



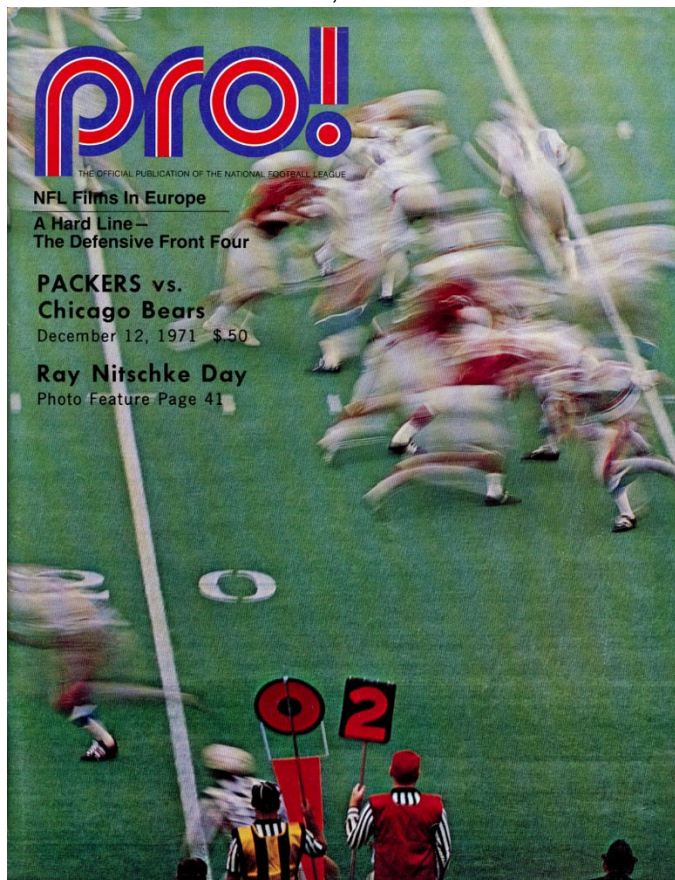
Green Bay Packers (4-7-2) 31, Chicago Bears (6-7) 10
Sunday December 12th 1971 (at Green Bay)



Pack Revival Buries Bears 31-10

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(GREEN BAY) - Mustachioed Jim Carter, slipping into a knit jacket of flaming red, was in an exuberant mood. "I tried to knock it down," he offered in breezy reference to his third quarter interception, a larceny in which he had collaborated with fellow linebacker Fred Carr, author of a fearsome "lick" which had frustrated Bear quarterback Kent Nix. But behind that



pro!
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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A Hard Line -
The Defensive Front Four

**PACKERS vs.
Chicago Bears**

December 12, 1971 \$50

Ray Nitschke Day

Photo Feature Page 41

jocular façade lay deep satisfaction. It not only had been the first theft of Carter's young pro football career but also ignited a second half surge which swept the Packers past the neighboring Bears, 31-10, on a surprisingly sunny December afternoon in Lambeau Field

'ASSIST' FROM 66

"It went pretty good until Ray Nitschke tackled me," the free-wheeling sophomore jested. "Ray was trying to block Nix for me and he knocked me down in the process." Carter, moved to the outside so that Nitschke might start at middle linebacker on his "day," managed a 16-yard return to the Chicago 16 despite that inadvertent "assist" from No. 66. On first down, John Brockington charged into the record book, bolting off right tackle for six yards to become only the fourth rookie in National Football League history to rush for 1,000 yards. And, two exhilarating plays later, he swept right and hurdled defender Charlie Ford to hit the right corner of the end zone. That acrobatic effort, which cracked a 7-7 tie that had endured since the first quarter, shot the Packers into a permanent lead in their 106th exchange with the Monsters of the Midway and triggered their second sweep of the Bears in the last three seasons.

MORE ALERT

Carter's contribution had been emblematic of a Packer turnabout, Coach Dan Devine pointed out. "I thought we were a heckuva lot more alert in the third quarter," he said, explaining, "we were very sporadic in the first half." That revival, which saw the Packers later "go for it" on fourth-and-a-half-yard and parlay that success into a 21-7 lead, had been no accident, Defensive Capt. Willie Wood volunteered. "The coach was pretty upset at

halftime," Wood confided. "We were just going through the motions in the first half and he made us aware of it. He said it looked lousy from the sidelines...His talk made a difference - we were a different team in the second half."

PLAYED WELL

"Different" enough, in fact, for Devine to later observe, "One thing about our play within our division - and we have to be competitive in our division in order to be competitive - is that it has been pretty good. Aside from the first game against Detroit, in which we had a poor first half, we have played pretty well against the teams in our division - the Bears, Lions and Vikings. "In our two games against the Vikings, even though we lost them both (24-13 and 3-0) we played quite well at times." Returning to the subject at hand, Devine said, "In the third quarter today, when we started to play football, we stayed with what we do well." It was an obvious allusion to the running game, which produced 62 of the Packers 95 second half yards, Brockington contributing 34 of them in nine attempts en route to immortality.

CLUTCH PLAY

Twelve of those, incongruously enough, came on that clutch fourth down play, which saw the Pack only 18 inches short at the Bear 38. The ex-Buckeye blaster surprised the Bruins - and another capacity house of 56,263 fans - by bursting over the left side for 12 yards before rookie defender Jerry Moore could bulldog him to earth. Rookie quarterback Scott Hunter, who yielded the controls to Bart Starr at the start of the fourth quarter because of a rib injury, missed fire with two passes but hit fellow freshman Dave Davis at the six with a key third down pitch.

77-YARD STRIKE

Then, after Donny Anderson swept left and cut back against the grain to the one, Hunter sneaked the final yard to mount a 14-point bulge with only 3:49 remaining in the fourth quarter. Earlier, Hunter had collaborated with Carroll Dale on the play

Point Parade



Chicago 7 0 3 0 - 10
Green Bay 7 0 14 10 - 31

Packers 7, Bears 0

Hunter passed to Dale for 77 yards on the first play of the game and Webster added the point after with only 43 seconds elapsed in the first period.

Packers 7, Bears 7

Nix passed 31 yards to Farmer on second play after Holman recovered an Anderson fumble at the Pack 31. Percival converted with 6:58 gone in first.

Packers 14, Bears 7

Brockington turned right end for six yards on third play after Carter intercepted a Nix pass and returned 16 yards to the Bear 16. Webster converted, 2:33 elapsed in third quarter.

Packers 21, Bears 7

Hunter poked over from one yard to complete a 58-yard march in 12 plays, including a fourth and one at the Bear 37 on which Brockington made 12. Webster toed 21st point with 11:11 gone in third.

Packers 21, Bears 10

Percival kicked 12-yard field goal when Bears were stopped at the five after moving from their own 33 primarily on a 45-yard Nix to Gordon pass. 14:56 elapsed in third.

Packers 28, Bears 10

Starr squeezed over from the one on second play after Smith fumbled a punt and Randolph recovered on the Bear 14. Webster converted with 3:12 gone in fourth.

Packers 31, Bears 10

Webster kicked 27-yard field goal three plays after McCoy recovered Douglass fumble at Bear four-yard line. 11:21 elapsed in fourth.

at that joint just for that reason...We've been thinking of it for three or four weeks." Carr positioned the Pack for its final touchdown by flattening a fumbling Ron Smith on an early fourth quarter punt return, which saw Al Randolph come up with the ball at the Bear 14.

BOBBLED BALL

"Smith bobbled the ball," Carr explained. "He went for it and I did, too, but he was between me and the ball so the best thing I could do was give him a good lick," a matter to which he attended with explosive dispatch. It took Starr only two plays to finish the job. He found Davis at the one on first down, then sneaked over left guard for the score on the next play. Carr's final stroke came in the closing minutes when, deployed at end, he charged through to fell Bear quarterback Bobby Douglass for a 14-yard loss and Mike McCoy recovered at the Bear four. After Dave Hampton fumbled a pitchout and was trapped for a 13-yard deficit, rookie placekicker Tim Webster closed out the day's scoring with a 27-yard field goal as only 2:39 remained.

'TREMENDOUS DAY'

Nitschke, who was saluted by the fans in pre-game ceremonies and virtually went the distance, contentedly declared, "It was a tremendous day." And Dale, although savoring the moment, looked to the future. "Next week is a real good challenge for us because it's a game that means something - Miami still has a chance to win its division...so I hope we'll be ready to play."

of the day, a 77-yard strike which had produced an instant touchdown on the first play of the game. "Joe Taylor slipped to the ground trying to cover Carroll," Scott asserted with a grin, "and it was 88 out the gate." Dale, quietly pleased with the project, agreed in substance. "It's like you imagine it works," he said. "By peripheral vision, I was aware Taylor had fallen. I was able to take the ball pretty much in stride - I didn't have to stretch for it. All I had to do was make sure I had it because I was pretty much under body control at the time. "It's a nice way," Dale understatedly observed, "to start a game...The only way you can beat it is to run the kickoff back all the way."

COACHES LITTLE ODD

Although it took only seconds, the play was hours in the making. "Whenever you think of something like that," Devine explained, "you see it intercepted and run back for a touchdown. I also dreamed last night that I saw us complete it for a touchdown...I saw it both ways. "What you try to do," he chuckled, "is to see it intercepted more times than completed in your dreams, so your dreams aren't likely to come true...That's why coaches are a little odd. I think I mentioned the play to Coach Schnelker (passing game coach) when I came into the dressing room this morning...I just mentioned I thought we should open with a zigout or a fly to Carroll. We thought that if we weren't in good field position we wouldn't do it. As it was, we were not in great field position and Scott had to throw it into the wind.

CONFIDENCE IN HUNTER

"I think, in a way, that our decision to try it is an evidence of confidence in Hunter... But the ball had to be in the middle of the field or on the right sideline or we wouldn't have tried it...If it had been on the left sideline, we would have run a running play and probably tried it on second down." The Packers lost that quick lead in much the same manner that they acquired it - on a 31-yard Nix "bomb" to George Farmer, two plays after Willie Holman recovered Donny Anderson's fumble of an off-target pitchout at the Green Bay 31. Defenders Willie Wood and Doug Hart both appeared in position to bat the ball away but neither "interfered." Following Mac Percival's conversion, it remained a 7-7 stalemate until Carter moved front and center in the third quarter, in company with Carr. "When I hit Nix on that play, he was releasing the ball," Freddie reported. "I felt I had to get a real good pop on him so the ball would be wobbly, and I guess it was." That was only one of several defensive gems by Carr, who saw part-time duty at end in a second half experiment, which Devine explained by informing, "We wanted to see what Freddie could do there, but we weren't giving up on the game

CHICAGO - 7 0 3 0 - 10
GREEN BAY - 7 0 14 10 - 31

	CHICAGO	GREEN BAY
First downs	13	15
Rush-yards-TDs	24-61-0	43-115-3
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	29-11-200-1-1	14-7-182-1-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-14	1-2
Net Passing Yards	186	180
Total yards	247	295
Fumbles-lost	4-2	3-1
Turnovers	3	2
Yards Penalized	3-15	5-35

SCORING

1st – GB – Carroll Dale, 77-yard pass from Scott Hunter (Tim Webster kick) GB 7-0
1st – CHI – George Farmer, 31-yard pass from Kent Nix (Mac Percival kick) TIED 7-7
3rd – GB – John Brockington, 1-yard run (Webster kick) GB 14-7
3rd – GB – Hunter, 1-yard run (Webster kick) GB 21-7
3rd – CHI – Percival, 12-yard field goal GB 21-10
4th – GB – Bart Starr, 1-yard run (Webster kick) GB 28-10
4th – GB – Webster, 27-yard field goal GB 31-10

RUSHING

GREEN BAY – John Brockington 20-63 1 TD, Donny Anderson 13-38, Scott Hunter 3-13 1 TD, Perry Williams 1-3, Bart Starr 1-1 1 TD, Dave Hampton 5-(-3)
CHICAGO – Joe Moore 9-20, Cyril Pinder 4-16. Bobby Douglass 2-16, Bill Tucker 5-14, Jim Grabowski 1-0, Kent Nix 1-(-2), Jim Harrison 1-(-3)

PASSING

GREEN BAY – Scott Hunter 12-6-169 1 TD 1 INT, Bart Starr 1-1-13, Donny Anderson 1-0-0
CHICAGO – Kent Nix 18-7-149 1 TD 1 INT, Bobby Douglass 11-4-51

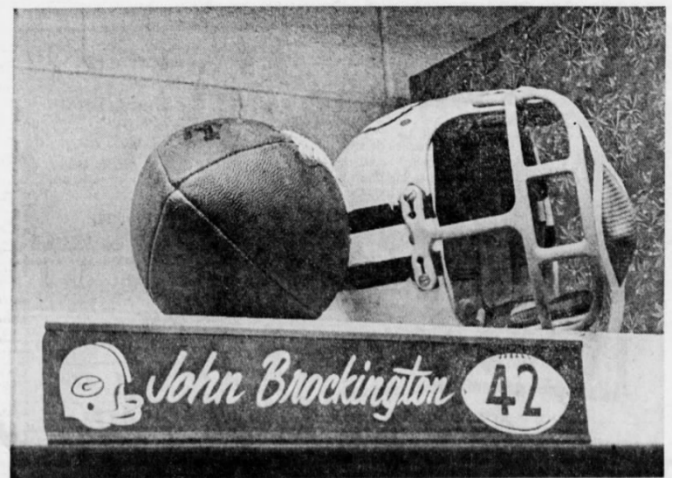
RECEIVING

GREEN BAY – Dave Davis 3-46, John Brockington 2-34, Carroll Dale 1-77 1 TD, Rich McGeorge 1-25
CHICAGO – Dick Gordon 3-80, George Farmer 2-45 1 TD, Joe Moore 2-22, Jim Seymour 1-21, Bob Wallace 1-19, Bill Tucker 1-7, Jim Harrison 1-6

Pack Deals Bears 4th Loss in Row

PRESSURE WAS GETTING ME, SAYS BROCKINGTON

DEC 13 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The game had been over for nearly an hour and most of John Brockington's teammates, long since showered and dressed, had already drifted out the dressing room door. But the history-making rookie was still attired in his gold football pants, liberally dotted with grass stains and the loam of Lambeau Field, not to mention a sweaty T-shirt and a set of suspenders. His departure had been largely delayed by a spate of television interviews, an inevitable consequence of his long-awaited surge over the 1,000-yard barrier, which had lifted him into highly exclusive company during Sunday's 31-10 victory over the Bears. But the bruising young fullback, quite clearly relieved, also was taking his time in throttling down. "That's the first time my hands ever shook before a game," Brockington, leisurely packing his duffel bag for the upcoming trip to Florida, unashamedly confessed. "I tried to put it out of my mind but I couldn't...I blew two audibles at the start of the game. I was listening to the signals but I was so keyed up, I couldn't concentrate. The last few weeks, I've felt a lot of pressure," he said. "When you get that close to 1,000 yards, the linemen are all talking about it. And you worry about getting hurt before you get it - you worry about disappointing the fans and you worry about disappointing yourself. "I wanted to get it over with this week. In fact," he appended with a dry chuckle, "I wanted to get it over with last week. I wanted it as much for the linemen as I did for myself. Now I can settle down...I'm glad that thing's off me. I'm just going to play football in Miami next Sunday...I'm just shooting for a victory. Although the pressure is off, Brockington is aware there is at least one more world to conquer this year. He has joined Beattie Feathers (1934), Cookie Gilchrist (1962) and Paul Robinson (1968) among the only National Football League rookies ever to gain 1,000 yards rushing, but he now stands a chance of becoming the most productive first year rusher in NFL history. He needs only 65 yards against the Dolphins – two more than he acquired in 20 attempts against the Bears – to surpass Gilchrist's rookie record of 1,096 yards, set for the Buffalo Bills of the old American Football League. Brockington, 31 yards short of the magic figure going into action, charged over the top with a six-yard bolt off tackle at 1:26 of the third quarter. following Jim Carter's interception of a Kent Nix pass. Second later, Brock got the historic news - from the ans. "Everybody shook my hand in the huddle." He said. "That's when I knew...The other players heard the reaction in the stands. "I was very relieved to hear it, because it meant I could settle down...although I knew I was going to settle down, even after blowing those audibles early. It was just a matter of doing it." A dry field would have simplified matters for him, the bespectacled ex-Buckeye suggested. "It was kind of hard running today," he said. "The footing wasn't too good – I slipped a lot. A lot of the time, on cutbacks, I couldn't cut...the ground was loose." Amassing 1,000 yards is old hat to the Brooklyn-born athlete, it develops. "This is the third time." he said. "I had 1,040 at Ohio State last year and I had 1,000-some in my senior year in high school (at Brooklyn's Thomas Jefferson). "But this," he noted with a satisfied smile, "is the biggest one - the hardest one." He admits, however, that crashing the 1,000-Yard Club was not even a fond dream when he checked into



the Packers' training camp at St. Norbert College last July. "I just wanted to make the team," he says. "I had no idea I was going to do a thing like this...I wasn't even thinking about a thousand yards." Brockington, still on the emotional descent, heaved a huge sigh and soulfully added, "but I'm glad I got it. We'll all probably play a better game next week. Everybody will be more relaxed...I know I will."

