized Jurgensen's handicaps. 'It was just a case of the Viking defensive line overpowering our offensive line. And that doesn't happen very often. They put a lot of pressure on Sonny. That front four is as good as any in the league!'" All of which should suggest the type of trauma which awaits the Pack's offensive wall in the Twin Cities Sunday afternoon, when the world champions will be fighting for their artistic lives. Grant, incidentally, "made one point clear," Gordon wrote. "The Vikings 'absolutely will not' employ their revolutionary and successful defense against Green Bay in Sunday's Central Division showdown."...PACKER PATTERN: Mike Mercer, latest candidate for the Packers] placekicking assignment, tested his leg on Green Bay



BART STARR—THE FINEST QUARTERBACK IN THE LEAGUE
Packers are passing more now than ever before



Alan Page

soil for the first time in Wednesday morning's chilly drizzle. Although the former Viking and Buffalo Bill subsequently reported, "I have no sense of timing," he connected on five successive attempts from the 42-yard line at one point. Mercer said, "It'll take two or three days to get my timing back," and pointed out, "I haven't worked with a holder in six weeks. The leg is strong, though. From working with Bart (Starr) just a little, I can say he's the best holder I've ever had. The holder is vitally important. In fact, I think he is more important than the kicker. No kicker can be good without a good holder." Mercer, who lost his berth with the Bills while out with a pulled left hamstring muscle, reports the injury is no longer a problem...Defensive end Lionel Aldridge is sporting a broken nose, a souvenir of an inadvertent collision with the Bears' Jim Cadile in last Sunday's game. "The play looked like it was going to the outside and I moved out with it," Aldridge reported. "Then it looked like it was cutting back to the inside. Just as I turned in, I ran into Cadile. The mask just crumpled and just spread apart. I was blind for awhile."

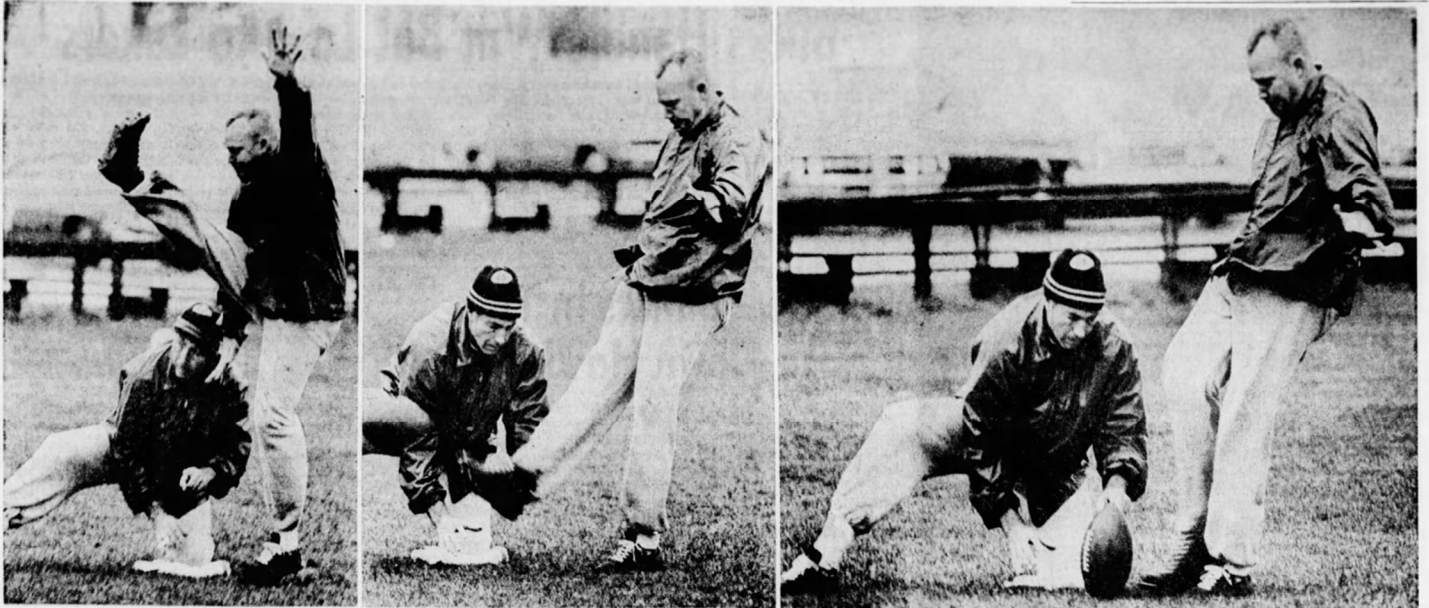
VIKES' PAGE WINS NFL HONOR

NOV 7 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Alan Page's pass rush last Sunday helped him win for the 6-foot-4 defensive tackle of the Minnesota Vikings The Associated Press' designation as defensive player of the week in the NFL. Washington's passers been smeared only nine times in seven previous games and Sonny Jurgensen, in particular, had been dumped only six times. Minnesota got to the passer eight times last Sunday in a 27-14 win, plucking Jurgensen seven times and rookie Harry Theofilides once. Page, 250-pound former Notre Dame star, smeared Jurgy four times. Bubba Smith, another second year man, was awarded the game ball by the Baltimore Colts after their 26-0 shutout of the New York Giants. Bubba made one big move to drag down Fran Tarkenton on a broken play and he put pressure on Tarkenton all day...EVEN OUTDID HIMSELF: On the theory that a man who runs for 205 yards against Green Bay rates the nod over a field goal kicker,

even if the latter does win the game, the AP has named Gale Sayers of the Chicago Bears as the NFL's offensive player of the week. Sayers even outdid himself Sunday in Green Bay with 205 yards on 24 carries, his best day since he gained 284 yards as a sophomore at Kansas against Oklahoma State. "We won," said Sayers after the Bears' 13-10 victory, "That's the main thing. It doesn't make any difference how many yards I make. We're leading our division. That's what counts."...SAYERS FANTASTIC: Phil Bengtson, the Packers coach, summed up Sayers' performance when he said, "He's fantastic. I've seen him have good days, but this has to be his best." In addition to piling up the yardage, Sayers was used as a decoy while others carried the ball. One Chicago score came when the Packers keyed on Sayers who ran right while quarterback Virgil Carter bootlegged for two yards to the left. Of course, it was Mac Percival's 43-yard field goal in the final 26 seconds on a free kick that won the game. Percival's streak of 10 consecutive field goals were broken earlier in the game but the former schoolteacher made it 11 out of 12 with the game winner...JEFFERSON SHINES: Roy Jefferson, Pittsburgh receiver, was another top candidate for the week's offensive honors with 11 pass receptions for 199 yards and four touchdowns against Atlanta in a 41-21 romp. He was the first NFL player to catch four TD passes since 1963. Jefferson's feat became even more amazing when Bill Austin, Steeler coach, revealed he moved the receiver to the left side of the line to take advantage of his good eye. "Roy has an astigmatism," said Austin. "So I keep him on the left to let him look at the ball from his best side. We used to flop him left and right but 10 of the 11 passes he dropped this year came when he was lining up on the right." Leroy Kelly bolted and bulldozed for 174 yards on 27 carries in Cleveland's 33-21 victory at San Francisco. It was a career high for Kelly whose previous best effort was 163 against Washington last year. Kelly has topped the 100 yard mark five times this season and 16 times as a pro. The return of Earl Morrall to New York for the first time since the Giants traded him to Baltimore found Morrall throwing two touchdown passes for the Colts and completing 16 of 24 in Baltimore's 26-0 shutout.

