

Green Bay Packers (5-1) 33, Rochester Jeffersons (0-2-1) 13
Sunday October 25th 1925 (at Green Bay)

PACKERS WALLOP ROCHESTER IN SENSATIONAL COMBAT

***Green Bay Earns Decision
In Scoring Orgy, 33 to 13;
Long Runs Feature Battle***

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(GREEN BAY) - The Rochester Jeffs more than lived up to advance notices in Sunday's pro league game at the City stadium but their best was not quite good enough and the visitors from New York state took a 33 to 13 upset at the hands of the Green Bay Packers in a contest which kept the spectators on their tiptoes all during the second half. The crowd was a disappointment as many were of the opinion that the Jeffs were only a "setup" for the Big Bay Blues. However, those who failed to flock to the park, and there were a lot of them, missed the best gridiron treat that has been on the Green Bay menu this season. There were less than 2,700 paid admissions but those who did sit in at the scoring orgy will talk about the Rochester game for many a moon. One thing is sure, if the Jeffs play here again next season, they will pack the park.

GET FLYING START

The game started off as the "doubtful ones" predicted. The Packers got a flying start and seemed headed for a score when a fumble mussed up the deck. During the first quarter, the Bays held the upper hand and several times were in position to score but the markers were not forthcoming. About this time, the spectators woke up to the fact that it was going to be a real football game. Early in the second quarter, the New Yorkers uncorked a drive, starting from their own goal line that threw a scare into the crowd. The visitors whittled away for good yardage. They consistently advanced the ball and about every three plays, the yard sticks were being moved up.

SEVEN FIRST DOWNS

Things did not look good for the Packers. Rochester made use of a very deceptive attack and it seemed as if the Bays couldn't figure it out. It wasn't long before they had registered seven first downs and the ball was on the Packers' 30-yard line. The Bays were beginning to fathom the Rochester attack. Three rushes made about four yards and the assault was blanketed when Lowery's attempted placekick didn't even go near the uprights. Between halves, the Bays talked things over and they came back a fighting rarin' crew just like in the Rock Island game. A blocked punt put the Bays in a position to open up and it wasn't long before the first touchdown was recorded.

SMYTH STUBS TOE

Not so long after, the Bays were headed goalward again, but Smyth broke into the limelight. He grabbed a Packer pass and headed for the Packer goal line 95 yards away. It didn't seem as if anything could stop him but five yards from glory he stubbed his toe and fell in a heap. The Packers flopped on him before he had a chance to budge. It sure was a horseshoe for Lambeau & Co. The Bays held tight and an illegal forward pass on the first play of the final quarter gave the Packers the ball too close to the goal for comfort. Buck kicked out of danger and then the fun started. Norton plucked a Rochester pass out of the ozone and he galloped 60 yards for a touchdown. Half of the Rochester team was on his heels but Marty scampered like a rabbit seeking his hole. The crowd had hardly quit whooping it up over this touchdown when Lambeau shot a pass to O'Donnell and Dick got the touchdown habit, too.

INVADERS MAKE SCORE

Once again the skeptics were in their glory but not for long because Rochester began throwing forward passes to everybody except Jake Miller, the groundkeeper, and a touchdown was the result of their mighty air drive. At this stage of the game, Basing decided to do a little touchdowning himself. Grabbing a pass from Lambeau, the former pride of Lawrence college headed for the goal line and he reached his destination, thanks to a brilliant exhibition of open field running and some honest-to-goodness blocking by his teammates.

BASING TRAVELS 65 YARDS

About two minutes later, Basing felt the urge again. This time the Packers were on their own 35-yard line. Lambeau fed Basing a swift pass. Buck crashed down two would-be tacklers and the Packer fullback was on his way again. This time it was 65 yards for a score. But that wasn't all. Rochester, fighting grimly in the face of defeat, staged another comeback and their second touchdown resulted. The Jeffs passed superbly and a line thrust paved the way for the marker. It sure was a hectic 15 minutes of football. Thirty-nine points were were

scored. This was an average of nearly three a minute, which sure is going some for any kind of a gridiron skirmish. Every man on the Packer club uncorked a banner brand of pigskin chasing. Captain Lambeau used nearly every player on his squad and they all fitted in nicely with the Green Bay machine-like play. The visitors certainly had a wonderful machine. They showed plenty of fight even when defeat was staring them in the face. Grigg, Smyth, and Lynch were as sweet a trio of visiting gridders as had been seen here this season.

KICK TO ROCHESTER

The Bays opened hostilities by kicking off to the invaders. Rochester got a first down, but its advance was cut short when Larson intercepted a pass in midfield. The Packers got the first down habit and chalked up one. The Packers moved up the yard sticks again in another three rushes. It looked as if the Packers were going to score early but a fumble on the Jeffs 22-yard line gave the visitors the ball. After two futile plays, Lynch placed a punt well and it rolled out of bounds on the Packers 25. Norton couldn't gain and Buck booted to Grigg who was dumped on Rochester's forty. A penalty cost the Bays five. Rochester crashed through for a first down. Mathys ended the New Yorkers' rush by intercepting a forward pass forty yards from the Bay goal.

MATHYS GRABBED PASS

Following two line thrusts, Lambeau forwarded to Mathys for a first down in midfield. Another pass to Norton moved the ball up another ten. Shortly after, time was called with the oval in the Packers' possession on Rochester's 38. Starting the second quarter, Norton circled end for fifteen. Three smacks at the line failed and a pass was mussed up. Rochester took the ball. The Jeffs added a few yards. A punt was partly blocked and Norton covered it on Rochester's 45. The Packers bumped into a stonewall and Buck punted out of bounds on Rochester's one yard marker.

ROCHESTER MARCHED DOWN

At this stage of the game, Rochester started a march that only ended when Lowery missed a placekick from the Packers' thirty. The visitors displayed plenty of offensive strength. They split the Bays' line or skipped offside of the tackles in a way that wasn't very pleasant to the Packer followers. Rochester made use of a deceptive attack and it was difficult to spot the man with the ball. Grigg's kick was a fizzle and Mathys covered on the Bays' 21. Buck punted to Rochester's forty. After Kellogg made four, Grigg got around end for a first down. A pass failed and time for the half was called.

PACKERS KICK OFF

Opening the third quarter, Woodin kicked off to Smyth of Rochester. He was stopped at the 25-yard mark. The Packers rushed Smyth on a pass play and it resulted in a 15-yard penalty against the invaders because Smyth hurled foolishly to escape a loss. Grigg gained a yard. Lynch's punt was puny and Norton ran it back to Rochester's twenty. Lambeau and Norton got about four and an offside put the Bays five yards nearer the Rochester goal. Basing and Norton added a couple of yards, and, then, a pass, Mathys to Norton, scored a touchdown. Buck kicked the goal, and the merry-go-round was underway. Woodin kicked off and Bedford came back to Rochester's thirty. The invaders had their trouble piling up any yardage. Lynch punted to Mathys, who was run out of bounds on the Packers' 35. The Bays lost five for offside. After a pass had failed, Buck kicked to Grigg and it was Rochester's ball on its own forty. The visitors were not having much success crashing the Packer line. Larson blocked a Rochester punt and Vergara covered on the visitor's twenty. Norton made a first down around end. Basing added a couple. Another offside cost the Bays a "V".

SMYTH MAKES LONG RUN

The Packers attempted a pass and Smyth intercepted on Rochester's five yard marker and started down the field. It looked like a sure touchdown but the flying Jeff stubbed his toe with a score in sight and flopped on the Packers' five. This was the break with a capital B. The Packers held tight on three downs and time was up for the quarter. On the first play of the final period, Rochester completed an illegal forward pass and it was the Packers' ball inches from the goal line. Buck punted to Griff and he hit the dirt on the Packers' 40. Following two futile smashes, Norton picked off Smyth's pass and dashed 60 yards for a touchdown. The goal was missed.