CARR'S FOUR BIG PLAYS MADE PACKERS A WINNER

DEC 13 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Theory: Pro football games are often, if not almost always, decided by a superb individual performance. Theory: Pro football games are often, if not almost always, decided by a couple big plays. Fact: Fred Carr turned in four big plays Sunday and though only the films will reveal if he was really great throughout the game, those four...at least in my book...constitute a superb individual performance. Consider these:

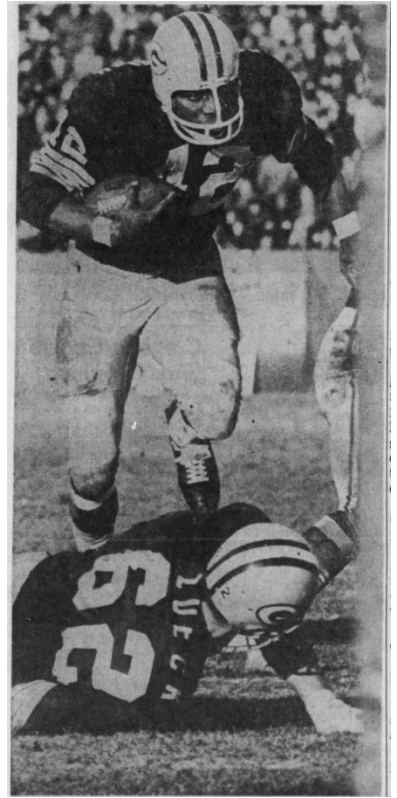
1 - With fourth down at the Bear 42, Donny Anderson lofted a moon shot of a punt that Carr was waiting for near the goal line. The ball hit and Carr grabbed it like a shortstop gloving a one bouncer. That shoved the Bears into a hole at their own 4-yard line and could have been a major break for the Pack since the score was 7-7 at the time. Unfortunately the green and gold troops couldn't capitalize on it.

2 - With the Bears in a third and eight position at their own 25 on the first series of the second half Carr blitzed quarterback Kent Nix like an angry panther. Nix unloaded the ball in a desperate hurry and Jim Carter stole it to set up the go-ahead touchdown, which materialized three plays later.

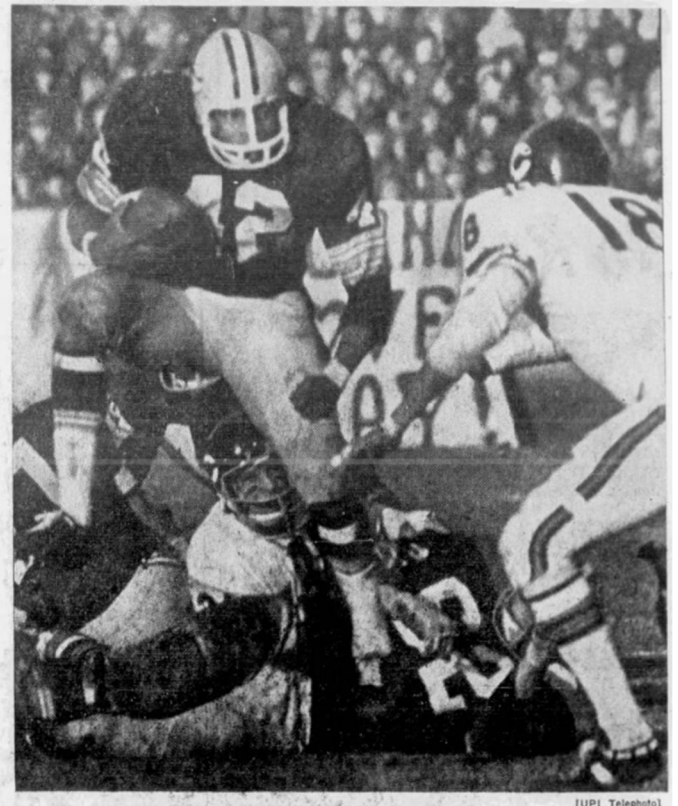
3 - The Packers punted from their own 35 and Bear Ron Smith found some difficulty handling it, largely because Carr was coming at him faster than the ball. When Carr hit the Gingerbread Man, crumbs flew one way and the ball the other with Al Randolph recovering the latter at the Chicago 14 and the Bears scraping up the former. Two plays later, the Packers led 28-10.

4 - With the Bears facing second and 11 at their own 18, Bob Douglass faded to pass. This time, Carr was manning a defensive end position and he rocketed past all obstacles with such velocity that Douglass suddenly wished he were still a spectator. And then he was because Mike McCoy recovered the football when Fred hit him. Unfortunately, the best the Packers could get out of this was a field goal but under the circumstances it didn't make much difference. It is of such plays that victories...and eventually championships...are made.

Some suggested that the teams must have switched uniforms because it is generally the Packers who have been playing giveaway all year. Though the Pack was still in the ol' habit early with a fumble, interception, blocked field goal try and personal foul at a key moment, it was the Bears who wound up fumbling away points, throwing interceptions, missing easy field goals and getting off a very unprofessional 25-yard punt....FOOTNOTES: Wonder what would have happened if Dan Devine's gamble on fourth and one from the Bear 37 with the score only 14-7 had failed. As it turned out, it probably broke open the game, making DD a genius this week. On the other hand, I'm sure Chicagoans are convinced Jim Dooley called all the wrong plays when the Pack put on a marvelous 5-yard-line stand. The Bears' touchdown pass could be traced to a completely bewildered effort on the part of Doug Hart and Willie Wood. But there certainly can't be any faulting the defense in general. Devine called the first play bomb but did little more than smile, with something of amused satisfaction shining in his eyes, when we asked why he called for it...Could this have been Bart Starr's last stand in Lambeau Field? Maybe. And if it was, it was a fine one. He set up a touchdown with a fine pass to rookie Dave Davis and then scored himself. It would be a generally satisfactory way to bow out...particularly fringed so beautifully by a solid win over the Bears. But Bart had no comment, only smiles, when asked about it...The field was in amazing condition, considering the weather problem. It was left uncovered Saturday night and fortunately the precipitation held off ... Among the We Love Ray signs that decorated the railings around the gridiron was another poster with hands folded in prayer and the words Please Pack, Cometh Back.



Brockington passes 1,000 yards here. (-State Journal Photo by J. D. Patrick)



Green Bay's John Brockington aiming for Bear Jerry Moore as he picks up 11 yards yesterday. Rookie back gained 63 yards for 1,032 rushing this season to lead the National Football Conference.

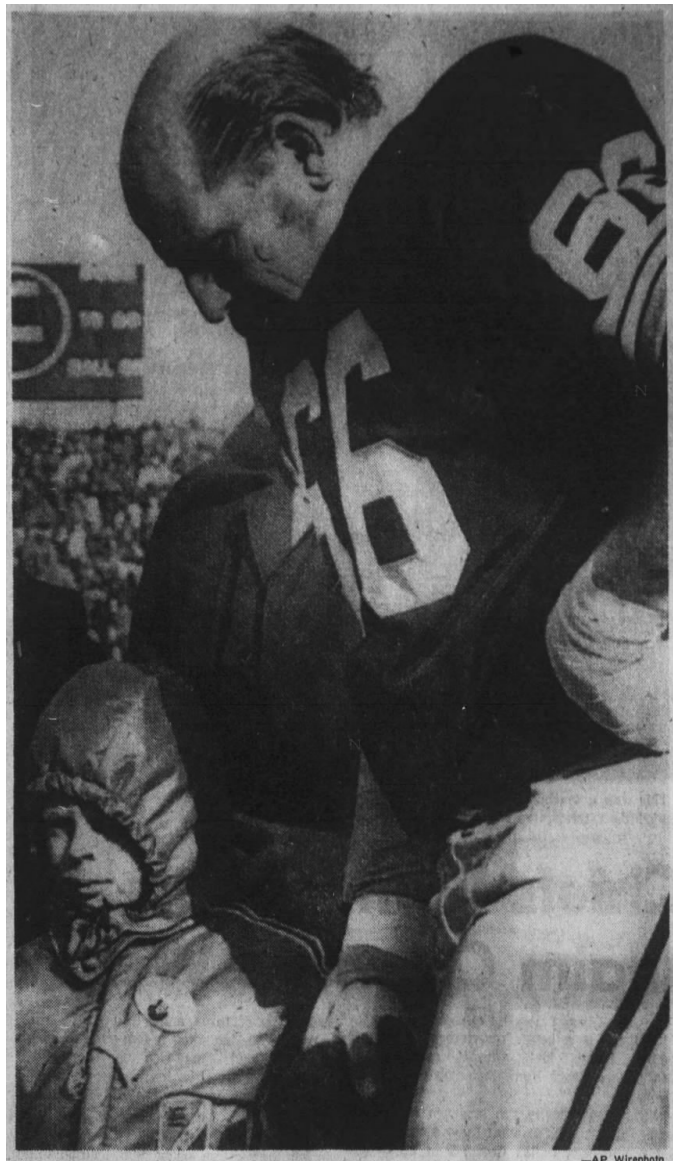
BEARS RELIVE TALES OF WOE IN SADDENED DRESSING ROOM

DEC 13 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Chicago Bears had sad faces Sunday afternoon...and sad stories to tell. Ron Smith's story was a realistic one. "I'm only human, man," said Smith of his fourth quarter fumble of a Donny Anderson punt that set up the Packers' clinching touchdown in the 31-10 victory.

"I don't fumble much but I dropped that one. The sun didn't bother me at all but I always try to catch the ball with my hands, not with my arms, and I just fumbled it." Joe Taylor's story was a simple one...PUZZLING STORY: "I slipped when I turned around," said Taylor who was the defensive back in absentia on Carroll Dale's 77-yard touchdown just 43 seconds into the game. "I wasn't surprised that the Packers were going deep on the first play and I know I could have run with Dale. But my feet just went out from under me when I turned up field." Mac Percival told me a puzzling story. "I missed that first field goal, - just punched it to the left," said the usually reliable placekicker.

"But that second one looked good at first. I hit it well and the last time I looked up it was headed right through the middle. But I guess something caught it and blew it over to the right. It was strange." For Kent Nix, the story of the game was an interception. "I was responsible for the big play of the game," said Nix who quarterbacked for three quarters before giving way to Bobby Douglass. "Fred Carr hit me just as I threw and I didn't get enough on the ball." Nix' pass was intercepted by Jim Carter and set up John Brockington's go-ahead touchdown run. The Bears fell behind 28-10 before Nix gave way to Douglass...KEEP CHIN UP "Coach Dooley just called us together and said he thought Bobby could do better as long as we were a couple touchdowns behind," said Nix. "I thought we ran and passed well against the Packers. I don't know what went wrong. Sometimes we just couldn't seem to gain yardage. What are you going to do?" Dooley had the saddest stories to tell and his face was the saddest of all. In fact, when a well-wisher dropped by and said, "Keep your chin up, Jim. You've got a real good team," it was obvious that Dooley didn't exactly share the sentiment. "I don't think our offense was really any better than it had been the last three games," said Dooley. who drew little consolation in the fact that the Bears had scored a touchdown for the first time in a month. "It really hurt us when we got down to the 4-yard line and ended up with just a field goal. We get a touchdown there and we're only behind 21-14."...MOORE TO START: Dooley said he switched to Douglass because the Bears were far behind and needed a scrambler. He also felt Joe Moore played a good game and would probably start next week. He also said Bob Jeter was inserted for Taylor to play against his former mates "because he does well against the Packers - not because Taylor slipped on the long pass. Dooley praised the Bear defense, which had its backs to the wall most of the game and he said part of the strategy was to have linebacker Dick Butkus key on John Brockington at times. That made Butkus' story interesting. "I didn't key on him," said the Bears' feared linebacker. "He's a very fine runner and one of the best we've faced because of his second effort but I don't key on nobody. We just play our regular defense." Dooley was inaccessible to the press corps for more than 40 minutes after the game as he sat, mostly alone, in the coaches' room across the hall from the players. At the end of the interview, he was asked if he had said anything to the team immediately after the game. He dropped his chin and shook his head and looked very sad.

RAY HUMBLE, PROUD ON HIS DAY
DEC 13 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Sentiment, Coach Dan Devine assured, did not figure in Ray Nitschke's game-long stint against the Bears Sunday. "Ray was playing well," Devine said following the Packers 31-10 victory which helped No. 66 celebrate "Ray Nitschke Day." There wasn't any sentiment involved...If he hadn't been playing well, he wouldn't have played that long. And he wouldn't have wanted to play under those circumstances. "Ray made a heckuva talk to our players in the dressing room after the game, I might add...it was in the text that he feels very much a part of this team, that he feels guys like Scott Hunter, Charlie Hall and John Brockington are his teammates now. "He's much like a college coach - he's neither fish nor fowl. He's halfway in between. He relates to the 18 and 19-year-olds and he relates to the older students. He's not part of the establishment and not part of the younger generation...Scott Hunter: "I think I hurt my rib when I ran for a first down late in the third quarter. I think I fell on Donny Anderson's shoe or caught his knee. He was throwing a block for



Packer linebacker Ray Nitschke lowered his head as he was being honored in pre-game ceremonies Sunday at Green Bay. Nitschke held the hand of his son, Richard.