FACE MASK IS PART OF THE MAN

NOV 7 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – "It's part of the man. What can you do?" Lionel Aldridge was talking about the face mask...and the penalties for grabbing it that seem to be mounting each week. I've seen more and more face mask penalties called each week on all levels of play...high school, college and pro. And many of them seem so unfair. But as Aldridge says, "What can you do." A defender dives for a ball carrier from the side or behind and reaches around him. The whistle blows and 15 yards are marched off for grabbing the face mask. It was unintentional..."It's part of the man"...but the penalty is enforced anyway...HAS TO BE PENALTY: There is no question but what there has to be a penalty for grabbing the face mask. The act, committed intentionally and with vigor...or even accidentally...can be lethal. Jim Temp, who played a lot of football in his day, recalls when he was toiling at defensive end for Fort Eustis, Va., in a game against the Quantico Marines. "They ran a sweep around my end. A guard was putting a block on me but I reached over him and managed to get one hand on the little halfback with the ball. I didn't mean to, but I had the face mask. Have you ever seen a dog running full speed come to the end of his leash? His head and necks stops cold but his body keeps going. That's what happened to the halfback. He could have broken his neck but fortunately he was not hurt." Football players realize the gravity of this sort of tackling. It is difficult to believe that any players would intentionally try to pull an opponent down by the face mask. So aware of the face mask danger are Aldridge and Willie Davis, for example, that they have no quarrel with the 15-yard penalty attached to it. And Davis, who was tagged with one of those penalties against the Cowboys, is in pretty close agreement with the calling of the penalty despite the frequency of it...CALLING TOO CLOSE: Aldridge, who was nailed for a face mask penalty against the Bears, feels that the officials may be calling them too close though



Mike Mercer, Packers' new placekicking candidate, tests leg in Wednesday's practice with help of Bart Starr.

—Press-Gazette Photo by Russ Kriwanek

he quickly admits that it is a difficult call because the action happens so fast. "You grab for the man and you might get the mask. You let go right away but it's too late," he said. It's unintentional but it is a violation and a penalty. Several players have indicated, however, that the officials are calling face mask almost anytime your hand...even an open hand...or forearm comes in contact with the mask bar. In other words, they may be overly conscious of the face mask. In considering the various aspects of the face mask, it seems to me that the penalty is a bit harsh. I don't think reducing the penalty to five yards would increase the temptation to grab a mask.

PACKERS' CLOSELY ALLIED TO GRANT ROBINSON CAREER

NOV 7 (Minneapolis Star Tribune) — The odd currents that swirl through football have deposited Wayne Robinson on the other side of the scrimmage line. When Green Bay and Minnesota meet Sunday in Metropolitan Stadium, Robinson will be coaching the defensive backfield for the Packers and a collection of friends and former contemporaries will be trying to break down the resistance he has built. Robinson and the Vikings' Bud Grant, Jerry Burns, Joe Kapp and Jim Finks all have been enmeshed in their football careers at one time or another, but all these alliances will be forgotten Sunday:

* Robinson and Grant were teammates at the University of Minnesota and with the Philadelphia Eagles.

* When Grant took over as head coach at Winnipeg in 1957 (at age 29), he hired the 26-year-old Robinson as his lone assistant coach.

* Burns, who was then a 29-year-old assistant coach at Iowa, worked that summer as an advisory coach with Robinson and Grant at Winnipeg. He was a crusty coaching veteran by then, with two years' experience, while the only coaching background Robinson and Grant had was helping with the Minnesota alumni.

* Robinson left Winnipeg in 1959 to become head coach at Vancouver — at age 28. Two years later he was to make a deal that put him out of football for two years and that added further irony to Sunday's football game. In 1961, ex-Iowa quarterback Randy Duncan played out his option at Vancouver, leaving Robinson without an experienced signal-caller. Robinson asked his general manager if he could deal for Kapp, who was with Calgary, and was refused permission because Kapp had been experiencing some difficulties after knee surgery. Robinson approached Finks, then general manager of Calgary, and made the deal anyway — giving four players (including Ed O'Bradovich, currently at Chicago) for Kapp. "I was heavily criticized for making the trade," Robinson said over the telephone from Green Bay Wednesday. "Some hailed it as the worst trade in Canadian football." Robinson didn't last out the year as head coach, being replaced by ex-Gopher Dave Skrien. "They never gave him a chance," Kapp said. "They just let him go." Robinson turned out to be right after all, though he was not there to savor his victory. Kapp and Vancouver went on two years later to win the championship. "Kapp was fantastic, he really was," Robinson said. "First of all, he's a leader. And he's a competitor, a guy who will never quit. He has the ability to make the big play, which is essential in a quarterback. I don't think he has lost any of those abilities, either." After leaving Vancouver, Robinson stayed out of football for two years until Burns got the head coaching job at Iowa and hired Wayne as an assistant. From there he went to Houston of the AFL as an aide and finally to Green Bay. The position at Green Bay opened up when Burns moved to the Vikings. Burns recommended Robinson for the job and then, after he got it, sold Wayne his house in Green Bay. Now Robinson will be directing



WAYNE ROBINSON
Former Grant Aide



Carr-53

Linebacker — Texas-El Paso

Height 6-5, Weight 235

Born in Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 19, 1946.

Runs the 40 in 4.6 in gear, 100 in 10.2. Potential to play defensive end, linebacker, tight end or safety. Weight potential of up to 250. Rated number one player in country. Played in Sun and Senior Bowl, Sporting News and NEA All-American. Rated tops in aggressiveness, speed, desire, hands, quickness, leadership ability, and ability to play with injuries.

the defensive secondary that Grant, Burns and Kapp will be trying to defeat Sunday. The Packers have the No. 1 pass defense in the NFL, but Robinson knows enough about his opposition to be wary. "Grant is one of the finest football coaches in the business," Robinson said. "One of his strongest points is his patience with his personnel. Burns has a mind like a steel trap. He knows as much about the game as anybody." Kapp, of course, has had pretty good success against the Packers - no matter who is coaching. He will be looking for his third victory in four tries Sunday.

INJURY FELS JIM FLANIGAN

NOV 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Reserve middle linebacker Jim Flanigan was added to the Packers casualty list when he suffered a knee injury during Thursday's practice. The status of Flanigan, a valued member of the Packers' special teams, for Sunday's game with the Vikings in Minnesota is uncertain, a Packer spokesman said.

