



New Orleans Saints (4-5-2) 29, Green Bay Packers (3-7-1) 21
Sunday November 28th 1971 (at Milwaukee)



Snake-Bit Packers Watch Saints Go Marching Past

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(MILWAUKEE) - It could have been a day to remember...Bart Starr, back at the throttle after a long and painful absence, moved in behind center Ken Bowman to the accompaniment of tumultuous cheers from a capacity County Stadium crowd Sunday of 48,035 Sunday afternoon. Mr. Quarterback, in grateful response, escorted the Packers 71 yards to score on their second offensive series, strongly reminiscent in character and precision to many another he had authored en route to championships in the early and middle '60s.

LACKING IN ARTISTRY

The faithful, in a nostalgic mood, settled back to enjoy the afternoon... prematurely. From that point, the situation began to deteriorate rapidly. The obstreperous New Orleans Saints, who already had made capital of a Donny Anderson fumble in the opening minutes, converted two other bobbles and a pair of interceptions into 23 points and an eventual 29-21 victory amid a light November snow and rain. Could our heroes suddenly have become flat in the wake of that sparkling start? Or, as Bowman suggested, were they "snake-bit?" Both elements undoubtedly contributed substantially to their third consecutive embarrassment, following 3-0 and 28-21 losses to Minnesota and Atlanta, although there may be some question about which came first. Whatever the case, they were patently lacking in artistry over the last three quarters, both ways. Bowman, for one, was convinced there was no dearth of inspiration. "I don't think we were flat," he insisted. "My guys were coming off the ball real good. I don't know what was responsible for what happened. I'm sitting there looking for an answer myself. I get the feeling we're snake-bit."

NOT VERY GOOD

"We make two first downs and then fumble. I think that second drive was our only good series all afternoon. We made no mistakes all the way. Then all of a sudden, mistakes started jumping in there." Coach Dan Devine, more disappointed that he cared to admit, conceded "It wasn't a very good performance except for that early drive. Penalties at times killed us...Every time we got the ball, we stopped ourselves." The game, he said, had turned upon a fumbled fourth quarter pitchout, which quarterback Scott Hunter had intended for Anderson. Instead, the ball appeared to bounce off the Golden Palomino's shoe tops and defensive tackle Dave Long recovered for the Saints. "There was penetration on the play," Devine pointed out, "and I think Hunter got hit as he pitched the ball."

FIVE FIELD GOALS

"That play came right after Dave Hampton had made that 90-yard kickoff return for the touchdown. At that time, we're just one touchdown away from winning the game. That was our chance there. We're just five points behind (19-14), we've got field position, momentum, the wind, everything. The fumble broke the game open. To me, that was the biggest play of the ball game. That faux pas led to an 11-yard field goal by Charlie Durkee which padded the Saints' lead to 22-14 and, as it turned out, sealed the decision for the southerners. It was the fifth success in six attempts for Durkee, a Packer during training camp this season, who also hit from 35, 26, 12 and 11 yards and missed from 34.

Point Parade



New Orleans 3 3 6 17 — 29
Green Bay 7 0 0 14 — 21

Saints 3, Packers 0

Durkee kicked 12-yard field goal after Saints recovered Anderson fumble at Packer 41 but were stymied at the Green Bay four-yard line after 11 plays. 9:05 elapsed in first period.

Packers 7, Saints 3

Anderson skirted left end for three yards and touchdown as Packers marched 71 yards in nine plays, including three successful Starr passes, after Saints' kickoff. Webster converted with 13:58 gone in first.

Packers 7, Saints 6

Durkee kicked 12-yard field goal with 32 seconds left in half after Saints were stopped for only two yards in three plays following recovery of Starr fumble on Packer seven.

Saints 9, Packers 7

Durkee kicked 35-yard field goal after Saints took 32-yard Anderson punt on their own 40 and moved to Packer 27 in five plays. 3:19 elapsed in third period.

Saints 12, Packers 7

Durkee kicked 26-yard field goal after taking another 32-yard Anderson punt on Packer 49 and moving to Packer 18 in seven plays. 10:14 elapsed in third.

Saints 19, Packers 7

Strong punched for touchdown on third try from the one with 4:03 gone in fourth quarter, concluding a 30-yard drive in six plays after Hollas interception of Starr pass. Durkee toed extra point.

Saints 19, Packers 14

Hampton returned Saints' kickoff 90 yards for touchdown with 4:22 gone in fourth and Webster converted.

Saints 22, Packers 14

Durkee kicked 11-yard field goal with 12:43 elapsed in fourth after Saints recovered Hunter fumble at Packer 43 and moved to three-yard line in 10 plays.

Saints 29, Packers 14

Wyatt intercepted Hunter pass and returned it 55 yards for touchdown with 13:22 elapsed. Durkee converted.

Saints 29, Packers 21

Bratkowski passed to McGeorge for 40-yard touchdown play, completing 75-yard drive after Saints' kickoff. Webster added extra point with 40 seconds left in game.

Net Passing Yards	110	167
Total yards	273	262
Fumbles-lost	1-0	4-4
Turnovers	0	6
Yards Penalized	8-71	5-41

SCORING

1st – NO – Charlie Durkee, 12-yard field goal NO 3-0
 1st – GB – Donny Anderson, 3-yard run (Tim Webster kick) GB 7-3
 2nd – NO – Durkee, 12-yard field goal GB 7-6
 3rd – NO – Durkee, 35-yard field goal NO 9-7
 3rd – NO – Durkee, 26-yard field goal NO 12-7
 4th – NO – Jim Strong, 1-yard run (Durkee kick) NO 19-7
 4th – GB – Dave Hampton, 90-yard kickoff return (Webster kick) NO 19-14
 4th – NO – Durkee, 11-yard field goal NO 22-14
 4th – NO – Doug Wyatt, 55-yard interception return (Durkee kick) NO 29-14
 4th – GB – Rich McGeorge, 40-yard pass from Zeke Bratkowski (Webster kick) NO 29-21

RUSHING

GREEN BAY – John Brockington 15-68, Donny Anderson 8-23 1 TD, Bart Starr 2-10, Dave Hampton 1-(-1), Scott Hunter 1-(-5)

NEW ORLEANS – Bob Gresham 26-113, Jim Strong 13-21 1 TD, Virgil Robinson 7-20, Archie Manning 2-8, Edd Hargett 2-1

PASSING

GREEN BAY – Bart Starr 17-8-116 1 INT, Scott Hunter 5-1-13 1 INT, Zeke Bratkowski 3-2-48 1 TD

NEW ORLEANS – Edd Hargett 18-8-73, Archie Manning 7-3-38

RECEIVING

GREEN BAY – Rich McGeorge 3-84 1 TD, Carroll Dale 3-36, John Spilis 3-35, John Brockington 2-22

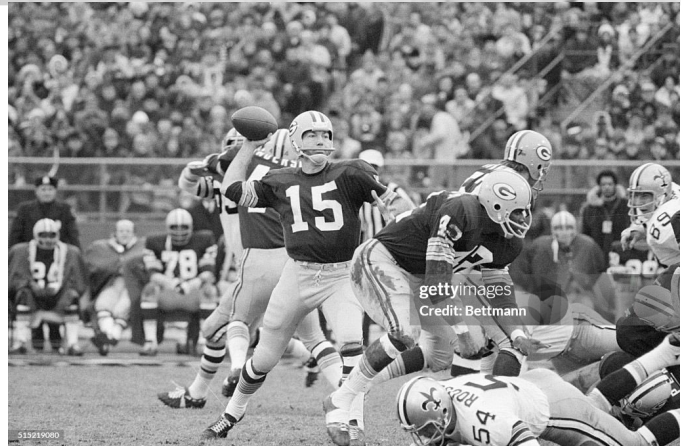
NEW ORLEANS – Bob Newland 3-40, Jim Strong 3-4, Dave Parks 1-23, Bob Grehsam 1-18, Al Dodd 1-15, Danny Abramowicz 1-13, Virgil Robinson 1-(-2)

Everything Coming Up Zero for Poor Ol' Pack

EVERYTHING COMING UP ZERO FOR POOR OL' PACK

NOV 29 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – There were only 40 seconds showing on the clock. The Packers trailed by a touchdown-plus...and they were kicking off. The decision was clearly made. The Packers had as much chance of winning as Mao has of becoming Pope. But the Packers continued to play it by the book. They prepared for a squib kick with the desperate hope of recovering it. The Saints gathered almost funnel-fashion in anticipation of the bounder. Tim Webster advanced and ticked...not kicked...the ball. Now, the rule book says a kickoff must travel 10 yards before it becomes a free ball. Webster's effort turned into a shank shot and the ball went spinning on its end like a top about the Packer 45 and then curled backward. It appeared Webster was about to accomplish the rare feat of kicking off backward but an alert Saint scooped it up on the Packer 40 and ran it to the 35 ... or so ruled the official scorer, thereby saving Webster from minus yardage on the kickoff and crediting him instead with zero yardage. Oh, I know that this incident was hardly crucial to the outcome of the Packers futile struggle in County Stadium here Sunday. But in a sense it seemed to wrap up the whole effort, for no matter what the Packers tried or how hard they tried, everything came up zeroes...at best. Consider, if you will, these other incidents:

- With second and six at their own 24, the Packers throw a pass at Donny Anderson, who is interfered with four yards behind the line resulting in a Saints penalty that gives the Packers a four- yard loss, though it saves them a down.



Green Bay Packers veteran quarterback Bart Starr started for the Packers for the first time in nearly a year against the New Orleans Saints. Starr is shown passing to end Rich McGeorge for 28 yards in the first quarter. Blocking for Starr is (#42) back John Brockington.

- With third and five at their own 37, the Saints throw incomplete and are detected holding. Now the Pack must decide whether to take the play and almost certainly forced New Orleans to punt or take the penalty and push the Saints back to their own 22 but give them another third down. The Packers play it safe and take the play and presumably the ball...only to have Al Matthews nick the punter while almost blocking the kick. So the Saints wind up with the ball and first down at their own 42.
- The Saints punt from their own 24 and Kenny Ellis is off for touchdown-land with it only to discover that one official is the only guy in the park that saw him call for a fair catch and the play has been whistled dead.
- It's third and one at the Packer 47 with Bart Starr at quarterback and everybody wonders if Bart will try to pull off his favorite trick. He does, falling back to pass. But he is forced to scramble by a surging Saints' defense. Nevertheless, he manages to slip an underhand pass up to John Spilis, who runs almost 10 yards for the easy first down and considerably more only to fumble the ball away when he's hit.
- And Charley Durkee, a Packer reject, kicks five field goals...though most of them were chip shot types.

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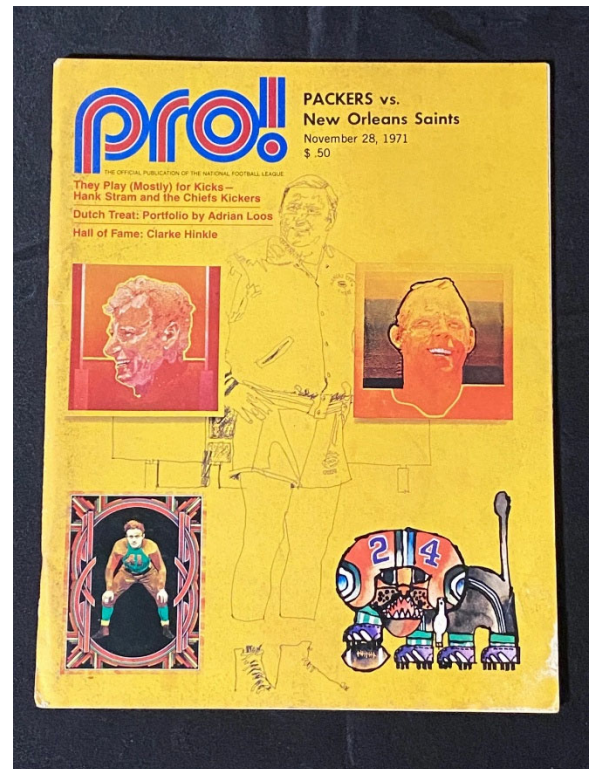
have had reindeer grazing in the parking lot. Their generosity knows no bounds: four fumbles, two interceptions, a pair of 32-yard punts and penalties that are too painful to recount...If you look hard enough for something positive, you can always find it. For instance, the fact that Durkee kicked five field goals says something good for the defense, which was under constant pressure because of the offense's inability to get the ball out of its own back yard...Bob Brown is indeed reaching toward all-pro standards...So is Rich McGeorge...and Jim Carter is making rapid improvement...The Packers moved the ball out of their own territory only four of the 14 times they had ownership. And once was on the last play of the first half and another was only a 2-yard penetration before Hunter threw his interception...The 71-yard touchdown drive the second time the Packers had the ball was a throwback to the championship era as Starr guided his team forward flawlessly, picking and parting the Saints defense with a mixture of plays and three completions in as many attempts. But as the game wore on, it became apparent that Bart still does not have the ol' zip on his passes and that either he is hesitant to throw long or can't throw long. But it was a tremendous salute the fans gave him when he appeared on the field for the first time...That was quite a disadvantage the Saints had to play with Sunday. I mean coming up here to this winterland with its freezing temperatures and snow. After all, it's hard to get used to holding onto the ball under those conditions when you're used to the warm and sunny climate of the deep south.

