



Green Bay Packers (5-5-1) 27, Washington Redskins (4-7) 7 Sunday November 24th 1968 (at Washington)



Packers Throttle Redskins 27-7, Smell Title

Whomp-em

National League Western Conference Central Division

Minnesota	6	5	0	.545	225	174
Green Bay	5	5	1	.500	230	157
Chicago	5	6	0	.455	183	272
Detroit	3	6	2	.333	180	208

Coastal Division

Baltimore	10	1	0	.909	314	117
Los Angeles	9	1	1	.900	241	152
San Francisco	5	5	1	.500	242	248
Atlanta	2	9	0	.182	151	307

Eastern Conference Capitol Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Dallas	9	2	0	.818	346	149
New York	7	4	0	.636	253	224
Washington	4	7	0	.364	194	302
Philadelphia	0	11	0	.000	144	310

Century Division

Cleveland	8	3	0	.727	309	215
St. Louis	6	4	1	.600	250	242
New Orleans	3	7	1	.300	188	261
Pittsburgh	2	8	1	.200	213	325

Sunday's Results

Baltimore 21, Minnesota 9
Cleveland 47, Philadelphia 13
Dallas 34, Chicago 3
Green Bay 27, Washington 7
Los Angeles 24, New York 21
New Orleans 20, Detroit 20, tie
San Francisco 45, Pittsburgh 28
St. Louis 17, Atlanta 12

Thursday's Games

Philadelphia at Detroit
Washington at Dallas

Sunday's Games

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

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(WASHINGTON) - As the sportscasters have a penchant for proclaiming in the wake of a timely touchdown or heroic home run, "...now it's a brand new ball game." And so it is, in a delightfully broader sense, for the renascent Packers, oft interred by the nation's pro football pundits in recent weeks with pontifical relish. The sepulchral pall lifted here Sunday as the reigning world champions brushed aside the Washington Redskins, 27-7, in majestic D. C. Stadium to suddenly find themselves in major contention for an unprecedented fourth straight NFL title. Before the afternoon was over, they had leaped to within a half game of the Central Division-leading Vikings with the involuntary cooperation of their longtime antagonists, the Colts, who derailed the Minnesotans in neighboring Baltimore, 21-9.

MUST WIN THREE

True, their fate still is not entirely in their hands. But, with the Bears and Lions all but eliminated from the race, they now can capture the Central crown by winning their last three assignments - against the 49ers, Colts and Bears - if the Vikings (6-5-0) lose just one of theirs - against the Rams, 49ers and Eagles. Although the Packers (5-5-1) hardly are assured of a season-ending sweep, there was the suggestion they are beginning to acquire a championship edge in the manner with which they dispatched the Redskins, vociferously booed when they took the field and with boisterous frequency throughout the afternoon by a capacity gathering of 50,621. The second straight victory for the green and gold, who now have won two in a row for the first time in this somewhat unpredictable season, it was engineered with surgical precision by old pro Zeke Bratkowski in the absence of the injured Bart Starr.

COMPLETED FIRST EIGHT

The 37-year-old Bratkowski, who completed the first 8 passes he threw, connecting on 18 of 24 attempts to seven different receivers for 230 yards and one touchdown. He was materially aided in this project by flawless protection from the offensive line - Bob Skoronski, Gale Gillingham, Ken Bowman, Jerry Kramer and Forrest Gregg-which kept The Brat's jersey unsullied throughout the afternoon. Along the way, the Packers exhibited their once familiar take-charge, ball control approach, driving 55 and 80 yards to erect a 14-0 lead the first two times they acquired possession. Part and parcel of this prosperous getaway, which saw Donny Anderson and Elijah Pitts cap those excursions with successive 1-yard TD smashes, was a happy blend of the champions' ground and air weapons. With come backing Jim Grabowski again leading the charge, the Packers amassed 158 yards rushing to complement Bratkowski's admirable accuracy. The Bays' leading ground gainer for the third straight week, Grabowski contributed 56 yards in 16 carries, and Anderson 40

in 13 in addition to a dazzling 47-yard pass and run collaboration with Bratkowski for the Packers' third touchdown in the third quarter.

MERCER KICKS TWO

Mike Mercer completed the day's point production, rebounding from a 27-yard field goal miss in the opening period to connect from the 29 and the 27 in the fourth quarter. The Packers also lost a touchdown in the closing seconds when Doug Hart's 51-yard runback of an interception was nullified by a holding penalty. While the offense was fashioning one of its more successful performances, the defense was containing the Redskins' attack, generated by the highly regarded Sonny Jurgensen, with a minimum of inconvenience and embarrassment.

AWKWARD MOMENT

The defenders' only awkward moment came late in the second quarter when Otto Graham's much maligned warriors drove 80 yards in 17 plays - with the aid of a 15-yard face mask assessment on the Packers - to avert a shutout. The score, ironically enough, was registered by former University of Wisconsin luminary Pat Richter, who gathered in Jurgensen's 2-yard pitch in the right corner of the Green Bay

end zone with only 57 seconds remaining in the first half. Overall, the niggardly invaders restricted the Redskins to a mere 167 yards, including just 33 rushing, thus holding the enemy under a net of 200 for the second straight week.

GREEN BAY - 7 7 10 3 - 27
WASHINGTON - 0 7 0 0 - 7

	<u>GREEN BAY</u>	<u>WASHINGTON</u>
First downs	23	13
Rush-yards-TDs	47-158-2	19-33-0
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	18-24-230-1-2	18-29-164-1-0
Sacked-yards	0-0	3-30
Net pass yards	230	134
Total yards	388	167
Fumbles-lost	1-1	5-3
Turnovers	3	3
Penalties-yards	10-116	6-55

SCORING

1st - GB - Anderson, 1-yard run (Mercer kick) GREEN BAY 7-0

2nd - GB - Pitts, 1-yard run (Mercer kick) GREEN BAY 14-0

2nd - WA - Pat Richter, 2-yd pass from Sonny Jurgensen (Charlie Gogolak kick) GREEN BAY 14-7

3rd - GB - Anderson, 47-yard pass from Bratkowski (Mercer kick) GREEN BAY 21-7

3rd - GB - Mercer, 29-yard field goal GREEN BAY 24-7

4th - GB - Mercer, 27-yard field goal GREEN BAY 27-7

RUSHING

GREEN BAY - Jim Grabowski 16-56, Donny Anderson 13-40 1 TD, Elijah Pitts 8-26 1 TD, Chuck Mercein 5-24, Travis Williams 4-6, Zeke Bratkowski 1-6

WASHINGTON - Bob Brunet 8-29, Gerry Allen 7-15, Pete Larson 3-(-5), Sonny Jurgensen 1-(-6)

PASSING

GREEN BAY - Zeke Bratkowski 24-13-230 1 TD 2 INT

WASHINGTON - Sonny Jurgensen 29-18-164 1 TD

RECEIVING

GREEN BAY - Marv Fleming 5-59, Boyd Dowler 5-50, Donny Anderson 3-72 1 TD, Jim Grabowski 2-20, Carroll Dale 1-12, Chuck Mercein 1-9, Elijah Pitts 1-8

WASHINGTON - Charley Taylor 5-51, Pat Richter 4-30 1 TD, Gerry Allen 3-21, Jerry Smith 2-37, Pete Larson 2-22, Bob Brunet 2-3

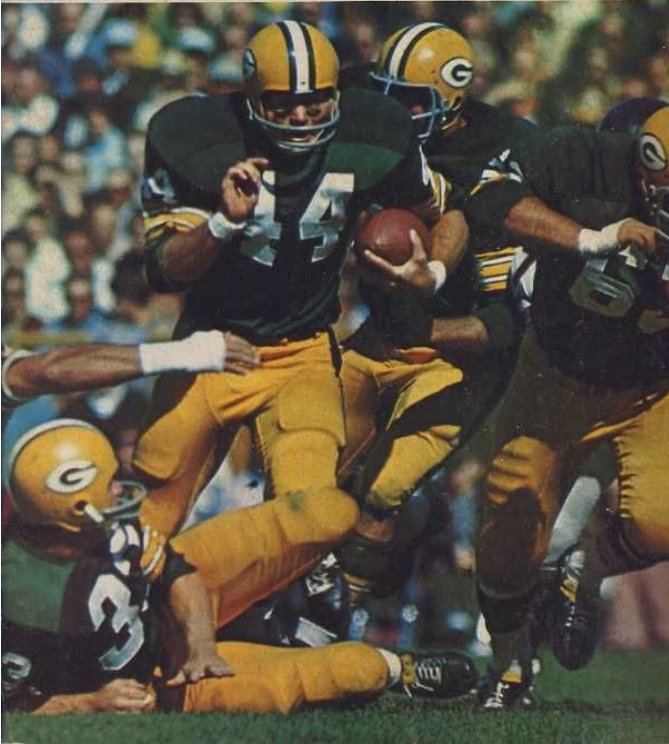
Bengtson Agrees Packers Back in Race; Lauds Zeke, Marv, Mercein

BENGTSON AGREES PACKERS BACK IN RACE; LAUDS ZEKE, MARV, MERCEIN

NOV 25 (Washington-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – What a difference a fortnight can make. Two weeks ago, in a somber Packer dressing room at Minneapolis-St. Paul, Coach Phil Bengtson, candidly admitted, "I guess you'd have to say we're a long way out." The defending world champions, who had just yielded a 14-10 decision to the Minnesota Vikings, were then 11½ games out with five to play and his unhappy assessment was justified. Sunday afternoon, in the Packers' commodious quarters beneath D. C. Stadium, it was a sharply contrasting scene...PRAISES ZEKE: While his athletes showered and dressed in a light-hearted atmosphere a few feet away, following their 27-7 conquest of the Redskins, Bengtson exhibited a slight smile as a Washington scribe ventured, "It looks like you're back in the race." Aware that the key Colt-Viking game in Baltimore was not yet over, although the Hosses were firmly in front, the Packers' field leader contented himself with voicing accord. "It looks that way," he was pleased to agree. On another happy subject, Bengtson commended the performance of quarterback Zeke Bratkowski, the venerable Illinois native who stepped in with masterful aplomb for injured Bart Starr. "He did very well, very well," Phil said. "He was throwing well (18 completions in 24 attempts for 230 yards) and I thought he ran the game real well." Commenting on Starr's status, he reported, "We made the final determination as Bart warmed up before the game." Asked if Mr. Quarterback could have played, Bengtson said, "Well, you never know. He wasn't feeling very good (he has been troubled by bruised ribs since the New Orleans game a week ago). "It's one of those things. He might have gone in and played

REDSKINS VS PACKERS

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the whole game without any trouble, or he might have aggravated the injury early in the game...An extra week's rest on an injury of that type is helpful."...MARV USED SIZE: The Packers' success in throwing to tight end Marv Fleming, who caught 5 passes for 59 yards, was not unexpected, Bengtson also revealed. "It was in the game plan," he said. "Of course, Marv made a couple of great catches. In fact, one of them was fantastic. Their overall defense indicated he would be the open receiver. "Fleming used his size to good advantage," Phil added, "on a couple of 'em." Fullback Chuck Mercein likewise had been employed early and with good success, it was noted. Bengtson nodded agreement and observed, "He's a determined, hard working guy. I'm never scared to put him in there." Assessing the Packers' performance as a whole, he said, "We played a perfect first quarter - we didn't have a punt and they didn't have a first down." Then things started to happen. We were getting penalties, both on offense and defense, that hampered us. I'm not complaining about the calls - what I'm saying is we stopped ourselves." He subsequently noted, "We thought we could run wide a little better than we did." Had they tried "anything different" against the enemy? "As I mentioned, we did run outside a little, but not too successfully. The rest of it was pretty much our regular attack." How had he seen Mike Mercer's miss of a 27-yard field goal attempt in the second quarter? "I'm sure it was low," he said. "He needed the little relaxation of making one."

'BIG STATISTIC WAS WIN:' BRATKOWSKI

NOV 25 (Washington-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Zeke Bratkowski, one of sport's premier gentlemen, accepted all accolades with

impressive humility and selflessness here Sunday afternoon. The architect of the Packers' 27-7 victory over the Washington Redskins played down his slightly spectacular passing performance as he quietly slipped into a white shirt in front of his locker. "The big thing," he assured, "was to get the win - that was the important statistic." There could be no quarrel with his evaluation, of course, since the triumph - coupled with the Colts' companion 21-9 victory over the Minnesota Vikings - lifted the Packers to within a half game of the NFL's Central Division lead. Informed he had completed 8 consecutive passes at one point, Bratkowski soberly rejoined, "I wasn't aware of it...We were interested in points." "I had great pass protection," he added by way of explanation of his success, with evident sincerity. It was just beautiful - I really mean that. They did a great job." Had he known all week he was going to start at quarterback in place of Bart Starr? "I didn't know from the beginning but, as the week went along, it became pretty apparent that Bart might not be able to play," the Brat replied. Discussing his success in hitting tight end Marv Fleming, Bratkowski explained, "They used a lot of zone defense, which leaves the tight end a lot of areas. And Marvin did a great job of getting open. "Once he jumped up among three men to make a catch... He has fine hands - he's a great athlete. That also was a great effort by Donny Anderson on that one play (a 47-yard pass and run for a touchdown)." "I'm kind of anxious," Zeke confessed, "to see it (on film). I saw Donny catch, but then I was screened by other players. Then I saw him again going down to the end zone." Chided about a pass he had fired out of bounds in the fourth quarter, Bratkowski displayed a sly smile and quipped, "Bart was open."

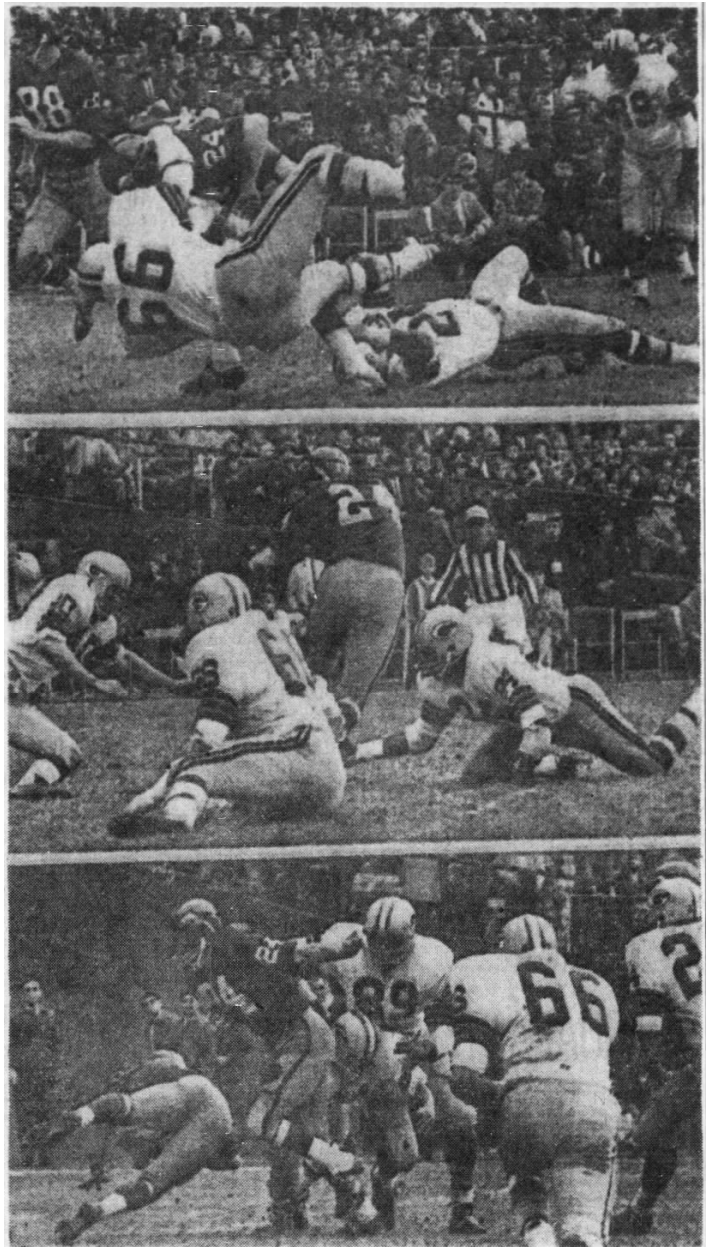
RACE TIGHTENS AS VIKES LOSE, 21-9

NOV 25 (Baltimore-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "We're still in first place, aren't we? That's a nice place to be." Minnesota Viking Coach Bud Grant wasn't being sarcastic. On the contrary, there was a lilt in his voice, a wrinkle of a smile on his lips and a sparkle in his eyes. This despite the fact that his Norsemen had just been dealt a 21-9 defeat by the Baltimore Colts, a defeat that chopped a full game off their lead in the NFL's wild Central Division race. But then Grant indicated this was nothing new, declaring, "It's been tight all the way." Now, however, only a half game...that painful tie at Detroit...separates the Packers (5-5-1) from the Grantmen (6-5) and with three games remaining, the chase is practically dead even...practically, as the Vikings strategist said...LOST TO BEST TEAM: Perhaps Grant did not appear particularly dismayed because his Vikings had lost to what he considers the best team in pro football. "If there is a weakness on that ball club, I'd like to know what it is," he said of the Coastal Division leaders, now 10-1. The crowd of 60,238 spectators, including vice president-elect Spiro Agnew, a devout Colt follower, might have been asking the same thing on this almost balmy Maryland day. For the first half there plainly was no weakness as Earl Morrall, behind an offensive line that practically stole the show from the more glamorous gridders, fired two touchdowns passes and set up a third score to pace the Colts to a 21-0 lead...PREVENT SHUT OUT: In the second half, two Interceptions and a fumble foiled the Colts' attack but the defense took over to thwart the frustrated Vikings on the 1-yard line and hold the Minnesotans to just two more Cox field goals. Perhaps the Vikings had some sort of inkling of what kind of day it was to be when a portion of the team came down with a bad case of flu on Friday. And the most seriously afflicted was quarterback Joe Kapp, who did not practice Friday or Saturday and who could not even eat his pre-game meal with the team. Kapp lasted until midway in the second period and then could not go on any 'longer. In addition, the Vikings' headquarters in Baltimore was the Holiday Inn

