



San Francisco 49ers (6-5-1) 27, Green Bay Packers (5-6-1) 20
Sunday December 1st 1968 (at San Francisco)



San Francisco's Final-Period Rally Dims Packer Title Hopes

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(SAN FRANCISCO) – The Packers had everything going for them here Sunday – except the San Francisco 49ers. They took to the pock-marked turf of windswept Kezar Stadium knowing the Los Angeles Rams were in the process of demolishing the Minnesota Vikings, 31-3. All the world champions then required to capture the NFL's Central Division lead was a victory over the erratic but explosive Gold Diggers. Doubtless invigorated by the opportunity in hand, they charged to a 20-7 lead late in the third quarter and appeared to be building that great intangible, momentum, with each passing minute. But then the football fates, and the elements, took a devastating hand. Kermit Alexander waylaid a wind-blown Zeke Bratkowski pass early in the final period and three plays later, the 49ers had surged to within six points on a 19-yard John Brodie pass to reserve halfback Bill Tucker and Tom Davis's conversion.

DETERIORATE RAPIDLY

From that point, the situation began to deteriorate rapidly as the revitalized Prospectors obviously scented an upset, to the highly vocal delight of 47,218 customers. One exchange later, the 49ers converted a wind-buffed, 24-yard Donny Anderson punt into another touchdown. A second Brodie-to-Tucker parlay, this one for 41 yards, it vaulted the San Franciscans into a permanent 21-20 lead with the aid of a third Davis PAT. Although quarterback Bart Starr had been forced out of action in the second quarter when he reinjured his ribs in two closely spaced quarterback traps, there was little disposition to panic because Bratkowski had forged a 56-yard scoring drive in the third period and more than 10 minutes still remained.

SMOTHERED ATTACK

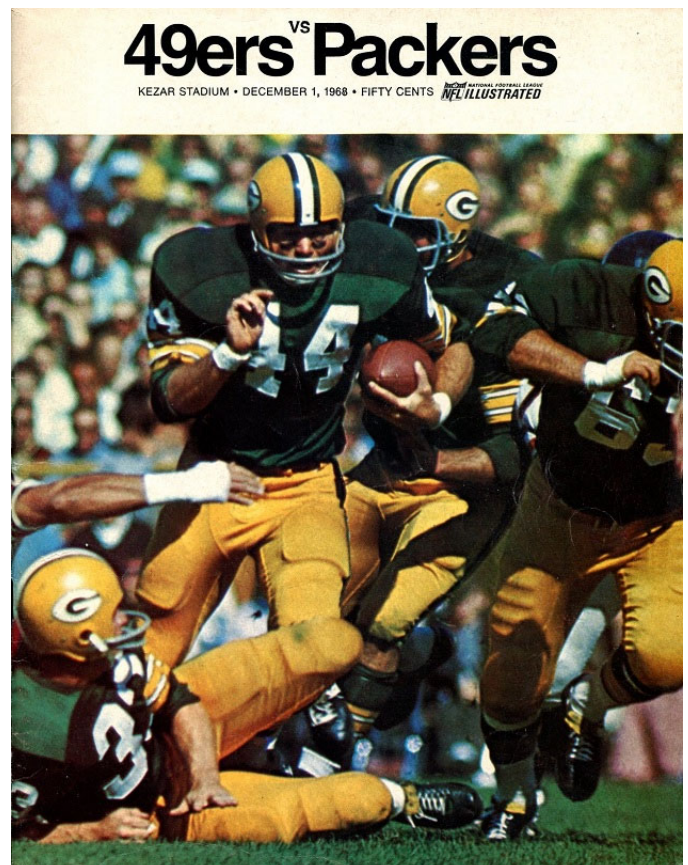
The aroused 49ers smothered the Packer attack following the kickoff, however, twice felling Bratkowski for losses, and shortly drove to a 37-yard Davis field goal. Now little more than five minutes was left to play and a touchdown was in urgent need to preserve the Packers' receding title hopes. But here disaster struck, in the form of an erratically bouncing kickoff. Delayed in handling the ball by its unorthodox behavior, Travis Williams finally picked it up inside the 5 and fumbled a split second before being hit, but managed to recover at the 4.

BRATKOWSKI INJURED

The Packers' problems, magnified by having to operate in the teeth of a 15-mile-an-hour wind against a massive pass rush, were compounded by an injury to Bratkowski two plays later. With Starr unable to return, rookie Bill Stevens was summoned. Faced with a second and 7 situation, he saw two hurried pass attempts from the end zone go awry. Again in enviable field position at the Packer 30, following a 26-yard punt, the 49ers quickly capitalized with a 13-yard field goal as only 43 seconds remained - and all reasonable hope was gone. With Bratkowski back at the throttle, the Packers did manage to reach the San Francisco 35 with a 17-yard strike to Claudis James and a 24-yard pitch to Carroll Dale as the game ended.

NOT ELIMINATED

Though it was damaging, the champions' sixth defeat (they are now 5-6-1 compared to 6-6-0 for the Vikings and Chicago Bears) did not eliminate them from contention. They still can vault into the Central lead with a victory over the Colts in Green Bay next Saturday, providing the 49ers dispose of the Vikings and the Rams handle the Bears. But this latest disappointment did obscure some heartening



achievements, chief among them a masterful 80-yard drive for their first touchdown, engineered by Starr, and two subsequent 44-yard field goals by Mike Mercer in as many attempts. Also lost in the somber shuffle was a glittering 88-yard performance by fullback Jim Grabowski (in 16 attempts) and sterling effort by the defense, which restricted the 49ers to a mere 60 yards rushing. Unfortunately, the Packer defenders permitted the seldom-erring Brodie 319 yards passing - on 24 completions in 39 attempts - including a 16-yard touchdown to the elusive Clifton McNeil in the final five seconds of the second quarter and those fateful second half strikes to Tucker.

GREEN BAY - 7 3 10 0 - 20
SAN FRANCISCO - 0 7 0 20 - 27

	<u>GREEN BAY</u>	<u>SAN FRANCISCO</u>
First downs	17	17
Rush-yards-TDs	34-173-2	23-60-0
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	9-23-95-0-1	24-39-301-3-1
Sacked-yards	7-51	2-9
Net pass yards	44	292
Total yards	217	352
Fumbles-lost	1-0	1-0
Turnovers	1	1
Penalties-yards	2-8	5-41

SCORING

1st - GB - Jim Grabowski, 1-yard run (Mike Mercer kick) GREEN BAY 7-0
 2nd - GB - Mercer, 44-yard field goal GREEN BAY 10-0
 2nd - SF - Clifton McNeil, 15-yd pass from John Brodie (Tommy Davis kick) GB 10-7
 3rd - GB - Grabowski, 1-yard run (Mercer kick) GREEN BAY 17-7
 3rd - GB - Mercer, 44-yard field goal GREEN BAY 20-7
 4th - SF - Bill Tucker, 19-yard pass from Brodie (Davis kick) GREEN BAY 20-14
 4th - SF - Tucker, 59-yard pass from Brodie (Davis kick) SAN FRANCISCO 21-20
 4th - SF - Davis, 37-yard field goal SAN FRANCISCO 23-20
 4th - SF - Davis, 13-yard field goal SAN FRANCISCO 27-20

RUSHING

GREEN BAY - Jim Grabowski 16-88 2 TD, Donny Anderson 13-64, Elijah Pitts 4-14, Zeke Bratkowski 1-7
 SAN FRANCISCO - Ken Willard 15-35, John Brodie 1-9, Bill Tucker 2-9, Clem Daniels 2-7, John David Crow 2-1, Gary Lewis 1-(-1)

PASSING

GREEN BAY - Bart Starr 4-2-17, Zeke Bratkowski 17-7-78 1 INT, Billy Stevens 2-0-0
 SAN FRANCISCO - John Brodie 39-24-301 3 TD 1 INT

RECEIVING

GREEN BAY - Carroll Dale 4-45, Boyd Dowler 3-30, Claudis James 1-18, Jim Grabowski 1-2
 SAN FRANCISCO - Clifton McNeil 9-88 1 TD, Gary Lewis 5-30, John David Crow 3-54, Bill Tucker 2-60 2 TD, Dick Witcher 2-31, Clem Daniels 1-16, Ken Willard 1-12, Bob Windsor 1-10

Vikes Full of Woe After 31-3 Smack by Rams

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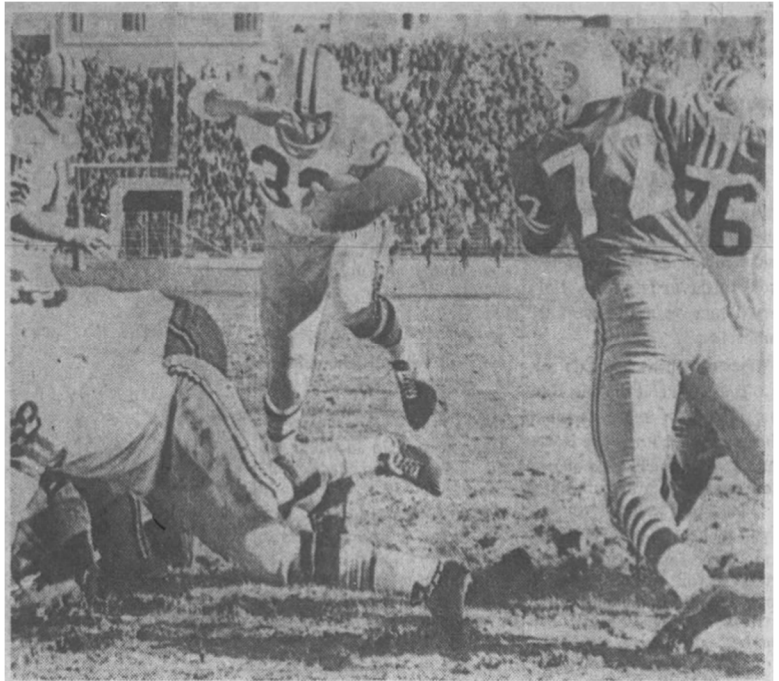
DEC 2 (Minneapolis-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Chicago Bears were safely ahead of the New Orleans Saints and the Green Bay Packers had just taken a 7-0 lead over the San Francisco 49ers when the Minnesota Vikings trudged into their rather inelegant dressing room at Metropolitan Stadium here late Sunday afternoon. Their steps were slow, the heavy steps of losers. Their faces were grim, their words courteous and cautious but woeful. The looks of losers, the words of losers...tortured 31-3 losers. "Pride?" Mickey Tinglehoff, the team's All-NFL center brought up the subject. "That's something you talk about a lot. But what can you say about it now. After something like this, you feel pretty bad. In this game you have to win it yourself. You can't worry about others." A short distance away, fullback Bill Brown forced his battered muscles to pull off the grimy purple jersey as he volunteered in a low voice, "I hate to have to rely on anybody to do it for you. I felt we had to win all three..."...BEARS HAD WON: Somebody across the room asked about the Packer score. There was no answer. But even if these dejected Vikings had known that the 49ers were going to rally to drive another knife into the Packers, it wouldn't have changed their mood. For the Bears had won and that gave them the same record as the Vikes, 6-6, including a pair of victories over the Minnesotans, enough to grant them top billing in the vicious Central Division championship chase. The worst record on this gray, cold and snowflaked day, however, was the score and the knowledge that the Los Angeles Rams had, as Coach Bud Grant so eloquently put it, "kicked the stuffing out of us." And truly the Rams did that, despite seven cases of Minnesota's flu, contacted after arriving here Friday. As Grant added, "There wasn't an area of the game in which we were superior or dominated. They literally kicked the stuffing out of us. I wish I could find an excuse, but I can't..."...ONLY NINE FIRST DOWNS: So thoroughly did the Rams tear the Vikes