By The Associated Press
National Football League
AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	296	119
Miami	9	3	1	.750	288	168
New York Jets	5	8	0	.385	177	278
New England	5	8	0	.385	217	308
Buffalo	1	12	0	.077	175	372

Central Division

x-Cleveland	8	5	0	.615	265	260
Pittsburgh	6	7	0	.462	232	269
Cincinnati	4	9	0	.308	263	230
Houston	3	9	1	.250	202	297

Western Division

x-Kansas City	9	3	1	.750	280	199
Oakland	7	4	2	.636	325	263
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	278	292
Denver	4	8	1	.333	190	253

x-Clinched division title

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Dallas	10	3	0	.769	375	210
Washington	8	3	1	.727	225	146
Philadelphia	5	7	1	.416	180	274
St. Louis	4	8	1	.333	219	248
New York Giants ..	4	9	0	.308	200	321

Central Division

x-Minnesota	10	3	0	.769	218	129
Detroit	7	5	1	.538	314	255
Chicago	6	7	0	.462	175	249
Green Bay	4	7	2	.364	268	271

Western Division

Los Angeles	7	4	1	.636	266	208
San Francisco	8	5	0	.615	269	189
Atlanta	6	6	1	.500	250	257
New Orleans	4	7	2	.364	246	323

x-Clinched division title

Saturday's Results

Minnesota 29, Detroit 10
Baltimore 14, Miami 3
Only games scheduled

Sunday's Results

Green Bay 31, Chicago 10
Dallas 42, New York Giants 14
Philadelphia 19, St. Louis 7
Cleveland 21, New Orleans 17
Houston 20, Buffalo 14
New York Jets 13, New England 6
Pittsburgh 21, Cincinnati 13
San Diego 45, Denver 17
Kansas City 16, Oakland 14
San Francisco 24, Atlanta 3
Only games scheduled

Monday's Game

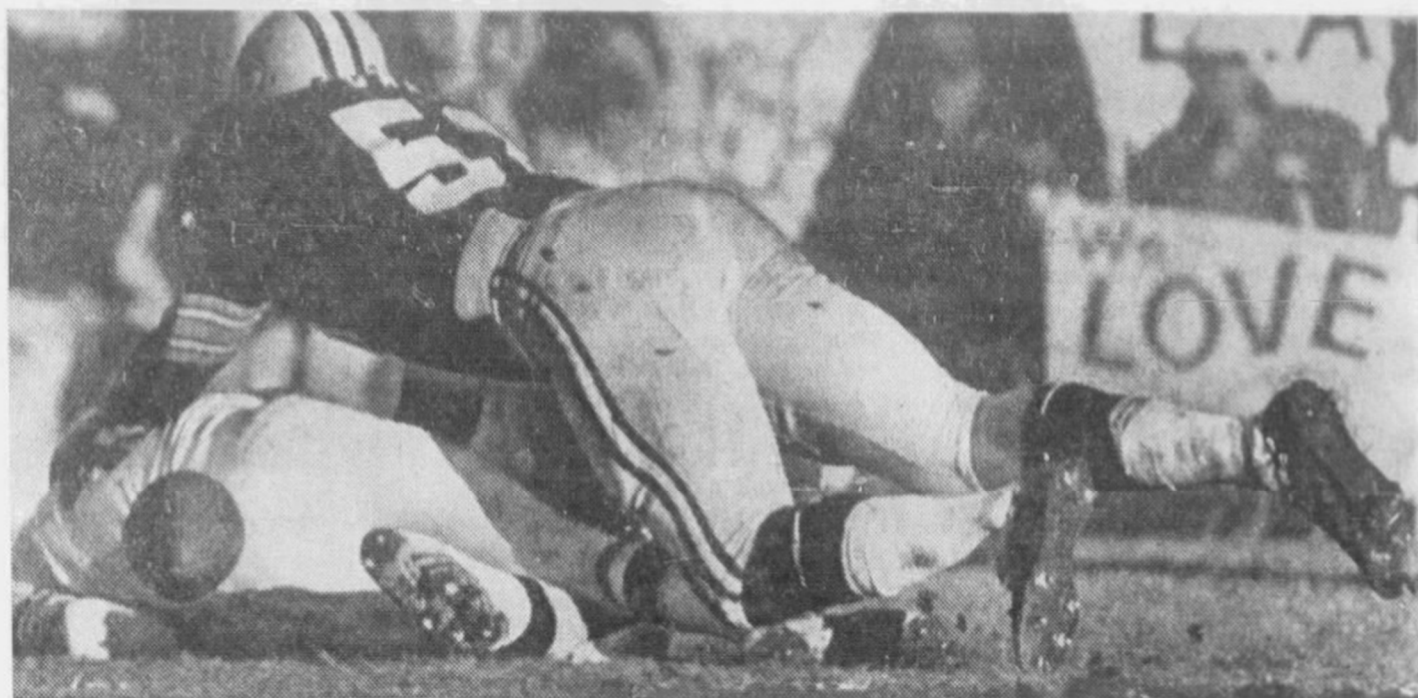
Washington at Los Angeles, 9 p.m. national television



Football Gets the Nitschke Stare for Bouncing Wrong Way

toothless scowl is hidden behind a face mask, Ray Nitschke is the symbol of football violence. He doesn't look like a man who would cry but he did. They had to make a correction in the scorecard to get his name in the lineup today, because Nitschke doesn't play much anymore. If he hurt the Packers today, the Bears didn't know it. With the score 28-10, a triumphant Nitschke stood over fallen Bobby Douglass and pointed "first down Packers" when a teammate recovered a fumble. When he left the field in front of a section of relatives, he stopped to talk to his son, John, age 8. "I just wanted to tell him to come into the locker room with me," said Nitschke. And it was John who was sitting there as his dad thanked friends and well-wishers that included Astronauts Gene Cernan, Ron Evans, Deke Slayton, and Jack Swigert. "Some of my family had never seen me play in person," Nitschke admitted. "Grandma hadn't," said John. Nitschke's wife, Jackie, and other son Richard, age 5, stood with him at the ceremony before the game. Ray Eliot, his coach at the University of Illinois, was there. "I didn't thank everyone I should have," Nitschke said. "I had no prepared speech and a lot of things went thru my mind. I'm thankful to a lot of people. This is a tremendous thing. My teammates played their hearts out because it was my day. They gave me and John Brockington game balls." Is this the Proviso High School product's last season? "I want to play one more year and make it 15. No, my ambition is not to play 15, my main ambition is to provide for my family," he said. The Packers probably didn't need much heart to beat the Bears today. This game meant nothing and the Bears played like it. One statistic is perhaps revealing. Coach Jim Dooley, lamenting his running game earlier in the week, had said how important first down was. "If a quarterback gets second and 6, he'll control a game," Dooley said. On first downs today, the Bears produced the following:

1. Incomplete bomb by Kent Nix, hits Dick Gordon in chest.
2. No gain, Fullback Jim Harrison.
3. Incomplete pass, Cyril Pinder had not turned around.
4. No gain, Halfback Joe Moore.
5. Three yards, Fullback Bill Tucker.
6. 16 yards, pass to Gordon.
7. 11 yards, sweep by Tucker.
8. Incomplete pass to Pinder.
9. Bears recover Nix's fumble.
10. Bears offside.
11. Packers personal foul.
12. 14-yard pass to Farmer.
13. 39-yard field goal attempt wide.
14. Incomplete pass to Gordon.
15. 2 yards, Moore [Bears now behind 14-7].
16. Nix pass knocked down.
17. 45-yard pass to Gordon.
18. No gain, Moore.
19. Douglass' pass for 7 to Tucker.
20. Packers offside.



Green Bay's Fred Carr knocking ball loose from Ron Smith on punt. Packers recovered.

21. Bears recover Jim Grabowski's fumble.
22. Douglass runs for 4.
23. 19-yard pass to Bob Wallace.
24. Incomplete pass.
25. 21-yard pass to Jim Seymour.
26. Incomplete pass.

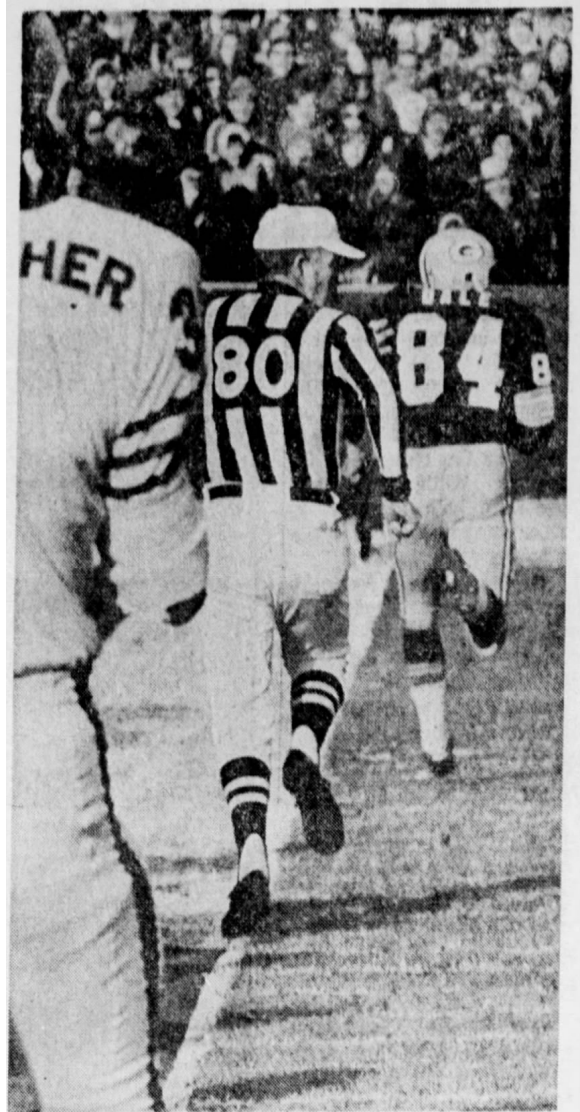
ASTRONAUTS JOIN IN PACKER CELEBRATION

DEC 14 (Green Bay) - Four men from outer space, one an admitted Chicago Bear fan, landed in Green Bay Sunday afternoon and happily declared their mission a success. The mission for Donald Slayton, Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans and John Swigert was to take a small part in the "Ray Nitschke Day" festivities at Lambeau Field and watch a Packer-Bear football game. This was the final docking for the four astronauts who returned to NASA headquarters in Houston today after a weekend of relaxation and visits with friends in the Appleton area. While the conversation naturally drifted into space occasionally, it was the football game that gained first priority for all four. "I'm not going to say this too loudly but I'm a big Bear fan," said Cernan, a veteran of Apollo 10 and spacecraft commander for the Apollo 17 lunar mission next December. "I grew up with the Bears." Cernan graduated from Proviso East High School near Chicago just two years ahead of Nitschke and the two were acquainted slightly. Cernan, who stayed in the command module in the Apollo 10 mission but will get his chance to walk on the moon next year, was a standout athlete in football, basketball and baseball. But in the press box Sunday, he took his share of ribbing from Slayton, himself a Sparta native and longtime Packer fan. In fact, at halftime, Slayton turned to Cernan and remarked, "Heck, we weren't even in our seats yet when Dale scored the touchdown." Slayton, who says he has been a Packer fan all of his 47 years, was one of the seven original Mercury astronauts and is now director of flight crew operations for NASA. The astronauts were seated among the working press in the press box and gave out a small whoop when it was announced that the Houston Oilers had defeated the Buffalo Bills. "I think we've sort of adopted the Oilers down there," said Swigert, a Denver native who was a member of the ill-fated Apollo 13 mission. "But we don't have much to cheer about in Houston so this game is pretty exciting for me." Evans is the rookie of the group and will be making his first flight in Apollo 17 where he will serve as command module pilot while Cernan and a geologist explore the moon surface.

DRAFT POSITION FORGOTTEN; PACKERS PREFER BIG FINISH

DEC 14 (Ft. Lauderdale, FL-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers' huge United Airlines 720 charter, Florida bound, was winging over the Nashville area early Monday afternoon. "Did you hear what the pilot announced over the intercom" Coach Dan Devine wanted to know. "HE said its 80 degrees in Fort Lauderdale...That's the big reason we're going down there. The Bears played a night game against the Dolphins in Miami two weeks ago and couldn't take the heat (Miami won 31-3). And we're playing there in the afternoon. If the temperature is 80 degrees at 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon, it would be between 100-120 degrees on the floor of the Orange Bowl," said Devine, a veteran of three Orange Bowl appearances while head coach of the Missouri Tigers. "That's why I wanted us to get in a week's practice in Florida weather."...LAUNCHING PAD: If this suggests that DD is intent upon closing out his baptismal NFL season with a victory, even though his team has been out of contention for nearly a month and could profit more from a loss than a win, it should. He is convinced that a winning finish, following Sunday's 31-10 bruising of the Bears, would serve as a launching pad for

the 1972 season, which he is equally sure will be dramatically different than 1971. Devine, holding an impromptu stand-up press conference just outside the cockpit door, hinted a portentous turning point could have come in the course of that solid success. "This is the first time we have really come out in the second half and taken charge of a game," he said...TEMPERATE NOTE: "We came out and intercepted that pass (a theft by Jim Carter) and took it on in." At the same time, the Packer generalissimo injected a temperate note when reminded he had said immediately following the victory over the Bears that his athletes were becoming competitive in the National Football Conference's Central Division. "I might have been a little carried away there right after the game," Devine submitted. "Let me put it this way...I don't think we are as close as the fans think we are and not as far away as the coaches think." Asked to compare his team to the central champion Minnesota Vikings, in this context, he replied, "There are a lot of areas in which we don't compare favorably. I don't mean to downgrade our team, but now that the question has been asked, I have to say that I don't know how you can compare our front four with their front four, for example, or their field goal kicking with ours...LOT OF WEEDING: "Their kicking game is sound and they are an experienced ball club. There's been a lot of weeding out done there. Van Brocklin kept the hard-nosed guys and the young guys. When Bud Grant succeeded him, he weeded out some more...and Jim Finks as general manager has done a good job for them in the draft. Also, Bud doesn't let the quarterbacks do certain things - he doesn't let them put the ball in the air in certain situations...he has two seasoned quarterbacks in Gary Cuzo and Norm Snead. They do what they are told and don't gripe about it. So they must believe in what they are doing. But the biggest thing Grant does is take the strongest part of his team. in this case the front four and the kicking game, and builds his team around it."...NO ANSWER: And "the strongest part" of the Packers "I don't know," Devine replied, after a brief deliberation. "I have no answer right now. There are a lot of things I want to look back on when the season is over." At the moment, however, he is more concerned about the Dolphins. His commitment to a final victory surfaced when it was noted the Packers could improve their status in the draft by losing to Miami. Devine quickly disdained this approach, asserting "I won't think about the draft until after this week's game...I haven't looked at it." A successful swan song will not be the Packer strategist's only Sunday concern. "One thing I always like to see us do is outscore our opponents over a season," he said. "And we are only three points short of doing that now over 13 games (268-271)...FRESH OUTLOOK: "I've never coached a team that hasn't scored more points than its opponents over a season," said Devine, a 23 year coaching veteran. "One year it was only by one point," he admitted with a smile, "but we did it." A fresh outlook could be a Packer plus in pursuing this objective, he indicated. "I think we are more relaxed after beating the Bears...I think it helped the squad's morale considerably. And," he conceded, "it also helped mine." It was the Packer's first victory in five weeks - since, ironically enough, a last minute 17-14 nod over the same Bruins in Chicago on Nov. 7. Successive losses to the Vikings (3-0) Atlanta (28-21) and New Orleans (29-21) and a tie with the Cardinals (16-16) had intervened...LOSING ROAD TRIP: Devine assured he has no illusions about the kind of effort which will be required to land the Dolphins, who are returning to the Orange Bowl off a losing two-game road trip. "I think Miami will be glad to get back home," he said. "They've been in the north a couple of weeks (New England and Baltimore) and my impression is they have been pretty much a hometown, home crowd, home-turf kind of team. They have a good record, but it looks that way to me. I might add that the Dolphins handled Baltimore just as easily the first time they played the Colts as Baltimore handled them last Saturday. Devine also made these other observations and reports: "Bart Starr has said nothing to me about his future, about the possibility of retiring...We are going to sit down and discuss it once the season is over, just as I'm going to talk with a lot of people when the season is over...NO RETIREES?: "None has expressed a desire to retire - to me. Some may have it in mind. But I've spelled it out for next year. Our trainer, Domenic Gentile, thought we ran a tough camp this year and feels that is why we have had very few injuries. The squad knows it's going to even a tougher camp next summer. If that scares anybody off, better to do it now than next July. I think that part of the reason we stuttered and staggered in the first half against the Bears is because we weren't relaxed. You have got to be ready, but got to be poised. Whatever I saw of Dave Davis Sunday, he did well...He is one of three guys who are now active at wide receiver, one of those we are going with. We want to see if he's a big play man. He's always around the action and he's caught everything that has touched his hands...but so has John Spilis. I think John



—Press-Gazette Photo by Russ Kriwanek

DALE CHASING: Chicago Bear linebacker Ross Brupbacher and back judge Bob Rice (80) follow the path of Packer Carroll Dale who heads goalward on the first play of the game. Dale took Scott Hunter's perfect pass and completed a 77-yard touchdown play just 43 seconds into the game.