GRABO DUE FOR BIGGER ROLE VS. VIKES

NOV 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Fullback Jim Grabowski, an infrequent performer of late, should be somewhat more conspicuous in the Packers' critical invasion of Minnesota Sunday. Because of a brief but impressive appearance against the Bears last weekend, Grabowski is "very likely" to play an expanded role in the world champions' attack against the Vikings, Coach Phil Bengtson indicated Thursday. The youthful University of Illinois immortal "looked quicker than he has all season," Bengtson noted. The Packers' leading ground gainer a year ago, despite an injury which shelved him in midseason, Grabowski underwent knee surgery in January and, until Sunday, had not attained his 1967 form. Although the leg hasn't strengthened as rapidly as he expected, Grabowski reports, "It felt good in the Bear game. It's hard to tell, of course - I only ran twice." Grabo, who has yielded his starting assignment to veteran Elijah Pitts the last two weeks, made his first appearance against the Bears in the third quarter and bolted over the right side for 15 yards, the

Pack's longest gainer en route to Chuck Mercein's score-tying field goal. Recalling that excursion, the former Chicago prep star emitted a dry chuckle and observed, "That probably was my longest run (it was) of the season...I'm a breakaway threat." Issuing a progress report, he said, "I don't have the strength in the leg I used to have. I work out on the weights three or four times a week, but it's taking longer than expected. "It gets better all the time, though, although it's not 100 per cent yet." The knee's condition he insists, "isn't the reason I haven't been starting. I just haven't been playing very well...They put Pittsy in there the last two games and he did a heckuva job." He also discounts the possibility of a psychological complication. "It never entered my mind about the leg staying bad," the personable Chicagoan says, adding with winning candor, "I'm not out because I'm hurt, I'm just out because somebody else is doing a better job. "When I first came up here, I had a lot of anxiety," he admitted, "but that's all gone now. I took some pretty good licks on the leg in training camp without any trouble. But I didn't run with the abandon I had. I never think of getting hurt. Maybe subconsciously, I do, but I'm not aware of it. I can't find any reason why I haven't been running like I can. I haven't...I just haven't." Grabowski appeared in a fair way to crash the NFL's elite 1,000-yard-club as a sophomore last season when his troubles began. Jim, who shattered all of legendary Red Grange's ground-gaining records at Illinois, rolled up 466 yards in the Packers first seven games, including 111 on a club record 32 carries in a 13-10 victory over the Bears. Then, in Game Eight, against the Colts in Baltimore, disaster struck. Recalling that unhappy moment, Grabo informed, "Bobby Boyd hit me when I was cutting outside and it just bent on me, I guess." He made only one token appearance thereafter, gaining 18 yards in four carries in the fourth quarter of the Packers Central Division title clincher at Chicago Nov. 26 before the knee again buckled beneath him. Thus far in 1968, Grabo has accumulated 193 yards in 60 carries, a 3.2 average, somewhat below his production at this point a year ago. Assessing his present status, he concedes, "Certainly, it's not easy not to play. But Pittsy is doing a good job. The only way we feel about it is that, between us, we have to do the job, whoever's in there."... **PACKER PATTERN:** No decision has as yet been made on whether place-kicker Mike Mercer will be activated for Sunday's game, Bengtson said. "If we do activate him," he said, "it probably will be a last-minute thing." The Packer headmaster joined kicking



Bowman-57

Center — Wisconsin

Height 6-2, Weight 235

Born in Milan, Ill., Dec. 15, 1942

Fifth year in pro ball . . . Packers eighth round draft choice for 1964 season . . . Won starting position rookie year . . . Injured shoulder in 1966 pre-season schedule but played most of game against Kansas City in World Title Game . . . Returned to starting lineup in 1967 . . . Sociology Major . . . attends Univ. of Wisconsin law school during off-season. Residence: De Pere, Wis.

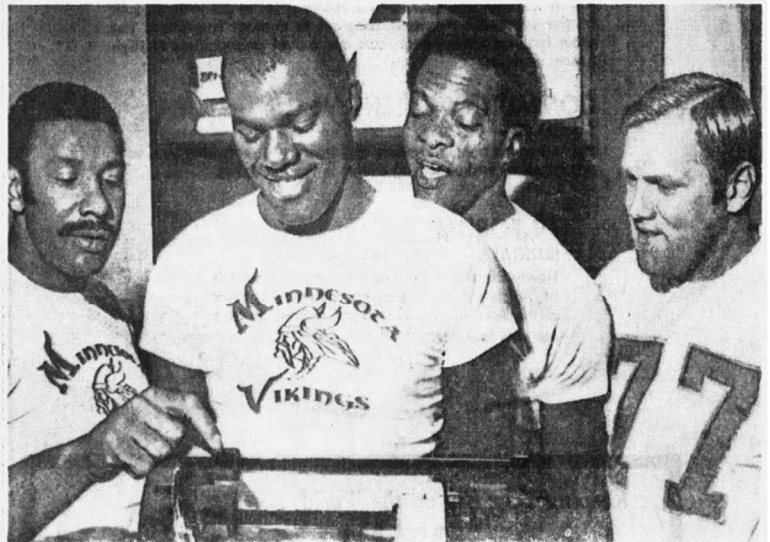
coach Ray Wietecha after practice in surveying the efforts of Mercer, Jerry Kramer and Chuck Mercein. Errol Mann, the Packers other kicking specialist, is still recuperating from a painful bruise on his kicking leg.

VIKES' DUCAT DEMAND SOARS

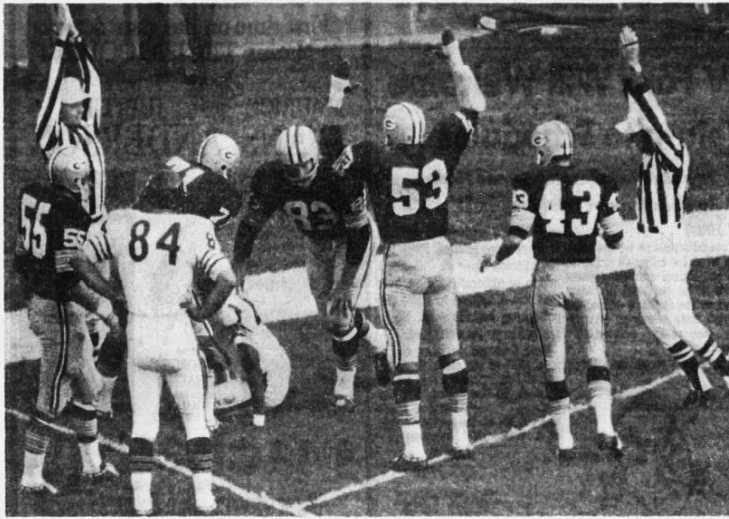
NOV 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Bill McGrane, the smooth, articulate public relations director of Minnesota's Vikings, is invariably imperturbable. But even he, model of unflappability though he may be, concedes life has become uncommonly hectic this week as the Vikings' "championship" confrontation with the Packers nears. The telephone in his Twin Cities office has been ringing incessantly in recent days with a never-ending series of requests for space in Metropolitan Stadium's press box and, of course, ticket assistance...CLAMOR UNDERSTANDABLE: It is, of course, a heady new experience for McGrane and the rest of the Minnesota front office. The Vikings, the second addition to the NFL during its modern expansion program, have been in existence only seven years and never have been in the race at this stage of the season. The clamor thus is understandable if somewhat taxing, he admits via long distance, "I think this is probably the biggest game we've ever played," the forthright Iowa native says, "for a number of reasons. We've never had ticket pressure like this - there is not a ticket to be had...The pressure is just immense." "We're going to have a sellout of 47,644 fans," he said, adding in wonder, "We could sell twice that many. And the demand for press, radio and television accommodations is tremendous – the heaviest we've ever had." Citing another pertinent factor in the current epidemic of Minne-mania, McGrane pointed out, "I think this is the first time we have played the Packers when we have been ahead of them in the standings." The Norsemen, who presently share the NFL's Central Division lead with the Chicago Bears at 4-4, own a half-game edge on the Packers, presently 3-4-1...PLAYING GOOD DEFENSE: It being a publicity director's primary function to furnish information, not venture predictions, the crew cut Gopher is careful to do just that under the critical circumstances. "We're playing well defensively," he offers, cautiously appending, "I think that's what's keeping us close to people. We held Washington to 133 yards last Sunday and two weeks ago we held the Cowboys to 177 yards. Page (Alan, former Notre Dame luminary) is having a big year and Carl Eller is playing as well as I've ever seen him. And Gary Larsen is vastly improved. Paul Krause (acquired in an offseason trade with the Redskins) also has been a great help to us in the secondary. As far as the offense is concerned, Kapp (Joe) is big and strong and can take a lot of punishment...He certainly will never give up...And Washington (Gene) is a deep threat...something we never have had until this year. We've had people like Paul Flatley, Tom Hall and, Red Phillips, who were good receivers but didn't give you the long ball threat." Looking ahead to Sunday's showdown, McGrane pointed out, perhaps only for the record and perhaps to contain any burgeoning optimism in his own breast, "We're still waiting for our first victory over the Packers on our home field...They've beaten us seven in a row here."