Downtown, which also was hosting the Potomac Afghan Hound Society, and the barking was enough to wake up Sleeping Beauty Saturday night...PLAYING CATCH UP: But, more important, on the fourth play of the game, Kapp rifled a pass down the middle to Tom Hall, who had nothing but pasture in front of him. But the ball bounded out of his hands. That could have put the conservative-minded Vikes ahead. Instead, they soon found themselves playing catchup...something they don't play very well. Then there was the way Bubba Smith almost kayoed Bill Brown, decking the hard-hitting Vike fullback for a two yard loss with only a forearm blow. And even Grant got in on the act when Colt fullback Terry Cole plowed into him on the sidelines and plastered the Minnesota coach up against his own bench. Yes, it was that kind of day for the Vikings. But as Grant acknowledged, "We were flat...but many times the other team makes you flat." The flattest of all was Viking left cornerback Earsell Mackbee. Largely because Willie Richardson was leaving Mackbee in the third row of seats. Morrall rang up a spectacular first half, connecting on 13 of 17 attempts for 225 yards...MACKBEE SLIPPED: After Lou Michaels missed a field goal try from the 29 on the Colts' first drive, Morrall hit Richardson on a 52-yard toss to the Viking 3. Mackbee, trying desperately to catch the fleet Richardson, slipped and Willie was wide open. That led to a 1-yard plunge for the first touchdown by rookie Cole, playing exceedingly well in place of injured Jerry Hill. A Morrall-to-Richardson pass covered 39 yards minutes later for another Colt touchdown. It was in Mackbee's area, only Mackbee wasn't there. The third touchdown drive, 80-yards, included another Morrall-Richardson hookup but the payoff was an 18-yard pitch to Tom Mitchell. It came off a double tight end formation and Mitchell, inserted for Richardson, scooted right past Mackbee into the wide open spaces to make it look horribly easy. All this while, the Colt front line was seriously damaging the lately acquired reputation of the Minnesota defense by letting Morrall have all the time he wanted. Center Bill Curry, the former Packer, described how well his mates, guards Dan Sullivan and Glenn Ressler and tackles Bob Vogel and Sam Ball were playing. "All I'm supposed to do is help those guys out and I don't think I had anything to do except on three or four plays," he said. Viking defensive end Jim Marshall, who last week said the most fun he and his mates have is "meeting at the quarterback," thought he'd like to see the movies before making any comments, though the Vikes did get to Morrell in the second half. And what the offensive line did in the first half, the defense did in the second half, stopping the Vikings without a touchdown. The Colts have not surrendered a touchdown in two games now and have allowed only two in their last five games. Mackbee, who opined "I've had better days," did manage to intercept a pass tipped right into his hands to set up the second Viking field goal. With Gary Cuozzo directing the attack in his first appearance in seven weeks after a broken collar bone, the Vikes moved to the Colt 30 and Cox connected from the 37 with only four minutes gone in the second half. Then Ed Sharockman intercepted a Morrall pass to stop the Colts on the Minnesota 18 and Cuozzo, passing well, took the Vikes to the 24 before the Baltimore defense stiffened. Cox kicked a 31-yarder on the second play of the last period. Carl Eller recovered a Morrall fumble at the Colt 24 a mere two minutes later and Minnesota, just after the final Packer score was announced, appeared aroused. Cuozzo hit Brown on the 10. Brown bashed to the nine and Cuozzo passed to Jim Beasley on the 1. On third down, Brown crashed into the line but linebacker Denny Gaubatz met him squarely and rocked him back. On fourth down, Brown leaped at the same place but a mountain of Colts caught him in mid-leap and threw him back. "We just put our nose right in the ground and nobody was going to move us out...not even by double teaming," Bubba Smith said. He added that the Colts knew Brown liked to leap at that spot and had worked on stopping it all week.

'DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT THROUGH,' ANDY

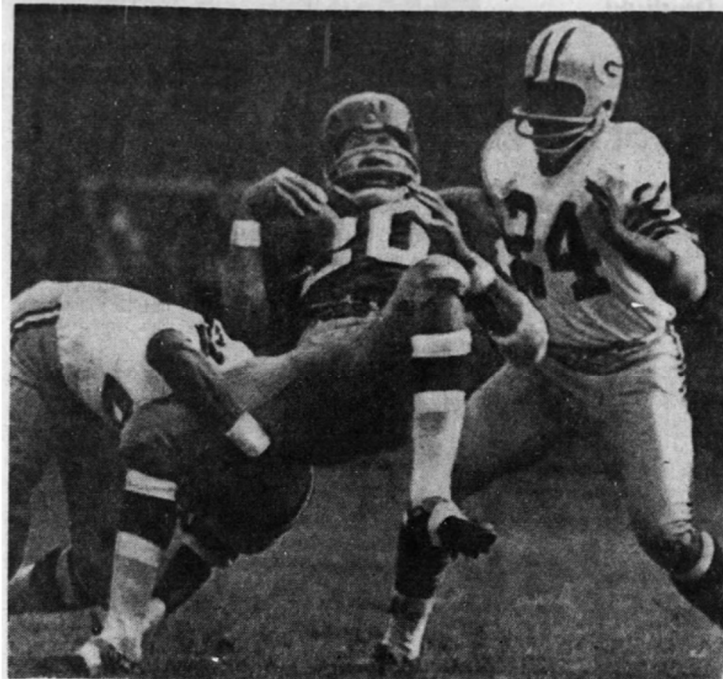
NOV 25 (Washington-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – "He went for the ball and he missed." Donny Anderson was matter-of-factly reconstructing the "play of the game" in the Packers' 29-7 triumph over the Washington Redskins' here Sunday afternoon-his 47-yard scoring excursion with a Zeke Bratkowski pass. "I came out and he (linebacker Chris Hanburger) just stood there," the Golden Palomino



Redskin Back Pete Larson (24) broke loose from Green Bay defenders and rambled 18 yards to the Packers' 3-yard line, setting up Washington's only touchdown in the second quarter of Sunday's game in Washington, D.C. In the top photo, Packers Ray Nitschke (66) and Willie Wood (24) tried to bring Larson down, but Larson broke away (middle photo) and was finally brought down (bottom) as a teammate threw a futile block at Green Bay tackler Bob Jeter.



Packer Fullback Jim Grabowski (33) is dragged down by the Washington Redskins' Jim Carroll (60) after a 14-yard gain in the first quarter in their game at Washington, D.C. Sunday. Carl Kammerer (66) moves in to help. Grabowski carried 16 times for 56 yards as the Packers won, 27-7. (AP Wirephoto)



Washington's Gerry Allen (20) picked up a first down before he wound up in this non-mobile situation Sunday in a National Football League game against Green Bay. The Packers' Bob Jeter (21) and Willie Wood (24) made the stop.

reported. "Then I scooted and Zeke threw." "Hanburger was in front of me and I thought it was going to be intercepted," Donny smiled. "He went for the ball and he missed. That is, he might have touched it, but just barely. (Hanburger, in the Redskin dressing room, agreed. "I just barely touched it - I just got a fingernail on the ball," he confided. "Maybe I made the wrong decision," the Redskin linebacker said, adding, "He made a very nice run.") "After I caught the ball, I saw two guys on my left and one on the right. I don't know how I got through them - I think I spun around inside." Another pass receiving hero, Marv Fleming, explained his aggressive after-the-catch surge for extra yards with simplicity. "We have a chance to go all the way," he said, 'so whenever I get a chance to make a big play I try to make it. I'm only part of a team, but when my turn comes, I want to do the job." Commenting on the 15-yard catch-and-run which triggered the Packers' second touchdown, Fleming reported, "It was a turn-in. I saw one back, and realizing he was smaller than I am, I tried to run over him. By the time I hit him, though, somebody else got me. I wanted to go for the TD." On the other side of the coin, cornerback Herb Adderley indicated the world champions had been only a split second removed from a shutout. Reviewing Sonny Jurgensen's second quarter touchdown pass to Pat Richter, he informed, "I followed Smith (Jerry) for three steps on the play and I saw what was happening. I tried to get back to help Willie (Wood) but couldn't quite make it...JURGY IMPRESSIVE: "Playing against Jurgensen, you've got to be right tight on the receivers if you hope to break up a pass. He really impressed me. He has a quick release and he seldom overthrows or underthrows a receiver. If he does, it's probably intentional." Describing his bittersweet "touchdown," a 51-yard sortie with a fourth quarter interception that was recalled, Doug Hart related, "It was a short turn-in. LeeRoy (Caffey) hit him just as he turned in-it's a defensive tactic we use to throw the passer off rhythm. But the official decided to call it this time." "Jurgensen released the ball as the receiver turned in and all I did was sort of step up where the receiver was supposed to be." Chuckling over his 9-yard run with a fumble in the fourth quarter, Willie Davis quipped, "I needed a little more daylight...I was just going to get going. Then I saw a crowd coming and I said to myself, 'I'd better hold on to the ball here.'"

PACK'S POISE MADE DIFFERENCE: OTTO

NOV 25 (Washington-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The customarily voluble Otto Graham was a man of relatively few words here late Sunday afternoon. "It was just as we expected," he said of the Packers' 27-7 victory over his Washington Redskins. "They just played good solid, sound professional football. "I think we were ready to play," Otto added, "but we had the jitters at first. We made too many mistakes." "The big difference," said Graham, widely and vocally criticized in the nation's capital, for the skins' 4-7 record, "was poise -- their poise." On another matter, he said he had wanted to give quarterback Sonny Jurgensen, still hampered somewhat by chest injuries "the experience of playing a full game against the Packers." Touching upon Donny Anderson's 47-yard excursion with a Zeke Bratkowski pass in the third quarter for the Packers' getaway score, Graham said, "Martin (defensive back Aaron) missed a tackle on that one." The Hall of Fame quarterback declared, "If we hoped to win today the defenders would have to do a good job, and we didn't." Elsewhere in the Redskin dressing room, a disappointed Badger Pat Richter said "There's not much I can say." Richter, who scored the Skins' only touchdown on a 2-yard pass from Jurgensen, summed up, "They didn't surprise us."

VANDERSEA MISSES; SKINS FANS VOCAL

NOV 25 (Washington-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers had only 39 men in battle dress, one less than the league limit, against the Redskins here Sunday afternoon. Defensive end Phil Vandersea, who sprained an arch in practice Friday, did not suit up...Washington football fans rival those of neighboring Baltimore in vocal velocity, if not in partisanship. They booed every member of the Redskin defensive platoon except tackle Joe Rutgens and linebacker Chris Hanburger, their select favorites, with impartial vigor.

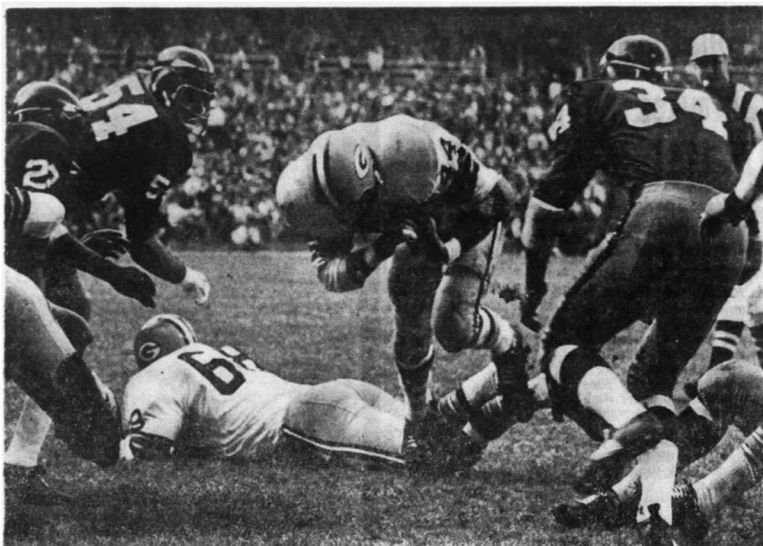
Cornerback Rickie Harris, twice beaten on post patterns for touchdowns by the Dallas Cowboys' Lance Rentzel a week earlier, was the primary target of their displeasure...Surprisingly enough, there was some support for Redskin Coach Otto Graham, who has been under heavy fire. Before the game, a sign suspended from the mezzanine proclaimed, Keep Otto! 'Skins Gotta Go.'... The Redskin "faithful" apparently have strong likes as well as dislikes. Sam Huff, former Washington linebacker, was tendered a long and lusty salute when he was introduced during Redskin "Alumni Day" festivities between halves. The ceremonies were climaxed by presentation of National Pro Football Hall of Fame plaques to Redskin immortals Cliff Battles and Wayne Millner...There was one ironic touch to the proceedings. Bart Starr, who was withheld because of bruised ribs, was swamped by autograph seekers as he wended his way to the Packers' airport-bound bus after the game. Meanwhile, Zeke Bratkowski, who had completed 18 of 24 passes in engineering the Packers' 27-7 victory over the Redskins, stood talking quietly with a few friends just five yards away...Gene Skoronski, brother of the Packers' Bob Skoronski, was still effervescing over Saturday's Harvard-Yale game as he visited with the world champions' offensive captain in the dressing room before the game. Their younger brother, Ted, held forth at center for the Crimson in the Cambridge contest which saw Harvard forge a dramatic 29-29 tie on the final play of the game. The Skoronskis' mother also was here for Sunday's game from Connecticut, along with her oldest son, Frank, a former University of Indiana football player. Also in the stands was Mrs. Thomas Mercein, who came in from New York to see her son, Packer fullback Chuck Mercein, in action... The national government was "represented" by Vice President Hubert Humphrey, who was a guest in the box of Redskin President Edward Bennett Williams along with Mrs. Humphrey...The Packers awarded two game balls, one to Defensive Capt. Willie Davis, who once felled Redskin quarterback Sonny Jurgensen for losses on two consecutive plays, and the other to Zeke Bratkowski.