TOUCHDOWN BY O'DONNELL

Rochester received the next kick off. Lambeau grabbed off a Rochester pass and once more the procession got underway. Despite a penalty for offside, the Bays moved forward, as the air drive was working like a charm. Finally, O'Donnell picked one of Lambeau's passes out of the air and raced over for touchdown No. 3. Buck added the extra point. Once more, the Bays kicked off. The visitors took a new lease on life. Three or four passes were well executed and the Jeffs pranced down the field. Their drive ended when Smith zipped one to Kellogg for a touchdown and Grigg kicked the goal.

BASING IN LIMELIGHT

The Packers were on the receiving end of the next kickoff. Mathys came back to the forty yard line. Basing cut around end for twelve and Harris added three. Lambeau passed to Basing and Myrt proceeded to reel off 40 yards for a score. The try for goal via a forward pass failed. Woodin kicked off to Smyth who returned to the 28 yard line. Rochester passed for a first down. A pair of passes went up in smoke and the third one was intercepted by Larson on the Bay's thirty-five. Lambeau fed Basing another pass and once again he wormed his way through a broken field for a score. Buck kicked the goal.

ROCHESTER SCORES AGAIN

Rochester took the next kickoff and the visitors began hitting on all eleven. Several well directed passes took them down the field in a hurry and soon they were in the shadow of the Packers' goal posts. The Packers held tight for three downs but, on the final rush, Kellogg wiggled over for a touchdown. Vergara blocked the try for goal. There was only a minute to play after the next kickoff and the Packers played the ball carefully. The whistle piped with the ball in midfield and the scoring orgy was history.

PLAY BY PLAY

FIRST QUARTER

Abramson, of Green Bay, kicked off to Grigg who ran the ball to the 20 yard line but fumbled. Matteo, of Rochester, picked up the ball but was downed on his 35 yard line. Smyth lost two yards on an attempt to circle left end. Grigg made center for 9 yards. Grigg added 5 yards and a first down through the center of the Packer line. Smyth failed at center. Smyth made 5 yards over right tackle. Larson intercepted Smyth's short pass and was downed on the fifty yard line. Lambeau was held at left tackle. Harris smashed left tackle for 8 yards. Harris added four more at center and made a first down. Mathys gained 7 yards through center. Harris gained one yard at right tackle. Norton smashed right tackle for three yards and made first down. Lambeau fumbled and Dooley, Rochester tackle, recovered the ball on his own 22 yard line. Grigg gained 5 yards at left end and added 2 more at center. Grigg was thrown out of bounds for a one yard loss. Lynch punted out of bounds on Green Bay's 25 yard line. Norton failed at right guard. Buck punted to Grigg on Rochester's 40 yard line and on the next play the Bays were penalized 5 yards for offside. Smyth was held at center. On an attempt to penetrate left tackle, Kellogg lost one yard. Hoffman smashed center for a 5 yard gain and it was first down. Hoffman fumbled but he recovered the ball, losing 5 yards. Mathys intercepted the Rochester pass on Green Bay's 40 yard line. Norton was stopped after making 3 yards through right guard. A forward pass from Lambeau to Mathys put the ball on the fifty yard line and it was first down for the Packers. Harris ran the ball out of bounds. Lambeau gained one yard at right tackle. Lambeau passed to Norton who ran out of bounds on Rochester's forty yard line for a first down. Mathys slipped through the center for a 3 yard gain. Norton lost a yard at right guard and the teams changed goals as the quarter ended.

SECOND QUARTER

Norton, on a right end skirt, flashed for fifteen yards and it was first down. Harris smashed left guard for a 3 yard gain. Norton hit left tackle for 2 yards. Harris added one yard at left guard. A forward pass by Mathys was incomplete and the ball was turned over to Rochester. Hoffman gained one yard at center. Kellogg lost three yards on an attempt to circle left end. A forward pass from Hoffman to Kellogg gained five yards. A partially locked punt was grasped by Norton on Rochester's 45 line. Harris took the ball out of bounds. A long pass from Lambeau was incomplete. Lambeau took three yards credit over left guard. Buck punted out of bounds on Rochester's one yard line. Rochester then began a long march down to the Packer goal. Grigg was held at center. Smyth failed to gain at left tackle. Green Bay was penalized five yards for offside. Kellogg gains five yards at left tackle. Woodin, Gardner and Vergara were substituted for Jean, Abramson and Wilkens, respectively, and the game was resumed. Kellogg gained three yards through center. Kellogg repeated with 2 more. Grigg put the ball six yards further toward the Packer line for a first down. Kellogg smashed right tackle for a 5 yard gain. He then gained two more at center. Kellogg ran the ball out of bounds on his own 31 yard line. Lynch gained 15 yards on an end run. Kellogg added 4 yards through center. Hoffman gains 3 at right tackle. Rochester called for a timeout. Kellogg took 5 through center. Kellogg again took the ball for a 4 yard gain. Hoffman added a half yard. Hoffman made first down through left guard. The ball was approaching dangerously near the Packer goal and the Blues were obviously struggling for a rally. Kellogg ran the ball out of bounds on Green Bay's 34 yard line. Grigg went around left end and ran the ball out of bounds on the 31 yard line. The next play was a pass which fell short. Lowery attempted a placekick but the ball slid over to one side and Mathys covered the ball on his own twenty yard line. Buck punted to Grigg on Rochester's 40 yard line. Kellogg gained 4 yards through center. Grigg added 10 yards around left end. A pass was incomplete and the whistle told that the half was over.

SECOND HALF

Woodin kicked to Smyth who stopped at the twenty yard mark. Grigg was held at left tackle. When the Green Bay line rushed the Rochester passes, the latter hurled the ball out into the center of the field to prevent a loss of ground but the referee penalized the visiting squad 15 yards for the act. Grigg gained one yard at center. Lynch punted to Norton on Rochester's 35 yard line and Nortie returned to the 20 mark. Norton gained three yards at right tackle. Norton advanced 1 yard at right tackle, and Rochester was given a penalty of 5 yards for offside. Basing is held for no gain through the line. Basing gained two yards at center. Norton added 2 yards around right end. Mathys tossed a short pass to Norton and the first touchdown was marked

THRILLS GALORE

| Green Bay (33) | (13) Rochester |
|------------------|-----------------|
| O'Donnell l. e. | l. e. Bedford |
| Buck l. t. | l. t. Dooley |
| Abramson l. g. | l. g. Lowery |
| Larson c. | c. Kelley |
| Jean r. g. | r. g. Martineau |
| Earpe r. t. | r. t. Matteo |
| Wilkins r. e. | r. e. Lynch |
| Mathys q. b. | q. b. Grigg |
| Norton l. h. b. | l. h. b. Sheard |
| Lambeau r. h. b. | r. h. b. Smyth |
| Harris f. b. | f. b. Hoffman |

Referee, Hall, St. Paul; Umpire, Harris, Duluth; Head linesman, White, Ripon; Time of periods, 15 minutes; Timers, Abrams, Green Bay, and Lyons; Rochester; Linesmen, O. Lambeau, Green Bay, and Walsh, Rochester.

Score by periods:

| | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|-------|
| Packers | 0 | 0 | 7 | 26—33 |
| Rochester | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13—13 |

Touchdowns: Norton 2, Basing 2, O'Donnell 1, Kellogg 1, Grigg 1. Goals for touchdown, Buck 3, Grigg 1.

Substitutions: Green Bay, Woodin for Abramson, Gardner for Jean, Vergara for Wilkins, Basing for Harris, Harris for Norton, Abramson for Earpe, Jean for Abramson, Argus for Hoffman, Kellogg for Sheard, Clark for Lynch.