into little pieces that Minnesota gained just 127 net yards and had only nine first downs. Until the final 2:33 of the game, the Rams controlled the ball for 68 plays to just 35 for Minnesota. Some other facts: Until the Vikings drove for a field goal in the final 19 seconds, they had been in LA territory only twice and never inside the Ram 34. The Vikings did not complete their first pass until four minutes were gone in the second period and they did not get their first down until only 2:54 remained in the first half and they already trailed 17-0. The Rams, with Deacon Jones playing with a 102 degree fever and Merlin Olson eating up Doug Davis and Milt Sunde like they were Thanksgiving leftovers, nailed Viking quarterback Joe Kapp five times for 52 yards in losses and Minnesota did not get any plus yardage passing until three minutes into the last quarter. As a matter of fact, Kapp finished with only seven for 18 and had hit only three of 11 attempts until that final 2:33 when he connected on four of seven. And Gabriel's uniform was never soiled. **CHEWED UP YARDAGE:** Meanwhile, Los Angeles' running game chewed up yardage regularly with Willie Ellison collecting 93 yards. And the infantry thrusts, along with marvelous protection, set up Roman Gabriel's passing game, which proved to be the decisive maneuver. Gabriel passed to third string end Wendell Tucker for three touchdowns after setting up the first one with the key play of the game. After Ed Sharockman had stolen a Gabriel pass on the Vike 34 and returned to the Ram 34 early in the game, Brown fumbled on the first play and the Rams recovered. A short time later, Gabriel heaved a 45-yard toss to Jack Snow, who reached out to pull the ball in sensationally with just his left hand as Sharockman was climbing over him. "It was important who scored first in this game because the field (muddied by the wet snow) was going to get worse," Grant observed. "And they made the big play...Snow's catch."...**ELLISON SCORED:** That play put the ball on the 12 and in two plays Ellison jammed over from the two. "This was our best game of the year...by far," Ram Coach George Allen conceded. And the way his team continued pouring it on from that initial uprising justified that declaration. Two great plays by Olson forced a punt and in seven plays LA covered 57 yards for Gabriel passing to the 5-foot-10, 185 pound Tucker for the TD. Tucker, a 9.4 man in the 100, was playing only because Bernie Casey and Pat Studstill were hurt but his three catches Sunday, all for touchdowns, give him a record of five catches for the year and four of them for scores.

Another of the Vikings' four fumbles, this one on their own another touchdown, 28 set up Bruce Gossett's 33-yard field goal that ended the scoring before the intermission. Earlier, Gossett had missed from the 22 when he hit the upright. The second half was simply a repeat of the first, the Vikings helpless and Gabriel passing 25 yards to Tucker for one touchdown and nine yards for another. An added touch, however, was a continuous chorus of boos and calls for Gary Cuozzo from Minnesota fans everytime Kapp returned to the field. Grant said he did not even consider changing to Cuozzo "under the circumstances...the score and our pass protection." It was the second straight game in which the Vikes failed to score to touchdown. "We had decided on Tuesday that this would be shutout week," Allen grinned. "We almost made it." He was also happy because "They say we can't play in cold and snow. This was very gratifying today." Grant's outlook was a simple one. "Now we get ready for the 49ers."

PASSES TO BACKS NO SURPRISE: BENGTON

DEC 2 (San Francisco-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Packers may have been taken by storm here Sunday afternoon, but not by surprise. The unexpected, sometimes both disrupting and decisive, was not a factor in the 49ers' 27-20 sabotage of the Packers in Kezar Stadium, Coach Phil Bengtson said. Asked if the world champions had been disconcerted by the Gold Diggers' emphasis on passes to their backs, two of which produced touchdowns in their explosive, 20-point fourth quarter, Bengtson asserted, "They had been doing that



—AP Wirephotos
Jim Grabowski, Green Bay back plunged through a hole, upper, from the 1-yard-line for the Packers' first touchdown. Defensive end Bill Belk (72), San Francisco, made the tackle, but not before the damage was done. Bill Stevens (10), lower, tried passing from his own end zone while the rush was put on by the 49ers Belk (72), Kevin Hardy (86). Trying to hole out Belk was Bob Skoronski (76).

DEC 2 (San Francisco-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Bill Tucker, who customarily languishes in anonymity on the San Francisco 49ers' bench, relished his moment in the sun here Sunday afternoon. Tucker, a 226-pound sophomore running back, charged into the Packer

Pro Football Standing

American League						
Eastern Division			Western Division			
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
xNew York	9	3	0	.750	361	259
Houston	5	7	0	.417	223	225
Miami	4	7	1	.364	231	317
Boston	4	8	0	.333	205	321
Buffalo	1	11	1	.083	193	332
National League						
Eastern Division			Western Division			
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Kansas City	10	2	0	.833	301	160
Oakland	10	2	0	.833	386	179
San Diego	9	3	0	.750	352	236
Denver	5	7	0	.417	221	341
Cincinnati	3	10	0	.231	201	302

x-Clinched division title.

Thursday's Results
 Kansas City 24, Houston 10
 Oakland 13, Buffalo 10

Sunday's Results
 Boston 33, Cincinnati 14
 New York 35, Miami 17
 San Diego 47, Denver 23

Saturday's Game
 Buffalo at Houston

Sunday's Games
 Boston at Miami
 Cincinnati at New York
 Denver at Oakland
 Kansas City at San Diego

National League
Eastern Conference
Capitol Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
xDallas	10	2	0	.833	375	169
New York	7	5	0	.583	263	269
Washington	4	8	0	.333	218	331
Philadelphia	1	11	0	.083	156	310

Century Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Cleveland	9	3	0	.750	354	225
St. Louis	7	4	1	.636	270	252
New Orleans	3	8	1	.273	205	284
Pittsburgh	2	9	1	.182	223	345

Western Conference
Coastal Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Baltimore	11	1	0	.917	358	117
Los Angeles	10	1	1	.909	272	155
San Francisco	6	5	1	.545	269	268
Atlanta	2	10	0	.167	151	351

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Minnesota	6	6	0	.500	228	205
Chicago	6	6	0	.500	206	289
Green Bay	5	6	1	.455	250	184
Detroit	3	7	2	.300	180	220

x-Clinched division title.

Thursday's Results
 Philadelphia 12, Detroit 0
 Dallas 29, Washington 20

Sunday's Results
 Baltimore 44, Atlanta 0
 Chicago 23, New Orleans 17
 Cleveland 45, New York 10
 Los Angeles 31, Minnesota 3
 St. Louis 20, Pittsburgh 27
 San Francisco 27, Green Bay 20

Saturday's Game
 Baltimore at Green Bay

Sunday's Games
 Chicago at Los Angeles
 Cleveland at Washington
 Detroit at Atlanta
 Minnesota at San Francisco
 New Orleans at Philadelphia
 Pittsburgh at Dallas
 St. Louis at New York



San Francisco's Bill Tucker (45) takes a 41-yard pass over his shoulder and runs into the end zone for a touchdown that put the 49ers ahead of the Green Bay Packers Sunday at San Francisco. Tucker's score gave the 49ers a 21-20 advantage and the San Francisco team went on to a 27-20 win over Green Bay. Chasing Tucker is Dave Robinson (89) of the Packers. (AP Wirephoto)

end zone with two touchdown passes from quarterback John Brodie in the Gold Diggers' 20-point fourth quarter explosion and he was only too happy to discuss his contributions to the 27-20 victory. "On the first one, both backs (he and Gary Lewis) were angling to the inside as pass receivers. I cut under Nitschke (Ray) and John saw me...On the second one, I just had to outrun the linebacker, Dave Robinson. The outside linebacker was supposed to cover me on both plays, but Nitschke happened to be in the area - the flow was that way - and I went underneath both of them." Tucker, who also scored on a "bomb" earlier in the season to key the 49ers over the New York Giants, confided with a broad grin. "I got hit about three times on the way in with the first touchdown but on the second one, I got hit as I crossed the goal line, so it really didn't make any difference." His battery mate, quarterback Brodie, said, "Bill made a helluva play getting under Nitschke." He added, "It was exceptionally windy today. The fact the wind was with us in the fourth quarter was a tremendous asset."

NOLAN CREDITS 49ER COMEBACK TO POISE

DEC 2 (San Francisco-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Dick

Nolan, rookie head coach of the 49ers, had a word for his athletes' late blooming victory over the Packers Sunday. It was "poise." "That," he said with pardonable satisfaction, "was the big factor." The darkly handsome ex-Cowboy aide, holding forth for the fourth estate at some length in the Gold Diggers' Kezar Stadium quarters, proceeded to itemize. "We took it in just before the half," he said. "Then, when we had the opportunity on (Kermit) Alexander's interception, we capitalized. And we put 20 points on the board in the fourth quarter. It takes poise to do that." He smiled slightly and added, "That's what you have to have every Sunday. 'I can't say enough for John (quarterback Brodie),' Nolan declared. "He got us down there very methodically just before the half. He knew what he was doing all the way. He didn't have a timeout and he stopped the clock three times." How would he compare Sunday's struggle with the Cowboys' two title games with the Packers (in which he assisted Dallas coach Tom Landry)? Nolan smiled again and replied, "The best comparison is we won this one and we lost the other two." Did he have the feeling the Packers might be slipping? The former New York Giant defensive back shook his head with emphasis and said, "No, I don't ... They're a fine ball club. They've had injuries - they've hurt them." Apprised that his defenders trapped Packer quarterbacks seven times, Nolan admitted, "This was our best pass rush of the season." Did he and his Prospectors, he was asked, intend to treat the Vikings in like manner here next Sunday? A twinkle in his eyes, Nolan rejoined, "Let's hope we can."

PACK ACTIVATES PAIR; FRISCO CHEERS CHAMPS

DEC 2 (San Francisco-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers activated flanker Bucky Pope and defensive end Leo Carroll from the taxi squad just before game time to replace defensive ends Phil Vandersea, troubled with a sprained arch, and Francis Winkler...The world champions drew as much applause as the home town 49ers did when they made their respective, pre-game warmup appearances...Sunday's match marked the first time this 1968 NFL season that the Packers have played before less than a sellout. Their exchange with the 49ers drew 47,218 to Kezar Stadium, which has a capacity of 59,000. It was, however, the largest home crowd of the season for the 49ers, whose best previous draw was 41,000 for their 20-20 tie with the archrival Los Angeles Rams two weeks ago...Baseball immortal Joe DiMaggio who chatted with Packer General Manager Vince Lombardi at length on the way to his seat, witnessed the game from the press box. Also in evidence was venerable Clark Shaughnessy, originator of the modern T-formation...A holiday touch was provided between halves by two gentlemen who paraded a sign through the stands. It proclaimed, "Season's Greetings, Niagara, Wisconsin."