Brockington just missed his block on that pitchout to Dave Hampton late in the game, or Hampton could have walked in for a score. Earlier on the pitchout that Donny Anderson fumbled, it was a bad audible by Scott Hunter, a very average pitch, a poor catch and not a very good effort to get the ball. The Bears scored two plays later. It is quite possible that Fred Carr will be moved to defensive end next year. That is why we tried him out there against the Bears Sunday...Dave Robinson, incidentally, will play this week and it is possible he will start." Robinson has been sidelined with a shoulder injury for three weeks. Ray Nitschke didn't make the trip today, because he was excused for a number of reasons. He has a brother who is ill and there are a tremendous number of people he didn't get to see on his 'day' Sunday - He's due in tonight. "Statistics in the case of John Brockington or Donny Anderson don't always show their value to the team. John has aver 1,000 yards, but Donny is having a good year too, with 730. Donny's punting doesn't show in the rushing statistics but I thought he punted quite well. There'll be a lot of changes in this league. I see 'em all the time-I see them on defense, I see them on offense. New ideas, the Wish-Bone T, are particularly obvious to the spectator. But take us defensively - we've blitzed more and played zone more than Green Bay ever has. The kicking game?...It's an area I'd rather not discuss now."

NEWS AND NOTIONS

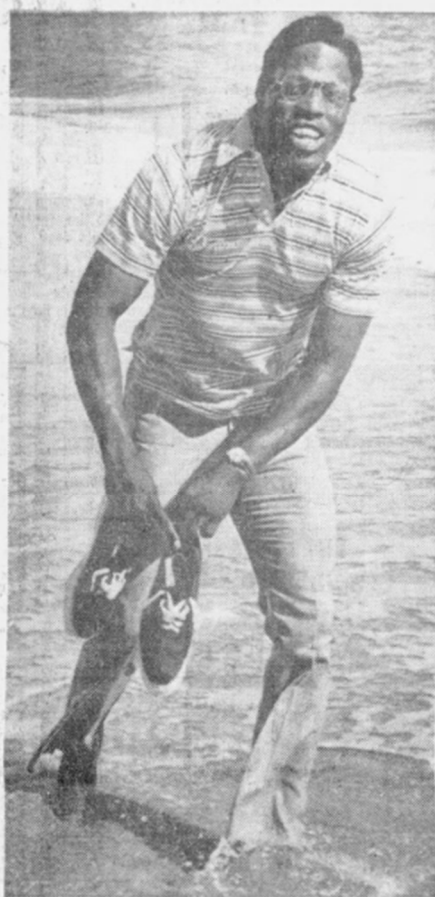
DEC 14 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - It might have occurred to the cynically-minded that it would be to Miami's advantage to lose Sunday to the Packers. The skeptic's theory about "operation lie-down" would be based on the knowledge that if the Dolphins lose, it will assure them of a chance to open the playoffs against Cleveland rather than Kansas City. In addition to the expectable "integrity" factor, there is a considerable amount of logic piled up against such a Miami approach. For example: (1) if the Dolphins lose Sunday, they would surrender all hope of being the host team for the AFC title game Jan. 2. (2) There is no assurance that Miami could beat the Browns in the playoff opener any more than the Chiefs - because the way things have gone in the NFL this season, any team can get hot on a given day and wipe out any other one. (3) Miami has lost two straight games and desperately needs to regain the winning touch before the first playoff game. (4) The Dolphins lost to Green Bay in an exhibition game and wouldn't relish the thought of being 0-2 this year against the cellar club of the NFC's Central Division. (5) Miami would like to prove that its rushing duo of Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick is superior to the Packers terrific twosome of John Brockington and Donny Anderson...With all of these Miami incentives flying around and with the Packers showing progress in a number of areas and determined to end their season on the upbeat, there's no reason why Sunday's game can't be a spectators' delight. How can Miami win its division title and qualify for the possible home-field advantage Jan. 2? First, the Dolphins would have to beat Green Bay, while unpredictable New England upsets Baltimore. Then, in the playoff openers, Miami would have to win at Kansas City while Baltimore takes care of Cleveland. This would set the stage for a Colts-at-Dolphins title game...and, the last time they played in Miami, the Dolphins won...The first playoff game on the tube will be aired from Minnesota at noon on Christmas Day. Either Dallas or Washington will face the Vikings. Three hours later, Kansas City will be host to either Baltimore or Miami...The Packers overall record in the last three years has been anything but spectacular. However, they've won five of their last six regular season games from the Bears...and there's a good measure of satisfaction in that. Coach Dan Devine is certainly right when he says the Packers played well in their own division this year. In "Black and Blue" division encounters, the Bays posted a 2-3-1 record. However, two of the three losses (to Detroit and Minnesota) were by the points apiece...and if the Pack could have subtracted one interception or fumble and added one field goal in each game, it could have been a 4-1-1 mark...The Packers, of course, are going to have to do better in the NFC as a whole, next year. Chicago is the only NFC team the '71 Packers were able to beat. So, overall, the Packers were only 2-7-2 against teams from their own conference: The AFC is something else. Green Bay is 2-0 for the season, with a chance to make it 3-0 Sunday...For one of the few times since the Denver game (when Don Horn threw all these interceptions), the opposition made more mistakes than the Packers Sunday. And, Green Bay showed it could take advantage of them. The Packers converted one interception and two fumble recoveries into 17 points. Perhaps the Packers could remember this technique - which has been so successful for Minnesota the last few years - for the Miami game and for next season...A number of Packers had had a good day Sunday - especially linebackers Jim Carter, Ray Nitschke and Fred Carr. Nitschke and Carter seemed determined to outdo each other in the number of tackles - and that kind of competition brings results.

PACKERS SHUN COLD, PLAN DRILLS IN FORT LAUDERDALE

DEC 14 (Miami Herald) - The 1967 Green Bay Packers and Coach Dan Devine's 1969 Missouri Tigers became well-acquainted with Fort Lauderdale and its sunny, balmy winter-months climate. The Packers quartered and worked out here while preparing to thrash the Oakland Raiders, 33-14, in Super Bowl II Jan. 14, 1968. The Tigers did the same the last week before their 10-3 Orange Bowl loss to Penn State on New Year's Day, 1970. Monday, Devine and the Packers in their first season under his direction, returned to the scene of their earlier rigors. But the occasion is of significantly less import. Green Bay, which has played sub-.500 ball three of the last four seasons, brings a 4-7-2 record to South Florida and winds up its

Pro Grid Standings

NFL Standings					Central				
By	United Press International American Conference					W.	L.	T.	Pct.
East					x-Minnesota	10	3	0	.769
y Baltimore	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Detroit	7	5	1	.583
y Miami	9	3	1	.750	Chicago	6	7	0	.462
New England	5	8	0	.385	Green Bay	4	7	2	.364
NY Jets	5	8	0	.385	West				
Buffalo	1	12	0	.077	San Francisco	W.	L.	T.	Pct.
Central					8	5	0	.615	
x Cleveland	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Los Angeles	7	5	1	.583
Pittsburgh	8	5	0	.615	Atlanta	6	6	1	.500
Cincinnati	6	7	0	.462	New Orleans	4	7	2	.364
Houston	4	9	0	.308	x-clinched division title.				
	3	9	1	.250	y-inclinches playoff spot				
West					Monday's Results				
x Kansas City	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Washington 38	Los Angeles 24			
Oakland	9	3	1	.750	(Only game scheduled)				
San Diego	7	4	2	.636	Saturday's Games				
Denver	6	7	0	.462	St. Louis at Dallas				
	4	8	1	.333	(Only game scheduled)				
National Conference					Sunday's Games				
East					Atlanta at New Orleans				
y Dallas	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Buffalo at Kansas City				
y Washington	10	3	0	.769	Cincinnati at NY Jets				
Philadelphia	9	3	1	.750	Cleveland at Washington				
St. Louis	5	7	1	.417	Detroit at San Francisco				
NY Giants	4	8	1	.333	Green Bay at Miami				
	4	9	0	.308	Los Angeles at Pittsburgh				
					Minnesota at Chicago				
					New England at Baltimore				
					Denver at Oakland				
					Philadelphia at NY Giants				
					San Diego at Houston				



—United Press International Telephoto

Packer Rookie Sensation John Brockington
... goes wading on Fort Lauderdale beach



Dan Devine and Bart Starr

campaign against the Dolphins Sunday in the Orange Bowl. But while there's no Super Bowl in the Packers' immediate future, Devine assured all that he didn't bring his team here for a one-week vacation. The Galt Ocean Mile Hotel reservations and the plans to work out at Fort Lauderdale Stadium were made months before the season began, and weather motivated the arrangements. "We don't have any place to practice at home," said Devine as he limped with the aid of a cane from the airplane to the buses. He recalls all too clearly losing practice time two weeks ago when seven inches of snow fell on Green Bay and the bulldozer attempting to clear it from a practice field bogged down in muddy sod. Also, he reminded, "We played yesterday (Sunday) with a chill factor of zero." That bitter coldness, in which the Packers whipped the Bears, 31-10, is hardly conducive to preparation for a game to be played in 70 to 80-degree temperatures. Asked if Miami isn't a nice place to finish a season, the usually no-nonsense Devine quipped, "There's no nice place to finish this season." More seriously, he called his first pro coaching campaign "very interesting" and pointed out, "We haven't played poorly in but one ball game." Several of Devine's hardships can be classified as rare....First, shortly after training camp opened, he learned that former all-pro quarterback Bart Starr would require surgery on his throwing arm. Next, returning from an exhibition game, most of the Packers were stricken with food poisoning. Finally, in the Packers regular season opener, Devine suffered fractures of the two major bones in his lower left leg when steamrollered by New York Giant lineman Bob Hyland on the sideline. Adding insult to injury, the Giants outscored the Packers 42-40. Only recently has Devine graduated from crutches to the cane he uses to hobble around. Despite all this, the young, rebuilding Packers have been far better than the unimpressive 4-7-2 record. Two of the losses have been to Minnesota (24-13 and 3-0), and four of the other five have been by eight or fewer points. Devine called the Dolphins "an excellent team. Coach (Don) Shula has done a remarkable job. (Bob) Griese's one of the best quarterbacks in the league, (Larry) Csonka and (Jim) Kiick are outstanding, and Miami has a pursuing, hard-hitting defense. "It is perhaps a team that could go all the way."

GREEN BAY'S JOHN BROCKINGTON AWED, AWESOME IN ROOKIE YEAR

DEC 15 (Miami Herald) - Young John Brockington's locker back in Green Bay is right next to that of veteran linebacker Ray Nitschke. Occasionally, Nitschke, a 34-year-old former all-pro, will reminisce about the Packer golden years - the Lombardi era - and he always has an attentive listener in the rookie running back. Brockington, in fact, admits to being somewhat awed by the old Green Bay mystique! "There's still that Packer pride," he contends..."You see guys like Nitschke, Bart Starr, Willie Wood, Dave Robinson and Carroll Dale around, and you sense that those good old glory days will swing back around." If there is a marked resurgence in Packer fortunes, however, the catalysts are not so likely to be the players wearing 1967 and 1968 Super Bowl rings as the newcomers. And none of the youngsters has arrived with more impact than Brockington, only the fourth running back in National Football League history to gain 1,000 yards in his rookie season. The stout Ohio State University product, with 1,032 yards, leads the National Conference and trails American Conference leader Floyd Little by just 23 yards with only one regular season game left. That's Sunday in the Orange Bowl against the Dolphins. Brockington modestly claims that "anybody can run through big holes, and I've been fortunate in being blessed with a good offensive line." Yet, he admits that even as a No. 1 draft pick a rookie can't help but be apprehensive about cracking into the pro game. Sure, you have doubts," he said. "There's no league on top of this. And you read about a lot of top prospects, Number Ones, who don't make the grade. Suddenly you're out of college and you find yourself running against the Butkuses, the Luccis, the Barneyes." But to the reminder that many Buckeye fullbacks of note have faded quickly in the pros, he responded, "I didn't feel like I was just another fullback from Ohio State. I thought I was more suited to the pro game." First-year Packers Coach Dan Devine thought so, too. One preseason joke making the rounds was that after watching Brockington perform in the College All-Star game, Devine

threatened to fire the first assistant who tried to "coach" the powerful 225-pounder. Brockington, however, speaks highly of the patience of Devine and backfield aide Red Cochran. "I'm kind of sensitive," he said, "and it helps that they don't scream and yell." Asked how he endured the volatile Woody Hayes - at Ohio State, he chuckled and answered, "Woody didn't have

much chance to yell at me because it wasn't hard for me to do things right in college. It wasn't near as complex. Here, it's harder to be sharp." In fact, Brockington was just another runner until his senior year under Hayes. As a junior, he backed up Jim Otis, now a reserve with the Kansas City Chiefs. "When my senior year came, I had to make the most of my chance to get a shot in the pros," the bull-shouldered bruiser said. He did, gaining 1,041 yards in 241 carries. Ironically, his 1,032 yards in the pros have been accumulated in just 200 tries. Brockington promised an all-out effort Sunday against Miami, rejecting the suggestion that the resort atmosphere of the Packers Galt Ocean Mile lodgings would dull their competitive edge. "Coach Devine won't let us get loggy," he said, grinning. "He'll work us like dogs and make the sun work for him." The Packers workouts at Fort Lauderdale Stadium today and Thursday and at the Orange Bowl Friday are closed.