PACK PASS PROTECTION BEST SINCE MID-1967

NOV 26 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Phil Bengtson, presently gearing the Packers for another title drive, today had at least one salient reason to take heart. The world champions' tall, dark-eyed field leader came away from Monday's weekly film study with mixed and contrasting conclusions of the Packers' performance in their 27-7 decision of the Washington Redskins, which is not altogether unusual. But the most significant of these was considering what it may suggest for the stretch run. "Our pass protection," he said, "was excellent. They didn't blitz an awful lot, but enough, and we picked up the blitzes well."...ONLY TRAP NULLIFIED: A subsequent check of the records documents his assessment of the protection accorded quarterback Zeke Bratkowski, en route to a dazzling 18-for-24 passing day, by such as Bob Skoronski, Gale Gillingham, Ken Bowman, Jerry Kramer and Forrest Gregg. It was the first time since Oct. 30, 1967, when the Packers wheeled past the Cardinals in St. Louis with the aid of 93-yard kickoff runback by Travis Williams, that a Green Bay quarterback has escaped unscathed. Actually, The Brat was felled once attempting to pass but the Redskins were detected offside and the play was nullified. Thus, the Packer protectors officially did not permit the enemy a quarterback trap...TWO IN 1966: Just how rare an achievement this is was underscored by a further venture into recent Packer history. It was only the second such effort since 1966, the other having occurred Sept. 24, 1967, in the Bays' 13-10 victory over the Bears here. Only two perfect performances also were recorded in '66 - against the Browns in Cleveland on Sept. 18 and against the Lions in Detroit Oct. 30. On other impressions gleaned in the projection room, Bengtson reported:

- "We had some plays that should have gone for more yardage."
- "We stopped so many of our drives with penalties (10 for 116 yards) and we kept some of their drives going with penalties on defense."
- "I thought Zeke did a good job of running the club ... and his timing was good. He had good rhythm."

Elaborating on his first point, Bengtson observed, "I thought that, with just a little bit better blocking on certain plays, we would have gone for a lot more yardage." In this connection, he noted, "Grabo (fullback Jim Grabowski) is running much better and Pitts (Elijah) made a couple good runs. Donny Anderson also made a fine run for the touchdown after catching the pass from Zeke." Asked if he could advance any explanation for the penalties, Bengtson said, "Part of it – on the illegal procedure and motion penalties - is not getting off the ball together. Our rhythm was off."...CARR SHOWED SPEED: On another subject, a discussion of the younger Packers contributions in the closing minutes, the rangy headmaster pointed out, "Carr (rookie linebacker Fred) showed his speed and recovered a fumble." The first reference was to Carr's attempted escort of Doug Hart on his "scoring" runback of an interception in the final minute. "Freddie (6-5 and 240) was catching Doug, who is pretty fast," Phil informed with a somewhat sly smile. "In the film, he was called back." "It's too bad," he said in sympathy for Hart, "that one was called back."...JURGENSEN IMPRESSIVE: Touching upon the defense, Bengtson said, "I thought it did a pretty good job. We had a good rush on Jurgensen (Sonny) and good coverage. Jurgensen is a great passer. He can really throw-on the move and in the pocket. It's the first time we've seen him in some years and I was very much impressed. And Smith (Jerry) is a fine receiver. And so is Taylor (Charley), although Taylor didn't catch too many passes until late in the game." Turning to the now tight two-team race with the Vikings for the NFL's Central Division championship, which now finds the Packers a mere half game back with three to play, Bengtson noted that the Rams' come-from-behind victory over the Giants last Sunday could be a factor in their



The Packers' Donny Anderson crashes over for a second-quarter touchdown against Washington Sun- day. Redskin defenders include Tom Roussel (54) and Jim Smith (34). (AP Photo)

invasion of Minnesota this weekend...**STRONG INCENTIVE:** "The Rams having won," he said, "means they still have a strong incentive." The Angelenos also are only a half game back of the Baltimore Colts-in the Coastal Division. Only too well aware the Packers must win their three remaining assignments if they hope to figure in the title picture, Bengtson admitted the 49ers, Colts and Bears constitute a formidable parlay. "The 49ers and Baltimore," he said, "are as tough as any team we've played all year." "Our main concern now is San Francisco, which may be the most improved team in the league...The 49ers are moving fast. They tied the Rams last week and really blitzed the Steelers Sunday." "The challenge is there for us to win," Bengtson concluded. "The question is whether the men can rise to the challenge."

COLTS APPEAR TO BE REINCARNATION OF 1961-1962 PACKERS

NOV 26 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The jerseys were blue...they should have been green. The pants were

white...they should have been gold. The helmets were white with a blue horseshoe insignia...they should have been gold with a green G insignia. The names were Morrall and Matte, Cole and Mackey, Smith and Miller, Richardson and Curry, Gaubatz and Curtis, Lyles and Volk, Sullivan and Ressler. They were the Baltimore Colts but they appeared to be a reincarnation of the Green Bay Packers, vintage '61-62. The names could have been Starr and Hornung, Taylor and Ron Kramer, Davis and Jordan, Dowler and Ringo, Nitschke and Currie, Whittenton and Wood, Kramer and Thurston. Baltimore looked that good in ditching the Minnesota Vikings Sunday. Based on the record...the W-L...the Colts are the best team in pro football and watching them against Minnesota, they reminded one of those power-packed Packers. Personally, I was thinking that but hesitated to say so out loud. But then Bill Jauss, veteran Chicago Daily News reporter, did say so out loud and others in the press box agreed. It may be against all principles to peek a game ahead and maybe the game films will alter these observations, but the Colts look awfully, awfully strong. The comparison with the 61-62 Packers, generally regarded as the finest Bay aggregation in the recent title years, is a valid one. Whether you believe it or not, Earl Morrall is Starr-like in quality. Listen to Viking Coach Bud Grant: "He's on the button. He throws the ball 60 yards and it's right there. He fires over a linebacker, just a foot out of his reach. That's sharp." Matte and Cole...or Jerry Hill...are strong, hard hitting backs in the Hornung-Taylor style. Morrall says: "They'll get you those four, five yards consistently." Mackey, like Kramer at the time, is the best tight end in the game. The offensive line is young...no one over 30-years-old... but experienced. They have worked their way up to regular status over a span of three to seven years. And, again, listen to Grant: "They take off. They really hit off that ball. Big men like that don't usually reach their peak until 30...use your imagination about how good they'll be." Sounds like a carbon copy of Gregg, Skoronski, Masters, Kramer, Thurston and Ringo. The defense? Well, the Colts have allowed only two touchdowns in their last five games. Two of those games have been shutouts and in the others the opponents managed only 10, 10 and 9 points. "Their defensive line is a fine one. Curtis is a great linebacker. Fred Miller is a quick a defensive tackle as you'll see. They're all quick, with size and mobility," says Grant. The Packers of 1962 owned three shutouts and gave their opponents an average of 10.7 points a game. "They're much improved over last year...they're sharper," Grant says. Improved over their 11-1-2 record of last year? N. P. Clark, who covers the Colts for the Baltimore News-American, also thinks they're improved and he cites two primary reasons...Bubba Smith and generally avoiding injuries. "Bubba's whole attitude is different this year," Clark said. "He now realizes that he isn't the big wheel he was in college. He's really working." Miller just points at Bubba...now beardless and Nehru jacket-less...when he's asked about the improved defense. But Bubba credits offensive tackle Bob Vogel for his personal improvement. He says that because he is a careless sort by nature, he has a little talk with Vogel before each game because Vogel is the serious sort who can put him in the proper mood for the game. As for injuries, Unitas has been hurt, of course. That's a big hurt...but Morrall has taken over so completely that Johnny U can't even get back in the game. The only time he played this year he was terrible and the Colts suffered their only loss. "Earl realizes he's playing on a great team and it has done wonders for his confidence. That's all he ever needed," Clark believes. The only other injury was to fullback Hill two weeks ago and Cole, the rookie from Indiana, has stepped into the spot with such authority that Hill may not regain his job. And that sounds familiar, too, doesn't it? But how about one more Packer-Colt comparison. Check these coaching records: In Vince Lombardi's first five years, his Packers had a 50-15-1 record. In his first five years, Don Shula's Colts had a 50-17-3 record. And to bring it up to date, Lombardi's record through 11 games of his sixth year was 57-19-1. Shula's is 60-18-3. The Colts have lost only twice in their last 27 games.

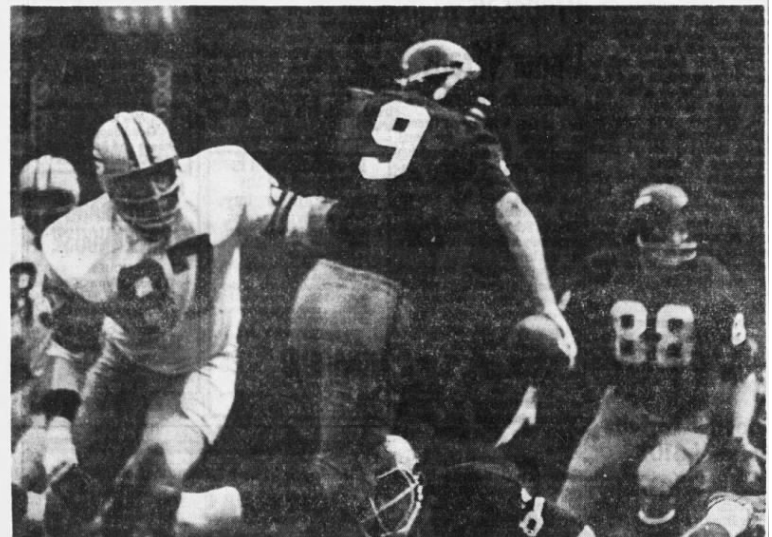
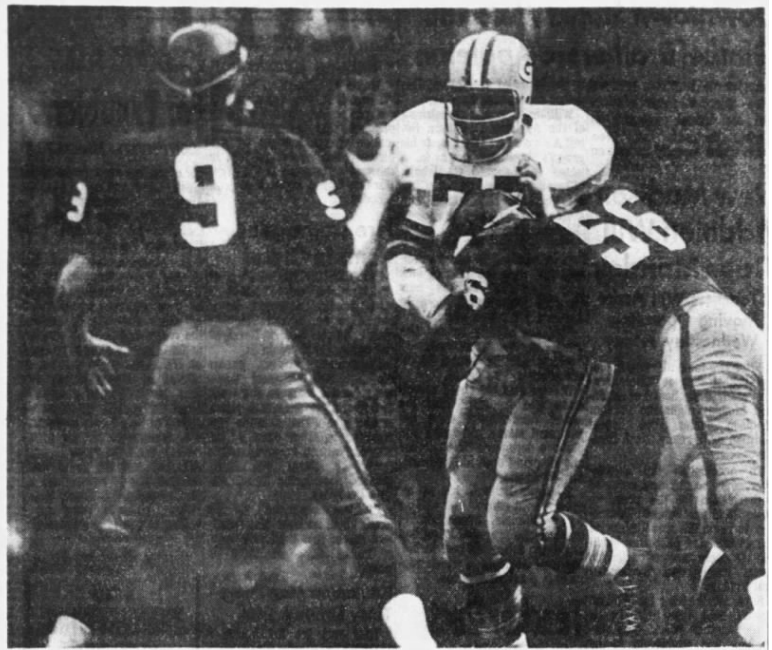
NEWS AND NOTATIONS

NOV 26 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - The mad, mad, mad Central Division race in the NFL will undoubtedly be settled in the next 12 days. First-place Minnesota and runnerup Green Bay face two rugged foes apiece on successive weekends - and the outcome of those four games will, for practical purposes, settle the season-long suspense. It's true the regular season doesn't end until Dec. 15 - but on that date, the Vikings will be heavily favored over the helpless Eagles and the Packers will rate a pretty good edge over the crippled Bears.

That brings us back to the almost identically rough slate the Vikings and the Bays face in the next 12 days. Each has a game left in San Francisco - and the 49ers usually have as much striking power as anyone in the league. In their only remaining home dates, the Vikings and the Bays face the Coastal Division's "Big 2." Minnesota duels the Rams, and the Packers meet the Colts. These same games, of course, will vitally influence the outcome of the Coastal race as well. Titles will thus be decided in typical, slam-bang Western Conference style. As NFL playoff time draws near, the formidable shadow of Green Bay has again fallen over the proceedings. Just two weeks ago, the Packers seemed out of the picture once and for all - and dancing undoubtedly took place in some NFL streets. But the Bays' own resilience - their first 2-win streak of the season - plus some much-needed assistance have altered the outlook. The stretch run is beginning, and there's been no team like Green Bay in the stretch. It will soon be apparent if the Packers still have what it takes. Certainly, their showing of the last two Sundays should hypo their confidence considerably. The Rams, who cannot afford a misstep in their bid to overhaul Baltimore could become unlikely allies Sunday - just as the Colts were on the preceding Sabbath...With only three weekends left, as many as eight NFL clubs still have realistic Super Bowl ambitions - although it must be admitted that New York's Giants don't retain the strongest of hopes after that narrow defeat in Los Angeles. The new Super Bowl index keeps Baltimore on top. The Colts, continuing their remarkable Unitas-less play, currently seem like the best Super Bowl bet, with 95 points, out of a possible 100. Dallas and Los Angeles seem next most likely to succeed, with 90 and 88, respectively. Cleveland would be rated next, at 85, while Minnesota has 80. Green Bay jumps to 70, while New York and St. Louis are in the lower regions, with 60s. In the AFL, Oakland and Kansas City are co-best bets, at 90. The Jets are close, at 88 - and San Diego (at 75) still has an outside chance...On their first two touchdown marches Sunday, Green Bay looked like the Packers of old (instead of the "old" Packers). The Bays mixed running and passing plays adroitly while moving relentlessly downfield and using up the clock. Washington was permitted only three plays (and a punt) during the entire first quarter. And, the Packers ran off something like 24 of the game's first 27 offensive plays. Zeke Bratkowski continues to be a revelation several times a season. The "super sub" was seldom better than he was against the Redskins. In fact, I'd say that Bart Starr's performance against Dallas was perhaps the Packers' only better quarterbacking stint of the season.