KNIGHTS HAD IT IN BIGGEST GAME

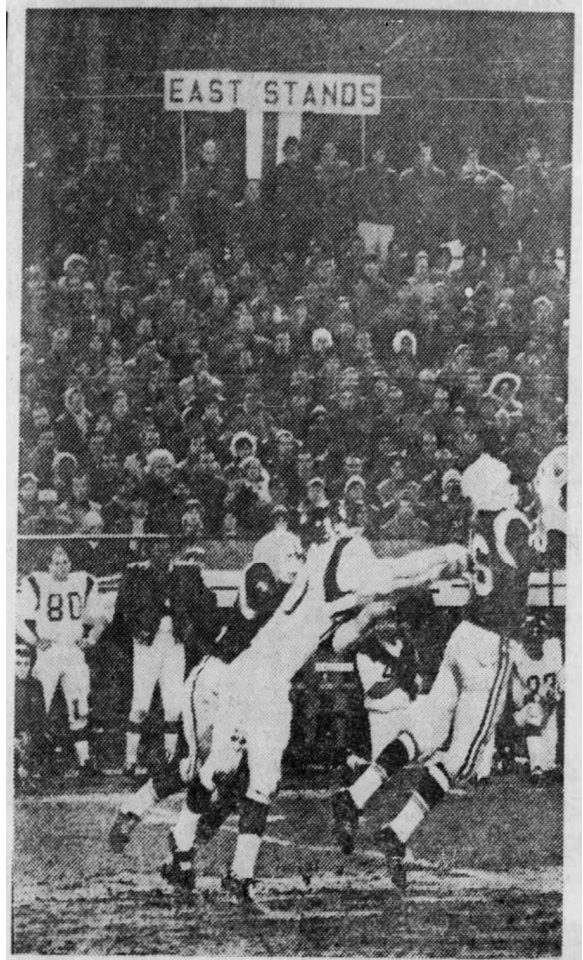
DEC 2 (Hartford Courant) - The Hartford Knights, new champions of the Atlantic Coast Football League, are a many-splendored team. Winning the title the first year of their organization in a final game Saturday night against a Virginia squad shooting for a fourth straight league championship, the Knights did it with running, passing, kicking and defense. They needed the whole thing to beat off the Southern Division champions and they had it all in the biggest game of their young life. Front office organization deserves a good chunk of the credit and an enormous amount goes to Fred Wallner and his aides, Frank Toro, Bill Boehle, Roger Le Clerc and John Maher. Terry Altieri, team trainer, did a big job of keeping the players readied for action. The Knights made use of a great third period to show their rivals who was boss, and this led to the ultimate championship victory...BIG 15 MINUTES: They came out of the dressing room with a precarious 17 to 10 lead and proceeded to take full charge offensively and defensively. The attack team drove 63 yards with the kickoff and fumbled. The defense team stopped the Sailors cold and the other club came back on the field to roll another 63 unbroken yards, this time for a big touchdown. The Sailors were stopped cold the few times they had the football. Virginia never got closer to the Knights'

goal line in this quarter than 57 yards away. The Knights controlled the ball for 17 plays from scrimmage to only none for the Sailors. Actually, however, the Knights did not wait until the third period to set the pattern of the game. The Sailors put the first three points on the board, but this was only because the Knights had not yet had their first chance with the football... **MEEKS GETS ESTABLISHED:** When they got the kickoff after the Sailor field goal, Meeks and blocking mates set Mel off on a 67 yard run that went almost all the way. The blockers ripped a hole big enough for a truck to pass through and Mel did some high class running and feinting to make it an imposingly big play that thoroughly established the Knights' strong running game the very first time the Sailors had to defend against it. Twice in the first period Wes Bean rocked kickoffs into the end zone. It didn't take Virginia long to find out that scouting reports on Bean's strong leg were completely trustworthy... **BALANCE COMES IN:** In the second quarter, Hartford's impressive balance was put into the show when the Knights moved 80 yards to a touchdown on Dick Faucette's eye-filling passes to John Wardlaw and Tom Rychlec and the unstoppable running of Meeks. The combo really broke the Sailors up. This was the touchdown that put the Knights ahead to stay, and now the Southern Division champions had seen it all - the Knights superlative running and kicking, their balance between ground and overhead strength and a ferocious defense against which it was most difficult to make sustained progress. There was just one brief period of doubt - when the Sailors closed the gap to 23-17 in the fourth quarter with seven treacherous minutes left to play. This doubt was erased when Fran Mallick jarred the ball loose from Virginia quarterback Danny Talbott and Gene Jackson picked it up for a 45-yard touchdown scamper that put the game out of Virginia's reach... **HUGE FINANCIAL TAKE:** Winning coach Fred Wallner projected some thoughts into the future and even went a little commercial in reviewing the game Sunday afternoon. "It was just a great season," Wallner said. "We had everything - running, passing, kicking, defense and spirit. Don't forget the part spirit played. We had the kind that flows right off the field into the stands. The crowd Saturday night may have been the biggest financial take ever in minor league football (upwards of \$50,000) and that is good for the Atlantic Coast League." Wallner called rookies quarterback Dick Faucette "a gutsy guy" and said he expects several Knight players may soon make it to pro football's major leagues. "I have

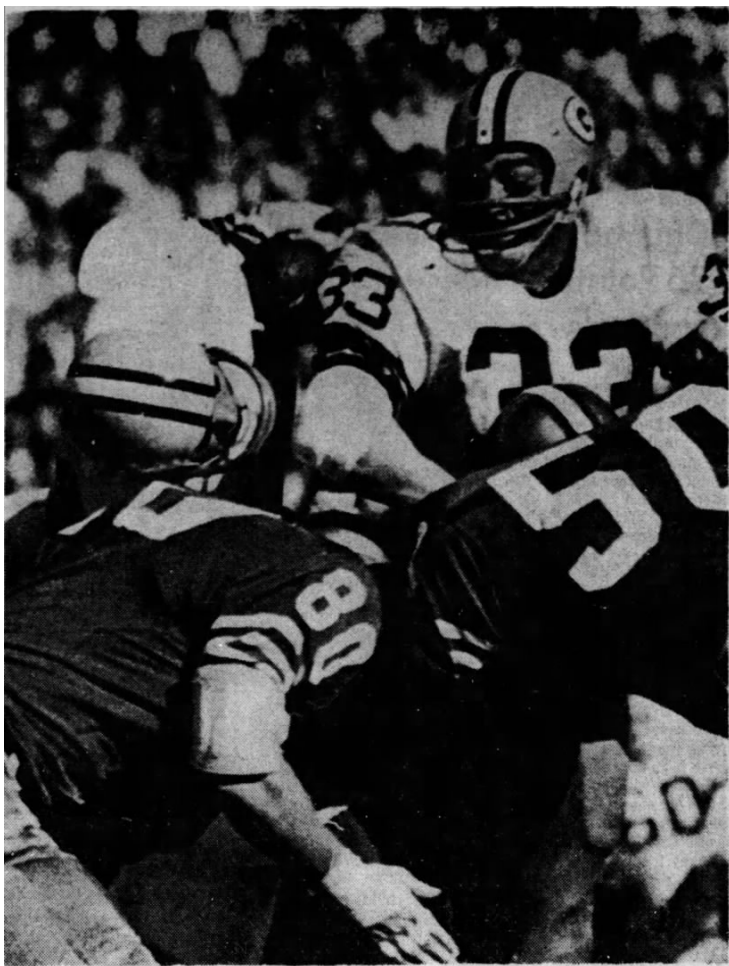
a feeling that Wes Bean, our kicker, will be in Green Bay before the present season ends as a member of the Packer taxi squad, even though he is not an optioned player from Green Bay." Wallner cited the Virginia Sailors as a solid, well-coached team and said he was immensely pleased his own squad had been able to operate as well as it did against the Southern Division ACFL champions.

TUCKER CAUGHT TD PASS AIMED AT DANIELS

DEC 3 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - It wasn't easy to find a simple explanation of the Packers' fourth quarter disaster in San Francisco. But Phil Bengtson, still shaking his head in wonder after viewing the painful proceedings on film, managed to find one in his Monday analysis of the world champions' stunning 27-20 defeat. "We just couldn't move the ball," he said. Elaborating on this point, Bengtson added, "it was a combination of things - a good pass rush and not very good pass protection, and our passing plays were a little off rhythm." The bizarre, which often has risen to confound the Packers this weird 1968 season, also was a factor, he noted. "Both of those touchdown passes (from John Brodie to reserve fullback Bill Tucker) were fantastic," the Packer chieftain declared, grimacing ever so slightly as he spoke. "On the first one, Brodie was throwing for the halfback (Clem Daniels) and he overthrew him but hit the fullback, so everybody was playing the ball." **'RAN BAD PATTERN':** As a final irony, Phil added, "the fullback ran a bad pattern on the play." "On the next one, it was a bootleg pass and we contained Brodie - Lionel (Aldridge) went over and cut him off, just the way he was supposed to do. But he didn't get the protection to the inside he should have had. Brodie squirmed up into the open and hit the guy on the fly." "It was pretty well covered, but he (Tucker) just took off and ran under it." Discussing the Packers pass protection problems in that same incredible stretch, Bengtson said, "it was a little of both being overpowered and of the 49ers' blitz." These items might have been academic, however, if his forces had been more opportunistic in the earlier going, Phil observed... **'SHOULD HAVE CAPITALIZED':** "We should have scored more in the third quarter," he said. "We wasted some time. In the second and third quarters, we should have capitalized, but we didn't." "For example, we go down there in the second quarter - we had a real good opportunity to score - and we get seven points instead of three. That could have made a big difference." "In the fourth quarter we just couldn't get out of there, so they had the ball in our territory every time. So they were practically in field goal position every time they got the ball (after 24, 26 and 35-yard punts into a 15-mile-an-hour wind.)" Rookie quarterback Bill Stevens, called upon when Zeke Bratkowski followed Bart Starr out of action, had performed creditably under great pressure, Bengtson admitted in this connection. "He got rid of the ball (from the end zone)," he pointed out. "One



BIG CROWD FOR BIG GAME: Hartford's Wes Dubois (26) picks off a pass Saturday night in Dillon Stadium before a near capacity crowd who witnessed Hartford's pro football game victory. The Knights defeated the Virginia Sailors to win the Atlantic Coast Football League championship (Courant Photo by Maurice Murray).