TOO MUCH GRID ON TV? SEE RATINGS

NOV 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - So television is being saturated with football So the viewers are becoming blase' about it? Well, 44 per cent of all the turned on television sets across this country on Monday night, Oct. 28, were tuned to the Packers-Cowboys game, according to the Arbitron rating service. Football's direct competition was an outstanding movie, Exodus, which drew 30 per cent and a couple of regular offerings, The Outcasts and The Big Valley, which drew 21 per cent. As a matter of fact, the Packers-Cowboys show had the sixth highest rating of any week night show presented during the current television season. What this means, of course, is that Pete Rozelle has considerable ammunition when contract time comes up with CBS next year...'Tis said that Bobby Mitchell is unhappy with the Redskins and Tucker Fredrickson with the Giants...or vice versa...The National and American Football League Players associations will hold a convention in Palm Springs, Calif., Jan 9-16...Only 18,304 fans turned out for the Patriot-Bronco game in Boston. It was the smallest pro crowd of the year...More and more teams are going to the squib kickoffs on an almost regular basis, varying only the direction and distance to provide some surprise...The Philadelphia Eagles still hold a game and a half lead over the Buffalo Bills in the race for O.J. Simpson. Five teams have lost their No. 1 draft choice by trade: Denver to San Diego, Detroit to Los Angeles, New Orleans to San Francisco, Washington to Los Angeles, Minnesota to New Orleans...Bears offensive line Coach Abe Gibron is given credit for suggesting the free kick against the Packers...Pro Football Weekly, a fine publication, recently ranked Johnny Unitas as the No. 1 quarterback in pro grid history. He was followed by Norm Van Brocklin, Sam Baugh, Otto Graham and Bart Starr...Veteran AFL tight end Dave Kocourek, who is a University of Wisconsin grad, played 117 straight games with San Diego, Miami and Oakland before missing one recently because of an ankle injury...Fortune Magazine has a fine story on the Packers and the city of Green Bay... Note to Packer Bandmen: Buddy Mautino, a saxophonist in the Redskin band, was fired recently because he was detected cheering for Pittsburgh's Dick Hoak...Russ Smith, a San Diego back, came into the huddle during a recent game with blood pouring from a cut above his eye. Quarterback John Hadl told him to get off the field but Smith insisted "I'm all right." Hadl demanded he leave, however, because "You're making me sick."...Steeler Roy Jefferson had rookie Larry Suchy supposedly covering him when he caught 11 passes for 199



Hamming It Up for photographers before a practice session are the front four of the Minnesota Vikings' defensive unit (left to right): Jim Marshall, 258 pounds; Alan Page, 250; Carl Eller, 260; and Gary Larson, 255. The four will try to stop the Green Bay offense when the Packers play at Minnesota Sunday.



This is the play that caused a controversy in Sunday's Packer-Bear game. Two officials signal a safety on a fourth-quarter Packer kickoff to Dick Gordon. The referee, however, over-ruled the decision and called it a touchback. Phil Vandersea (83) pounced on Gordon in the end zone. Other Packers include Jim Flanagan (55), Fred Carr (53) and Doug Hart (43). The Bears' Austin Denney is No. 84.

yards against Atlanta. Said Jefferson: "Cornerback is the toughest job to learn next to quarterback. I never thought they would ask a rookie to cover me. It was a little unfair of the Falcons to do that." Jefferson, by the way, had his big day while operating from the left side. Steeler Coach Bill Austin discovered that the Utah grad had dropped 10 of 11 passes from the right side and decided to station him permanently on the left...After Dallas stomped the Eagles, 34-14, Cowboy linebacker Lee Roy Jordan said of the Phillies: "I just don't think they have much variety off each of their formations. They're stereotyped." But Eagle Coach Joe Kuharich retorted: "We scored more points last year than they did with their supposedly high powered offense." Kuharich, by the way, is now so loved in the City of Brotherly Love that he gets a police escort on and off the field. And the Eagle fans are planning a "Fans Boycott Day" for Dec. 8 when the Eagles will host New Orleans.

GRANT SAYS BAYS AREN'T GETTING 'GOOD BOUNCE'

NOV 8 (Green Bay) – The Green Bay Packers have their work

cut out for them if they are to successfully defend their NFL championship. "We have to win them all," Coach Phil Bengtson put it simply. "And the other people have to lose some." The Packers have already lost four games this season. That's the same number of defeats they finished with last year when they took the Central Division crown, the Western Conference title, the NFL championship and won the Super Bowl. But two losses came after they had wrapped up the Central Division. This Sunday, Green Bay invades Minnesota as they start their final six games. In the topsy turvy Central Division they are not completely out of the race...ALL HAVE 4 LOSSES: Every team in the division sports four losses. But the Packers and the Detroit Lions have only three victories. They tied the last time they played each other. Chicago and Minnesota are 4-4. Earlier this season, the Minnesota Vikings continued their hex, beating the Packers in Milwaukee. It was the fourth time in five years that the Vikings had won the Packer game in that territory. Of course, Bengtson hopes the other part of the hex is working this Sunday. Green Bay has never lost a league game at Minnesota. Games played last Sunday by the Packers and the Vikings also point out the wisdom of Bengtson. "The big type of play that we needed and used to get in the past, we didn't get," he said following a loss to Detroit...A BIG PLAY: In a 13-10 losing effort against the Chicago Bears last week, a big play-when a safety was apparently called on Chicago on a kickoff-was nullified when officials ruled it was a touchback. Yet in Minnesota, the Vikings' Charlie West didn't realize where he was and consequently ran a punt back for 98 yards and a touchdown. "If I'd known I was at our two-yard line I wouldn't have run it back," West said. "Normally I'd have let it go into the end zone." "I agree that Green Bay has not been getting the good bounce as it has in the past," Bud Grant, Minnesota coach, said. "It's strange that winning teams get the bounces. It's almost divine. Things happen because the squad believes that whatever the score, whatever the time, the ball is going to come their way and they're going to win the game." "I think Green Bay believed that profoundly for years and possibly still believes that," Grant said. "When it goes against you and you start wondering if it's going to happen - and maybe now you're in a little bit of trouble." Trouble is something Green Bay has plenty of. Victories are what the Packers need, starting with this Sunday.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH GREEN BAY?