COHESIVENESS KEYS PACK REBOUND: DAVIS

NOV 27 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - A man once again at peace with the world, Willie Davis studiously pondered the question for a moment. Then the Packers' articulate co-captain, buoyed by the club's rebound from recent trauma, launched a scholarly explanation. "I think one of the real big differences," he said, "is that we've started to play with the cohesiveness we're accustomed to having." The weather outside was frightful (as the familiar lyric runs) and, having been excused from practice along with his colleagues, Willie was only too happy to discuss the state of the defense in the warm, dry comfort of the dressing room Tuesday afternoon. The knowledge that the revitalized defensive platoon has been performing at a championship level - the Saints and Redskins were limited to 136 and 167 yards, respectively, in the last two appearances - served to double his pleasure. Continuing his analysis of the Bay defenders' revival, Davis noted, "Our cohesiveness has been a little later in materializing this year, because of the injuries we've had in the line and not having played together as much during the pre-season...That was it more than anything. And we've started to play with the abandon we're accustomed to playing with. For some reason, at the start of the season, we didn't do it. I don't know why." How, in the light of the recent renaissance, does he view the Packers' stretch drive for an unprecedented fourth consecutive title? "I feel that we're the kind of a ball club that, having been on the verge of getting kicked out of this thing, we're going to be together the rest of the way. Our morale was dragging there for a moment because we were losing and we're not accustomed to it. We were frustrated, couldn't figure out what was



The Packers, who put quite a pass rush on Washington's Sonny Jurgensen last Sunday, hope to do the same against the 49ers' John Brodie next Sunday in San Francisco. In the upper photo, Jurgensen is rushed by Ron Kostelnik (77) as he brushes past Len Hauss. "Jurgy" managed to get away (lower photo) as Willie Davis (87) rushes in. He got the pass away, but it was incomplete. Davis caught Purgensen on two other occasions. Pat Richter (88) is shown at the right. (AP Photos)

NFL Stix ... 11th Week

LEADING SCORERS

	TdR	TdP	TT	Exp	ExM	FG	FGA	TP
x-Clark, Dall.	0	0	0	43	0	15	26	88
Kelly, Clev.	10	4	14	0	0	0	0	84
Percival, Chl.	0	0	0	18	0	19	28	75
Cockcroft, Clev.	0	0	0	36	2	13	19	75
Michaels, Balt.	0	0	0	38	2	12	19	74
Gossett, L. A.	0	0	0	28	0	15	24	73
Brown, Minn.	11	1	12	0	0	0	0	72
Durkee, N. O.	0	0	0	20	0	16	30	68
Cox, Minn.	0	0	0	25	1	14	21	67
Gogolak, N. Y.	0	0	0	31	0	12	17	67
Jefferson, Pitt.	1	10	11	0	0	0	0	66
Bakken, St. L.	0	0	0	31	0	11	19	64

LEADING PASSERS

(110 attempts)

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Pass	Int.	Pct.	Avg.
x1. Meredith, Dall.	255	147	57.6	2116	18	10	3.9	8.30	
2. Starr, G. B.	167	107	64.1	1600	15	8	4.8	9.58	
— Morrall, Balt.	260	150	57.7	2445	22	17	6.5	9.40	
4. Tarkenton, N. Y.	245	137	55.9	1896	18	10	4.1	7.74	
5. Jurgensen, Wash.	269	155	57.6	1853	15	8	3.0	6.89	
6. Nelsen, Clev.	223	118	52.9	1741	17	9	4.0	7.81	
7. Brodie, S. F.	313	180	57.5	2343	18	17	5.4	7.49	
8. Munson, Det.	265	140	52.8	1812	12	7	2.6	6.84	
9. Berry, Atl.	116	64	55.2	1223	7	10	8.6	10.54	
10. Shiner, Pitt.	223	117	52.5	1476	16	16	7.2	6.82	
— Gabriel, L. A.	300	149	49.7	1926	15	13	4.3	6.42	
12. Kilmer, N. O.	215	118	54.9	1372	10	12	5.6	6.28	
13. Hart, St. L.	265	118	44.5	1799	13	15	5.7	6.79	
14. Kapp, Minn.	203	105	51.7	1311	7	15	7.4	6.46	
15. Carter, Chl.	122	55	45.1	769	4	5	4.1	6.30	
16. Johnson, Atl.	114	53	46.5	694	2	6	5.3	6.09	
17. Sneed, Phil.	232	118	50.9	1254	6	20	8.6	5.41	

LEADING PASS RECEIVERS

	No.	Yds.	Av.	Lg.	TDs
x-McNeill, S. F.	57	855	15.0	65	6
Jefferson, Pitt.	45	852	18.9	62	10
Hayes, Dall.	43	752	17.5	54	8
Williams, St. L.	43	682	15.9	71	6
Taylor, Wash.	43	547	12.7	47	3
Rentzel, Dall.	42	696	16.6	52	5
Abra'owicz, N.O.	42	669	15.9	47	6
Warfield, Clev.	40	788	19.7	65	10
Jones, N.Y.	37	830	22.4	84	6
Smith, St. L.	37	626	16.9	65	2
W'shton, Minn.	37	598	16.2	61	5
Wilburn, Pitt.	36	474	13.2	41	2
Dale, G.B.	35	740	21.1	63	8
Morin, Clev.	35	642	18.3	87	5
Hawkins, Phil.	35	602	17.2	92	3
Mackey, Balt.	35	530	15.1	45	4
Dowler, G.B.	35	448	12.8	55	4

INTERCEPTION LEADERS

	No.	Yds.	Lg.	TDs
Davis, Clev.	7	162	44	0
x-Lockhart, N.Y.	7	130	72	2
Krause, Minn.	7	82	29	0
Owens, Wash.	7	78	38	0

The following players have 6 each:
Boyd & Volk, Balt.; Howley, Dall.; Barney, Det.; Meador, L.A.; Williams, N.Y.; Alexander, S.F.

LEADING RUSHERS

	Att.	Yds.	Av.	Lg.	TDs
x-Kelly, Clev.	204	1017	5.0	65	10
Sayers, Chl.	138	856	6.2	63	2
Willard, S. F.	177	742	4.2	28	5
Woodesnick, Phil.	148	666	4.5	54	2
Hoak, Pitt.	129	629	4.9	77	2
Brown, Minn.	173	623	3.6	32	11
Perkins, Dall.	143	620	4.3	28	3
Farr, Det.	128	597	4.7	46	3
Anderson, G. B.	134	595	4.4	42	5
Crenshaw, St. L.	148	560	3.8	19	3
Mattie, Balt.	143	547	3.8	23	6
Jones, Minn.	125	533	4.3	43	1
Gros, Pitt.	127	500	3.9	44	3
McCall, N.O.	123	497	4.0	48	4
Lewis, S. F.	115	451	3.9	22	1

LEADING PUNTERS

	No.	Yds.	Av.	D.	Lg.
x-Lothridge, Atl.	59	45.2	70		
Widby, Dall.	38	44.1	64		
Bragg, Wash.	59	43.6	64		
Anderson, G. B.	41	42.3	65		
Latourette, St. L.	51	42.3	55		
Baker, Phil.	43	40.7	55		
Walden, Pitt.	47	40.5	54		
Depoyster, Det.	59	40.4	60		
Studstill, L. A.	65	39.7	58		
Spurrier, S. F.	54	39.1	54		
Lee, Balt.	39	39.1	59		
Cockcroft, Clev.	48	39.1	59		
Koy, N. Y.	32	38.6	65		

PUNT RETURN LEADERS

	No.	Yds.	Av.	Lg.	TDs
Latourette, St. L.	25	335	13.4	86	1
Jefferson, Pitt.	19	233	12.3	80	1
West, Minn.	17	188	11.1	98	1
Brown, Balt.	11	85	7.7	25	0
Rentzel, Dall.	13	97	7.5	27	0
Harris, Wash.	13	94	7.2	20	0
Brown, G. B.	16	111	6.9	52	1
Volk, Balt.	22	146	6.6	20	0
Smith, L. A.	21	136	6.5	24	0
Barney, Det.	12	71	5.9	18	0
Meador, L. A.	12	67	5.6	13	0
Burson, Atl.	11	56	5.1	17	0
Wood, G. B.	17	85	5.0	16	0
Alexander, S. F.	15	68	4.5	26	0
Gilliam, N. O.	15	60	4.0	21	0

KICKOFF RETURN LEADERS

	No.	Yds.	Av.	Lg.	TDs
x-Pearson, Balt.	12	434	36.2	102	2
Smith, L. A.	22	651	29.6	94	1
Barney, Det.	19	545	28.7	98	1
Sayers, Chl.	17	461	27.1	46	0
Adderley, G. B.	11	296	26.9	50	0
Latourette, St. L.	35	894	25.5	75	0
Baynham, Dall.	18	459	25.5	39	0
Harris, Wash.	17	430	25.3	38	0
Haymond, Phil.	24	590	24.6	98	1
Shy, Pitt.	26	639	24.6	80	0
Howard, N. O.	21	501	23.9	36	0
Blye, N. Y.	24	566	23.6	66	0

x—Last week's leader.

wrong." "I think we've overcome the critical point now," the wide-shouldered Grambling alumnus added. "I think we're together in all the important things. We have the pride and morale. And we've always been a team that finishes coming up. I think all of these things are entering into it." Davis, awarded a game ball for his sterling play as the Packers vaulted to within a half length of the NFL's Central Division lead Sunday with a 27-7 decision over the Washington Redskins, observed, "In a ball game your first concern is your thought of a team victory. As far as the game ball is concerned, I think it's one of the things that make you feel good. But the ball could have gone to anyone else who played." Willie preferred, however, to discuss the new approach, the resurging confidence he has detected in his fellow champions. "You can just feel the difference in the atmosphere of the ball club," he says with quiet satisfaction. "We're back in the groove. We're playing with the tenacity we've always had in the past. That's the important thing. The guys are optimistic now."...Although he missed last Sunday's game because of bruised ribs, Bart Starr held second place in the NFL's latest individual statistics, released today. Mr. Quarterback owns the only 60-plus passing percentage in the NFL, a glittering 64.1 mark, based on 107 completions in 167 attempts. The Dallas Cowboys' Don Meredith leads with 147 of 255 for 2116 yards, 18 touchdowns and a 57.6 percentage. Starr's backfield buddy, Donny Anderson is fourth in punting with a 42.3 average for 41 punts and ninth in rushing on 595 yards in 134 attempts. In other departments, Herb Adderley is fifth in kickoff returns with a 26.9 average for 11 runbacks and Tom Brown seventh in punt returns with a 6.9 average for 16 returns...PACKER PATTERN: Although the Packers were excused from an outdoor workout Tuesday, some of the hardier citizens - among them quarterbacks Bart Starr and Zeke Bratkowski - ventured into the chilly driving rain to do some running. They leave for San Francisco, and Sunday's assignment against the 49ers, from Austin Straubel Field Thursday noon - following a morning practice...The 49ers have made no public pronouncements concerning the approaching contest, so far as is known, but one of their fans is already on record. The front of a package of schoolbooks delivered to West High this week carried a confident message, Vice Principal John Biolo reports. It read, "The 49ers will handle U 2."

TRAVIS' MORALE NEEDS LIFT

NOV 27 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Performing in the old hometown customarily brings out the best in an athlete, which, of course, is only human. Mercurial Travis Williams, who has been having his share of artistic trials and tribulations as a big league sophomore after flashing across the pro football horizon as a rookie, ardently hopes it will hold true for him this weekend. His morale, he admits, could do with a lift. Travis, whose Richmond, Calif., home lies just across the bay from San Francisco, says wistfully, "It sure would be nice to have a big day against the 49ers Sunday." The 22-year-old speedster, dubbed the Road Runner last year as he streaked to four NFL kickoff return records, readily admits the 1968 season "hasn't turned out like I hoped it would." Travis, who has yet to go the distance with a kickoff or from

scrimmage after turning the spectacular trick five times a year ago, is openly mystified. "I can't explain it," he says. "Probably the fact that the other teams are keying on me more than they were last year is a factor to some extent. But I don't know what it is...I guess if I knew what was wrong, I'd try to do something about it." Has his comparative lack of success been causing him concern? "You worry about it a little bit," he conceded, "but just try to do better, I guess. Maybe you try too hard. It probably could be a number of things-it's just one of those things ...LOOKING PRETTY GOOD": "I haven't got to play too much from scrimmage," the one-time Arizona State sprinter pointed out, "so I haven't got that certain feeling yet. The more experience you get, of course, the better. But I'm not complaining because I understand you have to go with the more experienced guys." Is he doing anything differently this season? "I guess I noticed a few times, on kickoffs, that I was looking too much instead of just catching the ball and running hell-bent for election. Then, in some cases, one man

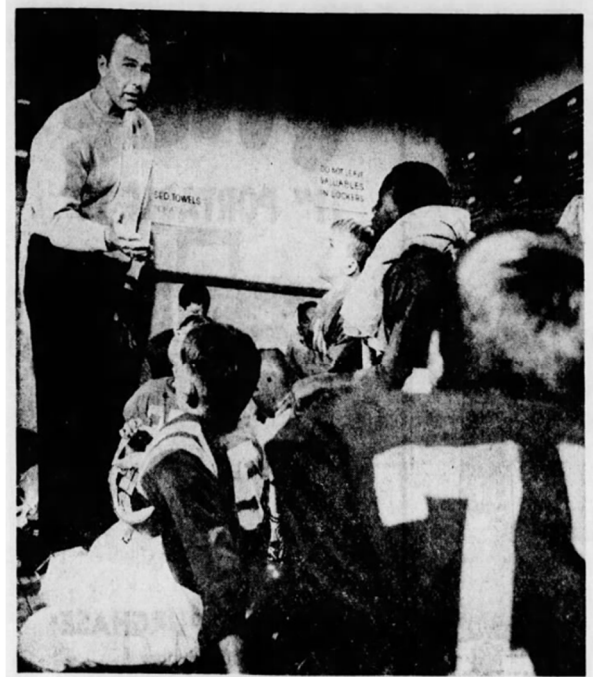
might slip through." Williams added, "I haven't made it through there yet, but it's been looking pretty good lately, particularly the last few games. I haven't been too far from going the distance. One hand might reach out and trip me up. "The wedge - Gale Gillingham, Forrest Gregg, Dave Robinson and LeeRoy Caffey - have been doing a good job. The other guys on the kickoff team do, too, of course, but the guys in the wedge are the first ones I see. "A Jot of times I might make a wrong move or be a step behind the wedge." Again looking ahead to Sunday's struggle, the California comet declared, "Everybody likes to play good in the hometown. I hope I have one of those days ... I hope WE have a good day."...DALE SON'S FAVORITE: His spouse, Arle, "is just as excited about getting back there as I am," he reports. "Richmond is her hometown, too." Although his exploits caught the nation's fancy last season and he is still sought after by autograph hunters, Travis is not Mr. Packer in the Williams household, he confides. His oldest son, four-year old Travis Maurice, "can practically name everybody on the Packer team," he said, "and his favorite player is Carroll Dale. "He just met Carroll in the airport Sunday night when he got back from Washington-Carroll shook hands with him and he talked about it all the way home in the car. He said, 'That's the man who catches the passes and scores the touchdowns.' He was really excited."

STARR LIKELY TO START SUNDAY, SAYS BENGTON

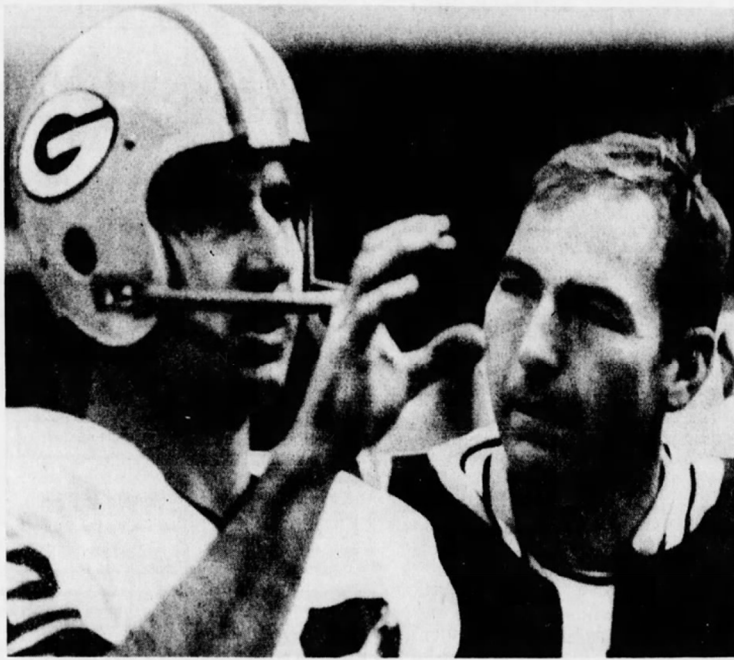
NOV 27 (Green Bay) - Green Bay Packer Coach Phil Bengtson said Tuesday that quarterback Bart Starr will more than likely be in the starting lineup against the San Francisco 49ers Sunday. Starr, who ranks second in NFL passing statistics this week, was on the sidelines in Sunday's victory over the Washington Redskins. Zeke Bratkowski, probably the most reliable number two man in the league, stepped into finish the Saints and then went the route in Washington, completing 18 of 24 passes for 230 yards and one touchdown...GOES DISTANCE: Earlier, when Starr was suffering from an injured bicep muscle, the 37-year-old Bratkowski went the distance against the Los Angeles Rams and was in the driver's seat for all but one play in the Detroit game. "He's always ready when the times comes," said Bengtson of Bratkowski. "And of course, his association with Bart is terrific. They work together; they prepare together. There's no rivalry there, although I'm sure they'd both like to be in all the time." As for the 49ers, Bengtson feels they may be the most improved team in the league. But the Packers have been showing improvement in their own right in the last two weeks, and they'll have to keep up their momentum if they hope to win another championship.