Fullback Jim Grabowski (33) of the Green Bay Packers tried to pry a hole for teammate Donny Anderson (44) in the first quarter of Sunday's game in San Francisco against the 49ers. San Francisco players include linebacker Ed Beard (50) and Stan Hindman (80). (AP Photo)

of his passes got batted, of course...he didn't have much chance." Starr's status remains uncertain, Bengtson also reported. "His ribs are real sore right now. As far as Zeke is concerned, the doctor said his knee was a little sore. He probably will be all right, but you can't tell for sure at this point." The Packers' other casualty, cornerback Bob Jeter, "is having x-rays of his ankle," Bengtson said. "I'll be surprised if it is anything, but I've been surprised before." Jeter injured the ankle in the first quarter, giving way to sophomore John Rowser, and did not return to action. Did he feel, Bengtson was asked, the Packers could rebound to cope with the Colts in their nationally televised struggle here Saturday afternoon? "They're going to have to rebound a long way," Phil dryly rejoined, "because Baltimore's a hot ball club. They've had outstanding success on the long pass and they have a terrific, hustling defense." Asked if he had any explanation for the Hoskes' startling showing, he said, "I can't - I don't think they can either." The Packers, it was suggested, still have a chance - despite their most recent disappointment - since they trail the Central Division's co-leading Vikings and Bears by only a half game with two remaining. "Oh, yes, we still have a chance," Bengtson conceded. "We still have a chance...BIG ASSIGNMENT: "But nobody's going to help us - we're going to have to do it ourselves...It's a big assignment, no question about it." Said "assignment" must begin, of course, with a victory over the Colts, beaten only once in 12 outings to date and 44-0 conquerors of the Atlanta Falcons in their latest venture. If this should come to pass, and the Vikings and Bears lose to the 49ers and Rams - both excellent possibilities - the Packers could be in first place Sunday night, incredible as it may seem. It also would be mathematically possible for them to win the Central crown even should they lose to the Colts, but it would be taking a long chance. This would mean the Vikings also would have to lose to the Eagles, not an overly strong possibility,

in their season finale and the Packers defeat the Bears in their rematch at Chicago's Wrigley Field a week hence to assure such a finish.

NOTES AND NOTIONS

DEC 3 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - For something like two glorious hours Sunday (approximately 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.) the Green Bay Packers were masters of their fate. After Los Angeles had followed the example of Baltimore and smashed Minnesota's Vikings, the Packers suddenly didn't need any more outside help. "All" they had to do to retain the Central Division title was to finish their winning start against the 49ers, then beat the Colts and the Bears on the final two weekends. But, after they "snatched defeat from the jaws of victory" in the final quarter, the Packers returned to the status quo - that is, being dependent upon outside assistance. This weekend, the help will have to come, ironically enough, from the same 49er team that diminished their title prospects by practically pushing the Bays out of Kezar Stadium in the final quarter. Even if such help does come, it may be too late. For, 24 hours earlier, the Packers will have to face the group that by all measurable standards is the best football team anywhere in 1968. The Packers had lost a number of tough games previously in this frustrating season, but Sunday's setback was perhaps the bitterest pill for their fans to swallow. The manner of the last-quarter collapse was totally "un-Packer-like." The Bays, we've come to expect, don't: (1) Lose "must" games; (2) squander 13-point leads; or (3) make mistakes at critical stages of a contest. But, all of these things did happen, just as surely as the sea gulls tried to up-stage the players on TV Sunday. The 49ers, long since out of the Coastal Division race, played as if a title were at stake for them. The 49ers, who scored the last four times they owned the ball, were the ones who capitalized on breaks - rather than the Packers, who "invented" this modus operandi. This, unlike some of the earlier losses, couldn't be blamed on officials' controversial decisions, weak field goal kicking or injuries in the defensive line. This was simply a case of 49er superiority in the payoff quarter. Among the more obvious Packer deficiencies were breakdowns in the pass rush (John Brodie had almost leisure time in which to spot receivers) and in pass protection (all three Packer quarterbacks were candidates for a hospital bunk almost every time they faded back.) When was the last time the usually-potent Packer passing game was held to 44 net yards - as it was Sunday? It begins to appear that no one in the "Alphonse and Gaston" Central Division act wants to qualify for the awe some task of facing Baltimore or Los Angeles in the Western Conference playoff. The only thing certain right now is that Detroit cannot possibly be in that playoff. The other three teams still have a chance but none seems able to slow down the merry-go-round sufficiently to grab the brass ring. With the powerful Colts directly in their path, the Bays' outlook isn't too good - to say the least. But, the way things have been going in the Central sector, the Packers might still do it...the crippled Bears could even come through...and the hapless Eagles could topple the Vikings Dec. 15. Had the Packers held onto their lead

Race at a Glance

CENTRAL DIVISION

GAMES REMAINING

CHICAGO — Sunday, at Los Angeles; Dec. 15—Green Bay in Wrigley field.

Minnesota—Sunday, at San Francisco; Dec. 15—at Philadelphia.

Green Bay—Saturday, Baltimore in Lambeau field; Dec. 15—at Chicago.

	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	O.P.
CHICAGO ..	6	6	0	.500	206	289
Minnesota ..	6	6	0	.500	228	205
Green Bay ..	5	6	1	.455	250	184
Detroit	3	7	2	.300	180	220

Sunday, they could have entered the key Baltimore game with momentum (3-game winning streak) and considerable confidence. Those factors could have given them at least a 50-50 chance against the Colts. But, as it stands now, the Colts have so much going for them that they shape up as heavy favorites. Oddly enough, the Colts don't really "have" to win Saturday — so they can afford to play with the type of "abandon" that used to characterize the Packer approach. Win or lose Saturday, The Colts' Coastal division title chances won't be decided until Dec. 15 at Los Angeles — unless, of course, the Bears should happen to unleash an "upset" explosive in the LA Coliseum Sunday. (For the Packers, of course, the time is "now," and they'll be under full pressure to win, or else...). Obviously, the Colts aren't about to let down in Green Bay even though the victory isn't 100 per cent essential. Baltimore would like to "rub it into" the team that has deprived it of more playoff "loot" than any other in the NFL. In addition, the Colts want to retain their peak for the Dec. 15 showdown. And, of course, if the Colts beat the Packers, it would also mean that a tie against LA the following week would enable them to take the title. The home field probably won't mean any particular advantage to the Packers Saturday — unless the mercury plunges to 13 below. The Bays haven't been exactly swashbuckling at Lambeau Field this season. They've lost to Detroit and Chicago and have beaten only weak Philadelphia. The Packers best hopes for an upset lies in tradition. They've been as tough on the Colts as they have on the Cowboys in recent years. The Packers had whipped Baltimore five straight times and almost made it six last year — but the Colts pulled it out after recovering a last-gasp onside kick. So, if the Packers have one more Dallas game (Oct. 28 vintage) in their systems, they could pull it off. Then, if the 49ers again feel inspired and throw as good a game against Minnesota as they played against the Packers, Green Bay could still attain that elusive top perch. The odds, of course, are against such a fortuitous parley of circumstances... Baltimore again has to be given the top point total — 95 — on our weekly Super Bowl index. But the Colts margin over LA and Capitol Division champion Dallas continues tenuous. The Rams, who Sunday showed a return to early-season power, and the Cowboys are thus rated at 92. Cleveland, despite enjoying the NFL's longest win streak of the year — seven — and despite holding the only decision over Baltimore, ranks no better than fourth (with 85) now. The reason is their likely collision with Dallas in the Eastern playoff and the memory of how easily the Cowboys handled the Browns last year. The Super Bowl possibilities of four other clubs appear slim. Minnesota is rated at 65, while the Packers, the Bears and St. Louis are at 60. Kansas City and Oakland, at 90 apiece, look like the best AFL bets for the January classic. New York, at 88, and San Diego (80) are the only others with a chance... The emergency insertion of rookie quarterback Billy Stevens in the lineup Sunday must have been a bit embarrassing for the Packer strategy board... not because the Bays had to use him but because he hadn't received a chance to "get his feet wet" in earlier games. In the late stages of the recent Saint and Redskin games, for example, the Packers enjoyed wide leads — and it would have been a wise move to give Stevens some NFL experience. When he finally made his debut Sunday, it was under the worst possible circumstances — having to pass from the end zone against a "sky high" 49er defense in the closing stages of a "must" game. Stevens did well, indeed, in not losing the ball, either through an interception or a fumble.

PACKERS AND FANS FACE A CHALLENGE

DEC 3 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) — The 1968 football season has been nothing if not a series of frustrations for the Green Bay Packers. Any realist would have to admit that their chances for a repeat of their Central Division title are small, especially after Sunday's loss to San Francisco. We will leave it to the experts and Monday morning quarterbacks to say why all this has happened. But the season has, thus far, been a chastening experience for the team as well as for Packer fans throughout the land. Candor forces the admission that the Packers next opponent, the Baltimore Colts, are perhaps the most powerful and talented team in professional football today. They are well on their way to achieving the championship status which the Packers have held so consistently during this decade. The Packers can gain a considerable measure of redemption for a so-so season by an all-out effort against the Colts in Lambeau Field Saturday afternoon. They will go into the game certainly as underdogs; this very fact should stir them to play the type of football which is expected of a championship defender. Saturday's game will be a test of the fans in the stands, too. If the Packers are going to defeat the Colts, they must do it themselves, but the fans can help their efforts by all-out vocal support to show that, winning or losing, the Packers still stand high in their affections even though the recent halcyon years of repeated victories have, this season, been interrupted by misfortunes.



—AP Wirephoto
Green Bay Packer defensive players were sad and shocked Sunday as San Francisco came from behind to knock them out 27-20 and keep them from taking over first place. Packers, from the left, were Ray Nitschke (66), Lionel Aldridge (82) and Willie Davis (87), with Jim Flanagan between Nitschke and Aldridge.

and defeat. Make no mistake about it; the Colts will come to play. They would like nothing better than to knock the already tilting championship crown finally and completely off the Packers' heads. For the Packers, then, Saturday's game is a golden opportunity to prove to themselves that they are not the washed-up football team they are being called with ill-concealed glee by their enemies and critics. A victory over the Colts would also be recompense for those millions of Packer fans whose support of this team, in good years and bad, has meant so much in making and keeping the Packers the wonder of the professional football world. Beat Baltimore!