NOV 8 (Minneapolis Star Tribune) – What's the matter with the Packers? The Packers rank 3-4-1 in the Central Division of the NFL with essentially the same team that beat Oakland in the Super Bowl last January. It has been said the Packers are getting old, but that never has been proven. It has been said the Packers are suffering from injury problems, but they had them early in 1967 also and they still were 6-1-1 at this point of the season. They haven't had the breaks, the right bounce of the football - but they also aren't making the big plays on defense. "I think that's part of it," said Packer coach Phil Bengtson, "Our defensive line hasn't been healthy and we haven't racked the opposing passer as many times. We've let the other team control the ball more because we haven't made the big play to stop him." Statistics bear him out. Defensively, the Packers have allowed 32 more first downs in eight games in 1968 than they did in 1967; they have allowed 18 more points, 471 more yards. They have not scored a touchdown with an intercepted pass although they have picked off 12, have not had a touchdown on a kickoff return and only one on a punt runback. Nonetheless, they lead the NFL in defense against the pass and rank fifth overall. "When we've looked best," Bengtson said, "is when our passing game has been sharp." A scouting report on the Packers, the Vikings foe Sunday: OFFENSE LINE - Left tackle Bob Skoronski (6-3, 245) and right tackle Forrest Gregg (6-4, 250) both are 34 years old and play with the experience of their age. Both are especially adept at guiding the pass rusher to the outside, around the quarterback. Right guard/author Jerry Kramer (6-3, 245) has been bothered lately by a knee injury but still is one of the best hitters around - as Jethro Pugh found out. He has good initial contact. Left guard Gale Gillingham (6-3, 255) has been called by some of the best lineman on the club. He is effective on the trap plays and, like Kramer, strong on the Packers famed power sweep. Center Ken Bowman (6-3, 230) is very quick...RECEIVERS - Still among the most dangerous in the league. Split end Boyd Dowler (6-5, 255) is not quick but has good speed and good hands. With 25 catches, 334 yards and four touchdowns he is second to flanker Carroll Dale (6-2, 200). who has 26 catches, 567 yards and seven touchdowns. Dale probably is the more dangerous of the two because he can beat you deep consistently. Tight end Marv Fleming (6-4, 235) had injury problems last year but appears to have recovered. He has 17 catches

for 195 yards and three touchdowns...**BACKFIELD** - Quarterback Starr has completed 63.7 per cent of his passes for 1,315 yards and 14 touchdowns. His average gain (9.81 yards) is the best among the league's regular quarterbacks. He ranks second in the league among passers. Donny Anderson (6-3, 210) is the club's leading rusher with 100 carries for 468 yards. He has the strength to break a tackle and the speed to run away from you-in addition to being a fine pass receiver (18 receptions, 203 yards). His backup, speedster Travis Williams, has not had a good sophomore season. The other running back probably will be Elijah Pitts (6-1, 205), who has been troubled with injuries the past two seasons. Healthy, he's a good one...**DEFENSE LINE** - Left end Willie Davis (6-3, 245) has had a broken thumb, right end Lionel Aldridge (6-4, 245) a sprained ankle, left tackle Ron Kostelnik (6-4, 260) knee and ankle problems, and right tackle Henry Jordan (6-3, 250) chronic back problems. All are expected to start although Kostelnik will get a lot of relief from Bob Brown (6-7, 265), probably the strongest lineman. Davis is quick, a craftsman. Aldridge is not as good a pass rusher as Davis, Jordan is extremely agile but has been double teamed quite a lot this season...**LINEBACKERS** - As a unit, most likely the best in football. Middleman Ray Nitschke (6-3, 240) is good at filling the holes on running plays and has the quickness to get depth on pass coverage. Dave Robinson (6-3, 245) on the left side is the best outside man in the business. Lee Roy Caffey (6-3, 250) on the right side is the best blitzing of the three and quick...**SECONDARY** - The two cornerbacks, Herb Adderly (6-0, 210) and Bob Jeter (6-1, 205) each have three interceptions to lead the club. Adderly likes to gamble and go for the ball but is not one to go for a receiver's initial fake. Jeter has the quickness and speed to recover if he makes a mistake. Right safety Willie Wood (5-10, 190) has range and reaction, prefers to play the receivers loose. A tough tackler. Left safety Tom Brown (6-1, 190) has excellent range.

PACKERS ADD MIKE MERCER

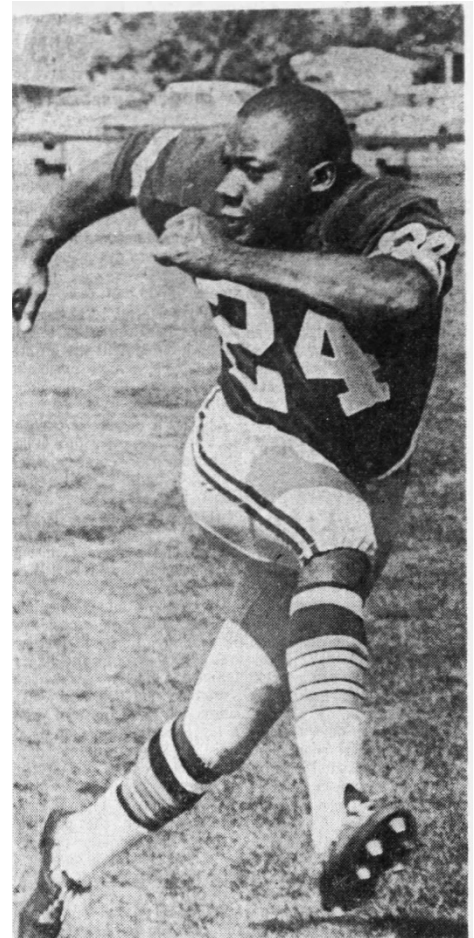
NOV 9 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers will test their fourth field goal specialist of the regular season in Sunday's invasion of Minnesota. Mike Mercer, a veteran placekicker who last saw service with the Buffalo Bills of the AFL, has been activated for duty against the Vikings, Coach Phil Bengtson announced late Friday. Mercer will attempt all field goals and extra points, but Jerry Kramer will continue to handle the kickoffs, Bengtson said. It was not been determined who will be de-activated to make room for Mercer, a former Minnesota Viking and Oakland Raider, the Packer head man added. A decision is expected later today. The 32-year-old Californian, who led all of pro football's specialists in 1966 with 21 field goals in 30 attempts, follows Kramer, Chuck Mercein and Errol Mann in the kicking assignment.