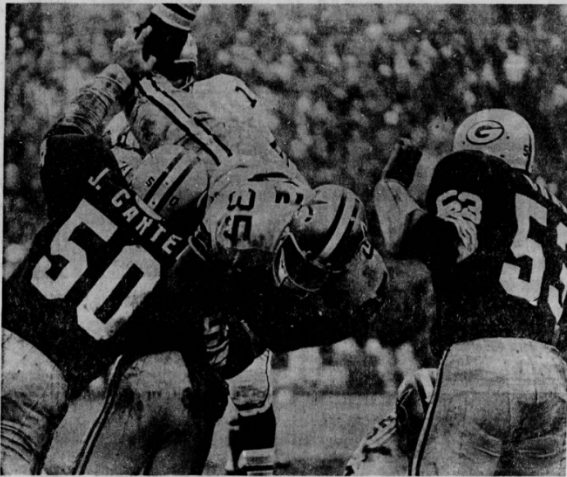
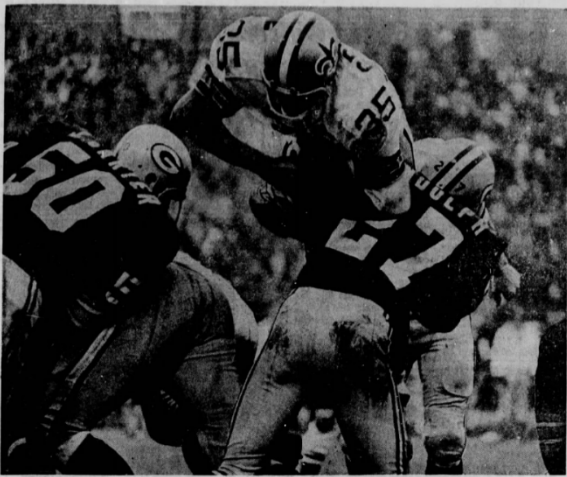
STARR MUM...AND GLUM

NOV 29 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Bart Starr was not in a conversational mood. It was entirely understandable. The 37-year-old field general had awaited Sunday afternoon's Packer re-entry for months and, after a bright beginning, things obviously had not gone as well as he had hoped. "I don't have a great deal to say," Mr. Quarterback politely but firmly offered as sportswriters expectantly clustered about his locker following the Packers' 29-21 loss to the fledgling New Orleans Saints in County Stadium. "I felt too much has been made of my getting ready to play today," added the 16-year veteran, who underwent two shoulder operations during training camp. "I didn't do the job I would have liked to have done and I would just like to leave it at that...I think that says it all." Starr did answer several questions, however, and his still boyish features even broke into a wry smile when reference was made to a third quarter interceptions by Saints' safety Hugo Hollas. "The fellow made a good play," Bart said, punctuating his reply with a dry chuckle. "As far as the fumble is concerned, I really don't know what happened on that," he said after it was suggested that a blocker might have jolted his passing arm to cause the bobble. At mention of the 71-yard drive he engineered for the Packers' first touchdown, Starr ironically noted, "We sure didn't do much after that, did we?" He conceded that penalties had contributed heavily to the Packers' offensive difficulties, particularly in the early going. "That's the way games are sometimes," Starr said. "Those are situations you get yourself into and, somehow, you have to get out of them." Although Bart might not have been entirely happy with his own efforts, he made a strong impression upon his new backfield comrade, rookie fullback John Brockington. "I have a lot of confidence in Bart," he said. "I've never played in the same backfield with him before, of course, and I can only speak for myself, but playing back there with a great player like Bart gives me confidence."

GRESHAM PLAN: BEAT BROCKINGTON

NOV 29 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – It took a brief second of prodding but New Orleans Saint running back Bob Gresham finally engaged in a comparison of himself and the Packers' John Brockington. "My wife Joyce told me before I left for the game to just get more yardage than Brockington," said Gresham. "She pointed out that we were both rookies





Packers Stop Gresham - Temporarily: Jim Carter and Al Randolph stopped Saint Bob Gresham's thrusts from the 1-yard line twice but Jim Strong scored on the third try.

and that we're both 23 years old. Only he was drafted in the first round and I went in the eighth." Gresham added that final comment with a small dash of smugness since he had just rushed for 113 yards in leading the Saints to a 29-21 victory over the Packers at County Stadium...**BIGGEST THRILL:** "This was my biggest thrill, gaining over 100 yards for the first time," he said. "I wasn't aware of how many yards I had but I was watching Brockington and I saw that he wasn't breaking any long runs. But our line was opening such big holes that I really didn't have a very tough time getting the yards." Gresham was drafted by the Rams but traded to the Saints in a deal for Gene Howard. Saints' Coach J. D. Roberts pointed to Gresham's rushing ability as a key factor in the game, one which enabled New Orleans to control the ball. Still, when asked about his impressions of Brockington, Roberts said, "Oh, he's something else. He's the best runner we've seen this year, that's for sure."...**FUMBLES HELPED:** On another note, Roberts mentioned that "this was the best defensive game we've played all year. We just got the job done although these fumbles sure helped." There were four Packer fumbles and the Saints recovered them all. Did the Saints play up closer when Bart Starr was at the Packer helm, perhaps feeling the Green Bay quarterback could not throw too long yet? "No, we just played our regular defense, no matter who they put in there. A lot of these guys who aren't supposed to throw deep will throw deep pretty well and Starr is just a great quarterback. And Zeke...the way he moved them to that touchdown late in the game...I'm glad he wasn't in there any longer than he was," Roberts added. "But we controlled the ball so well in the third quarter that we just had them backed up," he said. "We had the ball and they couldn't get it away from us. We just played excellent defense."...**MOVE ON GROUND:** Roberts said that the Saints' offensive strategy was to move the ball on the ground and quarterback Edd Hargett, who came in to relieve Archie Manning when the latter pulled a leg muscle in the first period, pointed out a Packer weak spot. "They were playing a four-four defense at times and overloading the linebackers on the strong side," said Hargett. "So we just came back to the weak side with Gresham and it really worked. I think the Packers were overcompensating a bit." Hargett felt a screen pass to Gresham in the fourth quarter that set up Durkee's final field goal was one of the key plays of the game and he

credited Roberts for calling it from the bench. "We caught the Packers in the right defense on that one too." Hargett, a Phi Beta Kappa at Texas A&M, said he was confident that the Saints could pass to the outside against the Packer secondary. "The sideline passes were working but Danny Abramowicz came back and told me after one of our weak side runs that he could beat Doug Hart deep. We tried it and it worked but the penalty ruined that."

NOT KEYING JUST CLOSING IN: BROCK

NOV 29 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Despite his eminence in National Football League rushing figures, the Packers' John Brockington doesn't feel the enemy is "keying" on him. "They might be closing in on us a little," he admitted after the New Orleans Saints held the Pack to 95 yards on the ground in a 29-21 victory here Sunday afternoon. "But I don't think they're keying on me particularly." Brockington, who gained 68 yards in 15 attempts to recapture the NFL rushing lead from Detroit's Steve Owens, "When they do close in on you like that, then you pop that short pass on 'em and that loosens 'em up. It's pretty hard to do anything, though, when you don't have the ball much. What did we have in the first half, 19 or 20 plays? That's not too cool."...Rollie Dotsch, Packer line coach: "We were backed up the whole time and they're looking down our throats...We only averaged 312 yards per rush, and that's not very good."...Saints Coach J. D. Roberts: "As many times as we were down there, we should have put the game out of reach long before we did."

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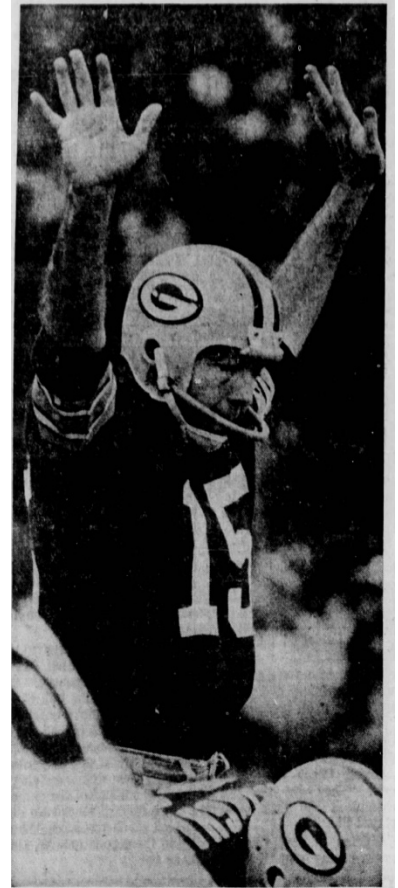
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VIRGIL HAPPY WITH NEW ORLEANS

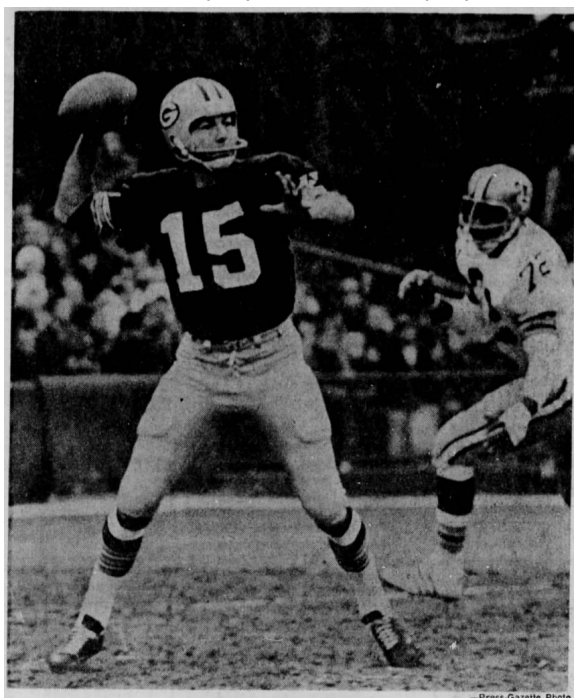
NOV 30 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Virgil Robinson wasn't standing on any bench yelling, "I told you so," and his performance (20 yards rushing and one pass reception for minus two yards) didn't exactly add strength to that cliché that rejected players will always come back to haunt you. But Virgil was a happy man Sunday after "his" New Orleans Saints had beaten "those" Green Bay Packers 29-21 at Milwaukee's County Stadium. And Virgil's been happy ever since his football fortunes took him to New Orleans just before the first regular season game. He had been drafted in the second round by the Packers and had been...of all unmentionable things...cut. Still, Virgil wasn't upset. "The man did what he thought was best for the team and getting cut was just one of those things that happens. And as it turned out, it worked out best for me because I'm really happy with the Saints and am quite confident about my future here." But, only human, Virgil couldn't let it end there. "I didn't deserve to be on the Packers' final 40-man roster because I hadn't done anything. When I got there, they told me they wanted to try me on defense," he said. "I said I would but asked that I get an equal chance on offense, too. But, heck, I'd only played two plays of defense in high school and the Packers had plenty of defensive backs." Virgil's competition on offense included Donny Anderson, John Brockington, Dave Hampton and Larry Krause, all of whom he called "great runners." "What really bothered me though was that they said I was too light to play offense," Virgil said. "So what was I doing? I was blocking on the wedge on the kick return teams. If I'm too light for offense, how can I be in the kick return wedge?" The question then came up. Was Robinson looking ahead to this battle against the Packers, perhaps to gain a measure of revenge? "At first, I did look ahead to the Packer game," he said with a broad smile. "But after a while I began to treat it like any other game and decided to forget everything and just do the best to help the team." Virgil finished

Bart Thanks, Quiets Fans: Packer quarterback Bart Starr received a standing ovation when he took the field for the first time this year Sunday after a shoulder operation during training camp. He lifted both arms in the air in an oblique acknowledgement of the greeting while asking for quiet so his team could hear the signals.





ABOVE: Jim Carter (#50), Jim Strong (#42), Del Williams (#61) & Alden Roche (#87)



Bart Starr...The Classic QB Back in Action

with this. "I don't hold anything against them because they cut me. As I said, I hadn't done anything to deserve being kept. But I do think a player who hasn't made a mistake is a player who hasn't had a chance to make one."