CHICAGO BEARS ARE THROWN FOR DEFEAT BY CARDINALS, 9-0

**Akron and Detroit Play 0-0 Tie
Game; Rain Halts Pro League
Frays In East.**

PRO LEAGUE STANDING

| | W. | L. | T. | Pct. |
|---------------|----|----|----|-------|
| Akron | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1.000 |
| Detroit | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1.000 |
| Philadelphia | 6 | 1 | 0 | .857 |
| Green Bay | 5 | 1 | 0 | .833 |
| Chicago Cards | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 |
| Pottsville | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 |
| Rock Island | 2 | 1 | 3 | .667 |
| Chicago Bears | 2 | 2 | 2 | .500 |
| Providence | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 |
| Cleveland | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 |
| Canton | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 |
| Hammond | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 |
| Buffalo | 1 | 2 | 2 | .333 |
| Kansas City | 1 | 3 | 1 | .250 |
| Rochester | 0 | 2 | 1 | .000 |
| Dayton | 0 | 3 | 1 | .000 |
| Milwaukee | 0 | 2 | 0 | .000 |
| Duluth | 0 | 2 | 0 | .000 |
| New York | 0 | 3 | 0 | .000 |
| Columbus | 0 | 4 | 0 | .000 |

Scores of Games

Akron 0, Detroit 0.
Kansas City 3, Rock Island 3.
Cardinals 9, Bears 0.
Packers 33, Rochester 13.
Philadelphia 3, Dayton 0, (Saturday).
Pottsville-Dayton (No game rain).
Canton-Cleveland (No game rain).
New York-Buffalo (No game rain).
Columbus-Providence (No game rain).

up. Buck kicked the goal. Score: Packers 7, Rochester 0. Woodin kicked off to Bedford on Rochester's twenty yard line, and Bedford returned to the thirty. Sheard lost one yard at left end. Grigg forward passed but the ball was knocked down. Another pass was incomplete. Lynch punted to Mathys on his own 30 yard and Charley ran out of bounds on Green Bay's thirty-five. Norton was held at center. Green Bay was penalized five yards for offside on the next play. Norton went around left end for a 7 yard gain. A pass was incomplete and Vergara turned a complete turnover reaching for the ball. Buck punted to Grigg who was down on Rochester's 40 yard line. Smyth was held at left tackle. A forward pass, Smyth to Lynch, made five yards but both sides were said to be offside and the ball was called back.

PASS TO SHEARD

Grigg passed to Sheard who ran out of bounds on Rochester's 43 yard line. Rochester tried to kick. Larson blocked the punt and Vergara fell on the ball on Rochester's twenty yard line. Lambeau smashed center for two yards. Norton gained eight yards on a flashy race around left end for first down. Basing gained two yards at left guard. Norton gained two yards at right end. Basing, on a smash through left guard, gained two yards but a Green Bay man was offside, and the team was penalized five yards for the violation. Basing was held at center. Smyth intercepted Mathys' pass and, with a clear field before him, ran 90 yards down the field. Gardner clung close to his flying heels but was slowly being outdistanced when Smyth tripped and fell on the Packers' five yard line. Gardner, with several other blue sweaters, pinned him to the ground. Grigg lost 2 yards at right end. Kellogg made four yards at left tackle. Argus, substituted halfback, was held at center. The teams changed goals.

FOURTH QUARTER

Grigg tossed a pass just over the scrimmage line but it was ruled illegal and the ball was given to Green Bay on their own 3 yard line. Buck punted to Grigg who was downed on the Bays' forty yard line by a flying tackle by Vergara. A pass incomplete. Kellogg gained a yard at left tackle. Norton intercepted Smyth's pass and raced sixty yards for a touchdown. Some spectacular was done by his teammates. Buck missed the goal and the score was Packers 13, Rochester 0. Woodin kicked off to Kellogg who returned to Rochester's twenty-eight yard line. Sheard gained one yard at left tackle. Lambeau intercepted a forward pass and was held on Rochester's 42 yard line. Curly's pass was incomplete. Green Bay was penalized five yards for offside. Lambeau passed to Mathys and the ball rested on the 40 yard line. Another pass from Lambeau to Vergara made it first down on the 29 yard line. Norton went over right tackle to put the ball on the 15 yard line. Basing was stopped at center. O'Donnell, receiving a pass from Lambeau, raced over for a touchdown to which Buck added a point with a kick. Score: Packers 20, Rochester 0.

HARRIS REPLACED NORTON

Harris went in for Norton. Woodin kicked to Smyth who brought the ball back to the 25 yard line. Pass incomplete. Kellogg hit left tackle for one yard. A forward pass which was hooked out of the air by Bedford made it first down. A pass, Grigg to Kellogg, gained five yards. Another pass was incomplete. A pass, Smyth to Grigg, put the ball on Green Bay's 32 yard line. Kellogg took the ball out of bounds. Smyth's pass to Bedford and the ball rested on the Bays' 20 yard line. On the next play Smyth hurled a fast pass to Kellogg who placed the oval behind the goal line for the first score for the New Yorkers. Grigg succeeded in kicking goal. Score: Packers 20, Rochester 7. Mathys took the ball on the kickoff and returned the ball to the forty yard line. Basing gained 12 yards on a right end run. Harris gained three at center. Lambeau threw a pass to Basing who nearly eluded the pursuers and raced forty yards for a touchdown. Buck chose to pass for the extra point but the toss was short and the score stood. Score: Packers 26, Rochester 7.

BASING RUNS 60 YARDS

Woodin kicked off to Smyth who returned to the 28 yard line. Jean was substituted for Abramson. A forward pass to Bedford put the ball on the local team's 40 yard line. Two passes were incomplete. Larson intercepted Smyth's pass on Green Bay's thirty-five yard line. Lambeau sent a nicely placed pass to Basing who ran 60 yards to another six points. Buck added the seventh and the score was Packers 33, Rochester 7. Woodin's kick was sent to Bedford who stopped by the kicker at the 20 yard line. A forward pass, Smyth to Bedford, put the ball on Green Bay's forty-five yard line. Smyth's next passes were incomplete but the third netted a gain which placed the ball on Green Bay's 25-yard line. On the next play penalized Green Bay five yards. A forward pass, Smyth to Lynch, put the ball on Green Bay's 10 yard line. Clark was substituted for Lynch and the crowd greeted the player who was coming to the bench with loud applause. Kellogg gained three yards at right guard and followed this with a similar play for three more. Kellogg gained one yard at center and smashed over on the next play for a touchdown. Vergara blocked Grigg's kick for goal. Score: Packers 33, Rochester 13. Lowery kicked off to O'Donnell who returned the ball to Green Bay's forty yard line. Basing ran over to one end and caught Lambeau's pass for one yard. Lambeau lost five yards on an attempt to forward pass as the game ended. Score: Packers 33; Rochester 13.

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| ROCHESTER | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | - | 13 |
| GREEN BAY | - | 0 | 0 | 7 | 26 | - | 33 |

SCORING

3RD - GB - Marty Norton, 10-yard pass from Charlie Mathys (Cub Buck kick) GREEN BAY 7-0
4TH - GB - Basing, 60-yard interception return (Buck kick failed) GREEN BAY 13-0
4TH - GB - Dick O'Donnell, 15-yard pass from Curly Lambeau (Buck kick) GREEN BAY 20-0
4TH - ROCH - Bill Kellogg, 20-yard pass from Lou Smyth (Tex Grigg kick) GREEN BAY 20-7
4TH - GB - Myrt Basing, 45-yard pass from Lambeau (Buck pass failed) GREEN BAY 26-7
4TH - GB - Basing, 60-yard pass from Lambeau (Buck kick) GREEN BAY 33-7
4TH - ROCH - Kellogg, 6-yard run (Grigg kick blocked) GREEN BAY 33-13