NO FAVORITES BUT 49ERS MORE ANXIOUS TO FACE PACK

NOV 28 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Dick Nolan, wavy-haired freshman coach of the San Francisco 49ers, is aware his Gold Diggers will have more than a little to say about the NFL's Central Division championship the next two weekends. But if he has any preference, he is keeping his own counsel. The 49ers, already eliminated from the Coastal Division race, entertain the Vikings in Kezar Stadium one week hence - following Sunday's exchange with the Packers. A true diplomat, the former New York Giant defensive back says he and his Gold Diggers will play no favorites in their back-to-back assignments against the Central Division leaders, separated by a mere half game at the moment. But he readily admits the 49ers are awaiting the Packers visit with greater anticipation than that of the Vikings, which Coach Phil Bengtson presumably will find both flattering and frightening. "As far as wanting to win is concerned, I'm sure our feelings are equal," Nolan confided via telephone from San Francisco Wednesday. "But playing against the Packers you feel you're playing the best," the 49ers' 35-year-old headmaster said, "and you always enjoy playing the best...Green Bay has been on top and Minnesota hasn't." The San Franciscans' approach may have been enhanced by greater familiarity, Nolan admitted. "We played Green Bay several times, and twice in championship games, when I was an assistant coach with Dallas the last few years," he pointed out. "They're a fine team." "I know Phil very well, too. They're a team that takes it to you...They make things happen. They're not going to make mistakes and they force you into making them. "We haven't played the Vikings, so we're not too familiar with them. I've only seen them in one game this year. So, as far as they're concerned, we don't know too much about them." Although the alleged experts have been insisting all season the Packers' dynasty is crumbling, Nolan says he can find no evidence of it in the films he has seen. "The thing I see with them is that they're not different," he declared. "The thing I've always admired about them is the way their backs give you a tremendous second effort - the linemen, too. They're going to get that extra yard some way or other. I would say their problems have been injuries - Phil has had quite a few injuries. That's probably the main factor As far as being hard nosed and tough - nobody comes at you any harder than the Packers do." Assessing his own 49ers, unbeaten in their last three starts en route to a 5-5-1 record, the amiable Pennsylvania explained, "They're learning something new - they've been learning a new system (the complex Dallas offense and defense Nolan brought with him from the Cowboys). Any new coach finds this because you're teaching your philosophy, something they have to adjust to...But they're getting better all the time. They're getting to know the system better - more repetition, which is a big factor." "This," he laughed, "is what you wish you had the second week of training camp." Newcomer Clifton McNeil, who has bloomed into the NFL's leading receiver after being acquired from the Browns, and John David Crow, converted from running back to tight end, have made "quite a difference," Nolan admitted. "They're both sharp receivers and both very good at recognition of defenses. Crow has



Bart Starr on 'Gentle Ben'
The Packer star explains teamwork on the CBS show Sunday



Packer B-B Guns — Brat and Bart, the Packers' two quarterbacks, talk shop on the sideline during the Bays' victory over

Washington Sunday. Zeke Bratkowski, left, filled in for injured Bart Starr and almost spectacularly guided the Pack to a 27-7 win.

—AP Wirephoto

made a great adjustment from running back to tight end."...**PACKER PATTERN:** The Packers, who spent Tuesday indoors because of the weather, staged a brisk, full scale workout Wednesday ... Following the session, Bengtson indicated he expects Bart Starr, held out of last Sunday's 27-7 victory over the Washington Redskins, to open at quarterback against the 49ers. "Bart was moving pretty well," he reported...Defensive end Phil Vandersea, who missed the Washington contest because of a sprained arch, is making slow progress, however, he said. "He's not moving too well," Bengtson noted...The Packers are scheduled to leave from Austin Straubel Field at noon today via United Airlines charter. They will headquarter at Rickey's Hyatt House Inn at Palo Alto.

CLIFTON MCNEIL KEY TO 49ER CHANCES AGAINST BAYS SUNDAY

NOV 28 (San Francisco) — The San Francisco 49ers feel the key to their success against Green Bay Sunday will be flanker Clifton McNeil. "If we can get Cliff one on one, we're in business," said 49er quarterback John Brodie. The 49ers' pride in their flanker has substantial backing. McNeil is the NFL's leading receiver with 57 catches for 855 yards. For the 6-foot-2, 185 pound flanker such success has been little more than a dream for

years. "I've waited a long time and sometimes it would have been so easy to give up," said McNeil, who spent four years on the bench with the Cleveland Browns and another year on their taxi squad before being traded to San Francisco this year. "But I refused to become discouraged. I knew I'd get a chance to prove I belonged here," he said. "Now everything is just beautiful." When he got to San Francisco, he said, he was told the 49ers needed a long receiver and he was it. "Right away I said to myself. This is it. Now do everything you know you can do. Put to work all the things you've been taught and learned by studying and observing for five years." On Sunday, the Packers' Herb Adderly will spend the game trying to stop McNeil. And Adderly is one of the league's finest defensive backs.

NITSCHKE RATES 49ERS' OFFENSIVE LINE WITH BEST

NOV 29 (Palo Alto, CA-Green Bay Press-Gazette) — One of pro football's more muscular citizens, Raymond Ernest Nitschke, is rarely awed by the strength of an opponent. In fact, he recently observed, "I've been in the league 11 years but I feel I haven't played against anyone yet that I couldn't match." But the Packers far ranging middle linebacker speaks respectfully of the surging 49ers, who bar the world champions' route to fourth straight title in neighboring San Francisco's Kezar Stadium Sunday noon. Taking time out Thursday to analyze the situation, which finds the Packers now just a half-game behind the Vikings in the Central division race, Nitschke was exceedingly complimentary to the Californians. The emphasis, inevitably, was on the 49er attack, which looms as a massive challenge for the Packer defenders, who rank second only to the Los Angeles Rams in the NFL at this point statistically. "The 49ers have a real strong offensive line—one of the tougher lines in the NFL," said Nitschke with evident sincerity. "With Mudd (Howard), Bosley (Bruce) and Collett (Charles), up front, they are very strong," the balding University of Illinois alumnus continued. "Physically, in fact, they are stronger or as strong as any team we have played." Ex-Hillsdale Star Bosley, a four time pro-bowl selection, is rated among the league's premier centers, while Mudd, a former Hillsdale, Mich., college star and one-time St. Norbert College opponent, has been a pro bowl starter the last two years. Collette, a second year Gold digger from San Francisco State, stepped in midway through the 1967 season when John Thomas was injured and did so well that he has become a fixture as Mudd's running mate at guard. Strength upfront is not the 49ers' only asset, Nitschke conceded. "Willard (Ken) is having a great year," he said. "He has to be rated one of the best fullbacks in the league, if he is not the best..."**DEVASTATING RUNNER:** "He's a devastating runner, a strong blocker and a good receiver. He reminds me of Bill Brown of the Vikings," Ray said, adding with a dry smile "except that he's bigger (6-foot-2 and 232 pounds)." Their other running back, Gary Lewis is a big strong halfback who actually is more of a fullback type (like Willard he is 6-2 and 230 pounds)...he also is an excellent blocker. And, of course, John David Crowe, the old halfback who plays tight end now, is really helping them at his new position. He's a great athlete," The 49ers are not the NFL's most explosive entry despite the presence of league leading pass receiver Clifton McNeil in their arsenal, Nitschke admits, but highly effective. "They are more of a control team," he said. "They are not flashy, but they play good solid football." Solid enough, it might be added, to fashion a respectable 5-5-1 record in the briskly competitive Coastal Division, which contains the suddenly awesome Baltimore Colts and the Los Angeles Rams. The 49ers' record, which matches that of the Packers, intriguingly enough, also has been achieved despite the obvious problems inherent in mastering the complicated Dallas Cowboy offense and defense installed by new coach Dick Nolan this season...**PACKER PATTERN:** The Packers, headquartered at Rickey's Hyatt House Motel here, staged their first California workout this morning in Stanford University's stadium. They will conclude their 49er preparations Saturday morning but remain here Saturday night and bus into San Francisco Sunday morning for the 1 o'clock (3 p.m. Wisconsin time) match...The Packers break-even record may be traceable in part to an interesting statistic uncovered by Publicity Director Chuck Lane. A year ago at this point, the champions had run off 51 more plays than their opponents. This season after 11 games they have had three

NFL Standings				
By United Press International Eastern Conference Century Division				
	W.	L.	T.	Pct.
Cleveland	8	3	0	.727
St. Louis	6	4	1	.600
New Orleans	3	7	1	.300
Pittsburgh	2	8	1	.200
Capitol Division				
	W.	L.	T.	Pct.
Dallas	10	2	0	.833
New York	7	4	0	.636
Washington	4	8	0	.333
Philadelphia	1	11	0	.083
Western Conference Central Division				
	W.	L.	T.	Pct.
Minnesota	6	5	0	.545
Green Bay	5	5	1	.500
Chicago	5	6	0	.455
Detroit	3	7	1	.300
Coastal Division				
	W.	L.	T.	Pct.
Baltimore	10	1	0	.909
Los Angeles	9	1	1	.900
San Francisco	5	5	1	.500
Atlanta	2	9	0	.182
Thursday's Results				
Dallas 29 Washington 20				
Philadelphia 12 Detroit 0				
Only games scheduled				
Sunday's Games				
Atlanta at Baltimore				
St. Louis at Pittsburgh				
Green Bay at San Francisco				
Los Angeles at Minnesota				
New York at Cleveland				

less...It has been all or nothing for Mike Mercer, the Packer's newest placekicking specialist, who makes his home in nearby Walnut Creek, Calif. To date, the former Viking has made four field goal attempts and has had three blocked...Rumors continue to swirl about Vince Lombardi. The latest appeared in sportswriter Bob Oates' column in Thursday's San Francisco Chronicle. He wrote: "Sources with reliable football connections say

CROW'S SWITCH HAS PAID OFF

NOV 29 (San Francisco-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "John David Crow is the kind of a guy who will play anywhere," his coach says, "as long as he plays." This capsule comment from 49er chieftain Dick Nolan is more than an eloquent testimonial to the exemplary attitude of the former St. Louis Cardinal luminary - it is the highest tribute a coach can pay an athlete. It also suggests the Packers will need to "handle" John David with more than a modicum of caution when they encounter the Pine Bluff, Ark., native in his new role at Kezar Stadium Sunday afternoon. It may not have been an easy psychological adjustment for the man who ranked a lofty third among all NFL ball carriers going into the 1968 season, but Crow reportedly has made the transition to tight end with admirable ease and facility...CATCHES TD PASS: Just how admirable was evidenced in last Sunday's 45-28 triumph over the Pittsburgh Steelers. Doubly dangerous because of his running ability, the ruggedly hewn blond amassed 144 yards, a massive total for a tight end, with four catches and also contributed one touchdown. Crow is not, of course, a stranger to the art of pass catching. He has been a reliable receiver for the 49ers in the past, snaring 89 passes for 1,207 yards and 13 touchdowns in three seasons. As a matter of fact, he also was a favorite target of Cardinal quarterbacks during his seven-year stint with the Big Red, gathering in 138 passes for 1,961 yards and 16 touchdowns. John David, who still holds Cardinal club rushing

records for most yards in a game (203) and in a season (1,071), is tailored along the lines of Baltimore's all-NFL tight end John Mackey (6-foot-2 and 224 pounds). A crunching blocker, an asset which undoubtedly loomed large in Nolan's decision to make the shift, Crow "has done an outstanding job" at his new post, according to 49er Publicist George McFadden. "He's played most of every game since he was moved there," McFadden reports, "and he's contributed quite a bit, including five touchdowns."...HELP FOR JONES: A further indication of his value can be found in the latest NFL statistics, which reveal that John David's former backfield comrade is the No. 3 rusher in the league with 742 yards in 11 games. In addition to his physical assets, Crow apparently is also blessed with a droll sense of humor. When being shifted to tight end, he commented, "Fine, but I didn't realize our next game was against Los Angeles and I was to play opposite Deacon Jones." Nolan remembered that observation, it develops, before the Ram-49ers 20-20 tie two weeks ago and devised a new formation to give Crow assistance in blocking Jones, rated by some the premier defensive end in the NFL. "We had John line up outside of our flanker, Clifton McNeil, then sent him in motion toward the inside," Nolan later explained. "When he reached his normal tight end spot, he came to the required momentary stop, then burst out at Deacon, helping tackle Cas Banaszek. It works much like a crackback block on a linebacker." Are you listening, Willie Davis?

MIRA HAS PACKER FORMULA

NOV 29 (San Francisco Examiner) - Frequently, when the S.F. 49ers are waiting on the Redwood City practice field for Coach Dick Nolan's starting signal, George Mira can be found sitting alone on the sideline in deep meditation. If a conversation starts, the understudy quarterback invariably can be heard to say, to no one in particular, "I wish I could play." This week, with the Green Bay Packers in town to meet the 49ers Sunday at Kezar Stadium, the feeling is stronger than ever in Mira, even though he knows that waiting is his lot, so long as John Brodie performs at the highly efficient level he has. The reason the nostalgia hits Mira perhaps more deeply at this time than at any other is that El Matador's happiest moments as a 49er have been on the field against the world champions. In fact, he may be the only QB in captivity who has a perfect record against the Packers - two starts, two wins. Soon to turn 27 and in his sixth pro season, Mira, whatever else has been his fate, wielded a magic wand when he has been permitted to step onto the field against the Pack. The first time was during his rookie season, in '64, when, in his initial pro start, he directed a 24-14 win and knocked the Packers out of the Western Division race. The pattern-perfect Pack didn't quite know how to handle Mira's unorthodox manipulation...EL MATADOR SCOOTS: It happened again the last time Green Bay invaded at Kezar two seasons ago, when the Wisconsinites came in 4-0 and the Niners were 0-2-1. El Matador scooted left and right, the Pack usually was in frantic pursuit in the wrong direction and, with the aid of a last minute Brodie conducted ball control march, Green Bay was knocked off, 21-10. Ask Mira today what the key was to those two stunning upsets and he adds another wish about the forthcoming encounter Sunday. "I wish I knew so I could pass it on," he

AFL Standings				
AFL STANDINGS East				
	W	L	T	Pct.
New York	8	3	0	.727
Houston	5	7	0	.417
Miami	4	6	1	.400
Boston	3	8	0	.273
Buffalo	1	11	1	.083
West				
	W	L	T	Pct.
Oakland	10	2	0	.833
Kansas City	10	2	0	.833
San Diego	8	3	0	.727
Denver	5	6	0	.455
Cincinnati	3	9	0	.250
Thursday's Results				
Kansas City 24 Houston 10				
Oakland 13 Buffalo 10				
Only games scheduled				
Sunday's Games				
San Diego at Denver				
Cincinnati at Boston				
Miami at New York				
Only games scheduled				

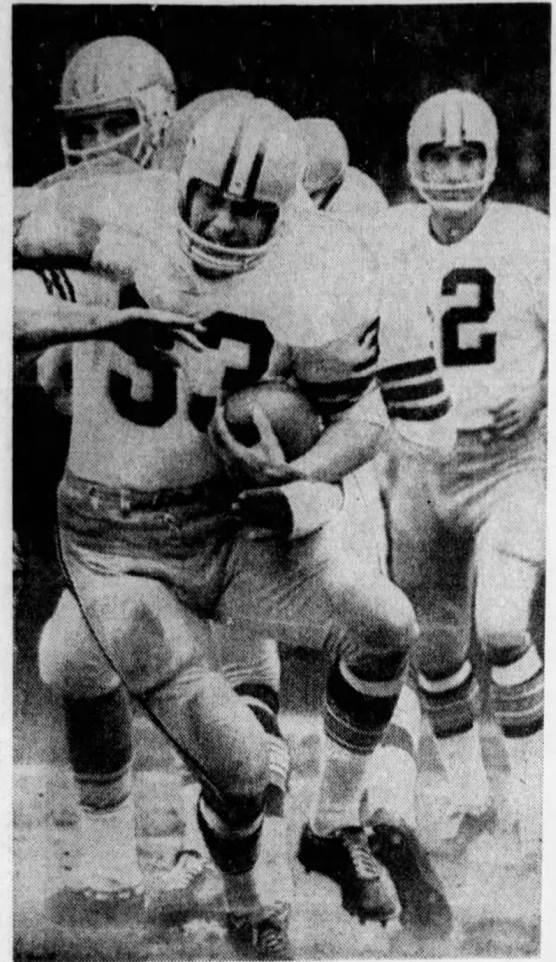
Vince Denies Philly Deal

said. One obvious answer, which shows up prominently in the accounts of the Mira steered wins, is that on both occasions the 49er defense came up with a supreme physical effort to match Packer muscle. Nolan's implanted that idea with the troops strongly in preparation for the 34th meeting in the series which stands dead even at 16-16-1...HAVE TO RUN: What else does it take? "Well, you gotta get the running game going real well," offered Mira, the Packer-beater "Also, when you get near their goal you can't stall because they don't let you get in that position too often. You get close you gotta score." "I guess it was a kind of combination of everything we used," George continued. "A few rollouts, a little bootlegging. I guess that kind of puts a little pressure on them. They're not quite so sure, when that's happening, it looks like to me." Nolan, like everything else, says Green Bay's success formula is based primarily on "pride and poise." The first hasn't varied one degree. That's assured...QB'S CONFUSING: But, on occasions when they've been up against QB's who don't stick to the play designs, Packer poise has been known to come apart. The two Mira games are examples. This year, it was no different with Minnesota's Joe Kapp who beat the Packers twice, marking the first time in history the Vikes have done that, the first time ever they've messed up Green Bay in Minneapolis. "Same old stuff that Mira gave us," Chuck Lane, the GB publicist said about the two performances by Kapp, the ex-University of California All-American. It's those two losses – by 26-13 and 14-10 - which have the world champs fighting for their Central Division life, let alone a fourth straight NFL title.