DEVINE EMBARRASSED AND DOESN'T LIKE IT

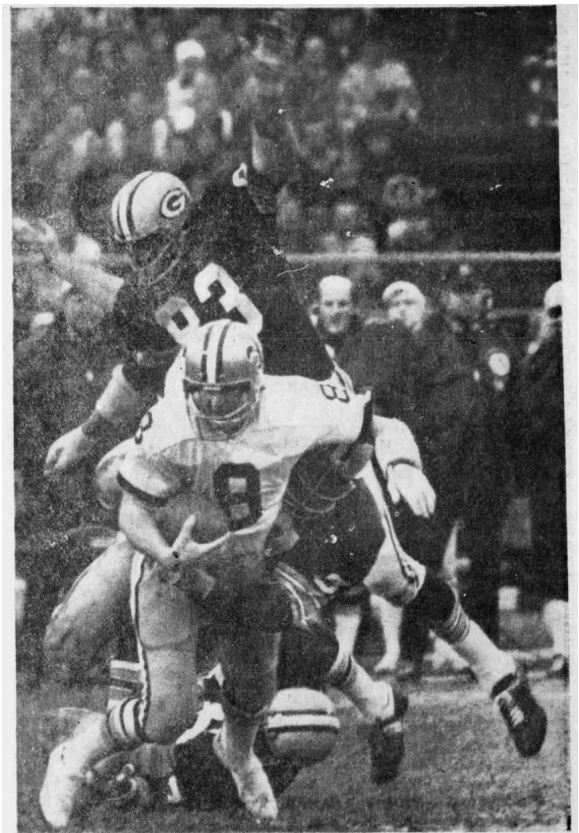
NOV 30 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Looking out his office window and studying the winter scene as he spoke, Dan Devine summed up his feelings with explicit and characteristic candor Monday afternoon. "I'm embarrassed," the Packer coach volunteered while discussing Sunday's 29-21 loss to the New Orleans Saints, the third straight defeat for the Packers following a strong mid-season surge. "I feel bad that we're not giving the fans a good performance. I think most of the players feel that way. It's not lack of effort on anybody's part. "It's new for me to be embarrassed. I've never been through it before and I don't like it too well...It's not a very good feeling and I'm going to do everything I can to avoid it in the future. "By the same token, I'm appreciative of the guys who have hung in there for us...The two players who gave the best effort on either team Sunday were Jim Carter and Alden Roche." Lest his comments be misunderstood, Devine interjected, "We're certainly not down on this team, but we realize its weaknesses." Devine admitted that the 3-0 loss to the Vikings in Minnesota - a game in which the Packers dominated the Central Division champions statistically but came away empty-handed - could have been a factor in their most recent losses to Atlanta and New Orleans. "I'm sure the Minnesota game took something out of us," he said. "Just how much physically or mentally, I don't know...I don't think it's an intentional thing on the players' part. I think it just sneaks up on you." Devine then proceeded to pinpoint what he considers to be the underlying causes of the Pack's recent problems. Writing out the words on a tablet before him as he continued his analysis, the Packer coach said, "For one of these four reasons - age, injury, ability or attitude - we have some people on our squad that I'm very disappointed in because of their play. "One of these things is preventing some people from playing so we can win...I may be oversimplifying it, but these four words almost cover everything...I'm not talking about a lot of people. Maybe I thought they had more ability than they have. Maybe injury is keeping them from performing. Maybe age is a factor, maybe attitude." Asked if the "attitude" might have been something that was present when he assumed the coaching mantle last January, Devine said, "There are not too many old dogs who are going to be taught new tricks, and there are some old dogs who don't need to be taught new tricks. They know 'em all. When you look at the defensive unit and can only point to Carter and Roche, there is considerable room for improvement. Maybe this is only an indication of the high level of performance I want." Elaborating in

reply to a question, Devine clarified his appraisal by explaining, "I'm not disappointed in anyone who's inexperienced. I take that into consideration in making my evaluation. "I'm not the least bit disappointed in John Brockington. He's just going through the kind of thing that a rookie might who isn't sure he's going to make the ball club and then suddenly finds himself in the limelight." Devine made this last point in reference to an earlier comment that the freshman fullback had delivered his "poorest game" of the season in Sunday's loss. "The distractions are going to get to you without your knowing it," the Packer leader added. "John is just going through a very normal kind of thing...STILL IN PARK: "I'm not disappointed in Al Matthews either because I think all he needs is experience to become a fine football player. And I think all Scott Hunter needs is experience to become a top quarterback. In saying I have been disappointed in our overall performance, I'm talking about the whole year. By the same token, we aren't doing things like the Giants are doing. I understand they had three fumbles and two interceptions on their first 12 plays Sunday. Also, we've got enough guys who refuse to surrender so we haven't been run out of the ball park. When you're 3-7-and-1, it's easy to get run out of the park, but we haven't been. For example, in Sunday's game we're behind only 19-14 in the fourth quarter and a touchdown will win it...To show you how close we were to winning, after Hampton scored Ed Hargett throws on second down. Doug Hart is the closest guy to the ball and he's waiting to intercept...FANTASTIC PLAY: "But Jim Carter doesn't know that. He comes across to make a fantastic play and almost gets it but deflects it so Doug can't intercept. If he hadn't made such a great effort, we probably would have scored...We're very close to taking advantage of our opponents' mistakes." On the subject of Bart Starr, who Sunday made his first start in nearly a year, Devine said, I don't think Bart's at a spot now where he would like to be. or where we would like to have him be. Yet, as you examine the game on film. he called a beautiful game. He called audibles like they haven't been called all year. He was probing the defense very

definitely...As to whether he will start in St. Louis Sunday, I think that's a decision that will have to be made later in the week. "As far as the interception was concerned, he zinged the ball as hard on that one as anybody on either side all day. It's funny how people read into things what they want to see. The linebacker just stepped in and picked it off. "I really feel like Scott learned a lot by sitting back and watching it, I might add Zeke Bratkowski did a good job, too. Actually, the quarterback spot is encouraging to me, surprisingly. Bart has come back a lot farther than I thought he had...The quickness and the alertness is still there. As his arm gets stronger, his performance will increase, although I think he would be the first to admit he never has had a strong arm. What pleased me is the way Bart ran on that scramble in the second quarter. On his fumble a little later, if we get good blocking, Bart would get the ball off. I also feel encouraged about Hunter, even though his three shots in there were marred by a fumble, an interception and a bounce pass to John Spilis...ASKS QUESTIONS: "I still feel Scott is going to be a fine player in this league. He learned a lot of things yesterday. He'd ask Bart, when he came off the field, 'Why did you do this, or why did you call that?'" In the same connection, Devine noted, "When we looked at the film, the quarterbacking was almost forgotten, there were so many other areas of concern. Quarterbacking was only one of them. "For example, this was John Brockington's poorest game by quite a margin...We were backed up there in the second quarter and we have a good shot at a 90-yard touchdown run, if John just reads the blocks correctly. We called an audible and for some reason, John doesn't run like he has been and where he has been running. For some reason, he veers off. He could have gone 90 yards and pulled us out of the big hole we were in. And Hunter's fumble, which to me was the crucial play of the game, was caused by two things - a poor block by John Spilis, who had made some fine blocks earlier - and a very poor play by Brockington. If he'd have hit in there like he should have, it should have worked. By moving slowly, Brockington fouled up the timing of the play. If he had moved in there faster, he would have blocked the man Spilis missed...That's why I say the quarterbacking was incidental. The difference in the game was the six turnovers - four fumbles and two interceptions - on our part and none on theirs ..There again, I don't think we went for Hunter's fumble hard enough. Their guy did...I think we were outhustled on the play."...DEFENDS GILLINGHAM: Devine stepped to the defense of guard Gale Gillingham, victim of an inopportune holding call in the second quarter. "I don't want to get into the officiating," he said. "but when they start identifying players who receive penalties, then I feel I have to mention an official's mistake. That was not holding on Gillie and there was no way it possibly could have been called holding. It's not fair to Gillingham to let him take the blame for somebody else's mistake. "I would have to say that Gillie gives us an all-pro performance every game. It wasn't one of his greatest games, but it still was an all-pro performance. This, incidentally, was the first time Rich McGeorge covered a kickoff and he did a fine job. On the first one, he was downfield five yards ahead of everybody else, even though he's not the fastest guy on the platoon. He plays off the block and makes the tackle...NOSE FOR THE BALL: "That's something you can't coach. There are just some guys who have a nose for the football. I wouldn't be surprised if we put Brockington on the kickoff team this week." Putting the Saints behind him, Devine asserted, "I've moaned and groaned long enough...We've got to get something together for St. Louis. When I say I'm embarrassed, I think a pretty good number of the players feel the same way...I think a good share are determined to put on a good performance for the rest of this year."

NOTES AND NOTIONS

NOV 30 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - No one, realistically, expected the Packers to win a title in Coach Dan Devine's first year...But neither did anyone expect them to sag to their current low estate. Only two clubs (Buffalo and Houston) in the entire 26-team NFL have worse records than Green Bay. In the last eight weeks (one win, six losses, one tie) the Packers have been in their worst depression since the pre-Lombardi "dark ages" of 1958. Admittedly, the Packers have had some bad breaks...but, by the same token, they've been getting out-hit and outplayed and, yes, even out-coached, on occasion. The Packer power image has particularly taken a beating - via TV - in the last two starts against Atlanta and New Orleans, teams, which not too long ago, couldn't even give Green Bay a good scrimmage. The Packers have some weak spots, any observer would admit, but they also have some extremely talented personnel. Why haven't they been able to put it together? Why does the team seem to be going downhill from week to week? Who is to blame for the sad record? You'd have to divide the blame among the players and coaches. After all, coaches are given much of the credit for winning seasons (unless he happens to be Larry Costello, of the Milwaukee Bucks), so it's only fair they should shoulder some of the burden for bad showings. One wonders, for example, if Devine has done anything to bolster his team's confidence lately. The Falcons and the Saints were both "high" for the Packers. So why can't Green Bay get "up" for a game? Devine's constant lineup shuffling isn't doing much for the team's cohesion. He seemed to have found the "right" defensive unit (it allowed only 10 points a



Manning Nailed: New Orleans quarterback Archie Manning is hit by Packer linebacker Fred Carr after scrambling for two yards while attempting to pass in Sunday's game. The Packers' pass rush was practically non-existent in the 29-21 loss - UPI Telephoto



The frustration of Bart Starr's return is symbolized by an errant football, lying in the midst of a swarm of Saints.

game over a 3-contest stretch), but he again made changes (with only a portion of them being dictated by injuries). Many fans feel that Devine, on his TV show and in his interviews is over-candid - or elaborates too much about specific players. This complaint is perhaps justified, because some types of comments are best saved for team or private meetings. Perhaps Devine is "learning" how to handle professional athletes in somewhat the same way as rookie players learn about the NFL... However, it's well to remember that the Packers themselves have made multitudes of mistakes. They must be leading the league in turnovers. Certainly, Devine can't go out on the field and put a handle on the ball for his players or prevent an interception. The Bays are making far more mistakes than one expects of professionals - particularly at this time of year. The Saints, Sunday, made capital out of Green Bay's six turnovers with their "short field goal offense."...The Packers currently are more generous than was last year's edition during the frustrating 6-8 season. Over the 14-game span, in 1970, the Bays allowed 20.9 points per game. Right now, they have a 22.3 defensive average. On the attack, the Packers are better than the woeful 14-point pace of last year - with a 20.1 average. But their offense is slipping. The Bay offensive unit has produced an aggregate of only 28 points in the last three games (with Doug Hart's field goal runback and Dave Hampton's kickoff return accounting for the other two TDs). Sunday, the Saints even took away the Pack's once-deadly running game (Bay rushers gained but 95 yards)...It was the return of the "old pros" or "all-pros" Sunday. Bart Starr and Joe Namath made their first appearances of the season. And John Unitas and Sonny Jurgensen also made rare 1971 starts. Though Starr was only a pale imitation of the super QB of Super Bowl days, he actually did quite well considering the circumstances. This was like the first pre-season game in August for him. He hadn't seen any actual competition this year and in Packer workouts hadn't been exposed to the kind of rush New Orleans threw at him. His timing obviously wasn't up to par, and there was no real proof that his arm is any stronger than it was last year. But, Starr showed some of his old form in the first touchdown drive, and the hope is, of course, that with continued work, Bart will regain more and more of his touch. There can be little criticism of Devine's taking Starr out when he did - in the fourth quarter - because things weren't going too well for him in the second half. However, it would appear that Zeke Bratkowski might have been a better choice for that particular spot than Hunter. After all, a baseball manager puts in his most reliable relief pitcher in the eighth or ninth inning. And, at that late stage of Sunday's game, the Packers needed a steady hand and cool head to guide a 55-yard drive to the lead touchdown. And, while Zeke obviously is no longer a fulltime QB, there are few better backupmen. The ironic part, of course, was inserting Bratkowski as the third QB - when the game was obviously lost - and it counts as another game played toward the maximum of seven reportedly included in the deal with the Vikings (seven games equals a second-round draft choice, etc.)...While the Packers will be out of the playoffs for the fourth straight year, 15 NFL clubs still retain some sort of chance for a crack at the gold and glory.

