



Green Bay Packers (3-7-1) 16, St. Louis Cardinals (4-7-1) 16 (T)
 Sunday November 28th 1971 (at Milwaukee)



Packers Win, Lose, Then Tie Cardinals 16-16

By United Press International
 American Conference

East				
	W.	L.	T.	Pct.
Miami	9	2	1	.818
Baltimore	9	3	0	.750
New England	5	7	0	.417
NY Jets	4	8	0	.333
Buffalo	1	11	0	.083

Central				
	W.	L.	T.	Pct.
x-Cleveland	7	5	0	.417
Pittsburgh	5	7	0	.417
Cincinnati	4	8	0	.333
Houston	2	9	1	.182

West				
	W.	L.	T.	Pct.
Kansas City	7	3	1	.700
Oakland	7	3	2	.700
San Diego	5	7	0	.417
Denver	4	7	1	.364

National Conference

East				
	W.	L.	T.	Pct.
Dallas	9	3	0	.750
Washington	8	3	1	.727
St. Louis	4	7	1	.364
Philadelphia	4	7	1	.364
NY Giants	4	8	0	.333

Central				
	W.	L.	T.	Pct.
Minnesota	9	3	0	.750
Detroit	7	4	1	.636
Chicago	6	6	0	.500
Green Bay	3	7	2	.300

West				
	W.	L.	T.	Pct.
San Francisco	7	4	0	.636
Los Angeles	7	4	1	.636
Atlanta	6	5	1	.545
New Orleans	4	6	2	.400

X-Clinched Division Title

Sunday's Results

Cleveland 31	Cincinnati 27
New England 34	Miami 13
Washington 23	NY Giants 7
Atlanta 24	Oakland 13
Philadelphia 23	Detroit 20
Baltimore 24	Buffalo 0
Houston 29	Pittsburgh 3
Denver 6	Chicago 3
Los Angeles 45	New Orleans 28
San Diego 30	Minnesota 14
St. Louis 16	Green Bay 16

(Only games scheduled)

Saturday's Results

Dallas 52	NY Jets 10
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(Only game scheduled)

Monday's Games

Kansas City at San Francisco

(twilight)

(Only game scheduled)

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(ST. LOUIS) - Ordinarily, a tie is only slightly more acceptable to the principals than a Republican in Mississippi. But there are times when it is preferable to the alternative. Like Sunday evening in the flood-lit confines of Busch Stadium, misty scene of the Packers' 16-16 TV "nightcap" with the St. Louis Cardinals. And Coach Dan Devine, whose athletes had just braked a three-game losing streak by dint of rookie Tim Webster's last play field goal, was quick to explain why. "I think this tie means more than the normal tie," he said. "It's very important this year for us not to quit...Not quitting in the face of a great drive and an unbelievable play (a ricochet off the helmet of Ken Ellis that Mel Grey converted into a Cardinal touchdown in the 59th minute) was important to us.

CHOICE THOUGHTS

"It could have been very easy for the offense to say the heck with it, and for the defense to say the same...but they didn't." Devine admitted he had some choice thoughts at the time of that bizarre development and a fumbled kickoff which immediately followed. "What did I think?" he echoed, flashing a puckish smile as he spoke. "You can't print it." Bob Hollway, his coaching counterpart, was considerably more explicit about a critical "jump" by halfback Johnny Roland as the Big Red was attempting to run out the clock in the final minute with a 16-13 lead. "There was no excuse for his being in motion on that play," an angry Hollway declared. "To be a pro, you have to have poise in critical moments. It was just a little thing, but that's been the story of our season, making mistakes and the little things."

CRITICAL MISTAKE

"Except for that critical mistake (the Packers refused the penalty on the second down play, which stopped the clock), there was no way Green Bay could have gotten the ball back," he insisted. "We were trying to force them to use their timeouts - they already had taken one on first down - and we could have stood around our last two downs and just watch the clock run down. "But even when Green Bay got the ball, our defenses knew they had to go to sideline passes to stop the clock. Although we work on these things all week, we let them get away with it. If we'd turned those receivers inside, the time would have run out." Hollway defended his decision to run on fourth down, a maneuver which quickly boomeranged when the Pack's Doug Hart exploded into the Cardinal backfield to bulldog McArthur Lane for a 12-yard loss. "I considered kicking or punting, but it might have been blocked," the Cardinals coach said. "I thought we could run out more time by running the ball and we were in pretty good position at the 32." Hollway indicated he hadn't expected Lane "to run backwards and lose 12 yards...Nor did I expect us to be able to run four plays and use up only 14 seconds on the clock. That was without excuse."