VINCE DENIES PHILLY DEAL

NOV 30 (San Francisco Examiner) – Ordinarily Vince Lombardi leaves no room for any doubt. When he says yes he means yes and any time he says no he means no. That's generally his way and anybody who has ever had anything to do with him knows it. But somehow this time Vince Lombardi's answer comes out rather different. When he's asked about the latest report that he may become one of the new owners of the floundering Philadelphia Eagles, he angrily growls: "No, no, no, no. Hell no, I'm not going to Philadelphia!" Methinks the man protests too much. I think that once Jerry Wolman, Philadelphia's financially saddled present owner, sells out, as he will have to shortly, Vince Lombardi will become part of a syndicate which buys the Eagles. Once he's part owner, Vince Lombardi will go out and get the best coach and general manager he knows. By some strange coincidence both these men have the same name. Vince Lombardi. That's what I think this intense, restless 55-year-old general manager of the Green Bay Packers will do before another football season rolls around. His players, here with him for their all-important game with the San Francisco Forty-

Niners tomorrow, never can be sure what their former coach is going to do but most of them have a pretty good idea. "It would come as no surprise to us if he goes to Philadelphia," says one of his veteran players. "As part-owner?" the player was asked. "As part-owner, coach, the whole works. The same way old man Halas operated with the Chicago Bears for years." Lombardi is not disenchanted with Green Bay, the little Wisconsin city he has helped build into something approaching a national shrine, but the reasons he'd move on are as obvious as the change in the Packers' performance from last year to this one. Every man likes to better himself and, unique as he is, Lombardi is not that much different than every other man. He had a fine playing career at Fordham and did some coaching there and at West Point. Then he moved into the professional ranks where he eventually took over a downtrodden Green Bay club whose 1-10-1 record at the time bears a startling resemblance to Philadelphia's 1-11 log right now. Coach of the Packers, Lombardi became a household word. He led them to five NFL championships, two Super Bowl titles and one Western Division championship in nine seasons before he gave up coaching earlier this year to concentrate on his other job as general manager. The job apparently has palled on him. The next logical step for a man of his drive and ambition is ownership. There's no chance for Lombardi with the Packers in that respect because they are a community corporation and quite likely to remain that way. That's why the Eagles look made to order for him. As general manager alone and no longer coach, Lombardi admits he misses the old pre-game and post-game excitement along with the



A WELL-ARMED JIM GRABOWSKI
New 'Jim Taylor of Packers' here Sunday

Same Incentive For Packers: Cash

rapport he used to enjoy with his players. That's gone now. So are some of the adulation and general recognition which there was so much of only a year ago. The old saying-out of sight, out of mind-applies nowhere so much and so quickly as it does in sports.

SAME PACKER INCENTIVE: \$\$

NOV 30 (San Francisco Examiner) – Although the Green Bay Packers are farther removed from the post-season bank window than they've been in several years, Coach Phil Bengtson is far from convinced that it will be slammed in their faces. "We can't do anything except win from here on in, starting with the 49ers at Kezar tomorrow," observed Phil. "But it's possible and we certainly haven't had thoughts in any other directions." Extra money - lots of it - is a part of the Packer tradition, as anyone well knows. Any player with the Pack since 1960 has earned himself an extra \$63,253.34 through five NFL championships and two Super Bowl titles. A part in last year's total conquest alone was worth \$22,950.96. The Packers prefer to identify it as "pride in being a winner." But none of them has ever been known to turn back the extra lucre, while settling for mere accomplishment. The Packers were "spoiled" that way, during the masterful Vince Lombardi era, and there is no inclination, with Bengtson in charge, to act differently. In fact, the Packers, while pursuing a one-at-a-time course, nonetheless have it all figured out that by winning six more games they'll be right back where they were a year ago – at the big payoff window. "It can be done," reiterated Bengtson, who regards tomorrow's game as a sort of homecoming, hence is all the more moved to leave Kezar a winner. "I've spent a lot of time on both sides of that field," related Phil, "for and against the 49ers, and I enjoyed both. Green Bay's a real nice place. But so was living in the Bay Area."...DENIES STORY: Bengtson strongly denied that he left San Francisco employment in 1959 to join Lombardi because he couldn't take the "gutter fighting," as one eastern writer penned, going on to see who would succeed to the 49er head post after Frank Albert retired. "It wasn't that all," said Phil, while conceding that nobody offered him the job which eventually went to Red Hickey, and nobody sought to keep him here as an assistant. "I've always been on the best of terms with 49er management and owners and still am," he asserted. "It was just that the opportunity in Green Bay came up and I decided to take it. And, as you well know, I've never regretted the move." Neither has he any regrets about accepting the challenge to follow one of the most successful acts in sports history - Lombardi's. "I expected the seat would be hot and you might say it still is, with us having lost five games," he said calmly. "But there's nothing different than what I anticipated, unless it's the troubles we've had with injuries. We look to be healthy, now, so that headache, at least, is out of the way."...NO MEDDLER: True to his word, Lombardi has kept out of Bengtson's way, while concentrating his full energies on the management end. Perhaps a little bored since being out of the coaching picture, according to some Green Bay observers, Lombardi limits himself to infrequent visits to the practice field, some viewing of game film and occasional general discussion with Bengtson - "when I ask for it," according to Phil. Tomorrow, as he has done since season's start, Lombardi will view the proceedings from the press box where, like retired Chicago coach George Halas, he "suffers" because he can't do something about what's going on down below. What Vince demanded of his players when he was field boss - strict self-discipline - he has practiced with himself since yielding the reins...30-YEAR HABIT: With the directness that has long been a trademark, Lombardi declares: "Certainly I miss it (coaching). I'd been doing it some 30 years and I'd be foolish to say I don't miss it." Under Lombardi, the Packers were fantastic at winning the close ones. "We're finding that a little harder to do now," said Bengtson. "But our morale never has bent and I have to believe that with the wins we've gotten the last two Sundays and the improvement in our overall physical condition, the spirit will be even a little higher tomorrow." That leaves the 49ers with little else than to be ready for an old-time Packer hoedown. They're generally mean affairs.

MC NEIL TOP TEST FOR PACKERS

NOV 30 (Palo Alto, CA-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Much is being made by the 49ers of the threat their Clifton McNeil will pose for the title bidding Packers in nearby Kezar Stadium Sunday afternoon. And the world champions are inclined to agree with the Goldiggers. The former Cleveland bench-warmer is the NFL's leading pass receiver, with 57 catches for 855 yards and six touchdowns. It might be pertinent to note, however, that the Packers own the NFL's most miserly pass defense, having limited the opposition to an average of 113 yards and just 68 first downs in 11 games. Their primary problem in this somewhat erratic 1969 season has been the run, not the pass. They have lost five games and, almost without exception, defeat has been traceable in no small measure to a strong enemy ground attack. For example, they twice fell to the Minnesota Vikings and, in each case, the Vikings built their success on the rugged 1-2 running punch of Bill Brown and Tom Lindsey. Their tribulations with the Detroit Lions stem largely from the twisting, whirling rushes of Mel Farr, who amassed 92 yards in the Lions 23-17 victory at Green Bay Sept. 29 and was even more devastating with 131 in 26 attempts in the 14-14 tie in Detroit Oct. 20. The faithful also will not soon forget the brilliant performance of Gale Sayers who spun, stuttered and churned to 205 yards in the Bears 13-10 victory at Lambeau field Nov. 3. Now, in addition to McNeil, the Packers will have to contend with the power thrusts of San Francisco's burly Ken Willard and Gary Lewis in Sunday's struggle, which will find them striving to mount a half game lead in the tight Central Division race, with the cooperation of the Los Angeles Rams. The Goldiggers' duo constitutes as potent a ground challenge as the Packers have faced this season. Like Lewis, a massive 6 foot 2 and 232 pounds, Willard rumbles into action as the NFL's No. 3 ground gainer with 742 yards in 177 attempts, for a 4.2 average. Lewis, successor to John David Crow as Willard's running mate, also has been active, rolling 451 in 115 tries, an average of just under four per carry...PACKER PATTERN: The Packers don't have a runner to match Willard's production although Donny Anderson has accumulated 595 yards in 134 attempts, but they do have a statistical edge in two other departments, passing and punting. Bart Starr has compiled a glittering 63.7 percentage with 107 completions in 168 attempts, compared to 57.5 for the 49ers' John Brodie, who has hit on 180 of 313. Anderson also has been a more effective punter than the Diggers' Steve Spurrier with a 42.3 average for 41 kicks compared to Spurrier's 39.0 mark for 54. McNeil, of course, holds a wide lead in receiving. His hefty 57 catches are 21 more than Packer pace setter Boyd Dowler has made Carroll Dale is

RUSHING						
	Att.	Yds.	Ave.	L	TD	
Willard, 49ers	177	742	4.2	28	5	
Anderson, Pack	134	595	4.4	42	4	
Lewis, 49ers	115	451	3.9	19	1	
Grabowski, Pack	97	388	4.0	15	2	
Pitts, Pack	65	250	3.9	12	2	

PASSING					
	Att.	C	Yds.	Int.	TD
Starr, Pack	168	107	1600	8	15
Brodie, 49ers	313	180	2033	17	18
Bratkowski, Pack	83	47	575	5	2

RECEIVING					
	No.	Yds.	Ave.	L	TD
McNeal, 49ers	57	855	15.0	65	6
Dowler, Pack	36	458	12.4	55	4
Dale, Pack	35	740	21.1	63	8
Witcher, 49ers	32	375	11.7	59	1
Willard, 49ers	30	171	5.6	20	0
Anderson, Pack	24	315	13.1	47	1
Fleming, Pack	25	278	11.1	32	3
Pitts, Pack	16	141	9.0	11	0

tight behind Dowler with 35 for an impressive 21.1 yard average and eight touchdowns-two more than McNeil...The 49ers' Kermit Alexander has intercepted six passes, three more than the Packers' Bob Jeter, Herb Adderley and Tom Brown.

49ERS HOST SHAKY PACKERS

DEC 1 (San Francisco Examiner) – Stripped of their aura of invincibility but nonetheless still respected as one of professional football's elite. The world champion Green Bay Packers make their first Kezar Stadium appearance under direction of new coach Phil Bengtson today. Upwards of 40,000 fans are expected to see the familiar 55-year-old Bengtson and his famed Packer "executionists" stomp forth against the San Francisco 49ers at 1 o'clock in a contest that could have far-reaching consequence. Painted into a corner by five defeats, the three-time NFL and twice world kings must make good the four point odds in their favor or stand chance of becoming sideliners even before the division playoffs get underway. Their 5-5-1 record leaves them with some ground to be made up on the Central Division's front-running Minnesota Vikings (6-5) who, co-incidentally, are also involved in a "must" encounter with the Los Angeles Rams at Minneapolis today...AT THEIR BEST: As Coach Dick Nolan and his 49ers well know it's in situations like this

that the Packers, hard-bitten masters of perfection football, are at their very best. Men like quarterback Bart Starr, the most accurate passer in pro football history with more than 31,000 air yards behind him and back in the front lines after missing last week's New Orleans contest, have proved themselves artists when the "must" tag was up. Other long familiar names like Ray Nitschke, Henry Jordan, Willie Davis, Bob Skoronski, Boyd Dowler, Carroll Dale, Herb Adderley, Willie Wood, Jerry Kramer, and Forrest Gregg fall in the same category. And the newer hands, like backs Donny Anderson, Jim Grabowski, Travis Williams and guard Gale Gillingham, have fallen securely into the Packer pattern...CAN'T SLIP AWAY: It means that the 49ers, with an identical 5-5-1 record, have to come up with something they haven't displayed thus far - an ability to gaff a big one - if they're to have a hand in stopping the Packers from pushing on to a shot at a fourth straight NFL crown. Clearly, the No. 1 essential is to steer clear of the big mistake. A long time ago somebody said, "Making a big one against Green Bay is like bleeding in front of a shark." That, apparently, hasn't changed with the Packers under Bengtson, builder of the impregnable defenses which were as responsible for the tremendous success of the Vince Lombardi era as were the sharp-edged offensive maneuvers by Starr, Zeke Bratkowski, Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor. The prime ingredients - muscle and needle-point execution, both offensively and defensively - still remain the Packers trademarks. That's where the 49ers, as always, have to match them, according to coach Nolan's plotting, be it when John Brodie's passing or Ken Willard's running. The biggest upswing, from what the Niners have shown in their most recent games, will have to come from the defensive unit which has been bent for an average of 387 yards and 27 points by the last four opponents. How much the S.F. defenders can shore up in those two areas obviously holds the answer to whether the 49ers will provide Nolan and the faithful the still lacking sure-fire proof that they are indeed making major strides away from the lean years. Interesting to note is that Green Bay has failed to come off a winner its last three Kezar showings. The Pack was repulsed in '64 (24-14), tied in '65 (24-24) and defeated again in '66 (21-20). But, on none of those occasions, did the Bays have the powerful incentive they have today. This could be the last time around, as concerns a shot at the big bonus money, for such distinguished Packer "elders" as Bratkowski, 36, Starr, Davis, Gregg and Skoronski, each 34, Jordan, 33, and the others who have celebrated their 30th birthday - Nitschke, Wood, Dale, Kramer, Jeter, among them. Even Packers don't go on forever. The comparatively vastly young 49ers would like nothing better than to prove the point.