STANDINGS

NFL

American Conference

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PTS	OP
Miami	9	1	1	.900	272	120
Balt.	8	3	0	.727	258	116
N. Eng.	4	7	0	.364	177	282
Buff.	1	10	0	.091	161	328

Central Division

Clevalnd.	6	5	0	.545	213	236
Pitt.	5	6	0	.455	208	227
Cinn.	4	7	0	.364	223	178
Hous.	1	9	1	.100	153	280

Western Division

Oak.	7	2	2	.778	296	225
K.C.	7	3	1	.700	238	168
S. Diego	4	7	0	.364	203	261
Denver	3	7	1	.300	167	206

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PTS	OP
Dallas	8	3	0	.727	281	186
Wash.	7	3	1	.700	202	139
N.Y. Gnts	4	7	0	.364	179	256
S. Louis	4	7	0	.364	196	213
Phil.	3	7	1	.300	138	247

Central Division

Minn.	9	2	0	.819	175	89
Detroit	7	3	1	.700	284	203
Chicago	6	5	0	.545	126	212
G. Bay	3	7	1	.300	221	245

Western Division

S. Fran.	7	4	0	.636	225	160
L. Ang.	6	4	1	.600	221	180
Atlanta	5	5	1	.500	223	220
N. Or.	4	5	2	.444	201	257

Monday's Results

Miami 34, Chicago 3

The Packer Fan Must Look for Little Things, Hope for Better Days

Actually, three of these have only long-shot possibilities. They are Chicago (6-5), Atlanta (5-5-1) and Cincinnati (4-7), which is still in the AFC Central race only because of clustering of mediocre clubs in that sector. Twelve teams still have excellent chances.

PACKER FAN REGAINS \$347: 'IT TAKES A PRETTY GOOD MAN'

NOV 30 (Milwaukee) – The weather was bad and the Green Bay Packers lost a dismal game - but at least one Packer fan had cause for happiness late Sunday. Ralph Turnock of Union Grove watched the Packers lose to New Orleans by a 29-21 score, and the outcome turned doubly sour when he found he'd lost his wallet containing \$347. Things brightened considerably when police finally reached him and reported a Chicago man, Gerrold Sumut of Buffalo Grove, Ill., had found the wallet and presented it to police with contents intact. "By golly, it takes a pretty good man to turn in something like that," said Turnock, who operates a service station.

THE PACKER FAN MUST LOOK FOR LITTLE THINGS, HOPE FOR BETTER DAYS

DEC 1 (Racine Journal Times) - In a season like this one the Packer fan looks for the little things and tries to convince himself that better days are coming. Meanwhile, down at the newspaper office, the headline writer resists the temptation to tell like it is and thump out something like, "Packers Throw Another One Down the Drain." Instead, he comes up with cuties like "Saints Come Marching In but Aren't Starr-Struck." There are years when everybody gets hurt. That was 1970 in Packerland. And there are years when everything bounces wrong. That is 1971. It is generally agreed that many of the things happening to the Packers this season are unexplainable. If you are puzzled as you groan in front of your television set, you may rest assured that most Packer players are, by now, just as bewildered. If Scott Hunter throws off balance and is intercepted or a cornerback falls down while covering a pass receiver, that is explainable. But why do the fumbles of both Packers and foes bounce wildly past the green shirts and hop straight into the arms of an enemy who shouldn't even have been in position to recover?...CHEERY MESSAGE: The chilled onlooker at County Stadium sees the scoreboard flash a message that "21 men on the Packer roster are first or second year men," and he looks for an explanation in that. Yet he knows that all of Packer misadventures are not the result of inexperience. Still, there is future hope in that message. When you have a first-year quarterback with the promise of Hunter, a rookie runner named John Brockington bidding to join the 1,000-yard club, and a second-year man named Jim Carter rapidly maturing into a top-grade middle linebacker, things can't be all bad. Brockington has 874 yards and needs 126 in his last three games. An intangible in his favor is the fact that this offensive linemen are nearly as anxious to see him get them as John himself...CARTER IS LEARNING: "The only thing we would like better than seeing John get 1,000 yards," says center Ken Bowman, "is to keep our quarterback from getting dumped for a whole season." Carter believes he is finally learning to play the position where Ray Nitschke became a Packer legend. "I had never played the middle before this year," Carter pointed out. "And believe me, you don't just walk in and start playing it. It is a matter of seeing things enough times and learning to read the keys. I've felt I was doing better in the last four games. Early in the season it was rough." Carter looked devastating in defending against screen passes Sunday, and on other occasions he ranged to the sidelines with astonishing speed to make jarring tackles. So the Packer fan looks to little things like that for his kicks. Or to Dave Hampton's exciting kickoff runbacks. And finally, he wonders about Bart Starr...JUST WONDERING: Human nature being what it is, half of the faithful wonder whether Coach Dan Devine didn't rush Starr into action a bit too soon. The other half wonder why Starr was taken out in favor of Hunter at a time when the Packers trailed by only five points and enjoyed good field position for a drive. Devine is not trying to kid anybody that Starr's arm is 100 per cent. It has not yet regained full strength. Bart himself knows this and the Saints were soon aware of it as they

NO COMMENT, PACKERS: TALKS HELD ON PREP WEST SIDE STADIUM

DEC 1 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Representatives of the Green Bay school system, the Stadium Commission and the Green Bay Packers have held informal discussions regarding the building of a high school football stadium at the site of the new Southwest High School for use by the two West Side high schools. Although no details have been revealed, members of the school system and stadium commission confirmed that there have been talks. Packer President Dominic Olejniczak said that the Packer Executive Committee has not even discussed the issue and withheld comment. The discussion reportedly centers around the Del Marcelle trust fund, which will eventually present about \$250,000 to the city for the express purpose of building the stadium, and the possibility of the Packers advancing construction funds to the city until such time as the legacy is realized.

WHAT MORE COULD GO WRONG? PACK SNOWED OFF FIELD

DEC 1 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - What kind of a year was it? The kind, it develops, where even the weatherman is taking picks at the Packers. The elements took a hand Tuesday when the green and gold, regrouping following a third straight defeat, were unexpectedly excused from practice. "We couldn't get the snow off the field," explained Coach Dan Devine, who has had to contend with such other tribulations as a broken leg and the longtime loss of quarterback Bart Starr during his baptismal season as a National Football League coach. He unhappily added, "We need the work...it's kind of discouraging." This development immediately set Devine to exploring alternatives and there now is an excellent chance the Packers will be leaving early Thursday afternoon - a day ahead of schedule - for Sunday's date with the Cardinals in St. Louis...ARTIFICIAL TURF: He is understandably concerned that the Cardinals, blessed with artificial turf in their Busch Stadium home, would go into the game with a competitive edge. "We can't play football and not have a place to practice," said Devine. "Not with this team." He made no mention of it but this latest complication could weigh heavily in his



Bob Skoronski, a former tackle with the Green Bay Packers, visited with Shiocton High School athletes and coaches following the school's recent fall sports banquet. From the left are Tom Witthun, football coach; Mike Bricco, most improved football player; Jeff Johnson, most valuable football player; Skoronski; Randy Conradt, cross-country runner, and William Baggs, cross-country coach. (Kennedy Photo)

deliberations over the possibility of installing a synthetic practice surface here for the 1972 season. The Packers will practice in Busch Stadium Thursday night, Friday and Saturday in closing out preparations for what will be in the nature of a homecoming for Devine, athletic director and head football coach at the University of Missouri for 13 years before taking over the Packer reins last January...**RUNNING SESSION:** At the moment, however, DD is more concerned with what can be accomplished in the interim. "I hope we can get something done tomorrow," he said. "I'm bitterly disappointed that we couldn't get the snow off today. I just assumed that we could. At about 9:30 this morning, Johnny Proski (Lambeau Field and practice field custodian) came in and said he had problems, that he couldn't get the snow off the field. So we eventually had to call off practice." The Packers' exertions were

confined to a running session beneath the stadium stands, after they had viewed the film of Sunday's 29-21 loss to the New Orleans Saints. So far as can be determined, the cancellation marked the first time in Packer history that a practice has had to be called off, although the Bays twice were forced to move inside by overnight snowstorms. The first such occurrence was in the late 1940s when the late Curly Lambeau escorted his athletes to Riverside Ballroom for an indoor workout. During the early 1960s, Vince Lombardi also had to take his team into the Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena on one occasion. Although he had become a major sports figure in St. Louis before coming to the Packers, Devine said Tuesday, "I really have no thoughts or feelings about going back to Missouri...I do know, however, that the Cardinals are coming off a good victory over the Giants." The visit will "reunite" the Packer leader with three of his former Missouri stars, running back Johnny Roland, wide receiver Mel Gray and defensive back Roger Wehrli. "Roland was a great player before he got hurt," Devine noted, "and he's still a good one. Wehrli (an all-National Football Conference selection at cornerback last season) speaks for himself and Gray has been playing some wide receiver for them. I know he caught two for 120 yards and two touchdowns in their first game against the Giants." Scout Wally Cruice, on hand to present his analysis of Sunday's Cardinal victory to the players and coaching staff, documented Devine's appraisal of Roland in a first-hand report...**NOT EXPLOSIVE:** "He gained 116 yards in 24 carries against the Giants," Cruice informed. "He's not an explosive runner but he's a great picker - he can pick his way. And he's a good receiver and a good blocker. In addition, Roland's in the wedge on the kickoff team and he's on the punting team...He does it all for them." Cruice could offer small comfort to the Packers who now must win their last three games to improve upon last year's 6-8 record. "I think the fact that they beat the Giants helped 'em like heck psychologically," he said. "They had been down for a while. In fact, they were underdogs going into the game and I think it gave them a big lift to beat the Giants away from home."...**PACKER PATTERN:** Sunday's game has been sold out for almost a month, Cardinals Public Relations Director Joe Pollack reports, "with interest heightened not only by the old Cardinals-Packers rivalry but the appearance in St. Louis of Dan Devine." Devine, incidentally, will be the guest of honor at a two-hour press conference Saturday afternoon, an event arranged to permit Missouri writers an opportunity to interview the Packer coach in depth and simultaneously ease the demands upon his time...Dave Hampton is averaging just a shade under 30 yards per return in the wake of his 90-yard scoring runback against the Saints. He has returned 35 kickoffs 1,046 yards. Backfield mate Donny Anderson scaled the 600-yard plateau in the Saint contest. He now has 607 yards in 153 attempts, a 4.0 average...Quarterback Scott Hunter missed Tuesday's convocation because of a military commitment.

TOMMY JOE IS BACK

DEC 1 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "I'll tell you what," Tommy Joe Crutcher drawled. "This is the sorest I have been in a long time. But it's a good kind of soreness - it means that you have played ... that was the first regular season game I have started in two years." The droll, laconic Texan, relaxing on a chair in front of his locker, was gingerly taking physical inventory in the wake of Sunday's 29-21 surprise at the hands of the young but eager New Orleans Saints. "It's not that they hit harder than anybody else," Crutcher informed. "I'd have been sore if we had played a high school team Sunday. It's been a long time. I only made one other start in the last two years, and that was in an exhibition game with the Rams last season. I was just coming off knee surgery and I only played a quarter"... **HIT BY OWN PLAYER:** Ironically, the veteran linebacker's knee problems, which cost him starting status with the New York Giants, were not the result of enemy contact. "My own player hit me," the former TCU athlete reported. "Spider Lockhart hit me while he was making a tackle in the final game of the 1969 season. I think there are four ligaments in the knee and the impact ruptured three of them and tore both cartilages. The doctor had to transplant some ligaments from my thigh to my knee to repair the damage." For a time, there was some doubt whether Crutcher would ever play again. "Anytime you have that amount of work done, you wonder if you are going to be able to come back," Tommy Joe said. "But I stayed in New York that whole off season and the trainer worked on me breaking down the adhesions..." **A LITTLE STRANGE:** "I never notice the knee now. I got hit on it a couple of times Sunday, but I am not conscious of it. I don't think I favor it." Crutcher exhibited an impish smile and added, "I don't know if it hurt my speed or not. I never was the fastest person. There wasn't too much speed to take away." Tommy Joe, reacquired from the Rams by way of an early season trade, found starting in behalf of the injured Dave Robinson "a little strange...I didn't know I was going to start up until game time. I didn't know how Robby's shoulder was coming around. "I really don't know how well I

played. I make a couple of good plays and I made some bad ones too," he forthrightly observed. "I really don't know. Sometimes you feel you played a good game and the films show that you didn't and sometimes you think you have played a horrible game and you have played a decent one." Defense Coach Dave Hanner indicated Crutcher's "debut" had been generally satisfactory. "Tommy Joe played pretty well," he said. "He doesn't make many mistakes, and he is tough. He's a sound, intelligent football player. He should probably have been playing more than he has. There is a very good chance that he will play more in the future, particularly against St. Louis next Sunday."...THIRD ROUND CHOICE: Crutcher, a third round draft choice who spent four previous seasons with the Packers, before moving to the Giants in 1968 by way of the Francis Peay trade, pronounces himself "really happy to be back in Green Bay...That year I spent with the Rams (he was acquired by the Rams from the Giants in 1970) I didn't enjoy that much. I feel more at home here, playing some and contributing something to the team. I was on the taxi squad with the Rams. I am glad to be back here - I kind of got indoctrinated by the Packers, defense wise. When I was with the Giants and Rams, and the coach would be talking defense I would always sit back and think how Green Bay would have done it." Crutcher, owner of a 1,500 acre Texas farm that produces maize for export to Japan, is at a loss to explain the Packers recent tribulations. "I thought we were ready to play Sunday," he said. "They talk about breaks going this way or that, but I think they kind of average out over a season. We are a young team and we make mistakes but, good golly, we still should win."