NORMAL DEFENSE

Hart, meanwhile, explained, "It was just a normal defense call. I felt like they would try to run wide because that's the most time-consuming play they could call. I just felt I wasn't going to be blocked and go in there and make the tackle. "Lane swung deep, out behind Roland, and he ran away from his blockers, which helped me. I'm sure that if he could have run back across the field that it would have wasted a lot of time." That opportunity had bloomed from a fumble by Dave Hampton, on the kickoff which followed the "one-bounce" completion to Gray, which rookie linebacker Terry Miller recovered at the Green Bay 32, thereby quickly adding insult to injury.

FINAL TURNOVER

Devine said the Packers' ability to rebound from these tribulations had come as no surprise to him. "I really felt before the fumble that we had a good chance to score," he said. "We had three timeouts left and I feel we had Scott Hunter convinced that he didn't have to score on

one play." Even after that final turnover, DD had conducted himself like a winner, consulting with the offensive unit while the defense was striving to contain the Cardinals and conserve the clock. "I just told the offense we'd have one timeout left," Devine said. "I was telling them to go right to the ball, and telling them what play we could run and what formation." Hunter, moving in under the center with only 48 seconds left, quickly hit rookie Dave Davis with a "sideline" but he caught it out of

bounds. The freshman quarterback then found Donny Anderson, coming out of the backfield, and the Golden Palomino wrung 15 yards out of the play.

BLOT EVERYTHING OUT

After missing fire with split end John Spilis, he pitched a 20-yarder to Carroll Dale, summarily nudged out of bounds at the Card 20 by Miller Farr with only three seconds left. That left it up to Webster, the youthful Oklahoman who prior to Sunday had not attempted a field goal under game conditions since his senior year in high school. But his 27-yard kick, which winged between the uprights as time ran out, was straight and true. "I tried not to get excited," he explained. "I just tried to blot it, without getting excited. I tried to blot everything out of my mind and kick through the ball." It was the third success in five attempts for Webster, who had connected from the 28 in the final seconds of the first half and the 12 following Willie Wood's recovery of a Roland fumble in the third period to account for the Pack's first six points.

DAZZLING ROOKIE

The latter left the Packers in arrears by only 9-6 and, late in the final period, there appeared good hope they would pull it out after all when Hunter engineered an irresistible, 73-yard drive to the Bays' only touchdown of the day. It was forged with the explosive assistance of Anderson, Dave Hampton and that dazzling rookie, John Brockington, who charged to within 31 yards of the magic number (1,000 yards) with a 95-yard performance, the stylish Anderson contributing 85 in just eight carries and Hampton 31 in seven. Hunter, who had kept the ball largely on the ground, explained, "We had just been chewing 'em up. Earlier in the third quarter, I threw a play action pass to Donny which didn't work and I felt it kind of stopped our drive. The linebacker didn't take the fake and he was sort of running with Donny, so I more or less threw it away.

LINEMEN FIRED UP

"The linemen were all fired up - they wanted to block - so I thought I'd just lay it on their shoulders and let 'em block 'em. Bill Lueck and Francis Peay said they felt we could move the ball on the ground. I like to throw the ball as much as anybody but we were running the ball so well, there was no need to throw...I thought our offensive line just ate up their defensive line." And so they did on that late push, springing Brockington, Anderson and Hampton for 52 yards on seven consecutive rushes that bore the Pack to the St. Louis 3-yard-line. Hampton took it from there, faking right and then cutting sharply inside free safety Roger Wehrli to bolt home after Lueck had wiped out strong safety Larry Wilson.

REPLACED STARR

"Brockington pulled out and put a good block on the linebacker," Hampton explained, "and, after Lueck got Wilson, it just was a matter of getting into the end zone...I think Wilson hit me again later, but I was already over." Hunter, called upon place Bart Starr late in the second quarter, was not entirely happy with the standoff. "I'm disappointed we tied the game," he said, "because I felt that, physically, we outplayed them." But Hampton, who contributed 134 yards with four kickoff returns and seven rushes, took a more positive stance. "I think it means the team is still together," he quietly confided. "I think it means we have confidence in each other, which we proved by refusing to give up."