LIVE IN A FANTASY OF LOMBARDI ERA: PACKER FANS NEVER GIVE UP

DEC 15 (Miami News) - "They have developed a little custom in Green Bay of naming things after football coaches. The stadium is Lambeau Field. The street on which the Packers do business is Lombardi Avenue. If Dan Devine, the present leader of the team, plays his cards right, they are apt to name the town Devine, Wisconsin. I mean, they tend to lose their heads back there when a coach is able to deliver a winning team, or two. Right now, Devine isn't exactly on top of the situation, leading some to conclude he needed the job like a broken leg. Safely entrenched at Missouri, in the virginal purlieus of amateur football, he yielded to the blandishments of Green Bay, making the most unusual start in the history of the National League. Rammed on the sideline by a runaway player, he suffered a broken leg in his first game. Normally, this type of accident happens to skiers, or to those who forget to pay their bookmakers. It also has happened at country clubs where strangers report a handicap of 21, when, in truth, they are a 9. But it isn't a garden-variety accident among football coaches and it came at a most untimely juncture for Mr. Devine, who was hired expressly for the purpose of recapturing the Lombardi Era in Green Bay. Of course, he isn't going to do this. Nor is anyone else, because conditions in pro football are no longer ripe for five world championships within a short stretch. But Green Bay doesn't yet know it. The place still lives in a fantasy of winning titles and wasn't in the least happy with the three-year record of 20-21-1 by Lombardi's immediate successor, Phil Bengtson. Very likely, Green Bay is the toughest place to coach in the league. A town of 80,000, it has 54,000 season ticketholders to Packer games. Appearing in a stadium that holds 56,161, the club hasn't played before an empty seat since 1959. So what you have, in effect, is a community of coaches in Green Bay, which has little to distract it from football, apart from the opening of deer season and a dab of ice fishing. Long forgotten in the city are the thin years of the Packers, when they were finishing with records of 3-9 and 1-10-1. Nor is it remembered when the Packers went into receivership and were lucky to hang on to their franchise. Lombardi ruined the job for all those who will follow, and Devine will discover that he will be measured against Vince, as Bengtson was. But this is no hamburger. He has a distinguished record in college, and there is no reason to believe that a basically solid football man can't adjust to any circumstance. A myth to the contrary has been perpetuated for years by some of the pros, who would like to preserve the illusion that theirs is a special science...BASEBALL LEARNED A HARD LESSON: It was this way for a long time in baseball in which an absurdity had developed that nothing quite took the place of major league experience. So clubs kept hiring the manager rejects of their competitors. It remained for the Earl Weavers, the Sparky Andersons, the Charlie Foxes and the Dick Williamses to show that substantial baseball men coming out of the bush could handle the big leagues, too. It has been, and remains, the feeling here that if Devine and Tommy Prothro win maybe 60 per cent of their games, you will see a sudden attraction to college coaches on the part of pro owners, many of whom don't know a football from a walleyed pike, anyway. You get an insight to Devine's problem in Green Bay when people there note that Dan is 46, the same age that Lombardi was in his first year on the job. Automatically, a .595 record would have been tolerated the first season - same as Vince - after which Devine would have been expected to take off like a helium balloon. The Packers come into their final game .344, however, holding a 4-7-2 record. It will take Green Bay a while to realize that the glorious cycle it experienced isn't likely to be reproduced in this century. And once reconciling itself to this fact, it will be a better-adjusted town.

CARR PACKERS' KEY WHEREVER HE PLAYS

DEC 15 (Ft. Lauderdale-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - As the four-seven-two record readily reflects, the Packers have had their problems this season, most of the knotty variety. But none has been more preeminent in their struggle to gain respectability than the lack of a bristling pass rush, the invariable barometer of success in the National Football League these days. A single statistic tells an eloquent story. The Packers have given up 26 touchdowns this year and 21 of them have come by error, almost double the number they themselves have scored by way of the pass. Coach Dan Devine and his defense chief, Dave Hanner, are acutely aware this figure will have to be dramatically reduced if the Packers are to be contenders in 1972...which may be where Freddie Carr came in. After a trial at tight end the summer after he was drafted, the former Texas-El Paso performer was transferred to weak side linebacker, where he presumably has found a happy and permanent home as a successor to LeRoy Caffey. Devine and Hanner have gone one better. They are sure Carr also can be devastating at defensive end, a conviction they underscored by unveiling him there in last Sunday's 31-10 victory over the Bears. What he accomplished in that relatively short stint only served to reinforce their opinion. "Freddie was tired when he got a chance there and he had never even lined up at defensive end in practice," Hanner said, "but he got to Bobby Douglass once. He dropped him for a 14-yard loss on the play when Douglass fumbled." Mike McCoy recovered at the Bear four-yard line and Tim Webster followed with a 27-yard field goal to provide the Packer final points of the afternoon. Although Carr is likely to see at least token action there again Sunday in the Pack's season finale against the Dolphins in neighboring Miami, Hanner says, "It's hard to say right now what we will do with Freddie next year. "I'd like to have that defensive end, but that would leave us with a hole at linebacker. If we could find somebody who could take over for him at linebacker, I'm almost certain we'd move him...we've got to have somebody who can rush the passer. We have a couple of others, one of them Bob Brown, who could become good pass rushers, but as far as our present rusher is concerned, there's no doubt

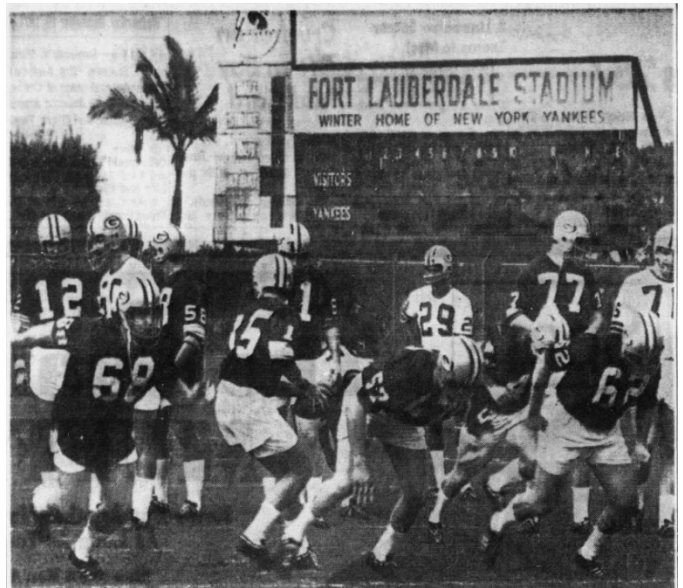
Freddie would be the best pass rusher we've got." Though happy where he is, Carr found Sunday's new assignment "challenging." He added "If they believe in me enough to put me in there, I believe in myself enough to do the job. I've got a long way to go," he conceded with a big grin while relaxing beneath a palm here Tuesday afternoon. "But Coach Hanner told me I hustled good. I took that as a compliment because he is a hard-nosed coach. He's a winning type of coach and I just want to be one of his winning ball players. I'm a linebacker by trade, but if it comes down to a point where they feel that I would make a better defensive end than a linebacker, I'd give it some serious thought, and do the best thing for me at the time. As for now, linebacker is my job." Freddie assured. "I'm not giving it up and looking for a new job when I haven't mastered the first one. Right now. I'm just hoping to get picked on the all-pro team or the Pro Bowl...It would be a great honor to make all-pro," said Carr who philosophically appended. "If the people who vote think I'm worthy of it. Then I will be picked. If not. I'm not one to put my head down. I'll just come back next year and show them I belong on top." Freddie said he has a special reason for wanting to be named among the elite. "It would be an honor for me to be chosen all-pro in Coach Devine's first year with the Packers" he confided with evident sincerity. "It would help me show some appreciation to him...I like him very much and I know he's a good coach."

BART HAS GOOD DAY, MAY START SUNDAY

DEC 15 (Ft. Lauderdale-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Under full throttle, John Brockington churned down a palm-fringed sideline beneath a cloudy Florida sky Tuesday afternoon. Quickly gauging dogged pursuit by linebacker Dave Robinson, Packer quarterback Bart Starr set himself and, firing without perceptible strain, arched a 40-yard pass over Brockington's right shoulder and into his arms. The rookie fullback, still in stride pulled the ball to him and was gone. It was only a practice "play" but it, along with Starr's overall performance in Fort Lauderdale's Yankee Stadium, could have considerable bearing on the starting quarterback assignment in Sunday's season finale against the Dolphins in Miami. Freshman Scott Hunter started last Sunday's 31-10 victory over the Bears but Coach Dan Devine admitted following the workout, first for the Packers since their arrival here Monday, that Starr's Tuesday efforts enhanced his chances to draw the duty. "It's the best Starr has thrown all year," Devine said. There could be another change in Sunday's lineup, he indicated. "If I were starting to venture a guess, I'd have to guess that Dave Robinson, Jim Carter and Freddie Carr would be our starting linebackers," he said. Robinson has been off three weeks with a shoulder injury. In his absence, Tommy Crutcher has held forth at the strong side, except in last Sunday's game, when Carter moved over there, permitting Ray Nitschke to start at middle linebacker on his "Day." Nitschke, who arrived here Tuesday afternoon after being excused because of the illness of a brother, also "figures" in Sunday's playing plans, Devine said...PACKER PATTERN: Except for the vegetation (a hedge of Australian pine borders Yankee Stadium, along with the palms), Tuesday's session could have been a midsummer workout in Green Bay. The Packers toiling in 75 degree temperature, worked in shorts for the first time since training camp and Devine took full advantage. Determined to have his team in peak condition to withstand Sunday afternoon's anticipated Orange Bowl heat, he sent them through a lengthy set of sprints to cap the drill. Some athletes, it turned out, were less fortunate than others. When the formal portion of the practice ended, Devine sang out, "Everybody who played more than 10 minutes against the Bears can go in ... the rest stay out." Those who remained were required to run the length of the field four more times. "This is the only team in the league that could have done that much running at this stage of the season," Devine later said. "I told the coaches that after practice and one of them said. this is the only team in the league you could have DONE that too." Appreciative of the players' uncomplaining response to the sprints, and the enthusiasm with which they ran them, Devine extended Tuesday night's curfew one hour to midnight....The football field, freshly marked, is laid out across the stadium's outfield, a lush green carpet over which such New York Yankees as Bobby Mercer are known to cavort during baseball's spring training. This is the Yankees' winter home.

DAVIS FUTURE...GOOD

DEC 15 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Ever since Boyd Dowler "retired" following the 1969 season, the Packers have been searching for a long ball threat to complement stylist Carroll Dale Not that Dowler was a "speedburner," but he made up in altitude (6-5) and other receiving skills (i. e., great hands and moves) what he lacked in swift. At this point, the hunt is still on. And there is much speculation that Coach Dan Devine, armed with two No. 1 picks, will opt for a wide receiver in the first round of the upcoming National Football League draft. But there is just the chance that the solution to the problem may already be in the Packers midst - in the person of that wraith-like rookie, Dave Davis. "There is a possibility Dave could be the long ball threat we've been looking for," concedes Devine, who has started the former Tennessee A. & I. athlete at split end the last two weeks in an attempt to assess his long term potential... 'A GOOD FUTURE': "I think Dave has a good future with us, unless he suddenly leveled off and went down hill," the Packer coach says. "He has a lot of desire and he



A Palm Tree Setting provides quite a contrast to the Green Bay Packers' usual December practice conditions. Tuesday, they began workouts in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., for Sunday's season-ending game at Miami.

may be a pretty good pass receiver. I like the way he accepted starting against St. Louis week before last after not having played. He was excited but he wasn't nervous." Devine cast another vote of confidence for Davis by noting, "Mike McCoy is my kind of people and now it's our job to make him our kind of football player. And Dave Davis is in the same category...whether he is the answer at split end remains to be seen." Although the slender Alcoa, Tenn., native does not have the burning speed of a Bob Hayes or a Mel Gray, he has been clocked at an entirely respectable 4.5 seconds in the 40-yard dash (4.6 in full gear) and Devine observes, "Dave has deceptive speed...he's sneaky fast." Davis, who appears much too fragile for his risky profession at a mere 175 pounds, concurs with Devine's estimate of his Packer potential. "I have a lot of confidence in myself," says Dave, named to the Pittsburgh Courier's Black All-America last year after catching 44 passes for Tennessee A. & I. "I've always thought I had a future in the NFL. Of course, it helps your thinking to be a starter - it gives you a little more confidence. Playing as much as I have lately did give me more confidence that I can do the job." Davis, earlier an understudy to Dale at flanker, said his only concern in replacing veteran John Spilis was mastering a new position. "You have different splits and a little different blocking at split end than you do at flanker," he pointed out. "You have to know when to take a big split and when to take a reasonable split. That makes a big difference in the play, particularly when it's on your side. That was the main adjustment I had to make in moving over." Surprisingly, in view of his modest dimensions, Davis has quickly acquired a reputation for being a freewheeling "kamikaze" type as a member of the Pack's special teams. Often shunned by veterans, this is an assignment that invariably falls to rookies and second year men but he welcomes the opportunity. "Anything that helps the team I'm willing to do," he says... 'MOSTLY A BLOCKER': Davis, moved into the kickoff return tandem alongside Dave Hampton in midseason, has taken to that task even though he is primarily a blocker. "I've only run two kicks back, one against Atlanta and one against St. Louis, and I won't be running back many. I'm mostly a blocker for Hampton, which is all right with me. The first time I was back there, in our first game against the Bears, I was a little uncertain about who to hit. You don't want to waste a block on somebody who isn't going to get near the returner. Now I can just sense who the man is going to be that I'll have to block."

PACKERS' WILLIE WOOD MULLS RETIREMENT

DEC 16 (Miami Herald) – Willie Wood, the Green Bay defensive back whose pass interception broke Super Bowl I wide open, says he has given retirement "some consideration." Unlike quarterback Bart Starr and linebacker Ray Nitschke, other Packer all-pros in the Lombardi years, Wood has been healthy and entrenched as a starter in this 4-7-2 season. But he says it's "very distressing" playing on a losing team after all those 11-3, 13-1, 11-2-1 and 12-2 seasons in the 1960s...and that inaugural Super Bowl Victory over Kansas City, 35-10. What's far worse psychologically, "I can't help feeling maybe the reason we're losing is that maybe I'm not playing that well," says the articulate 34-year-old star. "It's a very sensitive thing. So the possibility exists that fans who flood the Orange Bowl for Sunday's Dolphins-Packers collision may be seeing the final performance of Wood, a perennial all-pro in the mid-60s. But don't count on it. Wood plans to leave the decision up to Coach Dan Devine. "If he feels I can come back and make a contribution, then I'll probably be back," the former Southern Cal star admits. Wood has come up with just one pass interception this year to add to the 47 he snatched the previous 10 years. And his speed unquestionably is not what it once was. But he's hitting as hard as ever, and frequently there's no substitute for the experience and leadership the compact 190-pounder can lend to combatting today's sophisticated pro passing attacks. As a result, insiders can hardly imagine Wood being an undesirable when Devine begins preparing for his second season at the Packer helm. Wood, who lodged at the Galt Ocean Mile with the rest of the Packers while working out for Super Bowl II (a 33-14 thrashing of Oakland), admits, "That seems a long time ago...a much richer time (with a Super Bowl share)." Yet, he contends that Devine has "the nucleus of a championship team. It's difficult for a new coach to get players acclimated to his style of ball, and it's really only in the last four or five weeks that the Packers have truly begun to feel Dan Devine's presence. "It's pretty much the same kind of thing that happened when Vince (Lombardi) came in 1959. We had a so-so first half of the season, came along the second half (winning their last four games for a 7-5 record) and went from there. I foresee the same kind of thing with Devine." When Wood does eventually wind up an illustrious playing career that started when he wrote the Packers asking for a free agent trial, he would very much like to coach. "Blacks have been in the pro game for 25 years and have made a heckuva contribution," he reasoned. "Why not on another level, coaching? I think the market's been ready for a black head coach for several years. Basketball made its move, with Bill Russell, four or five years ago. Football's ready." Would he be a Lombardi or a Devine? "Dan uses a soft-sell approach," Wood responded. "He advocates closeness to the team - a family-type situation. I would certainly try to adopt that policy." Lombardi, of course, was a strict, iron-fisted, tough ruler. "Psychologically," Wood said with a soft grin, "you knew you had to be prepared or the after-effects would be somewhat astounding. That kind of pressure forces you to perform to a certain form of excellence, and I can't say that's a bad practice. A ball player should be forced to play to his capacity." In other words, Wood would draw from all coaches and not pattern himself after just one. Should a coaching position not open up to the highly qualified

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"Blacks have been in the pro (football) game for 25 years and have made a heckuva contribution. Why not on another level, coaching? I think the market's been ready for a black head coach for several years. Basketball made its move, with Bill Russell, four or five years ago. Football's ready." — Green Bay defensive back Willie Wood, who would like to coach when he retires.