PACK BLOWS GREEN BAY SNOW FOR ST. LOUIS

DEC 2 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - It may not be true of his players, frigid and frostbitten after their first outdoor workout of the week, but Coach Dan Devine bid reluctant farewell to Green Bay today. "Under any circumstances, I would have preferred to stay here," Devine said before leading his troupe to St. Louis, via United Airlines charter. "I don't like to change camps. The best place for us to get ready is right here." But the Packer leader bowed to the inevitable Wednesday after a brisk but not overly productive session on a drastically circumscribed South Oneida Street practice field, a portion of which had been cleared of snow to permit minimal exertions...NOT COMPLETE WASTE: Devine, already concerned over having been forced to miss Tuesday's practice because the white stuff could not be removed, then hastily made arrangements to work out in St. Louis tonight, Friday and Saturday. Today's drill will be staged at Washington University's field, the Friday and Saturday practices on the artificial turf of Busch Stadium, home of both the football and baseball Cardinals. "We got something out of it," Devine said following Wednesday's exercise, adding, "It wasn't a complete waste of time." But there was the strong suggestion that he deems more intensive workouts indispensable to a quality performance against the Cardinals Sunday. "We've got to work," he declared. "Heaven's sake, we can't settle for this kind of practice...What we lost today is not anything you can pick up. It's just a handicap you have to overcome...NEED PRACTICE: "This is a team that needs practice and the Cardinals are a team you need to practice for. They are an unusual team, despite their 4-7 record. I notice that one of their assistant coaches, Chuck Drulis, said this week, 'We're a bad luck team. Of the seven losses we have, we could have turned five of them around if we hadn't had so many turnovers.'" "I could well agree with that," Devine said. "I know that they had 14 turnovers alone in their two losses to the Redskins...They very well could be 9-2 instead of 4-7." He then went on to support his contention. "They have two seasoned quarterbacks in Jim Hart and Pete Beathard, to start with," Devine said. "In John Gilliam and Mel Gray, they have two wide receivers with almost unbelievable speed. The best one-two running combination may be Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick but the best 1-2-3 punch is MacArthur Lane, Cid Edwards and Johnny Roland of the Cardinals. And they have a fine offensive line with Ernie McMillan, Bob Reynolds and guys like that. Defensively, they have a good front four and a couple of good linebackers in Jamie Rivers and Larry Stallings...And there can't conceivably be a better pair inside (at the safeties) than Roger Wehrli and Larry Wilson. They're both all-pro. You also couldn't find a better kicker than Jim Bakken," said Devine. "He's the third highest scorer in pro football history right now. He and Chuck Latourette, who does their punting, have to give you as good a kicking combination as you would want. I also see where Wehrli has been moved to punt returns. I've always wondered why they hadn't done it when I was coaching at Missouri and now that I'm in the league, I wish they hadn't done it. He's one of the best punt returners you'll see...CLOSE TO PLAYERS: "St. Louis is a team that's hard to fathom. You have to agree with Drulis, who is a 21-year coaching veteran in the NFL, I might add. He's no Johnny-come-lately." Asked if he considers the visit to St. Louis a personal homecoming, Devine rejoined, "Not in the least...but I was really close to the four University of Missouri kids on their squad when they played for me in college. Johnny Roland probably was my best recruiter for years. And Mel Gray and his wife, who was then his girlfriend, used to come over and watch TV in the basement of our home. They used to come in without knocking, that's the kind of relationship we had." Turning to the subject of possible installation of artificial turf here to avoid a repeat of today's impromptu exodus, the Packer coach said, "It hasn't even been presented to the Packer executive committee yet, although I admit I would like to have it. But after the season is over it will be time enough to consider how, when or where. If we had artificial turf, you'd just come in and brush the snow off. There is no trouble in getting snow off artificial turf. I understand the trouble with our present field is that the turf had not frozen before the snow came and the plow got stuck when an attempt was made to clear off the field. If the ground had been frozen. it wouldn't have been a problem."...PACKER PATTERN: Although he conceded that Bart Starr "looked better than he has any time previously," Devine said he had not yet decided whether the 37-year-old veteran will be given a second consecutive starting assignment in St. Louis. "We'll make that decision later in the week," he said, although Starr continued to work with the first offensive unit. When asked if the same factors still prevailed which made him select Starr to face the Saints last Sunday rather than deferring his return until 1972, Devine said, "I would like to let that in the area of speculation. I wouldn't like to be in Bart's place and feel like a guinea pig. That isn't really true. I've always said I felt he has time left and, as it has been said, the more the merrier...I was really pleased with his quickness in Sunday's game. The couple of times he scrambled, he scrambled better than the 23-year-old guy we've got (Scott Hunter). There again, we've talked so much about his not



NEW FACE: John Brockington, the Packers' prize rookie who leads the National Football Conference in rushing. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch Photo by Michael J. Baldrige)

scrambling that we might have taken something away from Scott. That's why I feel it's good for him to sit back and watch a little." Devine thereupon tossed a bouquet in Hunter's direction. "There's a lot to Scott," he said. "He's stood in there and taken a lot of shots this season and never flinched."...Despite the cramped conditions - they were required to use the width of the practice field which borders South Oneida Street - the Packers worked for an hour and 15 minutes in biting cold before Devine's whistle sent them scurrying for cover...Packer fans are reminded Sunday's kickoff is set for 3 p.m. because the game is part of a television doubleheader.

PACKER ROOKIE NFC'S TOP RUSHER BROCKINGTON: NEW JIM TAYLOR

DEC 3 (St. Louis Post-Dispatch) – Mention the New York borough of Brooklyn and certain images come to mind. Gruff-looking baseball fans grumbling about the umpire: "Dat guy wouldn't give his mudder a break." Scruffy kids playing basketball in a blacktopped schoolyard or stickball on a congested street. Brooklyn conjures lots of visions, none of which concerns football mainly because it is difficult to imagine anyone there finding enough open space and grass to play the game. So it's paradoxical that the hottest running back in the National Football League hails from Brooklyn's Thomas Jefferson High. "Basketball was the game in Brooklyn, but we were exceptions," said John Brockington, the Green Bay Packers sensational rookie. "We had an excellent coach. He taught us good football techniques and got us games in eastern Pennsylvania." Since football programs at New York colleges rank right up there with their agriculture departments, Brockington chose to leave Brooklyn for Columbus, O., which is noted for its state university and, oh yes, football. "I knew Ohio State was a running ball club and my being a fullback made it just perfect for me," said Brockington. "I decided on OSU because I knew I'd be running the ball." What he didn't know was how long he'd have to wait until he was allowed to run the ball. In his first two varsity seasons at Ohio State, 1968 and '69, the Buckeyes lost only one game, went to the Rose Bowl and were national champs once. Brockington cannot take an ounce of credit for any of those accomplishments. Both years he played behind Jim Otis, a battering-ram fullback who seldom left the lineup. While Otis supplied coach Woody Hayes with that legendary three yards and a cloud of dust, a lot of people thought Brockington could have doubled that, without any dust. "I was injured as a sophomore," Brockington said, "but I was healthy when I played behind Otis as a junior. It was really frustrating. I was bitter at first, but my coaches and other players made me realize that by being bitter, I'd hurt myself. If I loafed or had a bad attitude, then Hayes wouldn't play me my senior year. As it was, I got my chance." In his senior year, Brockington set an Ohio State rushing record - and think of all those big fullbacks the Buckeyes have had - of 1041 yards, led the Bucks to a perfect regular season record and a berth in the Rose Bowl. Described by NFL scouts as "very aggressive with savage determination," Brockington was rated by a

scouting combine as the nation's top college fullback last year. The Packers, looking for a running back in the mold of Jim Taylor, picked Brockington on the first round, getting the rights to him by trading quarterback Don Horn to the Denver Broncos. In Green Bay nowadays, they are talking about Jim Taylor being in the mold of John Brockington. The 23-year-old rookie has literally burst into prominence. He has gone over 100 yards rushing in three games. He leads the National Conference in rushing with 874 yards and in average with 5.4 yards a crack, and he probably will be the third freshman in NFL history to gain 1000 yards. Along the trail of broken tackles, Brockington has picked up some endorsements from NFL stars. "He's a helluva runner," said Chicago's Dick Butkus. Another Bear, George Seals, said, "He hits hard and comes at you over and over again." Green Bay coach Dan Devine, whose Packers will play the Cardinals at 3 p.m. Sunday at Busch Stadium, has bad news for the rest of the league. "Brockington can be better," said Devine. "But don't get me wrong. He's a good player now. But John needs a great deal of work to improve and be the kind of player we want him to be and we know he can be."

DEVINE ANGRY BUT SAME DAN

DEC 3 (St. Louis Post-Dispatch) – Aside from the crutch which he'll throw away any day now, and...Aside from the fact that he is wholly wrapped up in the Green Bay Packers who will play the football Cardinals at Busch Stadium Sunday Dan Devine hasn't changed much from when he was coach at the University of Missouri. That was only one year ago. Whatever misgivings Devine might have had-if indeed he ever had any-about stepping in where Vince Lombardi once tread as coach of the Packers, have disappeared in the fascinating business of trying to make a losing (3-7-1) football team win. Suite 200-201 at the Bel-Air West yesterday was for the Packers what the baseball Cardinals call on the road the Poison Room - for coaches and reporters. Devine was there and he was angry all the way through. The Packers had been denied, temporarily, the use of Busch Stadium's AstroTurf because...1) Thursday afternoon is when they paint the stripes on the field, or 2) It

might snow. The lone St. Louis representative in the Poison Room could not tell Devine why this had happened if AstroTurf is everything its Monsanto Co. makers claim. So Devine talked into a microphone: "Bidwill Stadium...I mean Busch Stadium," he said, sticking it to Stormy and Bill Bidwill, owners of the Cardinals, on a tape to be broadcast in Green Bay today. The Bidwills had forced the Packers to practice on the real grass of Washington University. Then he talked about the football Cardinals to a reporter. Cardinal fans, who now and then may have booed the Big Red, would not have recognized their team. The Cardinals, as it turned out, were better than the Packers at almost every position. It seemed like - and was - hours later when Devine settled down and pulled the protection off his gimpy leg to reveal a still-swollen ankle. "This leg," he said, "has been inconvenient. The next time, I'll get the hell out of the way. I've got a bad habit about crowding the sidelines. Lynn Dickey (Kansas State quarterback) hit me 50 times as hard last year." In his very first game as coach of the Packers, Devine was run over by a member of the New York Giants and suffered a fractured leg. After that, he looked great on crutches in the Monday night games on television. Nobody really thinks much about how it is to go from a college coach to a professional coach. "The first time I met with the squad in Arlington, Tex.," he said, "I was apprehensive. I felt somebody would challenge me. Actually nobody ever did. But I remember my first year at Missouri (1958). I was apprehensive then, too. Charley James and Mike Shannon left the squad (to sign baseball contracts). Hank Kuhlmann stayed but he had a bad ankle. Devine's private life was altered drastically by the move to Green Bay. His son, Dan Jr. (Tig), remained in Columbia to finish his senior year at Hickman High and play on the football team. His father didn't see him play. "I called before and after games," Devine said. "Jennifer (his daughter who also remained in Columbia) would say, 'They didn't make any yards over Tig.'" Tig, the only boy among Devine's seven children, was a linebacker. Devine also called friends to find out about Missouri's football team. "When I recruited those players, I thought I would be their coach," he said. The Devines built a home with six bedrooms about 15 miles in the country from Green Bay, although they may never again regroup the family. They dammed up a creek on the five-acre plot to make a lake. How do I know how big the lake is?" he said. "It's a lake." Devine said he liked living in Green Bay. He said he liked the Green Bay players he has been coaching. Earlier, when he had talked to Green Bay reporters about his team, he had declined to say how he might draft. "Well, I'd like to go after Alan Page (of Minnesota) or Jim Kiick and Larry Csonka (of Miami), but I guess you can't draft them," he said. "I know the college players. We know where they are. "As you remember, we traded Kevin Hardy to San Diego for a No. 1 draft choice. We're going at it differently than Washington. They went after experience. Well, who knows what's right? We'll all know in five years, won't we?" Devine was asked if the degree of difference between winners and losers in pro football was as wide as it is in the college game he coached until last year. He said, yes, and then he said, no. "When you think about it, probably not," he said. "The biggest difference is when a back breaks away. He might go 50 yards in college, but in professional football he'll be lucky to make 12. The cornerback on the other side will come over and get him. Everybody's good." Devine was asked if anything really interesting had happened to him since he became a pro football coach. He thought about it a moment.