ROUGH ON THE RIBS

DEC 1 (San Francisco Examiner) – Vince Lombardi will be a spectator at today's game between the 49ers and the Green Bay Packers, the outfit he coached to five NFL champion- ships in nine years and which he continues to serve as general manager. His ticket calls for a seat in the Kezar Stadium press box. We don't know the exact location. But we hope it isn't alongside the one assigned to us. While it might be interesting to watch Lombardi watch, we would prefer to do so at a safer range. For a little guy Lombardi has large elbows. They are busy elbows. to boot. Lombardi, who stepped down as coach of the Packers shortly after the '67 season and named Phil Bengtson as his successor, has a habit of rolling with body English on every play and his elbows lead the interference. Sitting next to him is not advisable for anyone with a fragile ribcage. Wrapped up in the game, Lombardi isn't aware of it, but he hurts people. The perils are greatest when things are going badly for the Packers. It is then that the elbows are most active. As if to help the team in struggle to come from behind, Lombardi works the elbows overtime. He has had to do a lot of it this season. The Packers are experiencing a hard winter. Currently, their record is 5-5-1, worst in years. And it might well be worse had not a benign schedule matched them with the NFL's two lamest birds - the low flying Falcons and Eagles. Poor Bengtson, the new head coach, is having his troubles. Injuries have ripped the defensive line. The infirmities of advancing age have afflicted the older players. And the bright youths who bore so much promise haven't begun to erase memories of Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung... There are those who whisper Lombardi saw it coming. They needn't be so guarded. Lombardi knew. He knew, as anyone would, that the Green Bay's great days had to be numbered. There is an end to everything. And when you're dealing with a football team, whose 'stars grow dimmer each year after 30, the end comes swiftly, indeed. Sure, Lombardi could see it coming. But to imply that he baled out when he did because he didn't want to be stuck with a loser is to do him a gross injustice. The man is a fighter. Besides, the team he left Bengtson to coach is not a loser. Not yet. In the NFL's four division setup, which forgives many sins, the Packers still have a chance to win it all. They're not so far behind the Minnesota Vikings (6-5) that they can't beat 'em out for the Central Division title and if they do that they'll be only one semi-final game away from a place in the championship playoff...

It may be nothing more than wishful thinking by a bunch of old geezers, but the Packers are figuring on being in the Super Bowl. And who's to say they won't make it? A football can take some strange bounces. And there is some evidence that the Packers are getting better. They won their last two games. That could mean that their aches and pains are lessening. More will be known today. The elderly gentlemen just about have to beat the 49ers to stay in business. It's a big one for Green Bay. In the press box, we'll be keeping an eye on Lombardi. From a prudent distance, of course. There are those elbows to be avoided and we are told Lombardi is inclined to use strong language in the excitement of battle...Most coaches do. And, no matter how deeply he becomes involved in managerial affairs, Lombardi is never going to be anything but a coach at heart. Despite the denials, we lend a good deal of credence to the report that he is going to buy into the Philadelphia Eagles and become their coach. The challenge is there. The Packers were disaster when Lombardi took over. Their record for the previous season was 1-10-1. At present, the Eagles are 1-11. It strikes us as the sort of rebuilding job Vince Lombardi would be looking for.

PACKERS IN BEST SHAPE YET: PHIL

DEC 1 (San Francisco-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – For the first time this bizarre 1968 season, all systems are "go" for the Packers Coach Phil Bengtson has pronounced the world champions, long frustrated by injuries, in "the best shape of the year," for today's title-tied showdown with the 49ers in Kezar Stadium (3 o'clock WNFL and Channel 2.) "Everybody," Bengtson said, "Is in pretty good health." This, of course, includes the Packers consummate field general, Bart Starr, who will be returning to combat after sitting out last week's 27-7 victory over the Washington Redskins in favor of Zeke Bratkowski, with bruised ribs. The invaders' return to physical fitness could hardly be more opportune, considering what is at stake and the task at hand...FACES OLD TEAM: Bengtson, whose athletes go into action just a half game to the rear of the Minnesota Vikings in the NFL's Central Division race, envisions a bruising struggle with his old team. The Packers strategist, who was a 49er assistant coach for eight years before coming to Green Bay, said soberly, "It's going to be a tough ball game...They are capable of playing great football." Documenting his point he added, "They've played exceptionally well the last two weeks." He had reference to the Prospectors, most recent ventures against the Los Angeles Rams and Pittsburgh Steelers, which produced a 20-20 tie with the Angelinos and a 45-28 triumph the Steelers. History also militates against overconfidence. The Packers have had little success out here since 1963 when they last subdued the 49ers 21-17. As a matter of fact, the Diggers – with nothing to gain themselves - played the Bays to a 24-24 tie in their 1965 regular season finale, a development which forced the Packers into the memorable Western Division playoff with the Baltimore Colts...BRODIE RESTORED: Earlier the 49ers claimed a 24-14 decision on this same spot in 1964 and a 21-20 in 1966 - the Packers' last San Francisco visit - both via the impromptu maneuvers of the nomadic quarterback George Mira. Mira is not expected to be much in evidence today, however. John Brodie, somewhat out of favor with former coach Jack Christiansen, has been restored to starting status and has prospered under the 49ers' new head man, Dick Nolan. The erratic but frequently brilliant Stanford alumnus completed 180 passes, more than any other NFL quarterback, in 313 attempts for a plush 57.5 percentage, 2,033 yards and 18 touchdowns. In the process, he has won high praise from Nolan. "John is doing a great job - passing, play calling, everything has been great," the former Dallas Cowboy aide, says. "He doesn't lose his poise. There are a lot of quarterbacks you can't talk to before a game and discuss any last minute stuff. Some of them just don't hear you. But with John you can talk right up to game time and he can listen and absorb what you are saying." Brodie, of course, will not be the Packers' only problem. They also will be confronted by the NFL's No. 1 pass receiver, Cleveland Brown refugee Clifton McNeil, and a devastating one-two running punch in Ken Willard and Gary Lewis, a pair of 230 pound linebusters...SHADOWING MCNEIL: All of which suggests the champions' revitalized defense will have to approximate its recent efforts which have lifted it into second place in the league's statistical race. Critical assignments will fall to Herb Adderley, the Pack's all NFL cornerback who will be shadowing the mercurial McNeil and middle linebacker Ray Nitschke, who will be keying on the massive Willard, the league's No. 3 ground gainer. It promises to be a challenging afternoon for all the Packer defenders, however, because the 49ers now run from the complex Cowboy offense, installed by Nolan this season. The Pack's attacking unit, somewhat off its feet earlier in the season, also will have to engineer

49er-Packer Lineups

OFFENSIVE LINEUPS

49ERS				PACKERS			
No.	Name	Wt.	Pos.	Wt.	Name	No.	
88	Witcher	204	SE	225	Dowler	86	
76	Rohde	235	LT	245	Skoronski	76	
66	Collett	244	LG	255	Gillingham	68	
77	Bosley	240	C	230	Bowman	57	
68	Mudd	252	RG	245	Kramer	64	
79	Banaszek	240	RT	250	Gregg	75	
44	Crow	224	TE	235	Fleming	81	
12	Brodie	204	QB	190	Starr	15	
40	Willard	225	RB	210	Anderson	44	
22	Lewis	230	RB	220	Grabowski	33	
85	McNeil	185	FL	200	Dale	84	

49ER ROSTER

10 Mira, qb	37 Johnson, db	55 Hazeltine, lb	75 Blue, t
11 Spurrier, qb	39 Alexander, db	57 Nunley, lb	76 Rohde, t
12 Brodie, qb	40 Willard, rb	60 Lakes, dt	77 Bosley, c
22 Lewis, rb	42 Cunningham, rb	64 Wilcox, lb	79 Banaszek, t
26 McFarland, e	44 Crow, te	66 Collett, g	80 Hindman, de
27 Randolph, db	45 Tucker, rb	68 Mudd, g	84 Olerich, te-lb
30 Fuller, db	48 Woitt, db	69 Peoples, g	85 McNeil, e
32 Phillips, db	50 Beard, lb	70 Krueger, dt	86 Hardy, de-dt
33 Daniels, rb	53 Hart, fb-de	72 Belk, de	88 Witcher, e
36 Davis, k	54 Hays, lb	73 Ossen, c-t	89 Windsor, te

PACKER ROSTER

10 Stevens, qb	33 Grabowski, fb	60 Caffey, lb	76 Skoronski, t
12 Bratkowski, qb	38 Mercar, k	62 Lueck, g	77 Kostelnik, dt
15 Starr, qb	40 Brown, db	64 Kramer, rb	81 Fleming, te
21 Jeter, db	43 Hart, db	66 Nitschke, lb	82 Aldridge, de
22 Pitts, fb	44 Anderson, hb	68 Gillingham, g	83 Vandersea, te
23 Williams, hb	45 Rowser, hb	70 Crenshaw, dt	84 Dale, fl
24 Wood, db	50 Hyland, c-g	71 Peay, t	86 Dowler, e
26 Adderley, db	53 Carr, lb	72 Himes, t	87 Davis, de
27 James, fl	55 Flanigan, lb	74 Jordan, dt	89 Robinson, lb
30 Mercein, fb	57 Bowman, c	75 Gregg, t	98 Winkler, de

Gold?

Offense

Packers		49ers
Dowler	SE	Witcher
Skoronski	LT	Rohde
Gillingham	LG	Collett
Bowman	C	Bosley
Kramer	RG	Mudd
Gregg	RT	Banaszek
Fleming	TE	Crowe
Starr	QB	Brodie
Anderson	RB	Lewis
Grabowski	RB	Willard
Dale	FL	McNeil

Defense

Packers		49ers
Davis	LE	Hindman
Kostelnik	LT	Krueger
Jordan	RT	Lakes
Aldridge	RE	Belk
Robinson	LLB	Wilcox
Nitschke	MLB	Beard
Caffey	RLB	Hazeltine
Adderley	LH	Johnson
Jeter	RH	Alexander
T. Brown	LS	Randolph
Wood	RS	Phillips

Packer-49er Series

Packers have won 16, 49ers 18, one tie. Points — Green Bay 683, 49ers 705.

one of its better performances to offset what the explosive enemy may accomplish. Fortunately, Starr has the wherewithal to bring this about in Donny Anderson and Jim Grabowski, both running effectively now, and three of the league's most talented receivers, Carroll Dale, Boyd Dowler and Marv Fleming. This is not to mention a highly experienced offensive line, which accorded Bratkowski, an 18-for-24 marksman on that occasion, flawless protection in Washington last Sunday. Assuming the Packers keep their end of the bargain the rest is up to the Rams...

RAMS HOLD SLIGHT EDGE OVER VIKES

DEC 1 (Minneapolis-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – There is no need to concoct fancy phrases, drag out boring statistics or repeat familiar quotes from coaches in this space today. The NFL's Central and Coastal Division standings describe the situation in these Twin Cities more. The Minnesota Vikings lead the Green Bay Packers by a half game in the Central. They have a 6-5-0 record to Green Bay's 5-5-1. The Packers play the 49ers in San Francisco today. And each team has two games remaining after today. The Los Angeles Rams trail the Baltimore Colts by half a game in the Coastal. They have a 9-1-1 record to Baltimore's 10-1. The Colts host the upstart Atlanta Falcons today. And each team has two games remaining after today...**ADD TO DRAMA:** Minnesota plays Los Angeles at 1 o'clock in Metropolitan Stadium here today. Is it necessary to say anything more? Not really, but there are a few facts that might add to the drama already visible in the standings...and in the Packers' fighting bid to retain their world championship. For instance, if today's game should end in a tie, it would not greatly affect the Vikings. True, they would then be knotted in the standings with the Packers, should the Pack win, but by virtue of their having beaten Green Bay twice during the season, they would still be considered the top team. As a matter of fact, a tie would not seriously affect the Rams either because their whole season hinges on beating the Colts in their final game. Baltimore has dealt Los Angeles its only loss this year. If the Rams accepted a tie today and beat Chicago next week, they can still finish 11-1-2 by beating the Colts and giving Baltimore a 12-2 record. That 11-1 beats 12-2 in percentages. And with both teams defense conscious, a tie looms as a possibility. Neither has a particularly potent attack. Ram quarterback Roman Gabriel is the only passer among the top 12 in the league to be under 50 percent in completions (49.7). And with both Bernie Casey and Pat Studstill hobbled by injuries, the Ram aerial game is not exactly scary. On the other hand, Viking Joe Kapp is only 51.7 per cent, though Gary Cuozzo rescued him with a 12 for 18 performance against the Colts last week...**OSBORN READY:** Dick Bass has returned to action to put some punch in the Ram running attack. He picked up 55 yards in 14 carries last week. Tommy Mason had 39 yards in six tries as the Rams nipped the Giants. But Minnesota has Dave Osborn, the second leading rusher in the league last year, ready for action for the first time this season. He suffered a knee injury that required surgery during the exhibition season. And with Bill Brown and Clint Jones also available, the Vikes can match the Ram offense. The question is whether either team can crack the other's defense. LA ranks first in the league in total yardage defense. The Vikes are fifth. Both sport spectacular front fours that are tied for the league lead in quarterback traps with 40. If anything, the Vikes may lack a bit of the Rams' secondary pass defense. Because of this emphasis on defense, neither team is particularly equipped to play catch up football, though the Rams did come from a 14-0 deficit to beat New York, 24-21. And Minnesota came from a 21-0 deficit to sternly challenge the Colts only to be thrown back on the 1-yard line in their 21-9 loss...**RAMS FAVORED:** Both teams have fine kickers. Ram Bruce Gossett booted a 36-yard field goal in the final four seconds to beat the Giants, the third time his toe has saved Los Angeles in that fashion this year. Minnesotan Fred Cox drilled consecutive fielders of 43, 36 and 31 yards to launch the Viking comeback try at Baltimore. Los Angeles is a slight favorite...perhaps partially because the Vikes have been plagued by the flu most of the week...but the winterized souls in this area like to think that the weather is in their favor against the sunny Californians. Ram Coach George Allen insists, however, that "any weather is Ram weather." But Allen cannot toss off the fact that the Rams have never beaten the Vikings in Minnesota. In six meetings here, the most Los Angeles has accomplished is a 24-24 tie in 1962. Last year, in their lone encounter, the Rams took a 39-3 decision...but then the Vikings have been the surprise team of the NFL this year.

PACKER BAND PUTS \$\$\$ IN WELK'S POCKET

DEC 1 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – For nearly 40 years the Packer Band has been hurling the defiant strains of "Go! You Packers, Go!" across uncounted gridirons. Most fans take the Pack's fight song for granted; what they don't know is that every time the band plays its own tune Lawrence Welk pockets four bucks. Ironically, the famed band leader had nothing to do with the song, he probably never heard it, and - to give him the benefit of a very slight doubt - may not even know that he owns it. Like the legendary horseshoe nail which cost a kingdom, the whole thing came about for the lack of a \$3 copyright renewal fee. Because somebody goofed and one of Welk's keen-eyed legal eagles was on the ball, title to the copyright wound up in the band leader's portfolio. Consequently, every time the song is played he gets a piece of the action. "Go! You Packers, Go!" one of the oldest of the professional football club songs, was written by Eric Karll of Milwaukee about 1929. The song was published and copyrighted by Karll (who is still living in Milwaukee and remarkably active in his late 80s, according to reports) in October 1931...**COPYRIGHT RUNS OUT:** Subsequently the Packer Band obtained Karll's rights to the song, which were assigned to the Bibb Publishing Co. of Santa Monica, Calif. The latter published the printed version of the piece for nearly three decades. In 1959 the government copyright office informed the company that the copyright was running out after the customary 28 years but that it could be renewed for a fee of \$3. The fee was not paid. Wilner Burke, present leader of the Packer Band, insists that he was never informed of the situation until it was too late. Otherwise, he would have paid the renewal fee himself. Sometime within the next year - the exact date of the transaction is not known here - Welk's organization bought out the publishing company. Apparently, in looking over the assets of the firm somebody discovered that the copyright on "Go! etc." had run out. It was promptly picked up. Ever since, whenever the piece has been played, the Packer Band and any other musical ensemble that performs it has had to pay a royalty to Welk through the association known ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers), which handles publication and collection of royalties for members...**WELK REFUSES:** A couple of years ago, because of the many requests by high

Pack Challenges 49ers, Vikings Face Rams

school and college bands for permission to use the number, Burke wrote to Welk asking that the rights be released. Welk - or, at least, one of his attorneys - refused. Burke doesn't know the exact fee Welk gets every time the song is played. Each year the bill for performance royalties paid by the band during the football season comes to about \$700, which includes the Welk cut. Wilner estimates that the royalty on "Go!" is probably between \$3 and \$1. The payments haven't much longer to run however. Welk's renewal copyright runs out in 1970, after which the song falls into the public domain. Thereafter anybody who has the music can play it free of charge.