COLTS' ONLY SETBACK BLESSING IN DISGUISE

DEC 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – "It's funny," Jim Walker mused, "what one loss can do. "Last year, we lost only one game and it cost us the Coastal Division championship," the Baltimore Colts' publicity director reminded the Mike and Pen Sports Club at its Tuesday luncheon in the Beaumont Motor Inn. Here to brief Packerland on the streaking Hosses in preparation for Saturday's nationally televised collision at Lambeau Field, Walker added, "This season, I think we can look back on our one loss as a blessing in disguise." **BROWNS WIN 30-20:** That lone blot on the Colts' record occurred Oct. 20 when the

Cleveland Browns took their measure in Baltimore's Memorial Stadium, 30-20. "In that one, our defense played the poorest game it has played in several years," Walker said. "Since that time, the defense has been fantastic. It has given up only two touchdowns in the last six games. In fact, the very next week we played the best game we've played in four or five years in beating the Rams."...**MUST FOR BOTH:** As a result, the Colts currently own the best record in the NFL, a glittering 11-1 mark. But Walker notes Saturday's match still ranks as a "must" game for the Coastal Division leaders, a half game in front of the Rams at the moment. "We could still win our division if we lose Saturday," he admitted, "but that would mean we would have to beat the Rams in our last game at Los Angeles, and we hate to take a chance on that." It is, of course, even more incumbent upon the Packers to win. They presently are a half game back of the co-leading Vikings and Bears and another defeat could mathematically eliminate them from Central Division contention. In his analysis of the Colts' surge, Walker pointed out, "Our success on defense hasn't been just one man or two men, it's been the whole unit. It may be a cliché, but that's the way it's been. The fact that the defensive unit was cited by The Associated Press as 'player of the week' after the Ram game documents the point. "A few personnel changes have helped, though. Bubba Smith has done a real good job at left end, a weak spot last season. Bubba's learning new things every week from veteran tackles...**CURTIS BIG HELP:** "It's quite a sight," he smiled, "to see him in a backfield alone with a quarterback. He has good speed for his size (6-foot-7 and 280 pounds) and he gives the quarterback quite a chase. The play of Mike Curtis at left linebacker also has been a big help. He started out the 1967 season there but was hurt in the third game and had to have surgery, so he didn't play the rest of the year...Coach Don Shula says he's going to be an all-pro linebacker. Offensively, as everybody knows, Earl Morrall has been the big story for us. We traded for him in the pre-season because our number two quarterback, Jim Ward, was hurt. Then John Unitas got hurt in our last pre-season game and Morrall replaced him...**LINE IS BIG STORY:** "With Earl in there, we've had a more balanced attack. With John, the emphasis was on passing. This is no criticism of John, but the offensive linemen say they have more success pass blocking if we have a running game. "The big story on offense, though, is the line. It has been doing an outstanding job. It's a very young line. Bob Vogel is the old head and he's only 26. Bill Curry, the ex-Packer, is our starting center and has been all season." "Sam Ball probably is the big improvement," Walker continued. "He moved in there at tackle last year after Jim Parker retired and he got eaten alive a few times. But he's doing a great job this year...**BROWN COMING BACK:** "In the backfield, Jerry Hill was having his best year at fullback before he was injured. He was replaced by Terry Cole, a rookie from Indiana, and he has gained about 250 yards in our last four games. He has surprising speed for his size, 6-foot-2 and 215 pounds. And Tom Matte is having another good year. He's not going to break way, but he'll get those tough yards. "Tim Brown was injured but he's starting to come back. He has been running back some kicks." Unitas, somewhat obscured by Morrall's brilliant performance in the Colts' spectacular surge, "is available now," Walker said. "He's throwing as well as ever. In fact, he played last Sunday and threw 10 passes...**REST WAS WALT:** "He told me, I can set up something with short passes and even throw the long pass, but I don't know if I could do it for three or four games...He had tendonitis and tore a muscle in the Dallas game, but it's all healed now. It's just that it isn't strong. An orthopedic specialist said John doesn't need an operation, he just needs a rest. We need him now, though, so he'll have to wait until after the season ends for a rest." What about the rumors General John is through? "He doesn't think that way," Walker replied, "and we don't either. The doctor says that with rest he'll be as good as new."

FRED CARR EARNS HIS LETTER

DEC 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – A shy smile crept over the mobile features of Freddie Alton Carr, dazzlingly resplendent in gold sweater and slacks and green alligator shoes. "I've been getting in pretty good," the Packers' king-sized rookie linebacker admitted, not

without a modicum of satisfaction. Judging by recent events, the world champions' latest No. 1 draft choice is likely to be taking an even bigger hand in field operations in the future. The fact that Coach Phil Bengtson saw fit to employ the 6-foot-5 inch, 240-pound linebacker in the nightmarish fourth quarter of Sunday's 27-20 misadventure at San Francisco is an eloquent testimonial to the esteem in which Carr is held by the Packer coaching staff...**CAN MAKE BIG PLAY:** Dave Hanner, the Pack's massive defensive coach, gives Freddie a glowing endorsement. "He has great attitude and great hustle, and he has the ability to make the big play for you," Hanner says. "He's going to be a great one." Speaking for himself, the former University of Texas-El Paso standout soberly observes, "I hope I'm doing what they expect of me. I don't know if I'm doing as well as I hoped I would, but I hope I'm doing what they expect of me." Fred, who played both middle and outside linebacker in college, finds his pro responsibilities "the same in that you've got to hit somebody-that's the name of the game, but you have different coverages. "For breaking in, it's a little strange. It takes a little while, but it'll come to you. Once you get the pass coverage down, you can play the run pretty well. Pass coverage is the big thing you have to master.* Carr, an amiable citizen who has quickly become a popular addition to the Packer cast, says "most of the linebackers and the defensive backs have been very nice" about assisting his development. "Dave Robinson has been extremely helpful," Carr confided, "along with the two cornerbacks, Herb (Adderley) and Jete (Bob Jeter). They've been real helpful to me..."**BEST YOU CAN FIND:** "And," he beamed, "talking to Coach Phil every day is the best you can find. He can tell you some great things." Freddie admits he also has been doing "quite a bit of studying at night" to accelerate his education. "At the beginning I was studying films. Lately, I've studied formations and things. I've had Dave Robinson show me some things too, and I ask Coach Phil questions. "And he's just," Carr groped for a word, then continued, "He's just got it. Coach Phil knows the business of football. As far as I'm concerned, he's just a genius on the defense." Happy to be seeing a significant amount of action as a rookie on a championship team, the talented Texan informed, "So far I've played a total of just about four quarters." "In college ball," he grinned, "that would get me a letter." Freddie doesn't expect to be deeply involved in Saturday's nationally televised showdown with the Colts in Lambeau Field, but he has quiet confidence in his teammates to rebound from their San Francisco disaster. "I know we have the ability to win this one," he said with firm conviction. "I don't think you'll find a better bunch of football players anywhere else."

Horn Back But Not Likely To Face Colts

HORN BACK BUT NOT LIKELY TO FACE COLTS

DEC 4 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Packers quarterback corps was swelled Tuesday by the return from Army service of Don Horn. The former San Diego State star, discharged at Fort Sill, Okla., over the weekend, has been activated, however, and Coach Phil Bengtson said today "it is extremely unlikely" that the sophomore signalist will be called up for Saturday's game here with the Baltimore Colts. "It would

be almost impossible to get him ready physically and otherwise (tactically)," Bengtson said...**ZEKE MOVES FREELY:** Meanwhile, the status of the Packers' veteran field general, Bart Starr, remains uncertain. Starr, who re-injured his ribs in last Sunday's 27-20 loss to the San Francisco 49ers, took part in Tuesday's practice but did not attempt to pass. Bengtson said "Bart is still sore, but we won't make a final decision on his availability until shortly before the game." Fellow quarterback Zeke Bratkowski, temporarily sidelined by a twisted knee at San Francisco, was moving freely, assuring he will be ready to face the Colts...**STARR SLIPS NOTCH:** Baltimore's new No. 1 signal caller, the much traveled Earl Morrall, has moved into the NFL's individual passing lead, according to official figures released today. Morrall has completed 167 of 283 attempts for 59 per cent, 2,684 yards and 24 touchdowns. Starr, forced out of action in the second quarter against the 49ers slipped one notch to third place with 109 of 171 for a 63.7 efficiency mark, 1,617 yards and 15 TDs. Carroll Dale, one of Starr's favorite targets, is tied with Gene Washington of the Vikings for tenth place among receivers with 39 catches for 785 yards and a 20.1 average. Donny Anderson is eighth in rushing, based on 659 yards in 147 attempts, and running mate Jim Grabowski moved in among the leaders for the first time, taking 15th place with 476 yards in 113 carries. Anderson also ranks fourth in punting with a 41.6 average for 49 kicks. In other categories, Herb Adderley is sixth in kickoff returns with a 25.4 average for 12 runbacks and Tom Brown ninth in punt returns with a 6.9 average for 16 runbacks...**PRO NOTES:** The Colts rank second in the NFL on both offense and defense. The Hosses have averaged 352.6 yards per game and given up 241.8. The Packers are seventh on offense, with a 295.4 average, and fourth on defense, with a 256.8 average... The Colts' Tuesday workout was curtailed when rookie fullback Terry Cole and his replacement, Preston Pearson, came down with the flu. Defensive back Bobby Boyd also was a flu victim and safetyman Jerry Logan was on the field but complained of stomach trouble ...Washington Redskin Coach Otto Graham has been fined an unspecified amount, reportedly \$2,500, for asserting the officials "stole the game" after the Redskins' loss to the Cowboys in Dallas Thanksgiving Day...An award of distinction will be presented to Vince Lombardi by the Touchdown Club of Columbus, Ohio, at its 14th annual sports award dinner Jan. 24. Others to be cited include Denny McLain, the Detroit Tigers' 31-game winner.

COLTS SECOND IN OFFENSE AND DEFENSE

DEC 4 (New York) - In trying to stay alive Saturday for a chance at their fourth consecutive NFL title, the Green Bay Packers will have to get by the team that is second in the league in offense and second in defense. The Packers host Baltimore, which has averaged 352.6

Yardmaster			
OFFENSE			
	Yards	Yards	Total
	Rushing	Passing	
Dallas	1853	2603	4456
Baltimore	1607	2624	4231
Cleveland	1753	2464	4217
San Francisco	1435	2554	3989
Los Angeles	1664	1918	3582
New York	1671	1893	3564
Green Bay	1618	1927	3545
Pittsburgh	1377	2160	3537
Chicago	2093	1426	3519
St. Louis	1516	1992	3508
Detroit	1442	1870	3312
New Orleans	1333	1876	3209
Washington	978	2136	3114
Minnesota	1651	1428	3079
Philadelphia	1135	1827	2962
Atlanta	1082	1702	2784
DEFENSE			
	Yards	Yards	Defense
	Rushing	Passing	
Los Angeles	1091	1571	2662
Baltimore	1108	1794	2902
Dallas	948	2053	3001
Green Bay	1528	1553	3081
Minnesota	1672	1520	3192
Detroit	1441	1963	3404
Cleveland	1525	1915	3440
San Francisco	1600	2023	3623
New Orleans	1803	1820	3623
St. Louis	1272	2388	3660
New York	1595	2075	3670
Chicago	1506	2309	3845
Philadelphia	1887	2036	3923
Washington	1915	2046	3961
Pittsburgh	1430	2671	4101
Atlanta	1857	2663	4520

yards a game while giving up just 241.8. The Packers, meanwhile, have only the seventh best offense, with a 295.4 average, and the fourth best defense, with a 256.8 average. Dallas has the best offensive average, 371.3 yards per contest, and Los Angeles has the toughest defense, holding its opponents to 221.8. Los Angeles also has the best defense against rushing, Minnesota as the best against passing, Chicago has the best rushing team offensively and Baltimore the best passing.