GREEN BAY - 0 3 3 10 - 16
ST. LOIUS - 0 9 0 7 - 16

	GREEN BAY	ST. LOUIS
First downs	19	12
Rush-yards-TDs	35-211-1	32-80-0
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	28-15-160-0-2	24-11-236-1-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-14	1-11
Net Passing Yards	146	225
Total yards	357	306
Fumbles-lost	1-1	2-1



Donny Anderson (44) takes to the air as he is hit by St. Louis Cardinals Miller Farr during the first period, Dec. 5, 1971, St. Louis, Mo. Anderson managed only three yards on the run before being downed by Farr (Photo by Fred Waters/AP)



IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

Green Bay Packers coach Dan Devine hobbles off the field with the aid of crutches, following the tie game against the St. Louis Cardinals Sunday in St. Louis. Devine, who coached at the University of Missouri before going to Green Bay this year, settled for a tie with the Cardinals with only 3 seconds remaining in the game. Tim Webster (38) of Green Bay kicked the tying field goal to stave off a loss. (AP Wirephoto)

Turnovers	3	1
Yards Penalized	3-25	3-22

SCORING

2nd – STL – Jim Bakken, 42-yard field goal STL 3-0
 2nd – STL – Bakken, 21-yard field goal STL 6-0
 2nd – STL – Bakken, 12-yard field goal STL 9-0
 2nd – GB – Tim Webster, 28-yard field goal STL 9-3
 3rd – GB – Webster, 12-yard field goal STL 9-6
 4th – GB – Dave Hampton, 2-yard run (Webster kick) GB 13-9
 4th – STL – Mel Gray, 57-yard pass from Jim Hart (Bakken kick) STL 16-13
 4th – GB – Webster, 27-yard field goal TIED 16-16

RUSHING

GREEN BAY – John Brockington 19-95, Donny Anderson 9-85, Dave Hampton 7-31 1 TD
ST. LOUIS – MacArthur Lane 19-57, Johnny Roland 9-22, Jim Hart 4-1

PASSING

GREEN BAY – Scott Hunter 23-13-129, Bart Starr 5-2-31 2 INT
ST. LOUIS – Jim Hart 24-11-236 1 TD

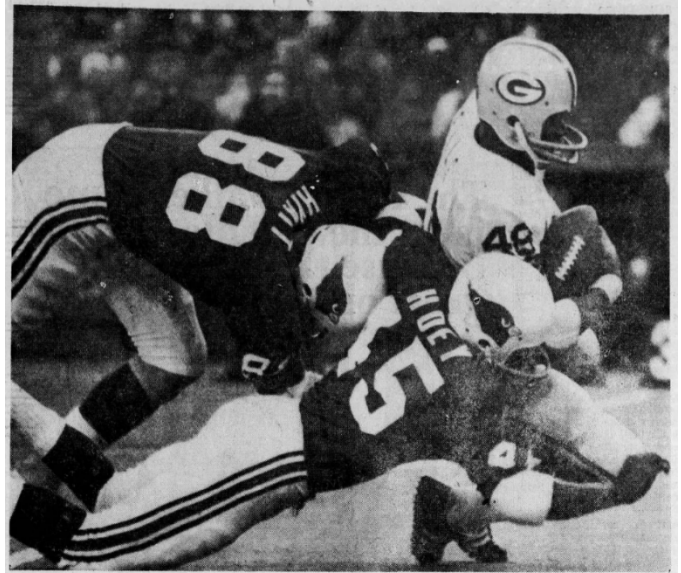
RECEIVING

GREEN BAY – Donny Anderson 5-55, Carroll Dale 3-43, John Brockington 3-21, Rich McGeorge 2-24, Dave Hampton 1-12, Dave Davis 1-5
ST. LOUIS – John Gilliam 4-96, Mel Gray 3-102 1 TD, Dave Williams 2-31, Johnny Roland 2-7