Cream City Fans Warming Up to Football Skirmish Sunday at Athletic Park

CAL'S COMMENTS

OCT 26 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Here he comes - there he goes. That just about describes the last quarter of Sunday's game to a nicety. The spectators had plenty of thrills sandwiched in those fifteen minutes as there was something doing about every half second on the gridiron...Smyth, the Rochester back, was the target for a lot of joshing from his teammates for the way he flopped on the 5-yard line with a touchdown in sight. Kelly, the big Irish center, claimed Smyth stubbed his toe to save his breath. Anyway, it saved the Bays from being scored on...Norton is one of the fastest backfielders in the league. That was the experience of Lyons, the Rochester manager, after the game. Several of the visiting players declared Marty was just as hard to stop as Benny Boynton, Williams star, who saw service with Buffalo...The Packers blocked splendidly against the Jeffs and the ball carrier was given plenty of protection. On one of Basing's runs, it seemed as if nearly every Bayite was helping make the path. When Marty crossed the goal line, at least five Packers were guarding him...Referee Hall claimed it was the most exciting pro game that he ever handled. According to the St. Paul referee, the scoring spree in the final quarter set a record for the postgraduate game. Hall was willing to bet that he ran about seven miles during the contest...Rochester has a clean-cut aggregation. The visitors from N.Y. played the game for all it was worth but it was clean. Several times the visitors got bad breaks on the decisions but they took their medicine and, after the game, said that they had never got better treatment on the field - and off...The spectators were fair in their applause. When Lynch, the Rochester end, who had played great ball, left the game, the crowd gave him a big hand as he headed for the bench. Lynch told some of the fans that Green Bay was the fairest football city he had ever chased a pigskin in...That drive of the Rochester club in the second quarter was great football. Opening on their one yard line, the Jeffs marched straight down the field. Using a covered attack, the invaders advanced seventy yards before the Big Bay Blues were able to check their progress...The Packers are away from home next Sunday as they will play a game with the Milwaukee Badgers at Athletic park in the Cream City.

BULLETIN

OCT 27 (New York) - Jim Thorpe, veteran Indian halfback and All-American star years ago, was released by New York today, while Charley McGinley, star tackle, has left the team as it conflicted with his coaching duties at a college near Philadelphia. His loss weakens the New York line considerably.

MILWAUKEE SHOWS INTEREST OVER PACKERS' INVASION

OCT 27 (Milwaukee) - The Packers are coming and, as usual, the football followers in Milwaukee are looking forward to Sunday's game at Athletic park when the Badger state champions will mingle with the Badgers, the Milwaukee entry in the NFL. Things are different than in past years but just the same the fans are going out to see the Packers exhibit their gridiron wares. It wasn't so long ago that Milwaukee boasted of a great pro football team but no matter how great it was, the Badgers were never able to whip the team from upstate...**ONLY GAME AT HOME:** This year's Milwaukee team isn't anything to shout about. The Badgers have lost both of their pro league starts but won a creditable game against the Toronto eleven, two days before the club went on the rocks. Boss McGurk wasn't satisfied with the patronage he got here last season so he decided to keep his team on the road with the exception of the one Green Bay game. The Packers always drew big crowds here and the Milwaukee football manager is a second Otto Borchert when it comes to watching the pennies. However, there is a lot of fight left in the Milwaukee club yet. Monday afternoon about 14 of the players donned the moleskins and went through a stiff practice session. This stunt is going to be repeated all week as there are about a half dozen Milwaukee boys on the Badger team and they are not keen about having the Big Bay Blues show 'em up. Red Bryan has taken personal charge of the team and Hank Gillo, he of the educated toe, is helping out in the coaching. Shorty Barr, Clem Neacey, Fritz Roessler and all the others have got down to business, determined to try and put a crimp in the Packers' winning streak...**WANT TO SEE PACKERS:** There is a young army of former Green Bayites living in Milwaukee and they will all be out to the game to see the team that put the Bay on the football map in capital letters perform. The Packers have always had a great football team but those who have seen Lambeau's aggregation in action, claim that the Big Bay Blues of 1925 are just as good as a pro gridiron club as there is in the country. It is the best team that Green Bay has ever boasted of - and that is saying a lot. Louis Nahin, secretary of the Milwaukee ball club, owners of the park where the game is to be staged, is a pretty good advance agent on crowds and the far-seeing Louie is going to have a couple of extra ticket takers on the job this Sunday. This is a sure sign of good business.

STAGE IS SET FOR PLAYOGRAPH BOARD SUNDAY AFTERNOON

OCT 27 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Playograph board will function at Turner Hall Sunday afternoon for the Packer game in Milwaukee. Arrangements have been completed for a special wire between Athletic park, Milwaukee, and Turner hall. The folks at home

will get everything that happens in the Packer-Milwaukee game, hot off the wire. The usual price of admission will be charged and the profits will be turned over to the Green Bay Football corporation. As an extra attraction, the Memphis Entertainers, music masters from the Music Box, have been secured through the courtesy of C.A. Garceau, manager of the Music Box.

PACKERS HAVE SEVEN MORE CONTESTS ON SCHEDULE

OCT 28 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Sunday's game in Milwaukee at Athletic park with the Badgers marks the starting of the second lap of the Packers' schedule and the Big Bay Blues will have to be hitting on all eleven to do as well in the remaining games on the schedule as they did during the first seven. To date, Lambeau's gridders have copped six out of their first seven games and have run up a total of 160 points against 32 for their opponents. This year's machine appears to be the best point getting outfit that Green Bay ever had on the postgraduate gridiron...FACE CARDS NOVEMBER 8: Following Sunday's game in Milwaukee, the Packers will invade Chicago on November 8 for a tilt with the Cardinals. The Driscoll- Anderson combination knocked the Bears off last Sunday and they are just one game behind the Packers in the percentage table. On November 15, the Packers make their final appearance at home. The

Dayton Triangles will be the opposition. This club has never shown here before and it is ranked as good, if not better, than the Rochester eleven who played here last Sunday. Detroit only beat Dayton, 6 to 0, while the mighty Philadelphia Yellowjackets were lucky to squeeze out a 3 to 0 win...PLAY BEARS NOVEMBER 22: Sunday November 22 marks the start of the toughest road trip ever undertaken by a pro league club. The Packers open their sojourn abroad with the nasty Bears in Cubs park, Chicago. Immediately after the game, the Bays hop a rattler for Pottsville, Pa., where they face the Maroons on Thanksgiving Day. This Pottsville team is considered as good as any in the country. Two days after the Pottsville game, November 28, the Green Bay eleven bumps into the Yellowjackets at Philadelphia. The Quakertown aggregation is now third in the table. Following the Philly encounter, the Bays travel to Providence for a tilt with the Steam Rollers, December 6...MILWAUKEE LOADING UP: Every one of the games is a tough gridiron hurdle and the Packers are not over-confident. Reports from the Cream City carry the news that the Badgers are planning to pull a surprise on the Packers and that Manager McGurk intends to have about five new players in his battle front. If Gillo, Barr, Bryan, Neacey and Roessler are given any sort of assistance of the other members of the club, the Big Bay Blues are not going to find the cowskin picking in Otto Borchert's backyard any too easy.

| Big Bay Blues Have Tough Road Ahead; Only One More Fray at Home; Dayton Will Play Here Nov. 15. | | | |
|---|-----|---------------|-----|
| PACKERS RECORD. | | | |
| Packers | 48; | Iron Mountain | 6. |
| Packers | 14; | Hammond | 0. |
| Packers | 14; | Chicago Bears | 10. |
| Packers | 0; | Rock Island | 3. |
| Packers | 31; | Milwaukee | 0. |
| Packers | 20; | Rock Island | 0 |
| Packers | 33; | Rochester | 13 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Packers | 160 | Opponents | 32 |

Big Bay Blues Have Lot of Respect for Gillo, Bryant, Barr, Neacy, Badger Stars

PACKERS NOT OVERCONFIDENT ABOUT MILWAUKEE

OCT 29 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Although weather conditions during the week have been more fit for polar bear hunting than chasing the pigskin, the Packer squad, 16 strong, have been doing their daily dozen at Joannes park in preparation for the Milwaukee game on Sunday. Although the football colony here is inclined to smile when Milwaukee is mentioned, the Packers are not taking things easy because they know that the Badger outfit can cause a lot of trouble if they get working together...MAY CAUSE TROUBLE: One of the Big Bay Blues expressed his feelings about Sunday's game in the following manner: "If Gillo and his crowd can get off on the right foot, they are going to cause a lot of trouble. Shorty Barr isn't the worst passer in the world while Red Bryan and Clem Neacey are a pair of capable receivers. The fans seem to think the Badger game is a setup but I know the fellows on the team are of a different opinion." Over-confidence has beat the best of teams and Captain Lambeau has been keeping his squad going at top speed so that when the whistle blows in Milwaukee on Sunday, every man on the team will be ready to get the jump on the desperate Badgers. The talk around town indicates that quite a number of Green Bayians will make the trip to Milwaukee for Sunday's game. A large section of seats have been reserved for the Packer fans in the grandstand.