BOWIE WILL BE FINE, WIFE REPORTS, AFTER BLOOD CLOT REMOVAL

NOV 9 (Minneapolis-St. Paul) - Mrs. Larry Bowie says her husband, starting guard for the Minnesota Vikings of the NFL, "is going to be fine." A blood clot was removed from the base of Bowie's brain Friday in surgery at a St. Paul hospital. "He is a little groggy and has a headache," Karen Bowie said. "He is going to be all right. I'm so relieved it's over. I was so worried." Doctors say they expect no "aftereffects" of the surgery. But the Green Bay Packers may feel the effects Sunday when they play the Minnesota Vikings, inspired by the loss of Bowie. "We're going to have to play extra hard," said starting offensive tackle Grady Alderman. "I think each individual will have a little something extra to think about in this game. We have an added incentive." Bowie, 29, a seventh year NFL offensive guard, was hospitalized Thursday for what team spokesmen called an "onset of headaches" after Bowie played in Minnesota's 27-14 victory over Washington last Sunday. Vikings Coach Bud Grant, who interrupted practice Friday to report on the success of the operation, said Bowie's injury "was a big shock to all of us." "Larry is a very popular, hard working man," Grant said. "He has been a starter all of his career here. Now that we're satisfied he's going to be all right, it's certainly a relief to us." The 6-foot-3, 255-pound Bowie will be out for the rest of the season. It's too early to tell about next season, a Vikings spokesman said. Mrs. Bowie said her husband, who played his college football at Purdue, probably can begin seeing visitors Sunday. The Packers and the Vikings are calling Sunday's contest a "must-win" game. Minnesota is tied with Chicago for the Central Division lead, each with 4-4 records. Green Bay, which has never lost at Met Stadium, is tied for third with Detroit, each 3-4-1.

CENTRAL DIVISION HAS SPOTLIGHT IN NFL

NOV 9 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - With Green Bay in the unusual position of playing catch up, the Central Division holds the spotlight in Sunday's NFL play as the other division leaders are favored to hold that line. The defending world champion Packers, stung with a 3-4-1 record, have no easy task when they travel to Minnesota, a team which has always given the Packers rough treatment and upended them in the second week of the season. The Vikings presently are 4-4, a record good enough to tie for the division lead with Chicago in the tangled race. The Bears also are expected to have their hands full against visiting San Francisco, 4-4. Detroit, 3-4-1, must face Baltimore and that makes the Lions an underdog. With only a half game separating the four teams, anyone could wind up on top alone after this ninth week of the 14-game season...**SOLID FAVORITE:** In the Coastal Division Baltimore and Los Angeles each stand at 7-1



Willie Wood, mainstay of the Green Bay defensive backfield will see plenty of action Sunday as the Packers face the Minnesota Vikings at Bloomington, Minn. in an all important Central Division battle. Wood will be on the look-out for Joe Kapp's favored long ball receiver Gene Washington, second-year man from Michigan State.

VIKES POSE SOLID GROUND THREAT

PLACID PACKER PHIL NEVER CHANGES

RUSHING					
	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	L	TD
Brown, Vikings	125	473	3.8	32	9
Anderson, Pack	100	468	4.7	42	2
Jones, Vikings	98	440	4.5	43	1
Grabowski, Pack	60	193	3.2	15	1
Pitts, Pack	44	188	4.3	12	0
Kapp, Vikings	30	184	6.1	27	0

PASSING					
	Att.	C.	Yds.	Int.	TD
Starr, Pack	135	86	1315	7	14
Kapp, Vikings	170	88	1066	10	7
Bratkowski, Pack	48	24	288	3	1

RECEIVING					
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	L	TD
Washington, Vikings	29	501	17.3	61	5
Dale, Pack	26	567	21.8	63	7
Dowler, Pack	25	334	13.9	55	4
Brown, Vikings	24	179	7.4	37	1
Fleming, Pack	17	195	11.5	32	3
Anderson, Pack	18	203	11.3	30	0
Hall, Vikings	14	190	13.5	21	0
Pitts, Pack	12	109	9.1	19	0
Beasley, Vikings	11	130	11.8	15	1

Placid Packer Phil Never Changes

BOSS BENGTSON COMES HOME FOR GAME OF SURVIVAL

'Win or Party's Over' for Packers, Says Skoronski

front four of Jim Marshall, Gary Larsen, Carl Eller and Alan Page. The line that has thrown opposing quarterbacks for losses 29 times already can't afford to relent with Bart Starr pitching the pigskin. "We've got to stop their ball control offense and not get so many penalties," said Bengtson, thinking of last September's 26-13 Viking victory which began the Packer troubles. Phil's 70-plus aunt, Miss Alice McLaughlin who saw him play every game with the Gophers in the 1930s "when they never lost," won't be on hand tomorrow "because I can't take it any more." Phil has two sisters here, too, Mrs. Vincent Reis and Mrs. Eldred Hunt; and the latter doesn't lack for confidence, promising to line up the desired family picture "before we all go to the Super Bowl." On his own personal pre-season size up, placid Phil said: "Anything less than another championship would constitute an unsuccessful season as far as I'm concerned." Today he insists, "Sure, I still feel that way." But to achieve that objective Bengtson's highly keyed and slightly favored Packers will have the Vikings barring their path with their first place share at stake in the NFL Central Division. By coincidence, they are coached by Bud Grant, another "nice guy" pupil of ex-taskmaster Bernie Bierman. So it's going to be quite an old Gopher jamboree.

PACKERS CUT MANN

NOV 9 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) —The Green Bay Packers cut Erroll Mann Saturday to make room for kicker Mike Mercer, who was activated Friday. Mann appeared in two games for the Pack, kicking four extra points but missing on three field goal attempts. He had been bothered by a leg bruise suffered against the Dallas Cowboys two weeks ago.