* * *



Willie Wood
... hates losing



Ray Nitschke: one more time?

Wood, however, there's always what he considers extremely rewarding work in governmental youth and economic agencies in Washington, D.C., his offseason vocation.

MOSTLY A SPECTATOR: NITSCHKE IN BETTIS SYNDROME

DEC 16 (Miami News) – Slumping in a hotel patio chair, wearing thick-rimmed dark glasses despite a sunless sky, Ray Nitschke looks like the character in the movie "Joe." The swatch cut through his hairline by the ultimate barber, time. The deep-set eyes. The prominent chin with the dimple. The ruddy working-man look. One expected him to clutch a can of beer, spit on the concrete and damn the younger generation and what the country is coming to. Like Joe, Nitschke has a right to feel alienated. In his 14th year as a professional middle linebacker, Nitschke, 35 in two weeks, is mostly a spectator now for the Green Bay Packers, the team whose image he once helped mold. He has been replaced by Jim Carter, 23. He has started just two of the Packers 13 games this year. "Carter was hurt the first game and last week was my 'Day' and I got to play then," said Nitschke. Sunday against the Dolphins, who knows? "It has been rough to watch the change," said Nitschke. "This has been my longest year out of the 14. I haven't played the role that I would like to have played and have played in the past.

It's a rough change for me. I wish I could have offered more than I have." But Nitschke is a good Joe. He has kept his hurt inside. "I have a lot of mixed feelings," Ray said. "I'm mad, and yet I'm proud to be here." Nitschke can caption his 14th year in one sentence: "Now I know how Tom Bettis felt." There is a remarkable parallel between Nitschke's entrance and his exit. Both Nitschke and Carter were third-round draft choices. Both were fullbacks at Big 10 schools, Nitschke at Illinois, Carter at Minnesota. Both experienced a coaching change their second year with the Packers and both were handed the middle linebacker job by the new coach. "Bettis was the veteran my second year," said Nitschke. "But Vince Lombardi told me the job was mine, rain or shine." Now Dan Devine has told Carter the same thing. "He just more or less said, 'Jimmy you're gonna play, no matter what.' And then he told me we're trying to give Jim the experience and the time he needs," said Nitschke. When I was younger I probably couldn't have gone through this. Sure, my pride is hurt. Pride has been one of my strong points as a ball player. Devine is going to be here for awhile and he wants to start right from the beginning building his own team. A 34-year-old player may be a pretty old middle linebacker but I don't feel old." Indeed. Nitschke talks of another season as if he has just taken a sip from the Fountain of Youth. "A 15th year is something I've set as a goal a few years ago," Nitschke said. "I've gone this far and I think it would be a great personal achievement. I feel real good. I believe and I know in my own heart that I still have the ability to play. My philosophy is you're only young once and you should take advantage of your youth. I don't feel like an old fellow at 34. I think I'm pretty young, really. I take good care of myself all year round. I stay ready." The two-game season has been Nitschke's briefest but he has had little time to I've been trying to relay messages up to the press box, so I've been interested in what was going on out there. It's tough. When you're watching from the sidelines you wish you could be out there doing it, playing. You're more or less scouting and if you have a chance to go out there you'll be ready." The people of Wisconsin gave him a "day" last week, Ray Day, and Nitschke led his team in tackles against the hated Bears. "It was a very emotional game for me," he said. "being my day and playing against the team I grew up liking. It was a long week for me. The phone calls and the telegrams were gratifying but yet I was glad to hurry up and get the game and the day over with." Nitschke asked that money donated for the occasion and money collected from sales of We Love You Ray buttons and bumper stickers go to a scholarship fund. He accepted only a tractor for his 10-acre home and a sheep for his two sons. "I moved out into the country so the kids can enjoy the benefits of living out with nature and have some room to play and develop their personalities and their character," said Nitschke. The best of times and the worst of times are over for Nitschke. They say he announced his entrance into pro ball by smashing barstools, not cymbals. His only reference to his legendary hell-raising days is, "I was kind of irresponsible for awhile." As the premier middle linebacker of the NFL during the Packers' dominant years. Nitschke was called "wild Man" and "Savage." He said, "I never wanted to be called a wild man or the Mad Man from Green Bay. That's all from my style of play, I guess. When Tom Brookshier called me the Wild Man I knew he meant it by my aggressiveness. I play with a lot of heart. I never thought of myself as a wild man. I've always tried to do my job and I have enjoyed my job." Now the job belongs to young Carter. Nitschke recognizes the talent. "He has far more physical ability, more size and strength than I had," said Ray. "He's strong and he's fast. But he lacks the background. He wasn't a linebacker until last year." Carter has had to endure undue pressure because of the man he replaced. The fans in Green Bay scream for Nitschke when Ray gets off the bench to stretch. "I don't know that they're trying to give me trouble," Carter has said. "It's Just that they like Ray so damn much. I try not to take it as a put down on Jim Carter." The decline of the Packers has been this swift: they are staying at the Galt Ocean Mile Hotel this week, the same place they quartered while preparing for Super Bowl II just four years ago. This week they are 4-7-2, last in their division. "You can't stay on top forever." Said Nitschke. "With the common draft and everybody looking for you, it's tough to stay on top. It's a matter of cycles. The decline has been sudden but it's a normal thing that goes on with any team sport, you know. No team stays up too long and history shows it." The same can be said for linebackers who are going on 35.*...The Dolphins today sold out all 1,500 east end zone seats in 45 minutes for Sunday's game with the Packers The extra seats, set up in temporary bleachers, guarantees an all-time record Dolphin crowd of 76,812.

WILLIE WOOD EYES COACHING JOB, MAY RETIRE

DEC 16 (Ft. Lauderdale-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Pro athletes are notoriously loath to declare retirement plans. This is hardly surprising. It is not easy to turn your back on a life that has been highly rewarding, immanently in terms of both fame and fortune. The salaries are highly attractive and the requests for TV appearances, newspaper interviews and autographs

are heady stuff for any mortal. But, in view of such considerations, Packer defensive captain Willie Wood came very close to making a definitive statement on his future here Wednesday afternoon. Wood, quietly sipping his soft drink, in front of his Yankee Stadium locker, indicated he is very likely to be wearing the green and gold for the last time in Sunday afternoon's finale against the Dolphins in Miami's Orange Bowl...TAKE 1ST OFFER: "I would like to coach next year," said Willie, who is closing a 12th National Football League season and is due to turn 35 next week. "I'll take the first coaching offer I get." Willie, a five time all-pro safety, whose rags to riches career is one of the true Horatio Alger stories of professional sports, left himself a loophole, however. "By the same token, I still feel I could play football someplace, although I would much rather play in a warm weather climate if I were to continue. I wouldn't necessarily quit football. I'd go somewhere and play (presumably if traded) because I feel I still have some football left in me." Wood, the Pack's leading active interceptor, with 48 career thefts, indicated uncertainty about his Green Bay future is influencing his current thinking...GRADES POOR: "This could very well be my last game for the Packers," Willie, who has helped the Packers win five world titles, said solemnly. "I don't know what their plans are for me and, of course, I have to look out for my own interests. I was checking my grades recently and, grade wise, they are the worst I've ever had. It's been demoralizing to me to grade out so poorly. From an interception standpoint, it's been a bad season for me," Willie, author of one steal this year, soberly, admitted. "And I know I haven't been a whirlwind but I don't feel it's been to an extent where I should grade out so poorly."...WELL QUALIFIED: Willie, confiding he "wouldn't mind coaching in Green Bay," said he had not discussed the subject with Dan Devine. "The coach is a good man," he said, "and he has his own problems. I don't want to compound them with mine." Devine digested this report in the wake of Wednesday's practice and informed, "At this point, I've been so preoccupied with the Dolphins and finishing the season, that I haven't had a chance to give much thought to anything else...but I do feel Willie is very well qualified to coach." Wood, a former USC quarterback who was overlooked in the 1960 draft and became a Packer by way of a postcard he sent to then talent scout Jack Vanisi, marks time meanwhile. "Right now," he said wryly, "I'm just here. That's about what it adds up to. It's likely to be a bittersweet afternoon for me Sunday...It looks like my last one. The Packers and I have a lot of great memories particularly from those championship years." There are nine other Packer veterans who could be pondering retirement, but only one of them, running back Elijah Pitts, strongly suggested he is likely to bow out. One other, quarterback Bart Starr, reported his decision will not come until after he has had an opportunity to weigh matters with Devine at season's end. Starr admitted last week, however, that he is not sure "I can stand another year of the kind of physical problems that have bothered me the last three years."...ENTRUSTED FUTURE: Pitts, a long time reserve who was a major figure in the Packers 35-10 conquest of Kansas City in the first Super Bowl, entrusted his future to the Packer coaching staff. "I'm just going home this winter and think it over," he said. "But I certainly wouldn't want to go any place else. In fact, I wouldn't go anywhere else. If they decided they didn't need me," said Elijah, presently a member of the taxi squad, "that would make my final decision." Starr, very likely to start against the Dolphins Sunday, summed up his approach in one sentence. "I want to give it one final shot, do the best I can and then sit down and discuss the situation with Coach Devine after the season is over." Place kicker Lou Michaels, deactivated in favor of rookie Tim Webster three weeks ago, admitted he is awaiting official word on his status. The 36-year old Michaels, fifth ranking scorer in pro football history, assured "I'm not planning to retire. I don't know what Coach Devine has in mind, but I'm sure he has some idea. If he doesn't want me, then I'm sure going to ask around. Then, if nobody wants me. I guess that would have to be it." All the others who might possibly be weighing retirement, indicated they expect to be around in 1972...unless otherwise advised. "I want to play another year." 14-year veteran Ray Nitschke said, reiterating an early position. "I feel I can still play...I'm programmed to play 15 years." Defensive back Doug Hart, another member of the Pack's over-30 club, announced "I'm not thinking of it." He chuckled and added by way of explanation "Nobody's run me off yet." The others were equally succinct: Dale Robinson: "I'm not going to retire...not unless they ask me." Lionel Aldridge: "I'm going to play another year." Carroll Dale: "I have no plans to retire...unless there are some plans for me on the other end." And Zeke Bratkowski, at 40, the Pack's oldest player: "I'm going to wait and see what the coaches have in mind...I still feel I can play."...PACKER PATTERN: Devine continued his afternoon practice routine Wednesday, a departure from the normal regiment at home, where the Packer's work out in late morning. This is largely a conditioning measure. It's warmer



IF HE CAN RUN AGAINST THE VIKINGS: John Brockington (42), a rookie, is the second-leading running back in all of professional football. Brockington has gained 1,032 yards on 200 carries for the Packers. Several weeks ago he ran 22 times and gained 143 yards against the Vikings. Now, if he can run against Minnesota, does it figure he will be a threat against the Dolphins Sunday in the Orange Bowl?

in the afternoon, which is when our heroes will be meeting the Dolphins Sunday...Maybe it was the heat - the temperature was just shy of 80 degrees - but center Cal (Bongo) Withrow, a highly combative citizen, and the normally amiable Freddie Carr. got into a swinging hassle shortly before the end of the lengthy and surprisingly spirited session. Carr, running from defensive end at that point, was the "unofficial winner," landing a pair of lusty blows before offensive line coach Rollie Dotsch stepped in to restore order. Dotsch collected a stray punch on the arm for his pains, prompting Gale Gillingham to facetiously advise "The next time you go in there, coach, you better wear a helmet." Following practice, Devine called Withrow and Carr over for a handshake, and, since the combatants walked off the field together, all presumably was forgotten. Carr apparently thought that Withrow had been too enthusiastic in executing a block.

FORMER PACKER MCAULIFFE DIES

DEC 17 (Butte, MT) - John F. McAuliffe, a back with the Green Bay Packers in 1926, died this week in Butte at the age of 70. McAuliffe, a graduate of Beloit College, also played professional basketball in the Midwest for several years.

ELIJAH LOOKS BACK

DEC 17 (Ft. Lauderdale-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - What a difference, Elijah Pitts was saying, three years can make. Basking in the Florida sun this week Philander Smith's most famous alumnus drifted back in memory to January, 1968, when the Packers were girding for Super Bowl II against the Oakland Raiders. Those, admittedly, were golden days. The Packers had just won their third consecutive National Football League championship, a parlay which may never again be duplicated, and they were the undisputed toast of the sports world. If time had permitted, Pitts and his colleagues could have spent their entire day granting television, radio and newspaper interviews in the palm-dotted courtyard of the Galt Ocean Mile, then as now their Florida Headquarters...PRESS ABSENT: Except for the day of their arrival, the press had been largely conspicuous by their absence from the Fort Lauderdale scene this time. And those who have come obviously were lured more by the glamour of past success - as represented by such as Bart Starr, Ray Nitschke and Carroll Dale - than by what Sunday's invasion of Miami represents. Noting the present Packers are 4-7-2 heading into their exchange with Don Shula's title-contending Dolphins, Pitts was moved to make a bittersweet comparison. "You look around at the same scenery," No. 22 said. "Same hotel. Same ocean. The only thing is then we knew there was a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. After Sunday, well...there's no pot of gold..." Continuing his philosophical flashback, Elijah confided, "When we were winning, I never thought it would end. I went from one season to the next expecting to win. I never imagined losing. That's the nature of a football player's life. It is so uncertain you never think of next year. You think of right now." Pitts, recently moved to the taxi squad after being "active" for most of the season, is realistic about his future...CHANGED OUTLOOK: "When you lose, you figure there are going to be changes made. The man (Coach Dan Devine) has to do something. For example, you know if there is a young player and an older player of equal ability at the same position he's going to have to give the nod to the younger player," said Elijah, who is 32 and somewhat surprised to find himself still around. "You don't see many 32-year-old running backs in this league," he points out. "Most of them don't last that long. Try to think of a couple in my age bracket and you'll see what I mean." This knowledge has changed his outlook, he admits. "I feel almost like a rookie again," said Elijah, perennial fixture on railbird cut lists during his first five Packer seasons. "I put out on every play as hard as I can, wondering if this play might be the one that decides if I go or if I stay another year. You don't feel any older. You never think you're slowing down. You don't think so, but you know you are. You find out when you line for sprints next to a guy like Dave Hampton and he leaves you four or five yards behind. Then you really know."