BADGERS WORKING OUT

OCT 29 (Milwaukee) - "Beat the Packers or bust." That is the ultimatum that has been issued to the members of the Milwaukee Badgers. Manager McGurk knows that it doesn't pay to have a loser and he laid down the law to his gridders at a meeting on Wednesday morning.

| THIS WEEK'S GAMES | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Saturday | |
| Columbus | at Frankford. |
| Sunday | |
| Green Bay | at Milwaukee. |
| Rock Island | at Chicago (Bears). |
| Duluth | at Chicago (Cardinals). |
| Dayton | at Akron. |
| Columbus | at Pottsville. |
| Cleveland | at New York. |
| Rochester | at Providence. |
| Philadelphia | at Buffalo. |
| Hammond | at Detroit. |

The Badgers realize that they have either got to produce or turn in their uniforms and it is a safe bet that when they face the Northerners on Sunday they will be giving everything they have got and a little bit more besides. Interest in the game is picking up considerably and it begins to look as if there will be a good sized crowd on hand at the only pro football that will be played in Milwaukee this season.

GREEN BAY PACKERS' GAMES WITH MILWAUKEE BADGERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SNAPPY

OCT 30 (Milwaukee) - Since the introduction of professional football in Milwaukee four years ago, the big attraction for the pro fans each year has been the annual battle between the Milwaukee Badgers and the Green Bay Packers. Every one of these games has been a superb gridiron attraction, replete and the Green Bay Packers. Every one of these games has been a superb gridiron attraction, replete with thrill after thrill, and fans have talked about them for

months after the season ended. If a person believes in dope they probably will be of the opinion that this year's game will be one-sided and only a shadow of battles of other years. However, football dope is not nearly as reliable as the predictions of a weatherman and when the Badgers trot out on the gridiron to face the Big Bay Blues, they are more than apt to jolt the championship aspirations of the team from Green Bay...AIM OF MCGURK: It is said around town that about the only reason Manager McGurk has held on to his franchise in the NFL, was with the idea of getting together a team for this game that would be able to slip a win over the Packers, something any of his previous teams have failed to do. Under the guiding hand of Shorty Barr, the Badgers have been going through their practice sessions all week at Athletic park. The game at Green Bay was scouted last week and the close formation plays and delayed line smashes which Rochester used with such success against the Bays will be used by the Milwaukee team. With Hank Gillo carrying the ball as he did in the days of yore and with Mason and Blood, two other clever backfielders, and Shorty Barr at the pilot position, the Badgers' backfield are all set to keep the Packer line on the defensive during the whole afternoon, much the same as did the Jeffs last week...GUARD AGAINST PASSES: In addition to putting a polish on their offense the Cream City team has worked up a special defense which they expect will hold the highly vaunted attack of the Blues. After seeing his charges go through their paces this morning McGurk has expressed the opinion that he has much more chance to realize his ambition than he had since 1922, the year when Robeson, Pollard, etc., were numbered among his stars.

LEAVE ON SATURDAY

OCT 30 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packer squad will engage in a snappy signal drill Saturday morning and then leave for Milwaukee in the afternoon via motor bus. There are a couple of vacant seats on the bus and any of the fans planning on making the trip can travel with the team at a nominal fee. During their stay in Milwaukee, the Green Bay headquarters will be at the Wisconsin hotel. Sunday's game is scheduled to start at 2:15.

PRO FOOTBALL GOSSIP

OCT 30 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - There is joy in the ranks of the Chicago Cardinals as Chris O'Brien & Co. would rather win over the Bears than any other team in the pro wheel. The Bears will have a chance to get even when the teams meet again on Turkey Day...Akron and Detroit are still in the clean slate column. These clubs met on Sunday but it resulted in a no decision argument. The rival elevens played carefully and kept waiting for the breaks which did not materialize...Rock Island added another tie game to its knot column as the Kansas City Cowboys, showing unexpected strength, held the Independents to a 3-3 total. As usual, Rube Ursella negotiated the three points for the Islanders...The Rochester Jeffs took a 33 to 13 licking at the hands of the Green Bay Packers. In the final half, the air was full of forward passes. During the last quarter, the Packers made four touchdowns while the Jeffs got a pair...Philadelphia chalked up another victory in the win column by taking Dayton into camp, 3 to 0. The Triangles played bangup football on the defense and Chamberlain's crew had to hustle to get away with the narrow win...The wet blanket that spread over the Atlantic states on Sunday made football out of the question. The Providence-Columbus, Pottsville-Dayton, New York-Buffalo and Cleveland-Canton gridiron arguments were rained out...Columbus is booked for a tough road this week and Saturday, the Tigers will perform in Frankford against the Yellowjackets while Sunday they mix in Pottsville with the Maroons, one of the strongest clubs in the circuit...The Rochester club sure spends a lot of money with the railroads. Last week, Manager Lyons had his team playing in Green Bay, Wis., and this Sunday the Jeffs will exhibit their gridiron wares in Providence, R.I. Some jump...A switch in the schedule brings Rock Island into Chicago on Sunday for a game with the Bears at the Cubs park. Early this season these teams played a tie. About a thousand rooters will follow the Islanders to the Windy City...Last Sunday's rain cost the Cleveland and Canton teams a pile of Jack as the stage had been set for a capacity crowd. Following the postponement, the managers agreed to play off the encounter on Armistice Day, November 11...Buffalo is hoping to get revenge Sunday on Philadelphia for the rubbing it received at the hands of the Yellowjackets several weeks back. The Koppisch crew has shown plenty of ability in its past several games...The Milwaukee Badgers will play their only home game of the pro league season on Sunday with Green Bay as the visiting team. McGurk's squad wants to get even as the Badger champs knocked them off three weeks ago, 31 to 0...The Kansas City Cowboys have returned home after spending five weeks on the road. The Kaws won one, lost three and tied one while in hostile territory. A week from Sunday, the Cowboys play Duluth in Kansas City...Cleveland will take a crack at the New York Giants on Sunday at the Polo Grounds. Manager Parrot has molded together a likely looking gridiron machine and the Giants will

have to step fast to down the Ohio state squad...The corporation that backed the Pottsville club has turned the franchise over to the players and four members of the squad have assumed the financial responsibility. Dr. Streigel is continuing as the manager...Strassner, who was signed for an end position at Canton, has given his release. The Bulldogs still have to cut another gridded off their payroll in order to conform with the league limit which allows only 16 players...Doc Young, manager of Hammond, sure has unloaded a lot of his stars. Kendrick and Curzon are playing good ball for Buffalo; Ink Williams is with Cleveland while Dunc Annan, Pollard and Gil Falcon perform with Akron...Bill Rooney, Duluth fullback, has been purchased by New York. He is to report immediately. Another one of the Duluth Rooneys joined Rock Island at the start of the season. Cobb Rooney, quarterback, is the only left at home...There are three other sets of brothers playing in the pro league. Pottsville claims the Steins are in a class by themselves; the Bears are proud of the Sternamansm Dutch and Joe, while the Hills, Charley and Harry, are with K.C....Rock Island's football stock jumped a notch or two when Manager George Johnson signed Evar Swanson as a running mate on the other end to Little Twig. Swanson played great football for Milwaukee during the 1924 season...Fritz Pollard, negro back at Akron, is smiling harder than ever these days. Pollard has seen a lot of pro ball but not until recently was he ever able to wiggle through the Canton Bulldogs line for a touchdown...Way back when Buck and Grigg played together on the Canton team. Last Sunday they faced each other in the Green Bay-Rochester game and gave an exhibition that overshadowed the efforts of some of their much younger teammates.