Webster a Startled Hero

WEBSTER A STARTLED HERO

DEC 6 (St. Louis-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Tim Webster, his pink cheeks crinkling into a boyish smile, was a little dazzled by it all. A free agent from the University of Arkansas, the Packers' rookie placekicker had languished in the shadow of record breaking Bill McClord during his college days. And until Sunday afternoon, he had not set foot to ball from scrimmage since his senior year at Grove, Okla., High School, an institution with an enrollment of 200 students. Yet, here he was, encircled by reporters in the Green Bay dressing room and telling them how it had felt to kick the last play field goal which had forged a 16-16 tie with the St. Louis Cardinals...JUST CONCENTRATE: "You don't want to hear the crowd," said Webster, who seemed almost apologetic over his sudden rise to celebrity status. "You don't hear anything - you just concentrate on kicking the ball." Webster, who had made three of five attempts in his professional debut as a field goal kicker (he had booted only kickoffs and three extra points in his maiden pro appearance against New Orleans a week earlier), tacitly admitted the day had ended much more auspiciously than it had begun. His first NFL field goal attempt, from the 25-yard-line in the second quarter, ricocheted off the right upright and back onto the playing field. "I did get a little bit down about that" he conceded. "But I tried just to forget it. You can't go back and re-kick it." Exhibiting a shy smile, he added, "It would have been nice to make my first field goal in the National Football League. But making my second attempt made me feel a lot better." Coach Dan Devine indicated it also had done something for him, along with the two others that found the mark. "After today. Tim Webster went up a notch," he said, although we knew he was a good kicker...When we moved Tim onto the regular roster a week ago, we felt we had confidence in him. For a kid who wasn't a regular in college - of course, the fellow ahead of him is a fine kicker - he did a good job out there today...GREAT ADDITION: "Lou Michaels had been kicking well for us - he's been a great addition to the team. He's helped Webster and he's helped the team, but we wanted to find out about Tim." Zeke Bratkowski, it develops, is indirectly responsible for Webster's presence in the Packers' midst. "Playing pro football wasn't in my plans until last December," Tim revealed. "Not until Zeke's cousin, who lives down there in Arkansas, called me in one day and asked me if I had given any thought to the idea. He asked that, if he got it set up would I be interested, and I said I would...So he contacted Zeke, who was then on the Packer coaching staff. While a Razorback, Webster understudied McClord, a senior this year who has a 60-yard field goal (an all-time major college record) to his credit. Tim,



ELLIS NAILED: St. Louis Cardinals Fred Hyatt (88) and George Hoey (45) team up to drive Green Bay's Ken Ellis to the ground in the second quarter of Sunday's game. Ellis was nailed hard just after receiving a Cardinal punt. The Packers pulled out a 16-16 tie on Tim Webster's field goal with three seconds left in the game. (UPI Telephoto)

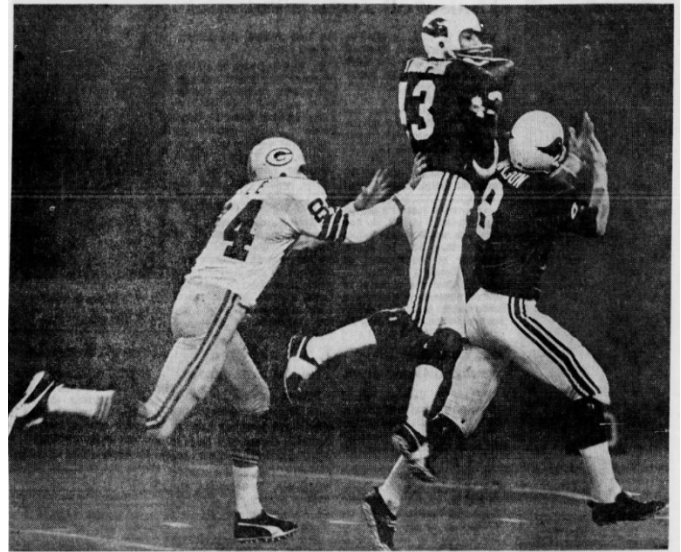
on the dressing room telephone when sportswriters arrived to seek him out, was facetiously asked, "Did you call McClord?" "No," he said, turning happily pink at the suggestion, haven't."

BRADLEY UP, WINKLER DOWN

DEC 6 (St. Louis-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Packers made a roster change just prior to Sunday's 16-16 tie with the Cardinals, activating guard Dave Bradley and moving fellow guard Randy Winkler to the taxi squad.