CSONKA, KIICK DOLPHINS' ANSWER TO DONNY, BROCK

DEC 17 (Ft. Lauderdale-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Still flushed from the rays of a searing Florida sun, Jim Carter gracefully deposited himself on a dressing room bench Thursday afternoon and forthrightly evaluated the situation at hand. "I think we will be seeing the two best backfields in pro football Sunday," the swashbuckling sophomore said. "For two all-around backs, Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick of the Dolphins and Brock (John Brockington) and Donny Anderson are the two best sets in the league in my opinion. I personally think Brock and Donny are the best around, of what I have seen, but Csonka and Kiick are tough - they are both so big and strong." The statistics tend to support his appraisal. Brockington and Anderson have rolled up 1,762 rushing yards between them, top tandem total in the NFL. Csonka, who needs only 17 yards to join the 1,000 yard club, and Kiick are next up with 667. Kiick also has caught 36 passes for 323 yards, Andy 23 for 263 and one touchdown. Brockington, incidentally, needs "only" 65 yards Sunday to establish a new all-time pro football rushing record for rookies. It presently is held by Cookie Gilchrist, who amassed 1,096 for Buffalo in 1962. Carter who is likely to have the privilege of tackling both Kiick and Csonka in the course of Sunday afternoon's season ending date with the Dolphins in Miami's Orange Bowl, surprised by reporting, "I would have to say I think Kiick is probably the better all around back." "Both are big power runners, but the Dolphins also throw a lot. They flank him off...with all that balance - two good running backs and two good wide receivers in Paul Warfield and Howard Twilley - it makes them very difficult to defense. And that's not to mention their quarterback, Bob Griese, he's darned good, he really reads defenses and sets up quick, which puts heavy pressure on the defense." Although he has dual pass-run responsibilities, Carter will have the hulking 237-pound Csonka as a primary target. The former University of Minnesota fullback, who has seen Csonka only on films thus far, says, "I can't believe he can be any tougher than Brockington (a daily practice 'opponent'). But, from what I have seen, if you don't come up and hit him, he'll run right over you. Also there are a lot of big guys who can't turn the corner on a sweep, but Csonka can turn on a dime. He has a different style than Brock. He doesn't run with his knees as high, but they are very similar in the way they run over people. Actually, Kiick is a big all-around threat. He can run over you and run around you, plus they throw to him a lot. And he has, as good hands as I have ever seen. But when they need the tough yards they give it to Csonka..."PACKER PATTERN: Coach Dan Devine said following Thursday's practice that he had not decided on a starting quarterback, adding, "I will have an announcement on that after Saturday's practice, at the latest." It

may or may not have been significant but Bart Starr was running with the first unit and continued to exhibit greater throwing velocity than was evidenced in Green Bay last week. Taking note of this development, Devine said, "Bart has looked better here in the warm weather...it obviously has helped him."...The Packer coach expressed satisfaction with the team's progress here, asserting, "I would say this is the best week of work we have had this season...I am not sure it will show up in Sunday's game but I am sure it will in the squad's development next year. We've been able to work on a lot of things." One of the latter was a "fumble drill" in which running backs were required to run a 14-man gauntlet, seven on each side, each of whom was slapping at the football in an attempt to dislodge it. "It's a good drill," Devine said. "Too bad we didn't start it sooner."...The Packers bussed to the Orange Bowl this morning to test the stadium's much maligned polyturf, reportedly extremely slippery in wet weather...they will return to Ft. Lauderdale Stadium Saturday morning for a final tuneup.

DEVINE OVERWORKS PACK, LOOKS TOWARD NEXT YEAR

DEC 18 (Ft. Lauderdale-Green Bay Press-Gazette) — According to the "book" coaches are never supposed to look past an opponent. But Dan Devine pleaded guilty to doing just that Friday...without being charged. He volunteered that he will be taking a "tired" team into Sunday's season finale with Miami by design...because he has been looking beyond the Dolphins to 1972 in this week's workouts. "The benefit of being here the entire week is that we get a lot of good work which should help us this next fall," Devine said after pacing his squad through an hour and 15 minute practice in sweltering, 85-degree heat on the Polyturf of Miami's Orange Bowl. "It should help us some Sunday, too, but right now we are too tired and our feet are too sore to take advantage of it."...JUST LIKE CAMP: It was, somebody said, just like training camp. And that, Devine indicated, was no accident. "If we were going to be in a division playoff Sunday, we would be fresher," Devine admitted. "We wouldn't have worked as hard as we have. But I'm not sorry we are in this position...there are certain things to be learned by doing what we have done this week. It's no doubt that we are overworked. But you find out something about the people on your squad this way. And 96 per cent of them have responded real well to the amount of work we've given them." "Part of the reason we have worked so hard is to see how these guys would react when there was nothing to work for but a game with Miami. And, as I said, most reacted very well..." BETTER NEXT YEAR: "I mentioned to the squad after practice that, last year at this time, Scott Hunter and John Brockington both were getting ready to play in bowl games, Rich McGeorge hadn't played much and the offensive line hadn't jelled. After two weeks of practice next year we should be as good a football team as we are right now, and we are a lot better team now than we were last July...as a matter of fact, Brockington wasn't even in camp then. When did he join us...August?" What has been accomplished has only served to support Devine's decision to come here early, particularly after learning Green Bay was deluged by an inch of rain Wednesday. "It would have been murder to be slopping around in rain back home and then come down here on Saturday to play the Dolphins in the heat on Sunday," he noted while holding forth at mid-field in the Orange Bowl. "And, actually, to really become acclimatized, you need about three more days than we have had here..." NO ALIBI: "It's no alibi in any sense for what we have done this season, but lack of good practice conditions has hurt the development of this team." Exhibiting a whimsical smile, he added, "I would just hope we could get by next year without food poisoning (acquired on a return trip from an exhibition appearance in Cincinnati,) a broken leg and two fumbles in the end zone in six seconds (they cost the Packers two touchdowns in their opening 42-40 loss to the New York Giants). These are things you can do without. They said this has been an unusual year. But there are certain things you can improve on and, if it's going to be wet next year back home, we'll have to think about what can be done to deal with the situation..." NEW TURF COMING?: He didn't mention it then, but this last was an obvious allusion to the possibility that artificial turf will be installed for practice purposes prior to the 1972 season. Devine evinced some concern over the likelihood of sultry weather for Sunday's game, noting, "I've spent two afternoons on the bench here for Orange Bowl games and it's been just like this - hot and humid. "If we get a day like today Sunday with no clouds and no wind, it'll be a blistering afternoon...this," he appended with a wry grin, "is the Orange Bowl I remember." If such conditions do prevail, Devine said he will substitute liberally. "We'll probably use everybody," he said. "At least, a lot more people than we have been using." The torrid atmosphere prompted Donny Anderson to sardonically observe, "I can see why all of the Miami guys are so skinny. If it's this hot Sunday afternoon, though, the Miami guys are going to die too. We won't be the only ones."...PACKER PATTERN: Following the workout, Devine confirmed that Bart Starr, completing a record 16th Packer season, will start at quarterback against the Dolphins. Mr. Quarterback, whose arm has appeared markedly stronger in these balmy climes, had been working with the first unit all week. It will be the third start in the last four games for Starr, who also opened the New Orleans and St. Louis contests. Rookie Scott Hunter started Sunday's 31-10 victory over the Chicago Bears...Devine had no complaints about the Orange Bowl's synthetic turf, often criticized in the past by both home and visiting teams because of a tendency to cause excessive slipping when hot. "It's not as bad as I thought it was going to be," DD said. "It's green and it's just like grass and it's not as hard as I thought it was going to be. The players didn't slip a great deal." Starr also seemed moderately well satisfied and fullback John Brockington was openly pleased. "The turf has a pretty good base," Starr said. "It feels a little softer than some of the fields we've been on." Brockington declared, "That's some good stuff...It's got a good soft cushion under it. You can really run on this stuff."...The prize freshman, who needs only 65 yards to set an all-time pro football rushing record for rookies, added, "I'm going to try to get me a hundred Sunday. I want to get a hundred - I want to finish on a good note." Brockington, only the

RUSHING					
	Att.	Yds.	Ave.	Lg	TD
Brock., Pack	200	1032	5.2	52	4
Csonka, Dolphins ..	181	983	5.4	27	6
Anderson, Pack ..	175	730	4.2	31	2
Klick, Dolphins ..	149	684	4.6	34	2
Morris, Dolphins ..	57	315	5.5	51	1
Hampton, Pack	64	266	4.2	41	2

PASSING					
	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Greise, Dolph	242	132	1967	19	9
Starr, Pack	23	11	160	0	3
Hunter, Pack	163	75	1210	7	17
Brat., Pack	37	19	234	4	3
Mira, Dolph	30	11	159	1	1

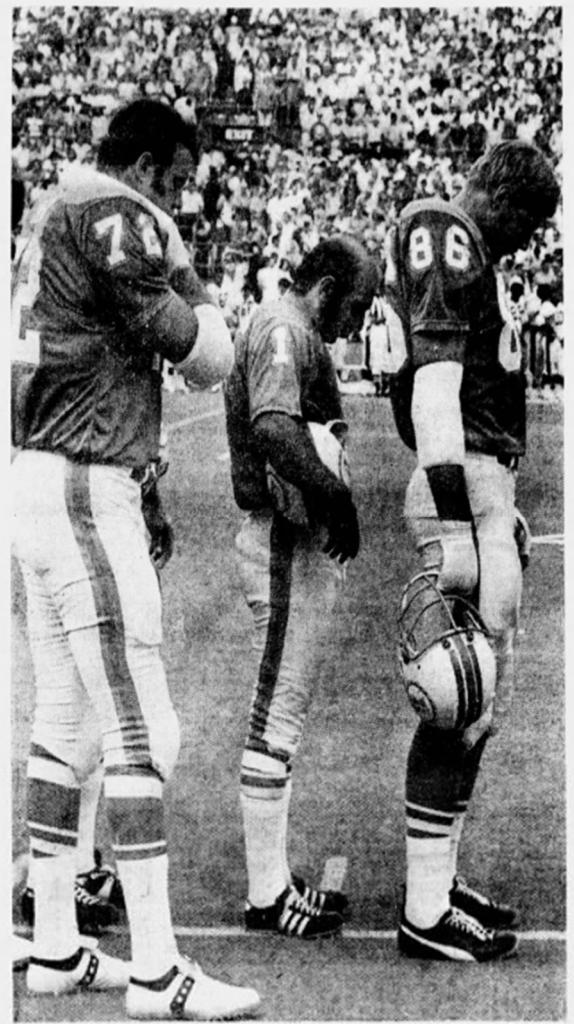
RECEIVING					
	No.	Yds.	Ave.	Lg	TD
Warfield, Dolph ..	39	935	24.0	86	11
Klick, Dolph	36	323	8.9	27	0
Dale, Packers	30	584	19.5	77	4
Anderson, Pack ..	23	263	11.4	39	1
McGeorge, Pack ..	22	412	18.7	50	4
Twilley, Dolph	22	343	16.1	11	4
Spillis, Pack	14	281	20.1	39	1
Fleming, Dolph ..	12	129	9.7	23	2
Brock., Pack	12	88	7.3	29	1

INTERCEPTIONS					
	No.	Yds.	Ave.	Lg	TD
Scott, Dolph	7	34	4.9	21	0
Ellis, Packers	6	10	1.7	5	0
Foley, Dolph	4	14	8.5	18	0
Robinson, Pack	3	44	14.7	23	0
Hart, Packers	2	73	36.5	69	0
Johnson, Dolph ..	2	34	17.0	34	0

fourth rookie to gain 1,000 yards in a season, has 1,032 in 200 attempts and currently is runner-up to Denver's Floyd Little in the NFL rushing figures. Little leads with 1,054...Offensive tackle Francis Peay, a longtime opponent of artificial turf, is not sold on the Orange Bowl surface. He said "I can't tell the difference from AstroTurf...I'll admit this has a springy substance beneath it - it gives you a little better spring. But I'm not the least bit excited about this stuff either. I don't particularly like any of it. It's hard for an offensive lineman to make a good charge from it out of his stance."

DOLPHINS-PACKERS A 'BIGGIE...FOR STATISTICAL LEADERS, MIAMI OFFENSE, STARR

DEC 18 (Miami News) - Garo Yepremian goes for the National Football League scoring championship tomorrow steadfast in his simplistic approach of "just trying to kick it through the middle." Garo said, "A lot of kickers are superstitious. If they walk to the game on the left side of the street and they score five field goals, for the rest of the year they'll walk on the same side of the street. I don't really care what I do all week as long as I do a good job on Sunday. A lot of kickers kick a certain amount each day of the week. With me, it's all a matter of how bored I am at practice. A lot of kickers study astrology and live in Middle Eastern rooms and meditate a lot. I just have a good wife and I pray a lot." Larry Csonka needs 18 yards tomorrow to crack 1,000 rushing for the season. While confessing the thousand-yard mark may be over-rated, Csonka said "it's something every back wants to attain." Receiver Paul Warfield can reach 1,000 yards for the second time in his eight-year career with 65 yards tomorrow. Bob Griese can win the American Conference passing championship. The money is already in the bank, you might say, but tomorrow's game with the Packers is nonetheless a biggie for the Dolphins. The Dolphins are in the NFL playoffs no matter what happens tomorrow and a record sellout 76,812 is assured for the 1 o'clock kickoff at the Orange Bowl...MIAMI FAVORED BY 10 POINTS: Miami is favored by 10 points to finish with its best record ever, 10-3-1, bettering last year's 10-4. It is a big game for the Dolphin individuals who rank highly in league statistics. It is a big game for the Dolphin offense, which hasn't come up with a touchdown the past eight quarters. It is also a big one for Green Bay coach Dan Devine. It's his last chance to get a line on veterans before he plans any changes in the Packer team he is rebuilding. He will start Bart Starr, 37 and coming back from arm surgery, at quarterback. Then there is the outside chance the Dolphins cling to that they can win the AFC Eastern Division title. Csonka said, "We'd like to win the game simply because if Baltimore stubs its toe (against Kansas City) we could end up in first place. And if we get by that first round we can have that (AFC championship) playoff game here. It'd be a nice place to have it." Garo will be in a long-distance kicking contest with Washington's Curt Knight. Yepremian leads Knight, the top scorer in the National Conference, 108-107. Knight will be kicking against Cleveland, Miami's likely opponent next week in the playoffs...GARO THINKS HE'LL WIN: "I think I can clinch the American Conference title," said Garo. "I lead Jim O'Brien of Baltimore by 18 points. Whether or not I beat Knight will depend on what he kicks and how many chances I get. I hope he doesn't kick any." Csonka has little hope of catching Denver's Floyd Little for the AFC rushing title. Floyd opened a 71-yard lead last week while Larry was being substituted occasionally for a third wide receiver against the Colts. They will probably finish 1-2 for the second straight year. Even that accomplishment is enough to make a Packer who played against Csonka in his first pro game wonder where it is coming from. Ray Nitschke was the Green Bay middle linebacker when Csonka ran for 95 yards in 18 carries for the College All-Stars in 1968. "He looks like a much quicker football player now," said Nitschke. "He seems to move with quicker feet. He seemed to be slow and clumsy in that All-Star game. He's still a strong, hard runner but right now he seems to be real nifty. Not only can he run straight ahead but he can dip it out and come outside, which is the mark of a real fine fullback, and he hits in there. "He has this niftiness and he jumps over people. I wasn't too impressed with his agility from that All-Star game. But it seems like he has a lot of agility now. He did it on brute force back then."...Dolphin coach Don Shula has been talking up "getting it back together" this week as the team tries to overcome two successive losses that interrupted an eight-game winning streak. He does not want to take a three-game losing streak to Cleveland. But success on the last weekend of the regular season is no criterion for failure in the playoffs. Two of the five Super Bowl winners lost their last regular season game. In 1967, the Packers lost their last two regular-season games but woke up in the conference championship game and went on to win their second straight Super Bowl.