Appearance of Green Bay's Great Football Eleven In Cream City Draws Interest

PACKERS TO FACE BADGERS IN MILWAUKEE ON SUNDAY

OCT 31 (Milwaukee) - Staid old Milwaukee has finally woke up to the fact that there is going to be a pro football game here on Sunday at Athletic park, the home lot of the Brewers, between the Green Bay Packers and the Milwaukee Badgers. The pigskin fracas is scheduled to get underway at 2:15. The gossip you hear in sport circles indicates that down here in Brewers' town they think a lot of the Packers and, at least, about three thousand of the thinking ones will make it a point to take in a game Sunday afternoon...THREE TOUCHDOWN MARGIN: Of course, nobody gives the Badgers a Chinaman's chance to beat Lambeau's mighty team but just the same friends of Hank Gillo, Shorty Barr, Kibo Brumm, Clem Neacy and Red Bryant are nosing around with their hands in their pockets willing to take a wager that the Blues don't go back up north with a three touchdown margin victory. The fact of the matter is that Milwaukee has been engaging in some honest-to-goodness practice. The Badger gang flocked their way to Athletic park every day this week and it is a safe bet that every one of them will know their signals, anyway. According to those on the inside, the Badgers are intending to play a defensive game.

Hank Gillo is going to start at fullback and punts will be his middle name at every opportunity. Of course, the ancient Henry won't pass up any chance to try a field goal if he gets within the Packers' 40-yard line...BARR'S NOSE MENDED: Shorty Barr's busted nose has pretty well mended and he won't have to wear that facial mask which was so prominent when he played with the Badgers against the Packers at the Bay. This means that the plump Mr. Barr will be able to see where he is throwing his forward passes. This will mean trouble for the Packers because Shorty sure can toss 'em while Neacey and Red Bryant are not the worst receivers in the pro league. There is no getting away from the fact that the Packers should be a good drawing card. Wherever football is talked, the names of Buck, Lambeau, Norton and all the rest of the team are frequently mentioned. Some of the Milwaukee curbstone critics are still wondering about last Sunday's game at the Bay. They figure that any team that can score four touchdowns in fifteen minutes of play is well worth seeing...FIELD FROZEN HARD: The playing field at Athletic park should be productive of fast play as it is frozen hard. Nothing less than a midsummer rain storm will make it sloppy going. However, no matter how hard it rains, the rain won't bother the spectators because the grandstand sears are under cover. The Green Bay colony in Milwaukee will be out a hundred percent of the Marquette students from northeastern Wisconsin will be on hand to see the team that has put Wisconsin on the professional football map.

LIDBERG MAY PLAY

OCT 31 (Milwaukee) - Carl Lidberg, plunging fullback, who starred with Minnesota for two years, will in all probability be in the Milwaukee Badger lineup against the Green Bay Blues in the only professional football game offered to Milwaukee fans this year. It will be played at Athletic park Sunday. Lindberg distinguished as a wonderful defensive player last year. Manager McGurk of the Milwaukee pros, realizing the importance of a smart defensive full in any attempt to break up the puzzling aerial attack of Green Bay, which is conceded to be the best in the pro league, is bending every effort to get the Gopher star on the dotted line and Lidberg has wired a tentative acceptance. Festus Tierney, who was unanimously chosen as all-Western guard from the weak Minnesota team of 1921, will also appear with the Badgers. Tierney has played professional ball with Hammond and with the Minneapolis Marines and is conceded to be as strong a guard

as any in the pro circuit. Adrian Baril, an experienced tackle, will go in at tackle in the place of Kibo Brumm and Frank Rydzewski, who was center for Notre Dame when Gipp was starring for Rockne, will be a guard. Rydzewski, who weighs 235 pounds, is a veteran of six season in the pro league, and is universally known and respected. Shorty Barr will be at the pilot position, and with Mason, Gillo, Rooney, Blood, Bryant and Lidberg to alternate in the backfield, he promises to give Green Bay a much tougher argument that he did at Green Bay. Neacy and Roessler, both Milwaukee boys, will hold down the wings and Barney Traynor will perform at center...Lidberg was perhaps the best plunging back in the Western conference last year and the Packers made every effort to sign him to a contract, but due to a misunderstanding the Green Bay team failed. If he plays Sunday, it will be his first appearance on a pro gridiron.

MILWAUKEE TILT ON PLAYOGRAPH BOARD SUNDAY AFTERNOON

OCT 31 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - While activities at the City Stadium will be at a standstill over the weekend, football fans will not be lacking for something to do, especially on Sunday. All of the Green Bay teams will be out of the city but as a substitute for the regular Packer game on Sunday, the management of the Green Bay Football corporation has arranged a play-by-play service of the Green Bay-Milwaukee game along with some additional entertainment which is sure to be appreciated by those who attend. As usual Turner hall will be the scene of the activities. The doors will be opened at 1:00 p.m., and all those who want to obtain comfortable seats are requested to come as early as possible to avoid disappointment. The game will begin about 2:15 and to fill the gap caused by timeouts, etc., something unique will be attempted. Through the courtesy of Manager Garceau of the Music Box, the orchestra and entertainers now appearing at his hall will put on a special entertainment consisting of music, songs, dances and other bits of spicy cabaret entertainment. This in itself should be a worthwhile attraction and when given along with the usual play by play service is certain to prove well worth anyone's time and the limited admission fee. To insure a correct play account the management has arranged with Jimmy Coffeen to be on the sending end and he will by medium of his long experience on the gridiron be able to diagnose the play correctly and quickly so that when the dope is flashed on the board it will be as correct as possible. A trained staff of operators will work the board at Turner hall so that everything should be run off to a queen's taste. The usual admission price of 50 cents will prevail and as stated before all who desire comfortable seats are requested to come early.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Green Bay | | Milwaukee |
| | Left end | |
| O'Donnell | | Neacy |
| | Left tackle | |
| Buck | | Brumm, Oltz |
| | Left guard | |
| Woodin, Jean | | Nadolney |
| | Center | |
| Larson | | Traynor |
| | Right Guard | |
| Gardner, Abramson | | Miller, Neal |
| | Right Tackle | |
| Earp | | Dunningan |
| | Right end | |
| Vergara, Wilkins | | Roessler, Swanson |
| | Quarterback | |
| Mathys | | Barr |
| | Left Half Back | |
| Norton, Lewellen | | Bryant, Delapert |
| | Right Half Back | |
| Lambeau | | Blood |
| | Full Back | |
| Basing, Harris | | Gillo, Mason |
| Time of game, 2:15. | | |