PACKERS DENY OLD ZING GONE

DEC 4 (Baltimore Sun) - Collegiate football coaches call it desire. In Green Bay's case it is that and something else, too, and it isn't entirely predicated on the almighty dollar. Pros, they believe, are paid to win, not build character, so any suggestions that three consecutive championships have taken the edge off their competitive appetite draws snorts. "I think we're just as hungry and have just as much pride," veteran linebacker Ray Nitschke was insisting before joining yesterday's workout for Saturday's visit by the Colts, "as we did when we won the championships. We have a lot of pride and we don't know what it is to lose. Things just haven't been going our way...INJURIES DOG PACKERS: "We've had a lot of things happen to us that haven't happened in the past. If you could explain it you would be a remarkable individual. It seems like the other teams have been making the big plays and capitalizing on our mistakes. We've had a lot of injuries which possibly have handicapped us, and naturally we've had mental letdowns. "I still have the zest and zeal to play the game. I think I'm just as good a player as I've ever been. I've had minor injuries which are part of the game. I would have liked to have made some bigger plays over the season than I have. Just one little step means making a play or not making a play. It is something of a guessing game. You make a false move, or take a certain position and, when the ball is snapped, you may find that if you had been a foot farther over you would have made the play. Teams know your tendencies, too, of course. You're studying them and they're studying you. They know how you react. That's what defense really is-reaction...LINEBACKERS ENJOY CONTACT: "Linebacker is a violent position. The fellows who play it are the ones who enjoy contact. It's almost a prerequisite for the position. But being civilized people you just don't go throwing your body around just to be doing it. You have to convince yourself you're doing it for a right purpose. You have to be emotionally ready to play football. The thing is, you always try to control your temper. You never want to lose your poise through the strain of a game or of a season. You're going to get blocked. Nobody can prevent that. But you don't have to stay with the block. If you can hit with your forearm, you can react quickly enough from the block to stay in the play."

DYNASTY DEAD?
DEC 5 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Green Bay Packers...as seen by: Ray Sones, Chicago Daily News: "A dynasty had died. You could tell it in the eyes of Phil Bengtson, Vince Lombardi and Bart Starr. "Reporters milled around Bengtson in the cramped dressing room after the San Francisco 49ers had driven a stake through the hearts of the Green Bay Packers, 27-20, and asked him if he could still feel a pulse in the kings of football. The Packer coach replied in leaden tones, so quietly that his listeners had to strain to hear, 'We're still half a game behind. We'll have to win all of ours and they (the Vikings and Bears) will have to lose.' "But his eyes said the odds were too steep. So did the ashen and somber face of Lombardi, who stood nearby in silence. The bandaged ribs of the great Starr, the failure of his blockers to protect either him or Zeke Bratkowski in Kezar Stadium and the way John Brodie shot holes in what was once the finest pass defense in the game-all of these facts argue against Green Bay."...Vito Stellino, United Press International: "The Green Bay Packers moved to the brink of oblivion Sunday and the Baltimore Colts are ready and waiting to shove them over the edge. The Packers, whose reign as three-time NFL champions may now be over, took a 20-7 lead into the final period but then fell apart as San Francisco exploded for 20 points and a 27-20 triumph. Things like that just didn't used to happen to the Packers."...Bud Lea, Milwaukee Sentinel: "Here was a Green Bay team that had a 20-7 lead over San Francisco going into the fourth quarter and then managed to lose. Things like that seldom happened to the Packers. Before halftime, the final score of the Ram-Viking game was announced over the public address system. When they heard the result, the Packers should have gone after the 49ers like wildcats. Instead they curled up like kittens."

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Gregg Faces 'Biggest' Challenge in Colts' Lucky Bubba

GREGG FACES 'BIGGEST' CHALLENGE IN COLTS' LUCKY BUBBA

DEC 5 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - In a dozen 1968 appearances, Forrest Gregg has had to contend with the awesome likes of Deacon Jones and Carl Eller, among others. But now comes the biggest challenge of all, in terms of square feet, in the prodigious person of Bubba Smith, the Baltimore Colts' 6-foot-7, 280-pound defensive end. The first meeting between the eight-time All-NFL tackle and the mastodonic Michigan State alumnus, it will be the major matchups in Saturday afternoon's climactic confrontation at Lambeau Field,

which may decide the Central Division championship...NEVER HAD PRIVILEGE: "I've never played against him," Gregg informed, explaining, "He was a tackle in the All-Star game last year and also when we played the Colts in Baltimore later in the season, so I've never had the privilege. All I know about him is what I've seen in two films this week. He looks real good - he looks like he's trimmed down some from last year. He's moving a lot better, which is probably because he's learned his defenses. "Bubba is with an experienced defensive line which, I'm sure, has helped him. They play well together...BIG ENOUGH: "He's certainly big enough," Gregg dryly appended. "He's 6-7 and they list him at 295, but I don't think he's that heavy. But if he's 275 or 280," he chuckled, "that's big enough. When you get up to that weight, 10 or 15 pounds either way doesn't make that much difference. He's real strong, too, and for a guy his size he has good quickness. He's a fine player right now and, with experience, it looks like he's going to be a great one." All of which, it was suggested, adds up to an interesting afternoon for the Packers' 12-year veteran 48 hours hence. "If you can call it interesting," laughed Gregg, who at 6-foot-4 and 250 pounds will be conceding Bubba three inches and 30 pounds on every play. "It looks like it's going to be a busy one."...JONES, ELLER BEST: He rates Jones and Eller the best he's faced to date, but pointed out, "I haven't played against Bubba yet...I'll have to reserve my judgment until after Saturday." A major factor in Smith's development, Colt Publicity Director Jim Walker says, has been his discovery that he cannot succeed on size alone. "He's learned that he's got to learn to out-maneuver his man," Walker said. "He's found out that it's not all strength, that brains and agility are necessary, too...RADAR TROUBLE: "Last year was very frustrating for him because he was troubled by an injury and he could not play...He tells me that he was always the last one on the field with the special teams last year, not because he didn't want to be out there as fast as he could, but that he always seemed to be thinking about something else." Opposing quarterbacks may not be aware of it, but the strapping ex-Spartan also has radar problems. "Bubba can't see," Walker explained. "He told me, 'I'm going to have to start wearing contacts. Sometimes I put up my hands to block a pass and I miss it because I put up my hands in the wrong place.'"... PACKER PATTERN: Bob Hyland, the Packers' huge sophomore center, "will see more action" against the Colts, Coach Phil Bengtson revealed following Wednesday's highly spirited practice. "We plan to use him more because of the type of defense Baltimore plays," he said. At 6-foot-5 1/2 and 260 pounds, Hyland is slightly more substantial than Ken Bowman, 6-foot-2 and 245, who has started every game to date and been a highly effective performer...Quarterback Don Horn, who had just completed his second session since rejoining the team following discharge from the Army, admitted, "It's still a little strange." Horn was the object of a deft needle from fellow quarterback Zeke Bratkowski in the dressing room. Bratkowski paused in front of Horn's green and gold cubicle, ran his index finger across the shelf, then exhibited a trace of dust thereon and declared with mock, sergeant-like sternness, "Look here, Horn, this is a sloppy looking locker"...The Colts are scheduled to arrive at Austin Straubel Field Friday noon and are scheduled to work out on the Packers' South Oneida Street practice field at 1 o'clock. Commenting on the status of injured quarterback Bart Starr, Bengtson said, "He's not too good right now, but we'll just have to wait and see."

SUB UNITAS IS SAD SIGHT

DEC 5 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Johnny Unitas. It's a magic name...but the man carrying the name is more miraculous than magic. His miracles, performed over the past dozen years, have been thoroughly documented in print and on film...as well as in the minds of millions of people who were actual witnesses to them via television. For though we have publicly declared on several occasions that Bart Starr is at minimum the equal of John Unitas, it must be admitted that the majority of American football fans continue to consider the Baltimore Bombardier the finest QB in the history of pro football. Unitas' story, rich in the spirit of dedication to a goal...the sandlot to star saga...is virtually unmatched in sports. General John, as he came to be known, was sprung on the American public in the late 1950s just as TV was ballooning the game of pro football into a multi-million dollar industry...and the game's heroes to Grecian god status...STARR STORY SIMILAR: Unitas deserved his pedestal but he accepted it with head bowed. Have you ever heard Unitas knock anybody? Or anybody knock Unitas? Never. His conduct has always been on a par with his gridiron performance. Exemplary. Certainly the same thing can be said for Starr...and his story, in many ways, matches the Unitas tale. Bart came from senior bench sitter at Alabama to his Super Starr status with the same dedication that lifted Unitas from Louisville University to Pittsburgh's sandlots to Baltimore's spotlight. Ironically, neither of these uncommonly fine players and men is likely to be a major factor when the Colts and Packers meet in their crucial clash at Lambeau Field Saturday afternoon. Then again, either of them could turn out to be the vital factor in the contest. Both are hurting physically. Unitas is certain not to start unless something drastic happens to Earl Morrall. Starr will start if his bruised ribs allow it, but latest reports make Zeke Bratkowski the probable Packer quarterback...UNITAS GETS SYMPATHY: You have to feel sorry for both of them. But would you believe that most of our sympathy goes to Unitas? For a blatant Starr fan, this may sound like heresy. But it's not. It is just that Unitas has meant so much to pro football, so much to the fans, that it is actually sad to see him relegated to his present position...backup quarterback. And he is just that. Unitas, by his admission and by the admission of the Colts, could play. His arm, while not considered ready for a full season of duty, has strengthened enough to let him play a full game...perhaps several games. But he cannot get his job back. Morrall has been so sensational in Unitas' place that John...General John...gets into the game only when the Colts are safely ahead. That has to draw on your store of sympathy. Oh, Unitas may be back. He plans to play next year, though it depends on how his arm continues to strengthen. But we may never see him in Green Bay again. As a matter of fact, the last time we saw him in this city was in 1964. But next year, the Packers will play in Baltimore. Of course, he may play Saturday. But if you want to be sure to see one of the great heroes of all time, you better get to Lambeau Field in time to see the warmup drills.

NO LOMBARDI DR. IN MILWAUKEE - HE'S LIVING

DEC 5 (Milwaukee) – There won't be a "Lombardi Boulevard" here in the immediate future. The Common Council's streets and zoning committee this week refused a request by Joseph J. Krueger, a local sports fan, to rename West Highland Blvd. as "Lombardi Drive" in

honor of the Green Bay Packers' general manager. "This type of memorial should be reserved for a man who has gone into that Great Undiscovered Land," commented Ald. Orville E. Pitts.