"No," he said. "I can't think of anything."

HART FINDS HEART

DEC 3 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The 1971 St. Louis Cardinal press guide, discussing the talents and background of one James Warren Hart, announced, "Crucial fifth year as starter faces young quarterback who led Big Red down to wire in 1970 title race." This, of course, was in print before the season started. But it couldn't have been more prophetic. Jim Hart is still the No. 1 quarterback of the Redbirds, who obstruct the Packers path in St. Louis Sunday afternoon, but only because he tried harder. There was a time, earlier this season, when Hart's Cardinal future was in question. Described in the pressbook as a top notch ball handler, faker who is cool under a heavy rush," he had looked anything but in the Cards' league opener. Harking back to that moment in the latest issue of Pro Football Weekly, sportswriter Jeff Meyers noted, "Sitting there in the locker room...Jim Hart looked like a beaten man. His foot was swollen, his head was congested, his voice was hoarse, his pride was gone, his confidence was shattered...BOOED OUT OF GAME: "There was some doubt if he'd ever rise off that stool, let alone from the ashes. He had just lost his No. 1 quarterback job, getting booed out of the game by the hostile St. Louis fans. And, for the next five games, Pete Beathard started for the Cardinals. "Then Beathard faltered, slightly, just enough for Hart to put his foot back in the door. Coach Bob Holloway started him in the seventh game, against the Buffalo Bills, and Hart has not been on the bench since. His confidence has returned, he is throwing the ball with authority and he is calling heady plays and audibles." The battle is not yet over for the Southern Illinois alumnus,



FAMILIAR FACE. Dan Devine, coach of the Green Bay Packers, carries two crutches on one side as he arrives in St. Louis for Sunday's game with the Big Red.

however, Meyers reports. "Hart still has a legion of detractors among the fans. Some question his ability to read defenses. Some question his ability to lead. No one, however, questions his ability to throw the ball. It should be apparent then, that once the complexities of reading defenses are mastered, he will become a great quarterback. Not just a good one. Not with his arm. "At 27, Hart has six years of experience, but he is still a young quarterback, with the future ahead of him. As for leadership, he prefers to lead by example. He does not rant and rave when his receivers drop a pass, nor does he boot the culprit in the pants, a la Bobby Layne. He implores the receiver to "catch the ball," although he tosses in a few choice adjectives. "What good does it do to scream at them?" asked Hart. 'All that would do is make them more uptight.'...PINK-CHEEKED BOY: "Hart is not a physically impressive quarterback, like a Roman Gabriel, nor is he grizzled, like a John Hadl. Hart appears younger than his 27 years. He has pink cheeks and a little-boy smile, not the greatest of attributes if you have to boss around hulking linemen and fearsome backs. "It was suggested that Hart hide his boyishness under a menacing Fu Manchu moustache. 'Naw, I've got to be myself,' he said. 'It's not my personality to be a Bobby Layne. I'm not a rah-rah, holler type. My long suit is throwing the ball. I can feel the team rallying around me when I'm throwing well. I can tell that by what they're saying. They're excited when I complete a pass. They yell things. They throw superlatives back and forth. That's how I think I can lead. That and calling good plays. You call a bonehead play and those offensive linemen, they've been around, they'll know it.'"

ROCHE KEY FIGURE AGAINST CARDS

DEC 3 (St. Louis-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – For a guy who is playing out of position, Alden Roche hasn't done too badly. Packer Coach Dan Devine calls the mustachioed end "the most consistent performer on our defensive unit." Yet Devine and his board of strategy privately feel that Roche, who along with John Brockington is making the Don Horn trade look like the Manhattan Island steal, would be even more effective at tackle. The reasoning is that his devastating charge would be more productive "inside," where it is not necessary to read before reacting, which is the requirement of defensive end. But for the present, he will remain at the right flank, for eight seasons the unchallenged property of Lionel Aldridge, the explanation being that he is filling the greater need at his current position...BIG PASS RUSH: Out of position or not, the bushy-haired sophomore looms as a key figure in Sunday afternoon's date with the Cardinals, in which the Packers devoutly hope to shake a three-game losing streak. "Our pass rush against this team is important, awfully important," Devine said following Thursday afternoon's practice, staged at Washington University's Francis Field in chill and damp, 35-degree weather. The reference was to the Cardinals imposing overhead game, which features one of the strongest arms in the NFL, that of quarterback Jim Hart, and two of its swiftest receivers in Mel Gray, a former Devine disciple at the University of Missouri, and John Gilliam. "Roche, as our most consistent pass rusher, could be a big factor in this game," Devine noted. The season's statistics would tend to support his appraisal. The Packer defense as a whole has felled enemy quarterbacks 14 times in 11 games and half of those sacks belong to the explosive ex-Bronco...PRAISE FROM GRANT: Viking Coach Bud Grant is among those who have paid heartfelt tribute to Roche. "When we're in a passing situation," he said. "We know we have to block Mike McCoy, who is a good tackle himself, and we do. But Roche (he filled in for the injured McCoy against Minnesota) makes it a different ball game. He adds an entirely new dimension to the Packer pass rush." The soft-spoken Louisianan, a serious student of the game, is likened to the Vikings' Alan Page, who has been described as "coming from all directions." Even Dave Hanner, Roche's perfectionist coach, concedes Alden can become "real good." Hanner says, "he has good quickness combined with great effort and hustle. He's the hustlingest player you ever saw. He gives 100 per cent all the time." Meanwhile, the man in question feels he may have found the secret to success...MOVING ON BALL: "I think I started moving on the ball better last week against New Orleans," Roche soberly informed while relaxing in his hotel room here Thursday night. "To play defensive end, you have to read as well as react, which is a little different than playing tackle. I guess I was in between looking at the ball and looking at the man in front of me because I didn't want to be susceptible to the trap. So last week, I decided I was just going to watch the ball and to heck with the man in front of me. On contact, I just depended on my natural instincts to take me where I should go. I discovered that, a lot of the time, I was closing down the trap without knowing it," Roche said, pointing out, "a split second can make a big difference. A lot of time when you hit the quarterback, he's just releasing the ball. Therefore, anytime you can cut any time off getting back there, it's going to be a big help. If I keep playing this way," he reasons, I should be all right. I have been worrying about making mistakes and playing a perfect game, which is darn near impossible. By watching the ball only, they may catch you once in a while, but overall you will make more big plays. Last week the plays they ran at me were stopped at the line of scrimmage or for a loss because I was getting off the ball quicker. I think I could have played much better all season if I had started this approach earlier. I feel it was hurting me to try to read my man before reacting...PACKER PATTERN: Devine, who said he would not decide on his starting quarterback until after tonight's Busch Stadium practice, indicated there will be one change in the defensive format and possibly another on offense. "Our secondary will be Ken Ellis, Al Matthews, Doug Hart and Willie Wood, with Doug moving back to strong safety from the right corner," the Packer leader said, naming the same foursome which had opened the season in the Packer outfield and remained largely intact until Al Randolph moved in at safety for the Detroit rematch Nov. 1. "I just think this is our strongest unit for this game," explained Devine, who also reported, "I think we'll go with the same defensive line and probably the same linebackers, Fred Carr, Jim Carter and Tommy Joe Crutcher. Offensively, there's a possibility Dave Davis will start in place of John Spillis at wide receiver. We've got to take a look at Davis. He probably should have been playing earlier. He's done well any time he's been in there. Otherwise, the only question offensively would be quarterback"...Bart Starr, who made his first start of the season last Sunday, continued to work with the No. 1 unit as he has since the practice week started. Asked during a radio interview "what two players do you have your eye on during the upcoming draft," Devine quipped, "I've got my eye on Alan Page and Larry Csonka." Then, turning serious, he said, "We need an intelligent, constructive draft to help this team where it needs help...I certainly know

Brock Eyes 1,000th Yard Sunday

where the good football players are and I also know where the good kickers are."...The Packers scheduled to toll under the lights at 8 o'clock tonight, will close out their Cardinal preparations with a Saturday afternoon workout in Busch Stadium.

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS: PATIENCE REQUIRED

DEC 3 (St. Louis-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Tell it like it is, I keep hearing. As the scoreboard clock ticked down to the last few minutes, there were more empty seats than occupied seats in Milwaukee County Stadium last Sunday. That's how it was, or is...In the dressing room, Coach Dan Devine's face was a mass of fervent disappointment. Or maybe it was pain, the sort of pain that accompanies a 29-21 defeat by the New Orleans Saints but far more intense than the twinges you and I felt. That's how it was, or is...The Packers' performances the past two games have smelled of 40-year-old El Ropos...That's how it is...And there is considerable pressure on Devine, his staff and the players to come back to respectability in the final three games, pressure that is evident in the letters piling up on my desk...And that's how it is...And there's more. There's an equal amount of pressure on YOU, the Packer fans. The pressure right now is in the form of testing your loyalty, your understanding, your patience. And you may not believe it. You may want to argue with me...but I think I'm telling it like it is in that thought too. These are difficult, frustrating times for the coaches and players...and fans. I'm reminded of the way Elroy Hirsch described his projected Operation Turnaround at the University of Wisconsin when he first accepted the athletic directorship under extremely trying conditions a few years ago. He drew a V on the blackboard and pointed out that you don't simply hit the bottom and immediately start climbing back up. Rather, the evolvment is more like a U, which he drew on the board. It is a gradual grade you must climb and, indeed, you are never quite sure when you have hit the very bottom. You may be on the way up without even realizing it. Frankly, I firmly believe that this is how it is...There's no way the Packers were going to win the Central Division championship this year. There was no indication at the end of last season that better things were in store for 1971. The only major change was in the head coach and part of the coaching staff, which had to become familiar not only with his team but with the entire National Football League. Perhaps too many fans thought the Packers had hit the bottom of that V last year and should have been zooming rapidly upward this year. More likely the Packers fell to the bottom of the U last year and now, with a new leader, are looking for the right way up, which they will soon find...if they aren't already on the right path. After all, of the seven losses, the Packers have been really kayoed only once. In most of the others, one play could have turned defeat into triumph...one play. And that's how it is.

PACKERS HAVE MANY PROBLEMS

DEC 3 (Green Bay) - In more victorious days, the hardy Green Bay Packers would chortle over the wintry weather which occasionally welcomed National Football League opponents to Lambeau Field. The late, great Coach Vince Lombardi would grin as clubs from such balmy country as Los Angeles turned blue in subzero weather to which his Packers had been conditioned. Things haven't been the same this season for the Pack, on the scoreboard as the weather charts. A seven-inch snowfall cancelled practice sessions while next Sunday's hosts, the St. Louis Cardinals, worked out on artificial turf in their home stadium. While Coach Dan Devine searched for practice terrain, a bulldozer attempted to clear snow away but bogged down in muddy sod. Bob Noel, an assistant equipment manager, enlisted a golf cart to transport gear between clubhouses and alternate practice sites. He picked up a traffic citation for operating an unlicensed vehicle on public streets. Red Cochran, a backfield coach, remarked: "When you're losing, everything happens."