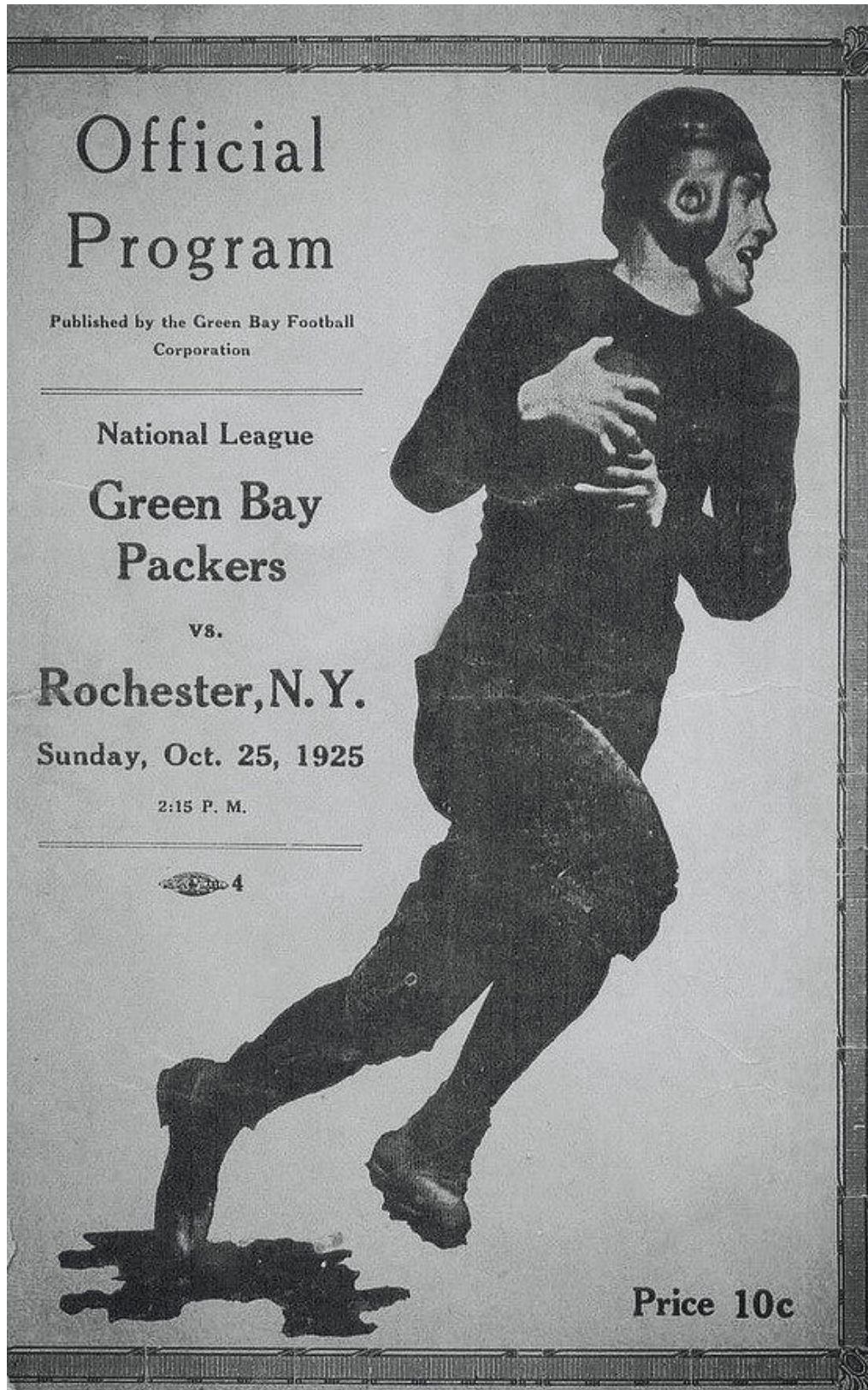
THE ROCHESTER JEFFERSONS

The Rochester Jeffersons from Rochester, New York played from 1898 to 1925, including play in the National Football League from 1920 to 1925. Formed as an amateur outfit by a rag-tag group of Rochester-area teenagers after the turn of the twentieth century (a 1925 report has the team being founded in 1898), the team became known as the Jeffersons in reference to the locale of their playing field on Jefferson Avenue. Around 1908 a teenager by the name of Leo Lyons joined with the club

as a player, and within two years began to manage, finance, and promote the team on a full-time basis. For their first decade of their existence the "Jeffer" played other amateur and semi-pro teams from the upstate New York area such as the Rochester Scalpers and the Oxfords. From 1914 to 1917, the team grew stronger with opponents from Buffalo and Syracuse. In 1916, they were the New York State champions. By 1917, the Jeffer had started to look past state borders not only for big-name opponents, but for big-name talent as well. At the end of October 1917, Lyons managed to secure a match against the country's greatest team, the Canton Bulldogs, who had the legendary Jim Thorpe as their star attraction. Thorpe's squad crushed the Jeffer 41-0, but the audacity of challenging such a superior team to a match won Lyons and his club a bit of notoriety. In 1920, Leo Lyons was at the Hupmobile showroom in Canton, Ohio to become an original member of the newly formed American Professional Football Association, which would be known in two years as the National Football League. The NFL recognizes that 1920 meeting as the founding of the National Football League. As it turned out, Rochester was more interested in its thriving sandlot football circuit than in professional football. The Jeffersons had attempted to recruit some of the countries best college players, but the fans would rather see local boys play, and, by 1922, the Jeffersons' on-field product was enough to annihilate local teams (thus discouraging fans from coming out as blowouts were assured) but, after some initial modest success, not good enough to compete with the rest of the NFL (thus also discouraging fans from coming out as the Jeffersons were almost assured to lose). As a result, the teams attendance suffered badly, with the local semi-pro teams drawing much better. Without a consistent draw at the gate, the team's finances, play on the field and ability to draw star talent likewise suffered, and the team finished

Rochester
Jeffersons

its last four seasons without a single league win. (This was not to say that the team went totally winless in this span; in a 1924 contest, the Jeffersons defeated the Pottsville Maroons of the Anthracite League; the Maroons, the class of their league, moved to the NFL in 1925, when it contended for the NFL title.) After an unsuccessful last-ditch effort to lure Red Grange to Rochester (he instead signed with the Chicago Bears), the team suspended operations after the 1925 NFL season; by this point, the team had been losing money (to the point where Lyons' house had been foreclosed upon because of his dumping of virtually all his assets into the team) and had been a traveling team for two seasons (1924 and 1925). The team remained technically suspended for 1926 and 1927, but allowed its franchise to expire in 1928. Lyons stayed on with the NFL as an unofficial historian after the Jeffersons' folding. (SOURCE: Wikipedia)



THE TOWN THAT HATED PRO FOOTBALL

By Bob Carroll (Professional Football Researchers Association)

Leo Lyons always insisted that Rochester, N.Y., could have been "another Green Bay." The manager of the Rochester Jeffersons during their sad six-year stay in the National Football League (1920-25) believed all his life that his hometown could have duplicated Green Bay's feat of playing successful David to the NFL's metropolitan Goliaths. When pressed, Lyons would temper his faith by adding that Rochester needed only "more time, money, and fans." With all due respect to Leo Lyons, one of the authentic heroes of the league's early years, ANYWHERE could have been "another Green Bay" with enough time, money, and fans. The point is the Wisconsin city came up with the necessities and Rochester didn't. In fact, among the league's foremost lessons in its first half-dozen years was that Rochester was a pro football wasteland. Of course, many small cities failed to make it in the NFL. Muncie, Columbus, Evansville and a dozen others lacked great players, fielded bad teams, and failed to draw. Rochester was something special. The Jeffersons were a terrible team, all right, but they failed to draw flies precisely BECAUSE they had some big stars. To understand that paradox, we need to look at Rochester's football history. In 1908, when Leo Lyons joined the Jeffersons as an enthusiastic 16-year-old end, Rochester virtually brimmed with football activity. Although the university eleven was usually of indifferent quality, fans supported a whole gaggle of sandlot teams like the Jeffs. By far, the biggest game each season was played by the town's two high schools. Huge crowds turned out, betting was rampant, and play was for blood. It came as a shock then in April of 1910, when -- in simultaneous assemblies at the high schools -- the respective principals announced that henceforth the schools would cease playing football. Too many injuries, too much betting, and too much "unseemly conduct!" Deprived of high school football, Rochester grid fans increased their interest in the sandlot teams. 1910 saw a bonanza for the semi-pros. In addition to bigger crowds, the sandlot teams gained player windfalls as many potentially fine high school players joined them. 1910 was also the year that Leo Lyons took over as manager of the Jeffersons. The team responded by winning the local sandlot championship with an 11-0 victory over the Scalpers, another neighborhood eleven. From the start, Lyons poured his heart and soul into the Jeffersons. He was much more than just a player-manager. One job description had him as the team's "travel-agent, ad man, ticket hustler, doctor, road secretary, mentor, marriage counselor, recruiter, and financier." The role of financier was perhaps the most heart-breaking of all, for even though the Jeffs became the town's leading team during the years before World War I, Leo never saw a season when he didn't throw more money into the pot than he took out. The annual games with the Scalpers drew well, of course. Occasionally, other local teams could bring out good crowds, but when outsiders visited the Jeffs, Rochester fans ho-hummed and stayed home. Their interest was primarily parochial. They cared not for good football; they just wanted to watch "their boys." Although many of the locals were quality players -- Bob Argus, "Dutch" Irwin, and Henry McDonald, to name a few -- Lyons had a different vision. He saw the Jeffs becoming a national power, studded with former college stars, and contending with the best pro teams in the country. In 1917, he arranged a game at Canton, Ohio, against Jim Thorpe's Bulldogs, the most famous pro team in the country. It's significant how both sides looked at the game because it shows how far the Jeffs had to go. For the Bulldogs, the game was no more than one of several routine warm-ups before the big games against arch-foe Massillon. The Jeffs were even mislabeled in the Canton press as the "Syracuse 47th Infantry," apparently because some of Lyons' players were in the service and "Syracuse" sounded better at the gate. Either way, it was just another work-out for Thorpe's 'Dogs. For the Jeffersons, it was the most important game they had ever played. Alas! it also became the most one-sided defeat they'd had -- 41-0! Lyons was totally impressed with the Bulldogs and their leader. He later recalled that he "didn't get a hand on Thorpe all day." That was hardly surprising because, according to lineups in the Canton newspapers, Leo didn't actually play in the game. But his point was not how good Leo Lyons was, it was how great Thorpe was. And how much better the Bulldogs were than the Jeffersons. If he wasn't already convinced, Lyons knew from that day on that his team could only be competitive with the big pro teams by importing quality stars instead of relying on local talent. As he left the field at Canton, Lyons fell into conversation with Thorpe. "Jim," he said, "someday this game will draw like professional baseball." A thought struck him. "We should form a league." For Thorpe and anyone else connected with Canton football, the idea was hardly novel. Some folks had been talking league since 1904. But to Lyons, the thought was a revelation, one that he would believe in and work toward all the rest of his life. After the war year of 1918, Lyons began moving his team toward the big time, expanding his schedule and importing a few players. In 1919 he had his strongest Jefferson team to date, easy 20-0 winners in the annual game with the Scalpers. During the summer of 1920, Leo heard they were going to plunge into a league down in Ohio. He couldn't be at the August 20 organizational meeting at Canton when the Bulldogs, Akron, Dayton, and Cleveland laid the foundation, but he sent word he was in all the way and was counted "present by letter." On September 17, when western teams such as Decatur, Hammond, and Rock Island joined the Ohio Quartet at Canton for the get-together the NFL regards as its inaugural meeting, Leo was there, along with Thorpe, George Halas, and the other pioneers. His Jeffs were charter-members of the new American Professional Football Association (the NFL's name until 1922) -- pre-dating Green Bay by a full season.