LAME AND AILING COLTS BACK FOR LIGHT DRILLS

DEC 5 (Baltimore Sun) - All the Colts returned to practice yesterday after a flu attack had made several hors de combat on Tuesday. Fullback Terry Cole lost some weight during his siege but otherwise was in good shape. The little bug still has Bobby Boyd by the throat and it limited the All-Pro's activities yesterday...JERRY HILL RUNS: Encouraging signs were injured Jimmy Orr running on the sidelines and injured Jerry Hill running up and down the steps in the Stadium. Hill, the starting fullback until injured, can't be activated until after Sunday, but coach Don Shula said that Jerry probably would be returned to the squad then even though he might not be ready for action. "Jerry has to be on the squad for one of the last two games, otherwise he wouldn't be eligible for the post season games if we get into them," said Shula. Orr, who injured his back 11 days ago against the Minnesota Vikings, probably won't play against the Green Bay Packers Saturday. "It is feeling much better, but it is still sore," said Jimmy after his brief running exercise yesterday...NOT DOWNGRADING FOE: There is one thing the Colts aren't doing in their preparation for the defending world champions, that is, there has been no talk or speculation on what is wrong with the Packers this year. The Packers are back in the pack with a 5-6-1 record, but in the Central Division they still have a chance for their title. Many arguments have been advanced to account for the fall of the Packers, who have won three straight NFL championships and the only two Super Bowl clashes thus far played with the AFL champs. The six Green Bay losses, except for a 26-13 lacing by the Vikings, have been by just a few points, 6 to Detroit, 2 to Los Angeles, 3 to Chicago, 4 in a return match with Minnesota and 7 to San Francisco. So, just a spread of 22 points in five games has kept the Packers from having a 10-1-1 record...GRASPING FOR STRAWS: But these losses, as close as they have been, have been frustrating the Packers, who now are grasping for straws to justify their record. After a 27-to-7 victory over the hapless Washington Redskins two Sundays ago, end Willie Davis, the captain of the defense, told Lee Rummel, Green Bay Press-Gazette sportswriter, that the Packers were beginning to come on. "I think one of the real big differences," the All-Pro was quoted as saying, "is that we've started to play with the cohesiveness we're accustomed to having...MORALE WAS DRAGGING: "I feel that we're the kind of ball club, that having been on the verge of getting kicked out of this thing, we're going to be together the rest of the way. Our morale was dragging there for a moment because we were losing and we're not accustomed to it. We were frustrated, couldn't figure out what was wrong. I think we've overcome the critical point now. I think we're together in all the important things. We have the pride and morale. And we've always been a team that finishes coming up..." So the next week the Packers led the San Francisco 49ers, 20 to 7, going into the last quarter and then lost, 27-20. The Colts know the Packers can do a lot of atonement with a victory over the league's winningest team Saturday.

NATION TO SEE CITY FLAG TRIBUTE

DEC 6 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The massing of 51,000 American flags by Green Bay Packer football fans will be a highlight of the 27th anniversary of Pearl Harbor and the meeting of the Packers and the Baltimore Colts in Lambeau Field Saturday afternoon. The city's salute to the national colors, informally called the "Pride In Patriotism Crusade," will be seen almost anywhere in the United States on television except here in Green Bay. Although the pre-game ceremonies will be carried on the CBS network, TV is blacked out in the Green Bay area for the game. CBS, which normally does not televise pre-game activities in the NFL has arranged its schedule for the day to carry the 15-minute pre-game activity. This will include a mass recital of the pledge of allegiance and the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" as well as the customary salute as the colors are raised prior to game time. Taking part, in addition to a stadium full of Packer Backers, will be the Southern Illinois University band from Carbondale, Ill., and the Packer Band. The visiting ensemble will present a number of patriotic pieces before the game as well as the between-halves program. The brainchild of a trio



Pre-Game Flag Ceremony at Green Bay's Lambeau Field
Military color guard at attention during singing of National Anthem at Bear game

—Press-Gazette Photo by Emery Kroening

Nation To See City Flag Tribute



of Green Bay housewives, which mushroomed into the massive display with the assistance of the Packer Corp. and the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, the ceremony will be unique. It was made possible by area businessmen who donated funds for the purchase of the eight-by-twelve inch flags, which had to be ordered and made specially for the event. As fans enter the stadium each will be given a flag by Boy Scouts. They will be asked to hold and display them throughout the contest. Lambeau Field will also be decorated for the ceremony, the main feature of the decorations being the use of large American flags on the flagpoles along the rim of the stadium, customarily used for the flying of pennants of member cities of the NFL. Red, white and blue bunting will also be in evidence around the field. Spearheading the massive demonstration are three young Green Bay housewives, the Mmes. Larry Fuller of 1195 Shadow Lane; Aldo Santaga, 1262 Ridgedale Court, and Lowell Dollar, 1185 Shadow Lane. The initial idea was Mrs. Fuller's. Disturbed by numerous instances of disrespect to the colors throughout the nation, she felt something ought to be done to counteract the trend by displaying the fact that the vast majority of Americans were patriotic and respectful toward the national Symbol. Talking it over with friends, she found that all felt the same way. Enlisting the aid of the Mmes. Santaga and Dollar, she brought the matter to the attention of Mayor Donald Tilleman early in October. The plan will also have an additional facet which did not occur to its sponsors. A special plaque has been prepared which will be presented to the three women in the name of the city, the Packers and the Chamber of Commerce.

PACK'S BIG GAME REPUTATION ON LINE AGAINST BALTIMORE

DEC 6 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Packers have forged an awesome reputation for winning the big game. Saturday afternoon, this hitherto infallible capacity will be subjected to the acid test by Baltimore's runaway Colts. Seldom, if ever, have the reigning world champions been confronted with a more demanding assignment than the one which awaits them in the cool of Lambeau Field 24 hours hence. A struggle with championship implications, it will find the Packers 6-point underdogs to the once-beaten Colts in the 1 o'clock (WNFL) collision, to be viewed by a sellout crowd of 50,861 customers and a national television audience...BURDEN OF PROOF: All of which suggests the burden of proof will be on the home forces, who staged their only successful "big game" stand of 1968 in Dallas Oct. 28 when they derailed the then unbeaten (6-0) Cowboys, 28-17. The atmosphere will be reminiscent of the Colts' last appearance on Green Bay soil, the historic Western Conference playoff of Dec. 26, 1965, in which the Packers shaded the Hosesses 13-10 by dint of Don Chandler's long disputed "fifth quarter" field goal. So will the weather. The forecast calls for morning snow flurries and temperatures in the mid-20s at game time, accompanied by brisk southeasterly winds of 10 to 15 miles per hour. Victory is vital to sustain the title hopes of both principals particularly the Packers. The Bays, now 5-6-1, are a half game back of the co-leading Vikings and Bears in the Central Division while the Colts hold a half game edge over the runner up Rams with two games remaining...THREE SHOUTOUTS: Momentum, unquestionably, rides with the invaders. Losers only to the Cleveland Browns in 12 starts, they have charged to six straight wins since that lone defeat, a span during which they have scored three shutouts and permitted only two touchdowns. The Packers, in contrast, face the unfamiliar task of rebounding from a fourth quarter fadeout in San Francisco, where they saw a 20-7 lead dissolve into a 27-20 defeat last Sunday. Assessing these factors, Packer Coach Phil Bengtson admits, "It will take our best performance to win." The Pack's already substantial chore has been complicated by an injury to quarterback Bart Starr, who is a doubtful participant. Mr. Quarterback has not been ruled out, however, Bengtson emphasized. "John Brodie was injured and reportedly didn't throw all the week until Saturday before our game," he pointed out, "and he went all the way against us."...DAZZLING MARKSMAN: But it is likely veteran Zeke Bratkowski, a dazzling marksman in the Packers' 27-7 victory over the Washington Redskins two weeks ago, will be at the throttle when the Packers go on offense for the first time. Bratkowski, who relieved Starr in the second quarter of their 49er fizzle, is hardly a stranger to the Colts or title pressure. He came off the bench in the fourth quarter of their first 1965 meeting at Milwaukee to hit Max McGee with a sideline scoring strike which produced a 20-17 victory. Later that season, Starr was injured on the first series in the Western Conference playoff here and Bratkowski presided the rest of the way in that overtime victory. Then, in 1966, Super Sub again stepped into the breach when Starr was sidelined in the second quarter and directed the Packers to a 14-10 decision which clinched the Western Division championship...NO. 2 DEFENSE: This time, he will have to cope with the NFL's No. 2 defense, an inspired, largely veteran unit which has restricted the opposition to an average of 241.8 yards and 13.9 points per game. The Colt defenders, with Billy Ray Smith and gigantic Bubba Smith leading the charge up front, have registered 38 quarterback traps, fourth highest total in the league and only seven less than the Rams' league-leading Fearsome Foursome. Prowling the outfield will be Bobby Boyd, the ball hawking left cornerback who shares the NFL lead in interceptions with eight, free safety Rick Volk, who has six and right cornerback Lenny Lyles, who has four. The invaders also rank second on offense, despite the season-long absence of quarterback John Unitas, indicating the type of trauma which awaits the Packer defense. With newly acquired Earl Morrall at the controls, the Hosesses have functioned as though General John had never been away. Long blessed with a potent passing attack, they have exhibited a highly complementary running game, manned by

OFFENSE			
BALTIMORE		GREEN BAY	
Perkins	SE	Dowler	
Vogel	LT	Skoronski	
Ressler	LG	Gillingham	
Curry	C	Bowman	
Sullivan	RG	Kramer	
Ball	RT	Gregg	
Mackey	TE	Fleming	
Morrall	QB	Bratkowski	
Matte	RB	Anderson	
Cole	RB	Grabowski	
Richardson	RB	Dale	

DEFENSE			
BALTIMORE		GREEN BAY	
Bubba Smith	LE	Davis	
B. R. Smith	LT	Kostelnik	
Miller	RT	Jordan	
Braase	RE	Aldridge	
Curtis	LLB	Robinson	
Gaubatz	MLB	Nitschke	
Shinnick	RLB	Caffey	
Boyd	LH	Adderley	
Lyles	RH	Jeter	
Logan	LS	T. Brown	
Volk	RS	Wood	

Packer-Colt Series
Packers won 17, Colts 14. Points—Packers 704, Colts 704.

RUSHING						
	Att.	Yds.	Ave.	L	TD	
Anderson, Pack	147	659	4.5	42	4	
Matte, Colts	158	576	3.7	23	8	
Grabowski, Pack	113	476	4.2	25	4	
Hill, Colts	91	358	3.9	21	1	
Cole, Colts	80	327	4.1	21	3	
Pitts, Pack	69	264	3.9	12	2	
Brown, Colts	38	159	4.2	10	2	

PASSING						
	Att.	C	Yds.	Int.	TD	
Starr, Pack	172	109	1,617	8	15	
Morrall, Colts	282	167	2,684	17	24	
Bratkowski, Pack	100	54	653	6	2	
Unitas, Colts	23	7	72	3	1	

RECEIVING						
	No.	Yds.	Ave.	L	TD	
Dale, Pack	39	785	20.0	63	8	
Dowler, Pack	39	478	12.3	55	4	
Mackey, Colts	37	579	15.6	45	5	
Richardson, Colts	35	599	17.1	79	7	
Orr, Colts	29	743	25.6	84	6	
Fleming, Pack	25	278	11.1	32	3	
Anderson, Pack	24	315	13.1	47	1	
Matte, Colts	24	252	10.5	50	1	

Tom Matte, Jerry Hill and Terry Cole, en route to amassing 3,828 yards - an average of 352.6 per game. Morrall, a longtime reserve signal caller in San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Detroit and New York, goes into action as the NFL's leading passer with 167 completions in 282 attempts for 2,684 yards and 24 touchdowns. His favorite targets have been the Colts' gifted tight end, John Mackey, and flanker Willie Richardson. Mackey has caught 37 passes for 579 yards and 5 touchdowns, Richardson 35 for 599 yards and 7 TDs. Except for Starr, the Packers will be back to full strength for tomorrow's showdown. Cornerback Bob Jeter suffered a sprained ankle in San Francisco, but he has made a good recovery and is expected to start. The Packers, who must win to avoid their first sub-.500 finish in 11 seasons, have won five of their last six meetings with the Colts and own a 17-14 edge in their all-time rivalry.