BROCK EYES 1,000TH YARD SUNDAY

DEC 4 (St. Louis-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Don't be surprised if John Brockington scales the 1,000 yard barrier Sunday. The bruising ex-Buckeye, currently No. 2 in National Football League individual statistics, is still 126 yards short of that magic figure heading into game 12 against the St. Louis Cardinals. But Brockington, held to 68 yards by the New Orleans Saints the last time out, clearly is a man with a mission this week. A prideful performer, the fabulous freshman has been stung by Coach Dan Devine's observations that he played his "poorest game" of the season against the Saints, even though Brockington candidly concedes the point. "I can't stay mad at the coach," he confided here Friday afternoon as he awaited a team meeting. "That won't help either me or the team. I've just got to play over that...there's no question that I didn't play well against the Saints." Devine, meanwhile, evinced satisfaction over "getting to" his prize rookie. "I'm glad John's a little upset with me," he said, adding with a trace of a smile, "I wish more of them were." He also was quick to assure he has lost none of his regard for the former Ohio State fullback. "John has a brilliant future," DD said, "But I wouldn't be fair to him or to the team if I let him level off on performance. He should only be getting better and better. He's a double untouchable," Devine asserted, "and I foresee him as a real team leader in the future, a guy who can lead us to a championship. Part of his problem has been that there have been tremendous demands on his time. He has to study the game because we've got him doing so much, and he's had a lot of distractions. "Early in the season, John missed an appointment for an interview and I climbed on him for it," the Packer coach revealed. "I created a monster, because he's been giving up a lot of time to such things. I feel bad about it, because I feel responsible. "He has to put football first - he has to go home and study at night because there is no way we can cover everything in a meeting...I think this is where the news media has to be a little understanding." Returning to his discussion of Brockington's talents, Devine said, "It isn't often that you send your best offensive back down on a kickoff, but we have been considering doing that with John. That's the ultimate compliment because covering kickoffs is football's ultimate test of courage. "Right now. John would be catching kickoffs and going down with them, but he can't do everything. We've got a jewel here," Devine summed up, "and we don't want the gloss to rub off it." Brockington admits the 1,000 yard goal presently is "weighing on me a little...the linemen want it so badly because it

means a lot to them. They don't get much publicity, you know. So if one back gets 1,000 yards and another (Donny Anderson) gets 600 or 700, it means we've got a good offensive line. I'd really like to get that 1,000 yards as soon as possible, as much for their sake as for mine. Every time you see them, they are together, talking things over," Brockington said fondly. "They are some nice cats. All of them - Gilly, Dick Himes, Francis Peay, Ken Bowman and Bill Lueck." Now just four yards back of Miami's Larry Csonka with 874 yards in 161 carries, he could have been on the verge of crashing the 1,000 yard circle at this point if he had been more proficient on just one play in the New Orleans game, the Brooklyn-born bulldozer confided. "We were on our own 10-yard line," he said, "and I lined up too close and didn't see the hole. If I had made that run like I should have, I would have 90 more yards right now and could have cruised to 1,000."...PACKER PATTERN: Following Friday night's practice, a lengthy 90-minute session staged under the Busch Stadium lights, Devine announced that Bart Starr will make his second consecutive start at quarterback against the Cardinals. "Bart had a good week of practice," he said. "And he really zipped the ball good tonight. He was zinging it."...Devine also revealed that rookie Dave Davis will start opposite Dale at wide receiver in place of John Spilis. Davis, who has yet to catch his first pro pass, has been used almost exclusively on specialty teams to date.

VAN GALDER: RUNNING BACK

DEC 4 (St. Louis Post-Dispatch) - Dan Devine will hardly recognize Tim Van Galder tomorrow. Van Galder, a quarterback at Iowa State when Devine was coach at Missouri, has been activated by the Cardinals for the 3 o'clock game against the Green Bay Packers at Busch Stadium. But Van Galder, the Big Red's taxi-squad quarterback, was put on the varsity as a running back. Because of the injury to Roy Shivers, the Cardinals were down to only four running backs. Paul White is not eligible because he's on injured reserve, so that left Van Galder, a 6-foot-1, 190-pounder. Big Red officials denied the rumor that Van Galder was activated to run the triple-option Wishbone offense. The Cardinals have not beaten the Packers since 1949. Green Bay last won here in 1967, although the Big Red pushed the Pack all over the field. That was the game in which the Cardinals had fourth and less than a yard to go for a touchdown, but elected to kick a field goal for a 23-17 lead. Travis Williams returned the kickoff for a touchdown, the Cardinals were done and the Packers went on to the Super Bowl. The Packers have not had much success since. This season they are 3-7-1, with many of their problems caused by mistakes and turnovers. "They've had many of the problems we've had," said Big Red coach Bob Hollway, "but they've got talent. They have people who know what it is to win." While Green Bay was bowing 29-21 to New Orleans last week for its third straight loss, the Cardinals broke out of midseason doldrums with a 24-7 triumph over the New York Giants, lifting them from the NFC East's basement. In answer to John Brockington and Donny Anderson, the Big Red will offer MacArthur Lane and Johnny Roland as running backs. Roland exploded for 116 yards against the Giants in his best performance since 1967, while Lane barreled for 88, boosting his season rushing total to 516.

BIG RED'S EX-TIGERS HOPING FOR BIG GAME AGAINST DEVINE

DEC 5 (St. Louis Post-Dispatch) - Will Dan Devine's past haunt him Sunday at Busch Stadium? Surely, the sight of John Roland bursting through a hole and Mel Gray hauling in a pass and Roger Wehrli making a tackle will stir memories for Devine, who coached all three at the University of Missouri. But as coach of the Green Bay Packers now, Devine finds himself rooting against the same players who contributed so greatly to his success at Missouri. And Roland, Gray and Wehrli, all starters for the Cardinals, will have to develop a degree of animosity toward Devine's Packers. "It'll be strange seeing him on the other side of the field," said Wehrli, a Big Red defensive back who was an All-America at Missouri. "But once the game starts you don't even look at the other side. Afterward, though, it'll be good to see him." Since the professionals seldom dip into the college ranks for a head coach, collegians hardly ever have the opportunity to play against the man who controlled their lives for four years. And Devine's move to the pros, after 16 years with the amateurs, was particularly surprising. "I never thought I'd be playing against him," said Gray, the Cardinals' prize rookie receiver. "I hope I have a good game against the Packers And if we play as well as we did last week (in beating the New York Giants), we'll win." Devine has brought many of the characteristics of his college teams to the Packers Although the pros are pass oriented, Devine always disdained the aerial attack for a strong running game, and the Packers reflect that thinking. In 11 games, the Packers with rookie Scott Hunter at quarterback most of the time, have thrown only 190 passes, fewest in the National Football League. Only two teams have run the ball more often than Green Bay. "A typical Devine team runs the ball and controls the ball," said Roland, an All-America defensive back under Devine and an All-Pro running back with the Cardinals. "And he's got two pretty good runners in Donny Anderson and John Brockington." Said Wehrli, "His teams just overpower people on running plays. The Packers are that way. Their passing game is not that impressive." Devine is also reputed to be a skillful handler of his players' emotions. "He'll have them all psyched up," said Gray. "They will be mentally and physically ready to play. And I'll tell you, there'll be a lot of hitting out there." The Packers residents of the National Conference's "black and blue" Central Division, have been hitting all season, but the opposition has been hitting back harder. Green Bay has a 3-7-1 record and the Packers must win their last three games to avoid having their worst record since 1958, the year before Vince Lombardi became coach. Although Devine's Missouri teams had a reputation for owning the second half, his Packers have yet to demonstrate that ability. The Packers who were handed a 2-0 loss in the exhibition campaign and a 3-0 defeat in the regular season, do not have a come-from-behind offense and have been outscored, 138-108, in the second half. Most of the magical names of Green Bay's glory years have retired to lesser pastimes such as

RUSHING					
	Att.	Yds.	Ave.	Lg.	TD
Brock, Pack	161	874	5.4	52	3
Anderson, Pack	153	607	4.0	29	5
Lane, Cards	123	516	4.2	40	3
Edwards, Cards	85	241	2.8	14	4
Hampton, Pack	52	238	4.6	41	2
Shivers, Cards	55	202	3.6	10	1
Roland, Cards	53	197	3.7	15	0

PASSING					
	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Hart, Cards	172	84	1184	7	11
Beathard, C.	120	55	918	5	9
Hunter, Pack	128	56	912	6	16
Bratkowski, P.	37	19	244	4	3
Starr, Pack	17	8	116	0	1

RECEIVING					
	No.	Yds.	Ave.	Lg.	TD
Gilliam, Cards	34	692	20.4	54	3
Lane, Cards	27	227	10.3	34	0
Dale, Pack	26	464	17.8	56	0
Smith, Cards	21	379	18.0	61	4
McGeorge, Pack	19	363	19.1	50	4
Anderson, Pack	18	208	11.6	39	1
Spilis, Pack	14	281	20.1	39	1

INTERCEPTIONS					
	No.	Yds.	Ave.	Lg.	TD
Ellis, Pack	6	10	1.7	5	0
Wilson, Cards	4	46	11.5	23	0
Robinson, Pack	3	44	14.7	23	0
Thompson, Cards	3	34	11.3	25	0

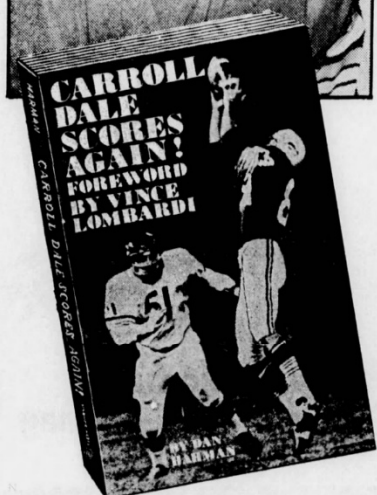
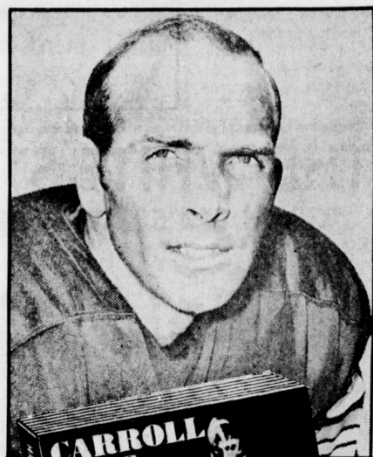


***FOND MEMORIES:** Green Bay Packers coach Dan Devine, his wife Joanne, and football Cardinals vice president Bill Bidwill gaze at a photo of the Cardinals' Johnny Roland (23), taken when he played for Devine at the University of Missouri. The photo is part of an exhibit in the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame, at Busch Stadium where Devine's Packers will meet the Big Red Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. Bidwill is president of the Sports Hall of Fame. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch Photo by Steve Perillo)*

writing books and broadcasting games, but some of them remain - Willie Wood, Bart Starr, Carroll Dale, Dave Robinson, Ray Nitschke, Lionel Aldridge. The Packers think they have adequate replacements for the departed or benched stars in players like defensive tackle Mike McCoy, middle linebacker Jim Carter and Brockington, who leads the NFC in rushing with 874 yards. Starr, who played his first game last week after sitting out nine games because of arm surgery, will start against the Big Red, Devine said Saturday. Starr will have a new target in rookie Dave Davis, who's replacing John Spilis at wide receiver. The game, which begins at 3 p.m., is the last at home for the Cardinals, who have won only once in six previous starts at Busch Stadium this season. Last year, the Big Red enjoyed a 6-1 home record.