The 1925 Rochester Jeffersons

For his 1920 team, Lyons recruited eight big college stars, including large Lou Usher of Syracuse and triple-threat Jim Laird of Colgate. But, when he couldn't guarantee that he'd get them all to Canton, Bulldog manager Ralph Hay cancelled a game Lyons had proudly scheduled back in September. The Jeffs won more often than they lost in 1920, but they dropped their only game with a league member -- 17-6 to Buffalo. It was the first of the Jeffs' six straight seasons of losing records against league teams. During the next half-dozen years, Lyons brought in some excellent players to wear red Jefferson jerseys. Ex-Army All-American halfback Elmer Oliphant, former Syracuse center Joe Alexander, and one of the best backs who ever lived, Ben Lee Boynton of Williams were perhaps the most famous, but many other competent pros, famous in their day, were induced to perform for the Jeffs. Yet, Rochester fans remained unimpressed. The more outside stars Lyons packed into his lineup, the fewer fans turned out for his games. At the same time, crowds for the local sandlot teams increased. Clearly, Rochester wanted to cheer for its own. In his heart-of-hearts, Lyons felt the same. As much as he loved stars with big college reputations, his favorite player was an area lineman who never got past fourth grade. Blond Hank Smith could play tackle, guard, or center as well as any star with All-American credentials. Lyons was caught in a bind. He knew he needed outside "name" stars to secure games with other NFL teams. Hank Smith just didn't make it in Chicago. But those same high-priced stars were turning off the local fans. More and more, the Jeffersons became a road team. Curiously, despite some individual heroics, the imported stars tended to hurt the Jeffersons' performance, too. Most of them would not show up until the day of a game. Some of them never appeared at all. As a consequence, team play was impossible. The Jeffersons might have won more often with a well-practiced crew of local players. There were other problems. Near the end of the 1920 season, while an unusual large crowd awaited the kickoff of a Jeffs-Scalpers game, Lyons was confronted with a strike among some of his locals, apparently over the heavy salaries the imports were receiving. Only when local boy Bob Argus stood up and shouted, "There's a big crowd waiting out there and I'm going out and play like hell!" could the team be induced to take the field. Not surprisingly, the final Jeffs-Scalpers game a week later was played -- by agreement -- with locals only. As his team sank into a red deeper than its jerseys, Lyons worked all the harder to turn things around. He even added field maintenance to his other duties: "I used to put lime on the field, raid construction sites for two-by-fours to put up crossbars." Nothing helped. "The thing that used to bother me most," he said later, "was seeing rich people sitting in the complimentary ticket section -- people who could have saved the team with just a little financial support. In the end, I couldn't even give tickets away. "Baseball and boxing were real big, and even those phony wrestlers outdrew us sometimes. One game between the Oxfords and the Russars drew 14,000 people. The players were all local kids, and that's what people wanted to see. Our largest home crowd was 8,000 for a game [but] the average

was 1,200-1,500 at 85 cents a head." Lyons figuratively lost his shirt and literally lost his house while trying to keep the Jeffersons afloat. He made a good living in the paint business, but his heart was in pro football. "I invented a paint for lining highways in the early 1920s, but was so busy hopping around lining up players and opponents that I never got around to getting a patent. Someone else did and made millions." Lyons loved pro football, but it didn't return the affection. In 1925, he made a last-ditch effort to turn the team into a drawing card by offering America's foremost college football star, "Red" Grange, \$5,000 per game. Grange signed with the Chicago Bears instead. Perhaps it was just as well. From the way lesser stars turned off Rochester fans, Grange in a Jefferson jersey might have caused the whole town to move to Poughkeepsie. Ironically, the day Grange signed with the Bears, the Jeffersons played -- and lost -- the final game of their existence. Their all-time NFL record was 2-26-2. Although Rochester was finished with pro football, Lyons wasn't. He still showed up regularly at NFL meetings, always ready to swap stories or talk over old times. Perhaps, at first, he hoped to re-establish the Jefferson franchise, but eventually those meetings became the chief link with the happiest time of his life. Other teams dropped out of the NFL and new owners arrived. Lyons was one of the old guard who could explain what happened when the league was just beginning. As George Halas said, "His loyalty to the NFL never wavered." Eventually, the league recognized him as its "unofficial historian." As an historian, Lyons was understandably limited by his own participation in events. It could make for a one-sided view. One consequence is the Rochester Jeffersons loom much larger in many pro football histories than their record warrants. After all, in six years they managed only two league victories, those against poor Tonawanda and the bedraggled Columbus Panhandles in 1921. Yet, one popular history devotes five pages to the Jeffs, but barely mentions the Providence Steam Roller, the 1928 champions! And, although his memory was exceptional, it was not perfect. Somehow, he "remembered" the league starting at a meeting in Canton in 1919 -- a full year before the traditional date. He remembered it so completely that several respected historical works actually list 1919 as the NFL's first year. Dubious researchers have hunted in vain for any confirmation and have concluded that such a 1919 meeting did not happen. As a matter of fact, contemporary sources prove it COULD NOT have taken place. Lyons had simply -- and quite humanly -- confused some later meetings that he did actually attend. But, on balance, Lyons served well as an historian, keeping alive memories of the league's formative years and aiding many researchers immeasurably. He was a tireless campaigner for the establishment of a Pro Football Hall of Fame and a regular visitor and contributor of memorabilia once the Hall opened. Both before and after his death in 1976, he was nominated for enshrinement in the Hall. If love of pro football, willingness to work, and courage in adversity were the only criteria, he would have been a charter member. But, realistically, it is difficult to identify any real contribution to the game that would set him above a dozen or so other team owners. He was too busy in the hopeless task of trying to sell pro football to Rochester to become a major figure in NFL history. Now, if he had only lived in Green Bay.