Miami News Photo by CHARLES TRAINOR

GARO YEPREMIAN, the National Football League's scoring leader, says he doesn't depend upon exotic superstitions to kick the football between the goal posts. "I just have a good wife and I pray a lot," the Dolphins placekicker says. Obviously his wife cannot take the center snap and place the ball for him, but Garo can get his prayers in as he does above in a pre-game ceremony. Whoever Yepremian is praying to better listen, because the littlest Dolphin would never be seen between Bob Heinz (72) and Vern Den Herder (86).

DEC 19 (Miami Herald) - Assured of an American Conference playoff assignment, the Dolphins take to the Orange Bowl's Poly-Turf today in the faint hope of regaining the Eastern Division title. The Green Bay Packers furnish resistance in the final regular-season game, with a fifth straight sellout gate assured for the 1:05 kickoff. If the ticketholders all show up despite the pedestrian nature of the game, the Dolphins will hit a six-year high mark of 76,812. By defeating or tying New England in a Baltimore game that starts an hour later, the Colts can wrap up another division championship. That they will is practically a foregone conclusion. The Colts (10-3) could throw the game in the expectancy of facing Cleveland rather than Kansas City in next weekend's playoff openers. But even a Baltimore boat race would furnish no guarantee of a title for the Dolphins (9-3-1) against the Packers. Evidence that Dan Devine's young club is stronger than its 4-7-2 record suggests was furnished by a 31-10 rout of Chicago's Munsters of the Midway last weekend. The Packers, handicapped somewhat by the titanic impression the late Vince Lombardi left hovering over them, gave Minnesota a trying afternoon before losing to the Vikings, 3-0, last month. Although rookie Scott Hunter was expected to be the quarterback starter, 37-year-old Bart Starr has been running the first unit in drills at Fort Lauderdale all week and was given the nod Friday by Devine. Undoubtedly, Starr is anxious to give his surgical right arm a good test. Why didn't some coaching genius before Devine bring a squad from the frozen north to the sunshine a week early to acclimate itself? Well, maybe because the Packers are publicly owned, with expense accounts comparing modestly to the government's in flexibility. Like Devine, Don Shula probably will use two quarterbacks in the course of the day. Bob Griese, recovering from a sprained left shoulder but still tender in the area, can buy some more resting time with less re-injury if George Mira takes over for a while.

DEC 19 (Miami-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - MIAMI (PG) - "This one," Dan Devine said, "will definitely separate the men from the boys." A stranger might have lifted a skeptical eyebrow. The words hardly seemed to fit a team with a 4-7-2 record...playing another with a playoff berth already in the bank. But Devine, though known to "pull a leg" now and then in his more whimsical moments, was patently serious about his assessment of today's season-ending date with the Dolphins in the Orange Bowl (12 noon Wisconsin time WNFL, Channel 2). "When you're tired and hot, and you get hit," that's when your true commitment to. The stadium ground crew has been wetting down the synthetic surface before each this game shows," the Packer coach explained. "It should tell us a lot..."MAY AFFECT DRAFT: Devine is intent upon winning as a psychological springboard to 1972. He made no mention of it but he also obviously expects to use this afternoon's performance in weighing trade and draft moves in the months immediately ahead. His suggestion that heat is likely to be a prime factor is born out by the weather forecast, which calls for a game-time temperature of near 80 degrees. This means it is likely to be between 90 and 100 on the floor of the Orange Bowl because its controversial Polyturf is a potent reflector of heat. The stadium ground crew has been wetting down the synthetic surface before each game and between halves in an effort to reduce the heat's effect as well as frequent slipping, which has been a problem for both the Dolphins and their opponents... SHULA WANTS WIN: Like his opposite coaching number, Miami's Don Shula assures he is looking for a maximum effort for a different reason. "Let up," the Dolphins' fiery leader said in reply to a question. "We don't even let up in practice...besides, we are very unhappy about our execution the last two weeks (consecutive losses to the New England Patriots and Baltimore Colts). We'd like to go into the playoffs coming off a good win." And, although the Dolphins are assured of being in the American Football Conference playoffs, Shula still has designs on the Eastern Division title. It could become Miami property with a combination of a Dolphin victory here and a Baltimore loss to the Patriots...TRYING TO END SKID: "This would give us a chance to play the conference championship at home," he points out. His players also are laying stress upon winning, but with a slightly different approach. "I don't think we can minimize the fact that we have to win a game after losing two in a row," said wide

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

WESTERN DIVISION						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
x-Kansas City	9	3	1	.750	280	199
Oakland	7	4	2	.636	325	263
San Diego ..	6	7	0	.462	278	292
Denver	4	8	1	.333	190	253
x-Clinched division title						

EASTERN DIVISION						
	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
x-Dallas	11	3	0	.786	406	22
Washington	9	3	1	.750	263	170
St. Louis	4	9	1	.308	231	279
Philadelphia	5	7	1	.416	180	274
N. Y. Giants	4	9	0	.308	200	321

CENTRAL DIVISION						
x-Minnesota	10	3	0	.769	218	129
Detroit	7	5	1	.538	314	255
Chicago	6	7	0	.462	175	249
Green Bay	4	7	2	.364	268	271

WESTERN DIVISION						
San Francisco	8	5	0	.615	269	189
Los Angeles	7	5	1	.583	290	246
Atlanta	6	6	1	.500	250	257
New Orleans	4	7	2	.364	246	323

x-Clinched division title

Dallas 31, St. Louis 12

TODAY

Green Bay at Miami,
Atlanta at New Orleans

Buffalo at Kansas City
Cleveland at Washington
Detroit at San Francisco
Los Angeles at Pittsburgh
Minnesota at Chicago
New England at Baltimore
Cincinnati at New York Jets
Denver at Oakland
San Diego at Houston
Philadelphia at New York Giants

Probable starting line-ups:

Offense		
Green Bay		Miami
Davis	wr	Warfield
Peay	lt	Crusan
Lueck	lg	Kuechenberg
Bowman	c	DeMarco
Gillingham	rg	Little
Himes	rt	Evans
McGeorge	te	Fleming
Dale	wr	Twilley
Starr	qb	Griese
Don Anderson	rb	Kiick
Brockington	rb	Csonka
Defense		
C. Williams	le	Riley
McCoy	lt	Fernandez
Brown	rt	Heinz
Roche	re	Stanfill
Robinson	lib	Swift
J. Carter	mb	Buonivinti
Carr	rlb	Kolen
Ellis	lcb	Foley
Matthews	rcb	Johnson
Hart	ls	Dick Anderson
Wood	rs	Scott

the playoffs." Safety Jake Scott was more candid. "We are getting tired of all the bull-dip we've been taking about losing two in a row," he asserted. "But if we are going to start a winning streak, the truth is I'd rather wait another week to start it." This, incidentally, will be the first regular season meeting ever between the Packers and Dolphins, although their paths did cross along the exhibition trail last August. The Pack took the nod in that one 10-7, on a late field goal by the now departed Dave Conway. It also could be the farewell to football for two of the Packers all-time greats, free safety Willie Wood and quarterback Bart Starr, both major contributors to the Green Bay dynasty of the 1960's. Wood, uncertain about his future, has said "this could be my last game with the Packers," and indicated a desire to coach in 1972 if the opportunity should arise...STARR UNDECIDED: Starr, a 16 year veteran, has given no formal indication of his plans, although he said recently, "I'm not sure I could stand another year of the kind of physical problems I have had for the last three' seasons." Both Starr and Wood will be in today's starting lineup, which also will find Dave Robinson returning from the casualty list to take over at strong side linebacker. He has been out for three weeks with an injured shoulder. Rookie Dave Davis, continuing to impress the Packer brain trust with his overall play, will make his third consecutive start at split end. Because of the anticipated heat, Devine has

indicated he will substitute early and often. "We probably will use just about everybody," he said. A sidelight to the day's proceedings will be a prospective yardage duel between pro football's two premiere power runners of the moment, the Packer's John Brockington and the Dolphin's Larry Csonka. Brockington, only the fourth rookie in pro football history to scale the 1000-yard barrier, needs just 65 yards to become the most productive rookie rusher ever. Csonka, a 237 pound bruiser with deceptive speed, is just 17 yards shy of joining Brockington in the 1000 yard club. Griese AFC's No. 1 Passer Jim Kiick and Csonka, with 1,667 yards between them, form the second most potent running combination in the game this season. The leading duo, of course, is the Pack's Brockington and Donny Anderson, who have amassed 1,762 yards. The Packer defense also will have to keep a close eye on four other Dolphins, all of whom lead American Football Conference statistics going into action. Quarterback Bob Griese is the AFC's No. 1 passer with 132 completions in 242 attempts for 1,967 yards and nine touchdowns - with only nine interceptions. Wide receiver Paul Warfield, a former Cleveland Brown phantom, leads on a per-catch basis with a 24 yard average for 39 receptions, which have brought him 935 yards and 11 touchdowns. Speedball Mercury Morris, also leads in kickoff returns with a 31.4 yard average and perhaps most significantly, pocket size place kicker Garo (the sparrow) Yepremian is the NFL's leading scorer with 108 points including 26 field goal successes in 37 attempts. The Packer kicking game again will be entrusted to rookie Tim Webster, who replaced old pro Lou Michaels four weeks ago. A record Miami pro football crowd of 77,010 's expected to sit n. The present record is 76,712 for the Dolphin's exhibition against Baltimore here in August of 1970 - the night that Shula made his Miami debut against the team he had just left.

Packers Ready for 'Hot' Encounter With Dolphins

Dolphins Still Hoping for Title, Face Packers Today

NFL Statistics

OFFENSE

	YR	YP	TY
Dallas	2044	2668	4712
San Diego	1516	2987	4503
San Francisco	1958	2391	4349
Detroit	2242	2025	4267
Miami	2274	1902	4176
Los Angeles	2050	1946	3996
Cincinnati	2004	1969	3973
Oakland	1982	1965	3947
Kansas City	1706	2229	3935
Baltimore	2049	1776	3825
New York Giants	1897	2400	3797
Denver	1938	1854	3792
St. Louis	1442	2344	3786
Green Bay	2090	1601	3691
Washington	1640	2044	3684
Atlanta	1646	1994	3640
Cleveland	1489	2134	3623
Pittsburgh	1571	1980	3551
New Orleans	1546	1820	3366
New England	1578	1735	3313
Philadelphia	1163	2062	3225
Houston	971	2189	3160
Buffalo	1235	1831	3066
Chicago	1330	1696	3026
Minnesota	1578	1423	3001
New York Jets	1678	1215	2893

DEFENSE

	YR	YP	TY
Baltimore	1022	1596	2618
Minnesota	1496	1600	3096
Dallas	1056	2197	3253
Washington	1327	1973	3300
San Francisco	1534	1835	3369
Miami	1524	1914	3438
Atlanta	1984	1503	3487
Detroit	1671	1831	3502
Denver	1686	1822	3508
Kansas City	1198	2310	3508
Cincinnati	1568	1964	3532
Houston	1635	1925	3560
Los Angeles	1471	2235	3706
Green Bay	1552	2211	3763
Oakland	1596	2175	3771
New England	1818	2008	3826
Cleveland	2110	1738	3848
Pittsburgh	1393	2618	4011
New York Giants	1974	2046	4020
St. Louis	1780	2262	4042
New York Jets	2164	1900	4064
New Orleans	2143	1965	4108
Chicago	1997	2174	4171
San Diego	2161	2042	4203
Philadelphia	1898	2346	4244
Buffalo	2359	1990	4349

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs	Int.
Staubach, Dallas	195	116	59.5	1735	8.90	14	3
Griese, Miami	242	132	54.5	1967	8.13	19	9
Dawson, Kansas City	301	167	55.5	2504	8.32	15	13
Carter, Cincinnati	213	132	62.0	1588	7.46	9	7
Hadl, San Diego	402	221	55.0	2928	7.28	21	22
Landry, Detroit	243	127	52.3	2061	8.48	15	12
Kilmer, Washington	273	148	54.2	1992	7.30	12	11
Berry, Atlanta	199	118	59.3	1736	8.72	10	16
Gabriel, Los Angeles	330	167	50.6	2090	6.33	16	10
Morton, Dallas	143	78	54.5	1131	7.91	7	8

Scoring	TD	XP	FG	TP	Receiving	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Yepremian, Miami	0	30-30	26-27	108	Biletnikoff, Oakland	59	897	15.2	9
Knight, Wash.	0	26-26	27-45	107	Taylor, Kansas City	53	1055	19.9	7
Gossett, San Fran.	0	28-28	22-35	94	Tucker, N.Y. Giants	51	875	13.2	3
Mann, Detroit	0	34-34	20-35	94	Kwalick, San Fran.	49	632	12.9	5
Stenerud, Kansas City	0	31-31	21-37	94	Vataha, New Eng.	47	772	16.4	7
O'Brien, Baltimore	0	33-34	19-27	90	Shanklin, Pitts.	46	619	13.5	5
Muhlmann, Cincinnati	0	29-29	20-33	89	G. Washington, S.F.	43	808	18.8	3
J. Turner, Denver	0	17-17	23-35	86	Jefferson, Wash.	43	655	15.2	4
Blanda, Oakland	0	38-38	15-22	83	Smith, Pittsburgh	43	628	14.6	5
Cox, Minnesota	0	22-22	20-29	82	Hooker, Cleveland	42	615	14.6	1

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Interceptions	No.	Yds.	
Little, Denver	260	1054	4.1	Bradley, Philadelphia	11	248	
Brockington, Gr. Bay	200	1032	5.2	Thomas, Kansas City	8	145	
Csonka, Miami	181	983	5.4	Stukes, Baltimore	8	95	
Ellison, Los Angeles	200	977	4.9	Houston, Houston	7	156	
Owens, Detroit	230	976	4.2	Bass, Washington	7	78	
Brown, Washington	227	867	3.8	Punters	No.	Avg.	Lng.
Hubbard, Oakland	171	822	4.8	Wilson, Kans. City	59	45.5	68
Kelly, Cleveland	216	815	3.8	Lewis, Cincinnati	71	44.9	56
Willard, San Francisco	201	774	3.9	Walden, Pittsburgh	76	43.9	57
V. Washington, San Fran.	177	773	4	Partee, San Diego	50	43.3	73
				McNeill, Phil.	69	41.9	59

Kickoff Returns	No.	Avg.	Lng.	Punt Returns	No.	Avg.	Lng.
Morris, Miami	13	31.4	94	I. Hill, Buffalo	13	10.8	68
T. Williams, Los Ang.	23	29.9	105	Kelly, Cleveland	29	10.0	74
Jessie, Detroit	16	29.4	102	Scott, Miami	30	9.8	31
Hampton, Green Bay	42	29.3	90	Duncan, Washington	21	9.5	24
Nelson, Philadelphia	13	27.5	51	Thompson, Denver	28	9.4	28