WISHBONE FOR PROS? HOLLWAY SAYS NO, DEVINE MAYBE

DEC 5 (St. Louis Post-Dispatch) — Paul (Bear) Bryant, the gruff, gravel-voiced dean of college football coaches, watched Alabama avenge a 1970 loss to Southern California by running the Trojans out of the Los Angeles Coliseum in September with a surprising ground game. "I'll never go to the post again without a running quarterback," said The Bear, who had suffered what for him and Alabama were considerable indignities for a couple of seasons. Meaning that 'Bama not only didn't win 'em all, but that the Crimson Tide actually absorbed a couple of one sided pastings, including a 35-10 loss to Missouri in the 1968 Gator Bowl. "They ran against us as if we were a barber-college team," groaned Bryant after the game at Jacksonville, Fla., where Dan Devine's Tigers crushed Alabama even though attempting just two forward passes, both of which were intercepted. Bryant, the big daddy of college football, decided that seeing long enough was believing. So he junked his pro-oriented passing offense this year and went to the Wishbone-T, the running game popularized by Texas, refined by Oklahoma and used by Alabama in an unbeaten season. Against Auburn a week ago, 'Bama controlled the ball so thoroughly that even if Heisman Trophy winner Pat Sullivan had enjoyed his best day of pitch and catch with partner Terry Beasley, the War Eagles couldn't have won. The old Bear, permitting himself to bask in the sun briefly before getting ready for Nebraska in an Orange Bowl game that figures to be a national championship shootout, decided to share his wisdom. "I wouldn't be surprised," he said, "to see the pros using the Wishbone before long." The Wishbone is a national fad, such as the Charleston, flagpole-sitting, goldfish-swallowing, panty raids, trampolines, hula hoops and Davey Crockett coonskin caps. It's bound to take the country by storm, particularly the college campuses, home of the finest copycats this side of a facsimile machine. But the pros? Is it possible they would return to what amounts to a full-house backfield with triple options? The Wishbone question was put to the Big Red's Bob Hollway and Green Bay's Dan Devine, both of whom had reasons to be thinking more about this afternoon's game at Busch Stadium. "I doubt it," said Hollway, "because if you put three running backs into the lineup, what would you do with one of your wide-receiver specialists, a John Gilliam or a Mel Gray?" The Wishbone, you know, looks much like the basic T-formation except that the middle of the three set backs, the fullback or up back, is close behind the quarterback. The quarterback, taking the ball from center, bellies the ball to the fullback and leaves it there or pulls it back, depending on the action of the defensive tackle. If the tackle holds his ground rather than charge, the fullback fakes his plunge and the quarterback options on the defensive end. If the end floats, the



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quarterback fakes a pitchout to his trailing back going outside. The strength of the formation, of course, is that when executed perfectly, neither the tackle nor end on the side to which the play is run requires a block, freeing the offense to bear down on the defense's linebackers and secondary. Oklahoma's Jack Mildren, quick-footed, nimble-fingered and with a brain to match, wonders whether a quarterback could stand up in pro football under the punishment absorbed in triggering the Wishbone. By actual count against Texas, for instance, Mildren was tackled 73 times and, by way of understatement, was sore for "a couple of days" after that. Hollway agreed that against bigger defensive players in pro football a running quarterback would take even more of a pounding. "Greg Landry, at Detroit, weighs 220 and is both big and durable," said the Big Red coach, "and he runs the option at times. We used it at Minnesota occasionally with Joe Kapp and the Vikings have it now with Gary Cuozzo as an occasional thing. And we know that Roger Staubach, Fran Tarkenton, Bob Griese and others control a pass rush by scrambling. "But, essentially, pro football is pass-dominated and college football's big winners usually have powerful running games. They don't have time to get their passing attacks completely sophisticated because college quarterbacks and receivers graduate. They don't have the chance to attain and maintain the rapport of, say, a combination such as Griese and Paul Warfield at Miami." Devine, though inclined to agree with Hollway, wasn't quite ready to write off the Wishbone as pro potential. "I'd want to think about it more before coming to a conclusion," he said. Smiling, he added, "I'm certainly fond of the option play. After all, I fed my family with it for 16 years." Devine referred to 16 seasons as a college head coach, including 13 at Missouri. His Tigers were college football's steadiest team in the '60s, never losing more than three games in a season even though they rarely were first-rate at quarterback. Three or four of Ol' Mizzou's quarterbacks ran the option well. The two best, Gary Lane, who quarterbacked the 1965 Sugar Bowl team, and Terry McMillan, signal caller for the '68 Gator Bowl and '69 Orange Bowl squads, actually were the best all-round, too. By pro standards, however, they did not pass well enough. Devine, though annoyed at the mechanical mistakes that have plagued the Packers this season, said he had learned to appreciate pro football skills. "I'd like to have a Mildren, maybe, but I don't believe he would survive the savage pro hits physically if he were running the Wishbone regularly," said Devine. "A 60-yard run in college football is an 11- or 14-yard run in pro football because of the speed and size of the defensive men involved. "The big, fast pro backs aren't much bigger or faster than in college, but there are considerably more good fast and big linemen on the field at any given time. Take a player such as Alan Page of Minnesota, for instance. He'll catch a sweep from behind or angle over to cut it off." Devine said that rookie Scott Hunter, probably the last of Bear Bryant's passing quarterbacks, wasn't particularly mobile, but that veteran Bart Starr, despite his age and disabilities, ran better than the coach had expected. "Ironically," said Dan'l, "with two new college coaches in the league" - he referred to himself and to Los Angeles's Tommy Prothro - "it's a pro coach, Joe Schmidt at Detroit, who is the ringleader in what seems to be a trend toward more running by the quarterback in pro football. "I don't know about the Wishbone as a formation, but I do know about the quarterback option. Nobody likes to defense it."

DEVINE HOPES TO PROVE POINT AGAINST CARDS

DEC 5 (St. Louis-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "The Coach has been tougher this week," a Packer veteran solemnly confided, "than he has been all season." The P.V. nodded his head in approval as he spoke, which could be a clue to what will transpire in today's "late show" against the St. Louis Cardinals (3 o'clock, WNFL, Channel 2). Having described himself as "embarrassed" by the Packers' last two performances against Atlanta and New Orleans, Dan Devine is patently determined to turn his team around, even though all hope of a playoff berth has long since vanished. It also can be safely said that he, as a man of deep personal and professional pride, wants to prove a point upon returning to his own backyard. Something of a folk hero in these precincts after leading the University of Missouri out of the football wilderness into national prominence during a 13 year tenure, he unquestionably is intent upon showing an anticipated house of 50,000 fans that he also can win as a pro. As a consequence, the Packer leader has been a trifle tight lipped on the practice field all week and his humor has not been improved by the Cardinals' refusal to permit the Packers to work out in Busch Stadium upon their arrival Thursday, a development which Devine took facetious note of by referring to

it as "Bidwell Stadium."...FEUD GOING: Although the Packers were permitted to practice on Busch Stadium's Astro Turf Friday and Saturday, much has been made of this in the St. Louis press, which only has added fuel to the fire. One newspaper noted, "The Bidwells (the Cardinal owners) and Devine: There is no love loss at the top of the two organizations. And it is liable to show when their teams collide today." Aside from these considerations, the game means little to either team in the standings, since the Packers are 3-7-1 and the Cardinals 4-7-0. Except, ironically, that both teams could strengthen their positions in the upcoming draft by losing, particularly the Pack because of its current half-game "edge." The Cards, however, are said to be primed for top performance. The Big Red finally shattered a long standing jinx by humbling the New York Giants last time out, 24-7, and it reportedly has had a salutary effect upon their psyche. Although there can be little question about the depth of his desire to win this one, Devine will continue looking to the future by leading with Bart Starr at quarterback and rookie Dave Davis at wide receiver....PROGRESS REPORT: With the draft now less than two months off, it is important to the Packer leader to find out how far Starr has come back from two shoulder operations earlier this season, and how well he can withstand the tender mercies of enemy defenders. His arm, which seems to improve almost daily, appears to be stronger than it was a week ago, and that should make the Cardinal defense more respectful than the Saints were in a surprise 29-21 victory last Sunday. Those are Devine's only concerns about Mr. Quarterback, who demonstrated he has lost none of his mechanical proficiency or tactical acumen by directing a superb, 71-yard scoring drive in the first half against the Saints. His performance prompted DD to note in admiration, "Bart called audibles for us like they haven't been called all season." Should a change be dictated at any point, both rookie Scott Hunter and ageless Zeke Bratkowski, who responded to an SOS by forging a touchdown pass in the closing minutes against New Orleans, will be in ready reserve...1ST FOR DAVIS: Davis, making his first pro start, presumably will be a passing target as often as possible. Devine, taken with the rookie's play on the specialty teams, is hopeful he will prove to be the swift, long ball specialist needed to complement the artistic veteran Carroll Dale. A sidelight to today's main issue will be John Brockington's bid to crash the 1,000 yard club. Brockington, who has four 100-yard plus games to his credit, needs 126 to reach the coveted figure, attained by a rookie only twice in pro football history. The jet-like rookie will bear watching for another reason. He has announced he is gearing for a peak effort because Devine characterized his performance against New Orleans as his "poorest game" of the season, an appraisal in which Brockington concurs. On the other side of the coin, a slightly revamped Packer defense could be in for a long and harrowing afternoon. Cardinal quarterback Jim Hart owns one of the strongest arms in the NFL and he is blessed with two of its speediest receivers in Mel Gray, a former Devine protégé at Missouri who has been clocked at 9.2 seconds in the 100-yard dash, and John Gilliam, who is only a shade slower. They will provide a major test for a secondary which today finds Ken Ellis reinstated as a starter at the left corner opposite Al Matthews and Doug Hart returning to strong safety as a running mate to old pro Willie Wood...BIG RED GUNS: Hart also has three accomplished running backs at his disposal in Johnny Roland, author of a 116-yard day against the Giants last Sunday, MacArthur Lane and Cid Edwards, a combination which Devine has labeled "the best one-two-three running bunch in the league." As always, the kicking game could decide the issue, and here the Cardinals would appear to have the distinct edge with Jim Bakken, third highest scorer in pro football history, matched with Packer Rookie Tim Webster who has not attempted a field goal under game conditions since his senior year at Grove, Oklahoma, High School. The game, for which a slight chance of rain and temperatures in the high 40s have been forecast, will showcase - for possibly the last time on the same field - two of the greatest safeties in NFL history, the Cards' Larry Wilson and the Pack's Willie Wood. There are rumors that Wilson, like a 12 year veteran, will retire at season's end. Today's exchange marks the Packers first appearance here since 1967 when they came from behind, on the wings of a 93-yard kickoff return by then rookie Travis Williams, to claim a 31-23 victory. The Cardinals have not beaten the Pack in regular season play since 1949.

Probable Starting Lineups:			
OFFENSE			
Packers		St. Louis	
Davis	WR	Gray	
Peay	LT	Reynolds	
Lueck	LG	Goode	
Bowman	C	Mulligan	
Gillingham	RG	Dierdorf	
Himes	RT	McMillan	
McGeorge	TE	McFarland	
Dale	WR	Gilliam	
Starr	QB	Hart	
Anderson	RB	Lane	
Brockington	RB	Roland	
DEFENSE			
C. Williams	LE	Yankowski	
McCoy	LT	Rowe	
Brown	RT	Krueger	
Roche	RE	Walker	
Crutcher	LLB	Stallings	
Carter	MLB	Rivers	
Carr	RLB	Ogle	
Ellis	LCB	Farr	
Matthews	RCB	Thompson	
Hart	LS	Wilson	
Wood	RS	Wehrli	
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No.	Name	Pos.
12	Bratkowski, Zeke	QB
15	Starr, Bart	QB
16	Hunter, Scott	QB
21	Hall, Charles	CB
24	Wood, Willie	DB
25	Hampton, Dave	RB
27	Randolph, Al	DB
29	Matthews, Al	DB
30	Krause, Larry	RB
31	Williams, Perry	RB
38	Webster, Tim	K
42	Brockington, John	RB
43	Hart, Doug	DB
44	Anderson, Don	RB-P
47	Davis, Dave	WR
48	Ellis, Ken	CB
50	Carter, Jim	LB
53	Carr, Fred	LB
54	Winther, Wimpy	C
56	Crutcher, Tom Joe	LB
57	Bowman, Ken	C
58	Withrow, Cal	C
62	Lueck, Bill	G
63	Winkler, Randy	G
66	Nitschke, Ray	LB
68	Gillingham, Gale	G
71	Peay, Francis	T
72	Himes, Dick	T
76	McCoy, Mike	DT
77	Hayhoe, Bill	T
78	Brown, Bob	DT
79	DeLisle, Jim	DT
81	McGeorge, Rich	TE
82	Aldridge, Lionel	DE
83	Williams, Clarence	DE
84	Dale, Carroll	WR
85	Spilis, John	WR
87	Roche, Alden	DT-DE
88	Garrett, Leonard	TE
89	Robinson, Dave	LB

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10	Beathard, Pete	QB
17	Hart, Jim	QB
20	Farr, Miller	CB
22	Wehrli, Roger	CB
23	Roland, John	RB
25	Bakken, Jim	K
26	Latourette, C.	P-WR
27	Shivers, Roy	RB
35	Stegent, Larry	RB
36	Lane, MacArthur	RB
39	Edwards, Cid	RB
43	Thompson, Norm	CB
44	Gilliam, John	WR
49	Hackbart, Dale	DB
50	Mulligan, Wayne	C
52	Ogle, Rick	LB
53	Rivers, Jamie	LB
55	Goode, Irv	G
56	McGill, Mike	LB
57	Parish, Don	LB
60	Hargrove, Jim	LB
63	Williams, Clyde	G
65	Hutchison, Chuck	G
67	Stallings, Larry	LB
70	Krueger, Rolf	DE-DT
71	Reynolds, Bob	T
72	Dierdorf, Dan	T-G
73	McMillan, Ernie	T
74	Heron, Fred	DT
75	Rowe, Bob	DT
78	Yankowski, Ron	DE
79	Walker, Chuck	DE
80	Williams, Dave	WR
81	Smith, Jackie	TE
82	Schmiesing, Joe	DE
83	McFarland, Jim	TE
85	Gray, Mel	WR
88	Hyatt, Fred	WR

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