'WIN OR PARTY'S OVER' FOR PACKERS, SAYS SKORONSKI

NOV 9 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) — Bob Skoronski, a veteran of countless big games, put it succinctly. "There's no other way to look at it," the Packers' longtime offensive captain declared. "If we don't win, the party's over." The words, as might be expected, did not come easily. It is a rare experience for Skoronski and his fellow world champions to contemplate the unhappy possibility of elimination from the NFL race at this early date. But this, he admits, is what faces the NFL's reigning royalty if they lose this afternoon's key collision with the Minnesota Vikings, who presently share the Central Division lead with the Chicago Bears...OUT OF CONTENTION: "We look at it the same as any other game," the 34-year-old tackle soberly stated, "Except we've got to win...we'll be out of contention if we don't." Mathematically, of course, another defeat would not, of itself, plunge the Packers from the Central race, since they still would trail by only a game and a half with five to play. But Skoronski obviously was taking into account other considerations which would, in such a case, leave the Packers in even more straitened circumstances than it would at first glance. The defending champions, who have yet to win from an intra-divisional opponent this season, would then have lost their season series to the Vikings, a factor which would loom large in the event of a tie. If this should come to pass, the Vikings would automatically qualify for the Western Conference playoff against the Coastal Division champion because of having won both meetings with the Packers...CLINCHED SERIES: Green Bay's standard bearers also have a companion concern with regard to the Detroit Lions, who already have clinched their series with the Pack by dint of a win and a tie. The same situation would apply in their situation, of course, in case of a deadlock between the Packers and Lions. Coach Phil Bengtson and his athletes are taking the positive approach, however. They are fully mindful that a victory today could virtually reverse the potential circumstances. In fact, should they defeat the Vikings, the San Francisco 49ers handle the Chicago Bears and the Baltimore Colts decision the Lions, all well within the realm of possibility, the Packers could vault into sole possession of the Central Lead with a 4-4-1 record. But it is likely an effort akin to the one mounted in derailing Dallas two weeks ago (28-17) will be required to subdue the Vikings, who will be spurred on by a capacity, largely partisan house of more than 47,000 fans hungry for their first title...ONE-TWO PUNCH: The Packers chances, in the main, depend on the ability of offense to handle the Vikings' highly formidable front four — Carl Eller, Alan Page, Gary Larsen and Jim Marshall - and the defense's skill in coping with the crunching one-two ground punch of Bill Brown and Clint Jones and quarterback Joe Kapp's "bombs" to Minnesota's stellar sophomore receiver, Gene Washington. They also are likely to ride, to a significant extent, upon the toe of the Pack's new placement specialist, Mike Mercer, activated only Friday in the hope of stabilizing the champions' kicking game. Mercer, ironically, is a former Viking and shares the club record for most field goals in a game. He kicked four for the Minnesotans in a 1961 game against the Colts. The Packers, hampered all season by injuries in the defensive line, again will go into action with a slightly revised front four, Bengtson reported...THREE POSITIONS: Bob Brown, a versatile swing man who often has played as many as three positions in a game of late, will move in at left tackle to replace Ron Kostelnik, still troubled by an ankle injury Bengtson also said he was undecided whether Elijah Pitts or Jim Grabowski will open opposite Donny Anderson at running back. Pitts has drawn the starting assignment the

VIKINGS-PACKERS ROSTERS

OFFENSE

PACKERS				VIKINGS			
No.	Name	Wt.	Pos.	Wt.	Name	No.	
86	Boyd Dowler	225	WE	210	G. Washington	84	
76	Bob Skoronski	245	LT	241	G. Alderman	67	
68	Gale Gillingham	255	LG	255	Jim Vellone	63	
57	Ken Bowman	230	C	237	M. Tingelhoff	53	
64	Jerry Kramer	245	RG	250	Milt Sunde	64	
75	Forrest Gregg	250	RT	255	Doug Davis	71	
81	Marv Fleming	235	TE	231	John Beasley	87	
15	Bart Starr	190	QB	210	Joe Kapp	11	
44	Donny Anderson	210	RB	205	Clinton Jones	26	
22	Elijah Pitts	205	RB	230	Bill Brown	30	
84	Carroll Dale	200	FL	195	Tom Hall	86	

DEFENSE

PACKERS				VIKINGS			
No.	Name	Wt.	Pos.	Wt.	Name	No.	
87	Willie Davis	245	LE	265	Carl Eller	81	
77	Ron Kostelnik	260	LT	255	Gary Larsen	77	
74	Henry Jordan	250	RT	255	Alan Page	88	
82	Lionel Aldridge	245	RE	240	Jim Marshall	70	
89	Dave Robinson	240	LB	230	Roy Winston	60	
66	Ray Nitschke	235	LB	248	Lon Warwick	59	
60	Lee Roy Caffey	250	LB	235	W. Hilgenberg	58	
26	Herb Adderly	200	CB	195	E. Mackbee	46	
21	Bob Jeter	205	CB	195	Ed Sharockman	45	
40	Tom Brown	195	S	195	Karl Kasulke	29	
24	Willie Wood	190	S	195	Paul Krause	22	

REMAINING ROSTERS

PACKERS				VIKINGS			
No.	Name	Wt.	Pos.	No.	Name	Wt.	Pos.
10	Stevens	50	Hyland	10	Hill	49	Hackbart
12	Bratkowski	53	Carr	14	Cox	55	McGill
23	Williams	55	Flanigan	15	Cuozzo	66	Bolin
27	James	62	Lueck	20	Bryant	73	Yary
30	Mercein	70	Crenshaw	21	Lindsey	74	Smith
33	Grabowski	71	Peay	28	Denny	76	Dickson
39	Mann	72	Himes	36	Kirby	80	Henderson
43	Hart	78	B. Brown	40	West	82	Goodridge
45	Rowser	83	Vandersea	41	Osborn	89	Martin

Party Over?

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Capitol Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Dallas	7	1	0	.875	247	95
New York	5	3	0	.625	198	173
Washington	3	5	0	.375	147	221
Philadelphia	0	8	0	.000	115	240

Century Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Cleveland	5	3	0	.625	182	161
St. Louis	5	3	0	.625	205	175
New Orleans	3	5	0	.375	144	177
Pittsburgh	2	6	0	.250	133	207

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Coastal Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Baltimore	7	1	0	.875	239	98
Los Angeles	7	1	0	.875	180	101
San Francisco	4	4	0	.500	158	173
Atlanta	1	7	0	.125	113	260

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Chicago	4	4	0	.500	140	203
Minnesota	4	4	0	.500	189	137
Detroit	3	4	1	.429	144	148
Green Bay	3	4	1	.429	164	129

Today's Games

Green Bay at Minnesota
Los Angeles at Atlanta
New Orleans at Cleveland
New York at Dallas
Pittsburgh at St. Louis
Washington at Philadelphia
Baltimore at Detroit
San Francisco at Chicago

last two weeks but Grabowski, exhibiting signs of a strong comeback from knee surgery, flashed evidence of having regained his former acceleration in last Sunday's 13-10 loss to the Bears. The Packers, who have had their problems with the Vikings in Green Bay and Milwaukee but never have lost to them here, will be in search of their seventh straight victory on Minnesota soil.

VIKINGS, PACKERS BATTLE IN ANOTHER 'BIG GAME'