NO COLT STANDS ALONE

DEC 6 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Considerable verbiage has been expended recently about the exploits of the Baltimore Colts' marauding defense, being widely acclaimed among the most miserly in NFL history. Much of its success - it has permitted only two touchdowns in the last six games - has been credited to the development of the Colts' sophomore colossus, Bubba Smith, and the return of linebacker Mike Curtis from the casualty list. Bobby Boyd, the Hosses' larcenous cornerback, has an additional explanation. "With three shutouts to our credit. I don't have to search out the reason why this Baltimore Colt defensive team is playing better ball than any other squad I've been a part of since 1960, my first year," Boyd proclaimed in a column written for the Baltimore News American earlier this week. "Simply, coaches Chuck Noll and Bill Arnsparger have done a fantastic job," said the balding Texas native, who ranks as the leading interceptor among all pro football players now active with 57 thefts. "Coach Noll changed our man-to-man coverage in the secondary. There was always pride in the Colt defense through the era when the likes of stars played for us. By stars I mean men like Gino Marchetti, Art Donovan and Bill Pellington. You don't find players like them often. "But this is the most coordinated defensive club Baltimore has enjoyed in this decade," Boyd continued. "We play as a group. There are no individuals who stand by themselves."...FORMER QUARTERBACK: The former University of Oklahoma split T quarterback, who has made a spectacular contribution to Baltimore's glossy 11-1 record with eight interceptions to date, then delved into a technical explanation of the Colt defenders' startling success. "You can take the defense of Green Bay, which we play Saturday, or Dallas, and realize those teams use much the same defense all afternoon for the most part. Well, our plan is to confuse the quarterback, confuse receivers. Falcon pass catchers like Paul Flatley or Jerry Simmons couldn't go back to the huddle Sunday and tell either quarterback Randy Johnson or Bob Berry that they could 'beat Boyd on a slant-in pattern, etc.'" "The reason they couldn't is because they didn't know what defense we were going to shift into on them," said Bobby, presently

recovering from a bout with the flu bug. We play as sound a fundamental defense as any team in football. One thing we realize is that quarterbacks and rival coaches in the NFL are too good at deciphering a defense. We've got to be one step ahead...COMBINATION COVERAGE: "Take one-on-one coverage, for instance. We line up the same way each time, but then we change on the snap of the ball. There's a combination coverage we use with a deep man free. Then there's several variations off our zone defense, including strong side and weak side stuff. The blitzes we use, let's say we might have ten or so, confuse the other club." Turning his attention to the matter at hand, Boyd noted, "With the Packers next, I can only say the things about them I know to be true. Green Bay is going to be hard to beat. The Packers are fighting for first in their division and I'm sure their players are going to be making an all-out effort. Injuries have hurt the Packers, but they don't beat themselves. It's a good thing we are used to having our work cut out for us." Then the 31-year-old Texan concluded with an observation that should be of more than casual interest to the Packer offense. "Come to think of it," he said, "a fourth shutout would make for an impressive fact in the record books to tell our grandchildren about, wouldn't it?"

COLTS HOLD WORKOUT IN PACKER WEATHER

DEC 6 (Baltimore Sun) - The Colts got a taste of Green Bay weather yesterday in their next to last regular season practice session at the Stadium. Although it was nowhere near as cold as it gets in Green Bay, where the temperatures are expected to be in the twenties at game time tomorrow, the wind played havoc with passes and swirled dirt into everyone's eyes as gusts reached 40 M.P.H. There is a distinct possibility that yesterday wasn't the final that the Colts after Tuesday morning's practice, the last of the regular season, will be back for more Stadium drills. Two more victories and the Colts will be practicing there for a December 22 meeting with the winner of the Central Division. And after that there is the NFL championship followed by the Super Bowl. Despite their 5-6-1 record, the Packers can't be considered over the hill. They probably rate have played thus far, the Los Angeles Rams and the Cleveland Browns. Injuries to key personnel and with the two top teams the Colts the lack of a consistent placekicker have been two of Green Bays' most pressing problems. During Vince Lombardi's tenure as coach the Packers were fairly free of injuries. It wasn't that they didn't have injuries but Lombardi completely ignored them, like the fight manager whose boxer is being beat to a pulp saying, "He ain't hurtin' us." Under Phil Bengtson's more sympathetic direction, the injury problem has become acute. For the Colt game quarterback Bart Starr, suffering most of the year

with banged-up ribs, is extremely doubtful. That is small solace for the Baltimoreans since Starr's replacement, Zeke Bratkowski, has had just as much if not more success against the Colts...RETURNS TO ACTION: This time even the ageless Zeke is ailing. He had to come out of the Packers' most recent loss, last Sunday at San Francisco, when he twisted a knee, but returned to action later. Filling in for Bratkowski during that time was rookie Billy Stevens. Of interest to the Colt offense is an injury to Bob Jeter, right corner back. Jeter injured his ankle and is listed as doubtful with second year man John Rowser as replacement. Apparently, after trying out a dozen or so place kickers the Packers have one now in Mike Mercer, who has played for the Minnesota Vikings and three AFL clubs before landing in Green Bay. Mercer kicked two 44-yard field goals in the losing effort to the 49ers last week. What has happened to the Green Bay defense, which in the past won games by forcing the other teams to make mistakes, probably can be attributed to one man more than anyone else. That man would be Henry Jordan, the great defensive tackle. Jordan has been slowed down by injuries. He, until this season, has been the Green Bay Fred Miller. That is, he not only rushes the passer, but pursues the ball carriers and comes up with the big defense play. Like Miller, Jordan is a fairly small defensive tackle and must make use of his quickness to compensate for this lack in size. When injuries slowed him a little his effectiveness was impaired a lot. He will face the Colts, but he still is hobbling a little.

COLTS FACE EVER TOUGH GREEN BAY

DEC 6 (Baltimore Sun) – The Colts have brought their own brand of heat, a torrid 11-1 record, with them to combat the Packers and the frigid Green Bay weather tomorrow at Lambeau Field. Kickoff before 50,861 bundled up fans will be at 2.05 P.M. Baltimore area fans will be able to avoid the 20-degree temperature by watching over WMAR-TV (Channel 2). Although showing only a 5-6-1 record for their efforts this season, the Packers are still in the thick of the Central Division race, a half game back of the Bears and Vikings, and the Packers are still the defending NFL and Super Bowl champions. Experts have made the Colts 8-point choices, although the Packers will be playing at home in Packer weather, and their biggest loss has been by just 13 points. In the other 5 defeats, the Bays' losing spread was a total of 22 points, or an average of 4.4 points per loss...BEST EFFORT: There are several good reasons for the Colts to put forth tomorrow effort their best against the Packers, although the crucial game is next week against the Rams in Los Angeles. The Rams are a half game behind the Colts with a 10-1-1 record in the Coastal Division race. First, there is pride, a pride that has sustained the Colt winning march and, second, as unlikely as it appears, the Rams just might lose to the Bears on Sunday, which, coupled with a Colt victory over the Pack, would make the Ram-Colt game as important as last week's weather. A Colt victory would put the pressure on the Rams, who undoubtedly will be watching the Wisconsin contest on TV. A convincing triumph by Baltimore just might make the Rams do what the Colts did the week before the first Ram game in Baltimore, forget about the immediate foe and think only of the league finale with the Colts. Baltimore was guilty of that then and suffered its only loss of the season to the Cleveland Browns while looking ahead to the Los Angeles game the following Sunday...INJURY TROUBLES: The Packers have had injury woes most of the season. It is said they will be without their starting quarterback Bart Starr for the Colt game. Starr has had banged up ribs most of the season and was reinjured in last week's loss to the San Francisco 49ers. However, Zeke Bratkowski, Starr's replacement, has caused the Colts as much grief as Bart has during the past decade. Behind Bratkowski is rookie Billy Stevens, but Don Horn, last year's third string passer who has been serving in the Army, is back on the band squad and could be activated. Another injury which Baltimore's Earl Morrall probably will try to exploit is an ankle sprain on right corner back Bob Jeter. Jeter is questionable at this time. His replacement is John Rowser, a teammate of the Colts' safetyman Rick Volk, at Michigan. The Colts will be playing without their regular split end, Jimmy Orr whose back is still far from perfect. And, if the Packers are feeling sorry for themselves because of the injury to Starr, what about the Colts, who have been able to use their All-Pro quarterback John Unitas in just a handful of plays all season...NONE BETTER: Fortunately, the Colts had Morrall and Earl's performance couldn't have been bettered by anyone this season. If at game time the weather is not only cold but windy, too, then the outcome probably will depend on the defenses. As strange as it may sound after so many years of Packer domination on defense, the Colts' hold an edge in that department this year. For some reason, the Packer defense has turned up with holes against the pass and the run. Running clubs have given the previously impervious front line of the Packers more than it can handle. Yet, the Packer front four and the three linebackers are veterans of three straight NFL titles and two Super Bowl conquests. End Willie Davis has been a perennial All-Pro defender and tackle Henry Jordan has made it many times. Tackle Ron Kostelnik and end Lionel Aldridge are considered better than average defensemen. In the linebacking corps, Ray the better Nitschke, is one of the middle men, while Dave Robinson, until the emergence of the Colts' Mike Curtis this year, was the best outside linebacker. Baltimore can counter with Curtis, tackle Fred Miller, the most underrated lineman in the league, and the up-and-coming Bubba Smith to go with the steady performances of veterans Billy Ray Smith and Ordell

'Death of a Dynasty'

BY ERIC SCHMIDT

Wisconsin winters are cold and they're damp
And now even bleak in the Packer camp.
Their losses are more than their wins this year,
And the fans see impending doom quite near.

The ghost of Curly Lambeau must shake
When he sees who the Pack next must take.
For out of the south comes a thundering force
That could even change the Fox River's course.

A win is a must, there can be no other decision
For Phil's boys to win the Central Division.
But lose they will, that's all that's in store
Because they're meeting the Colts from Baltimore.

Jerry Kramer and his mates are over the hill,
No way they can stop the Baltimore kill.
We hate to see it, it's sad to say
But the Green Bay Packers have had their day.



(Editor's note: This poem was authored by Eric Schmidt, of Baltimore, who does business with an Appleton firm).

Appleton Post-Crescent - December 6, 1968

Braase. And Dennis Gaubatz, as middle linebacker, and Don Shinnick, on the outside, give the Colts two wise heads to go with the savagery of Curtis. In the Colt-Packer series Green Bay has a 16-14 edge. The Colts won the only meeting last year, 13-10, with a tingling last-quarter touchdown drive.

Colts Favored by 6 Points Over Packers in Crucial Tilt Saturday