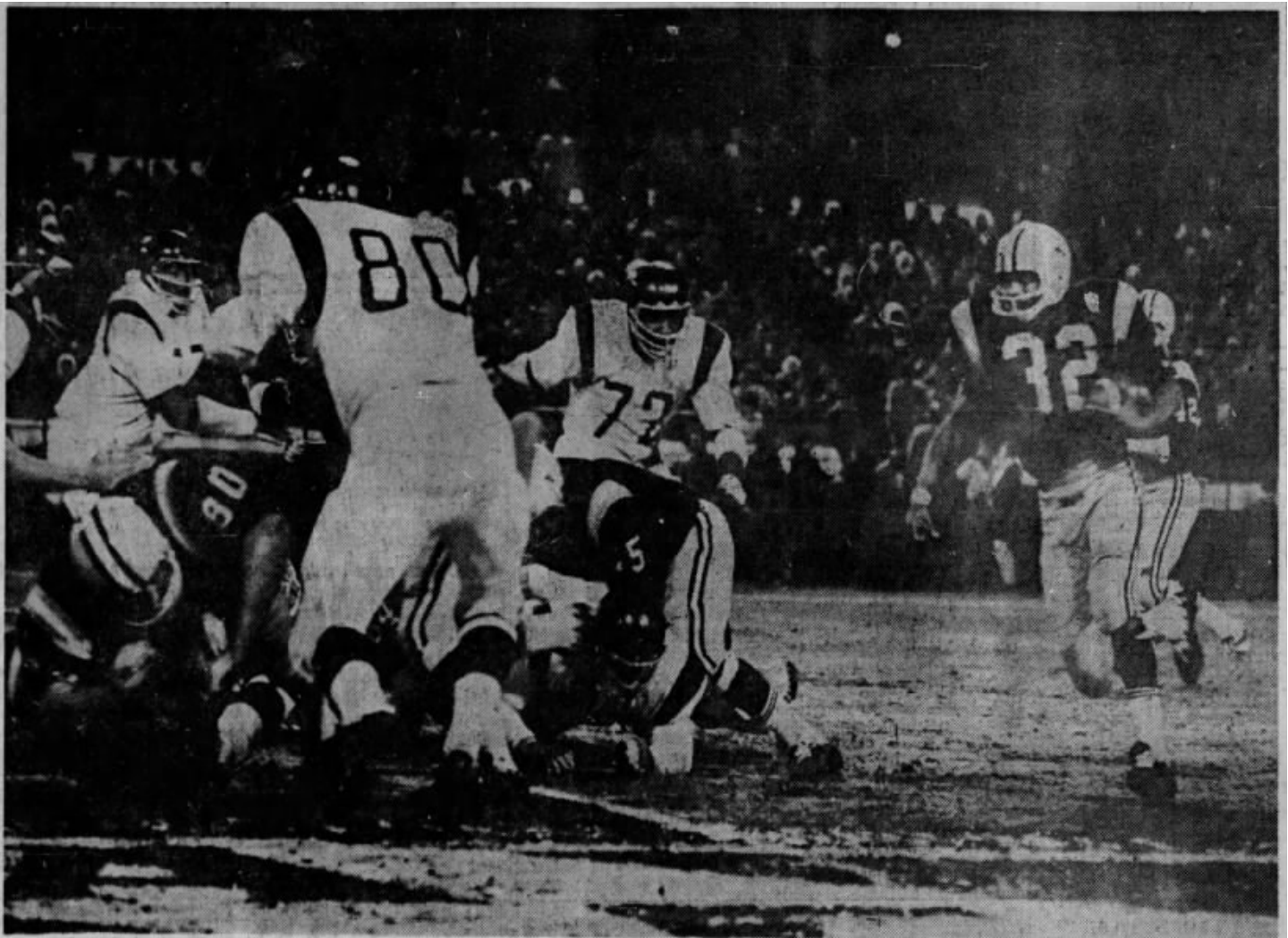
NOTES AND NOTIONS

DEC 1 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - Can events in the NFL's Central Division turn out favorably for the Green Bay Packers a third consecutive week? For two Sundays in a row, all Central Division results nurtured Packer title chances. And, as everyone in Packer land is well aware of, if the Bays beat San Francisco today and Los Angeles stops Minnesota, the defending champions will be back on top by 6 p.m. It could happen, and, as I already indicated in weekly predictions several days ago, I believe it will. But, the four teams involved appear so well matched that anything can happen. Besides, the Packers, through the years, have had trouble winning in San Francisco, while the Rams have had their problems on Minnesota turf. For three of the four clubs involved in the key games, it's a matter of "survival." Only the 49ers, who have been eliminated from the Coastal race, are out of the psychological pressure zone. Green Bay, of course, cannot afford a loss if it hopes to overhaul Minnesota. The Vikings, on the other hand, will have to begin play feeling they must win to stay on top (their game will be almost over before the Packer contest starts, so they cannot wait for any possible "comfort" from the scoreboard). The Rams, already a half-game behind Baltimore, cannot afford a misstep either, since the Colts will be favored heavily over Atlanta today. Los Angeles could be exceptionally "high" for the Viking game after the exhilarating, final-minute win over New York. Last year, after pulling out a last-gasp win over the Packers, Los Angeles routed Baltimore the next weekend. The Vikings have played two bruising games in a row - against Detroit and Baltimore - and that could have an effect on their sharpness today. The Packers, on the other hand, didn't have to go to the wire against either New Orleans or Washington and could be ready to hit a late-season peak today. The last time Bart Starr came back after a "rest," he fairly drove the Cowboys out of their minds with his passing and play calling. Possibly, he can come up with an encore this afternoon. At any rate, it's comforting to have Zeke Bratkowski in the wings, just in case. Defensively, the Packers should be ready to continue at near top efficiency after having had an "intact" front four for the first time last Sunday. Receiver Clifton McNeil could cause Green Bay considerable grief, but if the Packers do as well as they did against the Redskins' aerial attack, it should prove sufficient. The Bays were far more successful against the Washington passing game than Dallas was the other night...The football rumor season seems to be in high gear. It's been said, for example, that Elroy Hirsch and Kansas' Pepper Rodgers may become athletic director and football coach, respectively, at Wisconsin. It's been reported that Ara Parseghian will replace Otto Graham as Redskin coach. And, no matter how hard anyone denies Vince Lombardi-type rumors, they're again cropping up about the Packer general manager and the Philadelphia Eagles. Despite the "messy" win over Detroit, the Eagle situation - financially and artistically - remains a mess - and an embarrassment to the NFL. There's little wonder that official and unofficial sources figure that Lombardi could cure the Eagles' ills. This could well be nothing more than merely wishful thinking. At least, Lombardi has denied any such interest. Seemingly, the only thing Philadelphia could offer Lombardi that he doesn't have in Green Bay is a "slice of the action" - part ownership of the club. But, Vince's Packer contract must certainly be lucrative, and his authority is virtually absolute - despite the absence of any ownership label. Besides, Lombardi has disavowed any interest in returning to coaching...and, it would appear, that he could best revive Eagle fortunes by putting his dynamic personality in the middle of the action - as a coach - rather than as a front office operative. While it doesn't seem probable that Lombardi would leave Green Bay for another football assignment, one can't deny that it could happen. The language of some of his denials has been a bit vague - intentionally or otherwise - and he could be leaving the door open for future action. Lombardi appears to be the restless type, one who needs new challenges periodically. Few would be completely surprised to see him step out of the Packer picture one of these years - whether it be for a fling in politics, for a full-time executive position in business or for another attempt at working a pro football "miracle."

Knights Take ACFL Title

KNIGHTS TAKE ACFL TITLE

DEC 1 (Hartford Courant) - Defensive ends Fran Mallick and Gene Jackson combined for the key play of the game with 3:05 left in the contest as the Hartford Knights halted the Virginia Sailors, 30-17, to capture the Atlantic Coast. Football League title Saturday night at Dillon Stadium. The issue was in doubt with less than four minutes to go as the Sailors were threatening at the Hartford 49. The score was 23-17 at the time. However, Mallick and Jackson then took charge on a third and fourth play. Mallick hit Virginia signal caller Danny Talbot as he faded to pass and the ball popped loose. Jackson was Johnny-On-The-Spot as he picked the pigskin up at the Sailors' 45 and went all the way. That settled the issue. It appeared that the Knights were en route to a comfortable win going into the final quarter as they led by 23-10. The Hartford defense, which was ridden for 112 yards on passing in the first half, adjusted after the intermission by



MARVELOUS MEL GOES FOR KNIGHTS: Mel Meeks (32) at right, Hartford's answer to O. J. Simpson was a big man Saturday night at Dillon Stadium against the Virginia Sailors in the ACFL championship game. Other

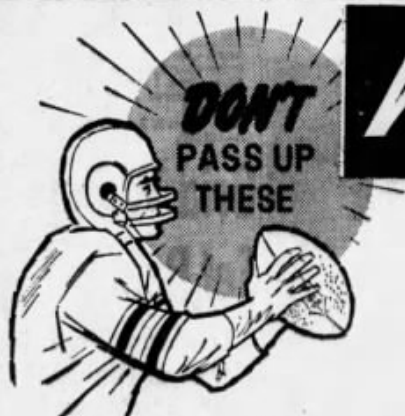
Knights blocking for Mel are Tom Rychlec (80) and Nick Defelice (75). In white are Sailors Dick Duenkel (80) and John Cash (72) (Courant Photo by Maurice Murray).



holding Talbot to 67 yards. But the Virginia defense got itself back in the game in the final stanza as safety Gareton recovered a Marv Hubbard fumble at the Hartford 14. Talbot wasted little time as he connected with tight end Frank Weber for a 14-yard TD with 7:01 left. The quick score appeared to have turned the momentum around as the Sailors were mounting a drive when disaster-in the persons of Mallick and Jackson-struck...**HARTFORD LED 17-10:** Hartford had a 17-10 lead at halftime and increased its advantage in the third stanza to 23-10. The Knights drove 63 yards in seven plays with fullback Marv Hubbard going over from the four to climax the surge. A key interference call against the Sailors' Frank Libertore accounted, for 32 big yards. Libertore was detected holding split end John Wardlaw at the Virginia 31. The score come with 10:11 gone in the quarter. Bean's extra point kick hit the goal post and bounced back, leaving the score at 23-10. Hartford halfback Mel Meeks turned in an outstanding effort as he gained 184 yards rushing in 21 carries. Fullback Marv Hubbard also did a fine job as he gained 71 yards, also in 21 attempts. Rookie quarterback Dick Faucette, getting his first pro start, responded beautifully as he guided the strong Hartford attack authoritatively. Faucette was three for nine and 48 yards in passing. Talbot was also effective as he was 13 of 30 for 178 yards. However, in the crucial second half he was only seven for 17 as the Knights' defensive unit kept constant pressure on him. Virginia was paced in rushing by fullback Ray McDonald who gained 101

Score by periods:	
Hartford	10 7 6 7-30
Virginia	3 7 0 7-17
V—Knight 9 FG	
H—Rychlec 7	pass from Faucette
(Bean kick)	
H—Bean 14 FG	
V—Braxton 11	pass from Talbot
(Knight kick)	
H—Meeks 1 run, (Bean kick)	
H—Hubbard 4 run (kick failed)	
V—Weber 14	pass from Talbot (Knight
kick)	
H—Jackson 45 run of fumble recovery,	
(Bean kick)	

yards in 18 carries. The top receiver for Hartford was tight end Tom Rychlec with two catches for 21 yards and one TD. Wardlaw caught one pass for 27 yards. McDonald, Weber and Hezekiah Braxton had three catches apiece for the Sailors. In the first half the offensive units ruled as the Knights took a 17-10 lead. Both teams came up with big plays repeatedly. Hartford rolled up 136 yards on the ground with Meeks getting 114 in a sensational performance. After dropping behind by 3-0 after Virginia's Curt Knight kicked a nine-yard field the Knights quickly rallied. Hartford marched 83 yards in six plays with a 65 yard run by Meeks the key play. That brought the ball to the Hartford seven. Moments later Faucette hit Rychlec in the right hand corner of the end zone for the score. The time was 4:18 left on the clock. Bean's extra point made the score 7-3. A 14-yard field goal by Bean with one second remaining in the stanza lifted the Hartford lead to 10-3...SAILORS TIE SCORE: Virginia moved back into a tie in the early moments of the second quarter as it traveled 80-yards in nine plays. The clincher was an 11-yard pass from Talbot to Braxton. Knight added the extra point with 10:25 remaining to knot the score. But Hartford came back with a sustained drive of 80 yards in 14 plays with Meeks going over from one yard out with 3:03 left before the first half. Bean added the extra point for a 17-10 advantage. A key play in the drive was a 27-yard pass from Faucette to Wardlaw which carried the Virginia 27.



VAN STEEN FORD

3030 W. College Ave.

USED CARS

Don't Pass Up The Packers Today!

WBAY-TV (Channel 2) GAME TIME: 3:00 P.M.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

No.	Name	Pos.	No.	Name	Pos.
10	Stevens, Billy	QB	58	Winkler, Frances	DE
12	Bratkowski, Zeke	QB	60	Caffey, Lee Roy	LB
15	Starr, Bart	QB	62	Lueck, Bill	OG
21	Jeter, Bob	DB	64	Kramer, Jerry	G
22	Pitts, Elijah	RB	66	Nitsche, Ray	LB
23	Williams, Travis	RB	68	Gillingham, Gale	G
24	Wood, Willie	DB	70	Crenshaw, Leon	DT
26	Adderley, Herb	DB	71	Peay, Francis	OT
27	James, Claudis	FL	72	Himes, Dick	OT
30	Mercein, Chuck	RB	74	Jordan, Henry	DT
33	Grabowski, Jim	RB	75	Gregg, Forest	T
38	Mercer, Mike	K	76	Skoronski, Bob	T
40	Brown, Tom	DB	77	Kostelnik, Ron	DT
43	Hart, Doug	DB	81	Fleming, Marv	TE
44	Anderson, Donny	RB	82	Aldridge, Lionel	DE
45	Rowser, John	RB	83	Vandersea, P.	TE-LB
50	Hyland, Bob	C-G	84	Dale, Carroll	E
53	Carr, Fred	LB-TE	86	Dowler, Boyd	E
55	Flanigan, Jim	LB	87	Davis, Qillie	DE
57	Bowman, Ken	C	89	Robinson, Dave	LB

SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

No.	Name	Pos.	No.	Name	Pos.
10	Mira	QB	57	Nunley	LB
11	Spurrier	QB	60	Lakes	DT
12	Brodie	QB	64	Wilcox	LB
22	Lewis	RB	66	Collett	G
26	McFarland	E	68	Mudd	G
27	Randolph	DB	69	Peoples	G
30	Fuller	DB	70	Krueger	DT
32	Phillips	DB	72	Johnson	DT
36	Davis	K	73	Olssen	T
37	Johnson	DB	74	Miller	DE
39	Alexander	DB	76	Rohde	T
40	Willard	RB	77	Bosley	C
42	Cunningham	RB	79	Banaszek	T
44	Crow	TE-RB	80	Hindman	DE
45	Tucker	RB-TE	83	Randle	E
38	Woitt	DB	84	Olerich	TE
49	Lee	RB	85	McNeil	FL
50	Beard	LB	86	Hardy	DE
54	Hays	LB	88	Witcher	E
55	Hazeltine	LB			

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