NOV 9 (Minneapolis Star-Tribune) - In a season that more and more takes on the configuration of an obstacle course, the Minnesota Vikings face the Green Bay Packers at 1:35 p.m. today in Metropolitan Stadium. It has been a season punctuated with big games for the Vikings, and today's contest is another one in a series. The first "big game" occurred Sept. 22, 1968. The Vikings had whipped the undermanned Atlanta Falcons and needed to prove they qualified to play with the big boys. They did by beating the Packers 26-13 at Milwaukee, Wis. The next came Oct. 6 when the Vikings played the Detroit Lions for first place in the Central Division and won 24-10. This game today is No. 3. The stakes are first place in the division once again for the Vikings, while the Packers must prove they are not dead. In between that first game with the Packers and today's contest the Vikings played unfathomable football. They lost twice to the Chicago Bears and Gale Sayers, which fostered conversation about a psychosis. There also was that surprising joss to New Orleans in the rain and the not unexpected defeat by Dallas. And now it's the Packers once again, a challenge the Vikings never have overcome in seven previous meetings in Met Stadium. Minnesota ranks 4-4 going into the game, tied with Chicago for first place in the Central Division. Green Bay is 3-4-1, tied with Detroit a half-game behind the Vikings and Bears. There are a couple of additional incentives for the Vikings. The presence of their teammate and friend, Larry Bowie, in Miller Hospital in St. Paul after brain surgery will not be lost on them. "We haven't dedicated the game or anything of that nature," said Grady Alderman, offensive captain and left tackle. "But, speaking personally, this makes you want to do a little bit better." And that clever comment by Packers guard Jerry Kramer on television after the last meeting between the two teams may well be remembered today, also. Asked about why the Vikings seemed to play so well against the Packers, Kramer quipped something like "Either they don't know how good we are or how bad they are." Final judgment on that statement must be reserved until about 4:30 p.m. today. Bowie will be the only Viking regular missing from the starting lineup today, although Green Bay defensive left tackle Ron Kostelnik apparently has not recovered from knee and ankle problems and may not be available for full-time duty. The Packers are expected to open with Donny Anderson, having his best season, and Elijah Pitts at running backs. Anderson moved in when Pitts was injured and now Pitts takes over for Jim Grabowski, who has been both hobbled and ineffective. The key to today's game may well be in the running games of both teams. The Vikings and Packers feature the top two pass defenses in the league; both have been victimized at times by the opposition's rushing game - especially by Sayers and the Bears. Yet Green Bay coach Phil Bengtson has said the Packers have been most effective when their passing game was right. After his passing in the last two games, it appears quarterback Bart Starr's arm has healed properly.

Probable Lineups:

OFFENSE

Green Bay		Minnesota
Dowler	SE	Washington
Skoronski	LT	Alderman
Gillingham	LG	Veilone
Bowman	C	Tinglehoff
Kramer	RG	Sunde
Gregg	RT	Davis
Fleming	TE	Beasley
Starr	QB	Kapp
Anderson	RB	Jones
Pitts	RB	B. Brown
Dale	FL	Hall

DEFENSE

Davis	LE	Eller
R. Brown	LT	Larsen
Jordan	RT	Page
Aldridge	RE	Marshall
Robinson	LLB	Winston
Nitschke	MLB	Warwick
Caffey	RLB	Kirby
Adderley	LH	Mackbee
Jeter	RH	Sharockman
T. Brown	LS	Kassuik
Wood	RS	Krause

Packer-Viking Series

Packers won 11, Vikings 4. Points—
Packers 430, Vikings 248.

ACTION ON WNFL

TODAY
1:30 P.M.

Green Bay
PACKERS

VS.

Minnesota
VIKINGS

PACKER WARMUP 12:00
PRO PREDICTIONS 1:00
PACKER PROFILES 1:10
PACKER PREVIEW 1:15

Following the Game

Pro Football Scoreboard

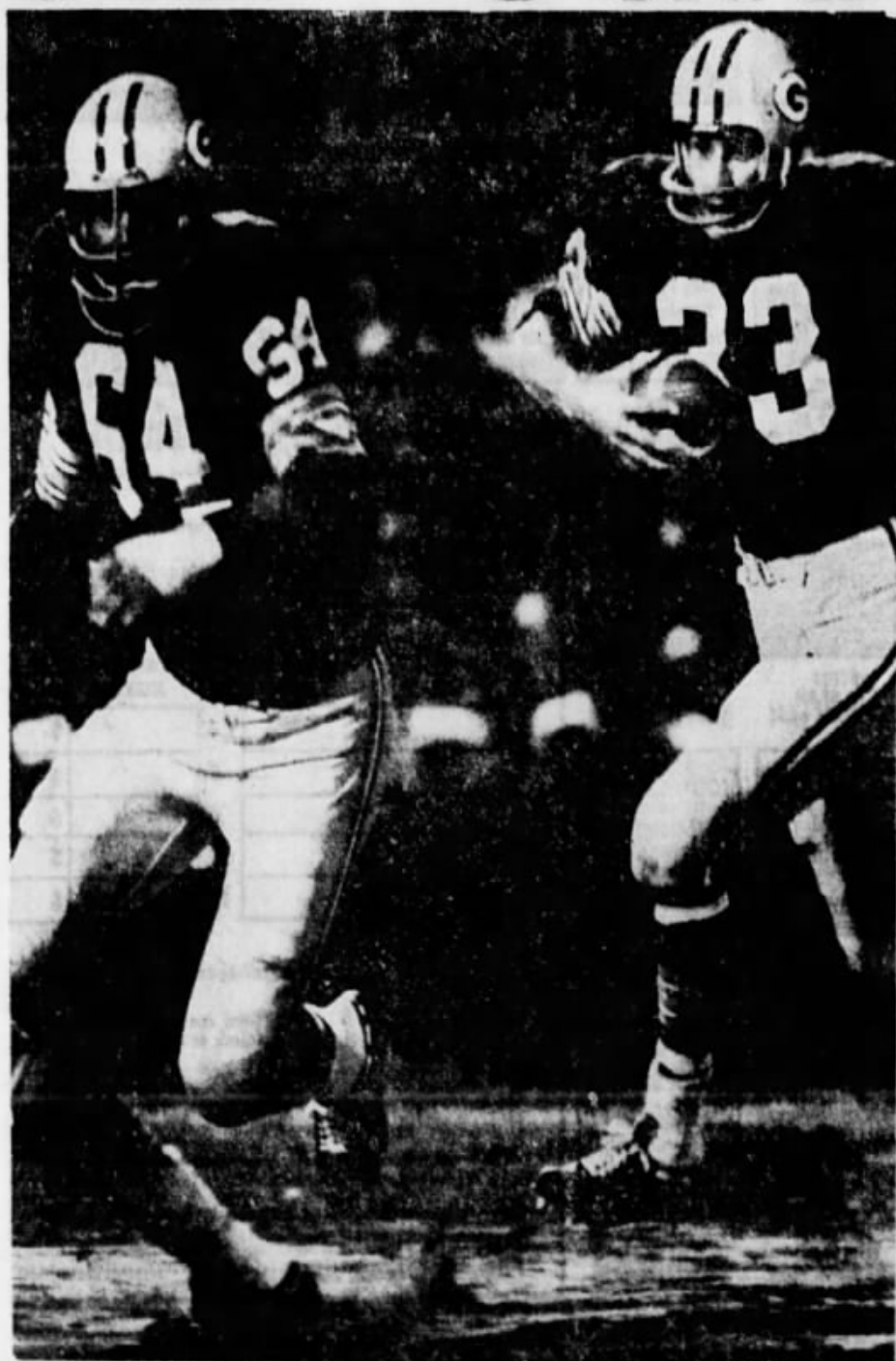
Pro Football Highlights

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HELP YOUR FAVORITE PACKER

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MOST VALUABLE PACKER PLAYER AWARD



Vote for the player of your choice. Here's your opportunity to tell the world who you consider the Packer's most valuable player. Just jot your choice on a postcard or letter, or use the handy blank below and mail to WNFL, P.O. Box 520, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

WNFL 1440
ON YOUR RADIO DIAL

Rick Whitt, sports director of WNFL, holds the trophy to be presented to the player chosen this year's Most Valuable Packer Player.

**SEND IN
YOUR VOTE
TODAY!**

WNFL'S MOST VALUABLE PLAYER CONTEST

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My choice for the Packer's Most Valuable Player Award
is _____

Name _____

Address _____