BROCK JUST 31 YARDS SHY OF GOAL

DEC 6 (St. Louis-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – "It would have been nice to go over 1,000 today," John Brockington said, a little wistfully. Then, after a brief reflection, he reconsidered. "But it'll be nicer," the footloose freshman said, "to get it in Green Bay." And that, barring something totally unforeseen, is what is likely to happen in Lambeau Field next Sunday afternoon, when the Packers close out their home season against the Chicago Bears. A 95-yard performance in Sunday's 16-16 tie with the Cardinals left Brockington only 31 yards shy of the coveted figure, reached by a rookie only twice before in pro football's half century history. Both of those were American Football League performers. Cookie Gilchrist did it first, amassing 1,096 for Buffalo in 1962, and Cincinnati's Paul Robinson turned the trick in 1968 with 1,023. Brockington, who had only 30 yards at halftime, admitted the Cardinals appeared to be keying on him. "It sure seemed like they were after me today," said the bulldozing ex-Buckeye, who caught three passes for 21 yards in addition to averaging exactly five yards on 19 rushes. The latter vaulted him into the NFL lead with 969 yards, 11 more than Floyd Little of Denver, who took over second place Sunday with a 125-yard burst against the Bears. Miami's Larry Csonka, held to 61 by the New England Patriots, is third with 939 and the Rams' Willie Ellison now fourth with 929 following a record-breaking 247-yard day against New Orleans. Brockington's fellow running back Larry Krause, paid admiring tribute to the former Ohio State star following his St. Louis performance. "There are not many backs in the league who can measure up to Brockington," he said, then proceeded to cite an example. "John got hit one time this afternoon and was spun around. As he spun, he got hit by another Cardinal and it sort of straightened him up. He kept right on to make about six more yards before they could bring him down."...Middle linebacker Jim Carter, who appeared off and running with a fourth quarter "interception," had ironic, two-word explanation for dropping the Jim Hart pass. "Cardboard hands," he said sardonically. "It's not an excuse, because I should have caught it anyway, but I didn't have my contact lenses in. I lost one last week and I lost one before the game. My mother sent me some new ones, but they were sent to Green Bay so I didn't have them for this game. I should have had it," Carter repeated, "but it's a little tough catching 'em in Braille."...Ken Ellis (on the deflected touchdown pass to Mel Gray in the fourth quarter): "The ball hit me on the head-it grazed my helmet. How lucky can they get? I saw the ball all the way until it was coming down and it got into the lights."...Dan Devine (on his decision to replace starter Bart Starr with Scott Hunter): "I went to the quarterback who, at that time, I thought was most likely to win...Scott has played will for us this year. "I don't think anything happened to Bart, as far as that's concerned. Carroll Dale fell down on the throw at him early - the pass was thrown perfectly. On the interception, Bart threw the ball over the guy who should have been troublesome, but Roger Wehrli came over and made a great play. "As to whether I'm leaning toward drafting another quarterback. I can't



MEN OF STEAL? Cornerback Norm Thompson of the Cardinals appears to have intercepted a pass intended for Green Bay's Carroll Dale near the end of the first half in yesterday's National Football League game at Busch Stadium. Assisting Thompson in defending against the throw from the Packers' Scott Hunter is safety Larry Wilson.



OL' TIGERS: Green Bay Packers coach Dan Devine hobbles off the field on crutches yesterday at Busch Stadium as two players Devine coached at the University of Missouri hold a postgame reunion. The former Tigers are Big Red running back Johnny Roland and Green Bay offensive tackle Francis Peay. Devine embraced Roland and Roger Wehrli as he left the field and later Roland, Wehrli and a third Big Red player from Mizzou, Mel Gray, visited Devine in the dressing room. (Post-Dispatch Photo by Wayne Crosslin)



ALL FALL DOWN: Thompson, Wilson and Dale go down in a heap and the ball squirts away from Thompson. Officials ruled that the play, which came with 21 seconds left in the half, was an incomplete pass. Sixteen seconds later, Tim Webster kicked a field goal and the half ended with the Big Red ahead, 9-3. (Post-Dispatch Photos by Steve Perille)

honestly answer that off the top of my head. But, right now, I would say no." Bart Starr: "I was disappointed that they got a couple of interceptions on us. Turnovers always tick you off...We were moving the ball pretty well, so it was particularly disappointing. "Was the ball going where I wanted it to? When you complete it," he chuckled, "it's going where you want it to, and when you don't...As far as my overall performance is concerned, I'm pretty rusty, but guess I'm coming. The golf glove?...I wear it because I like to feel of it."...Scott Hunter: "It didn't bother me in the least to come in there in the second quarter, rather than to start...I was talking to Bart about what he was doing on the sidelines anyway. He'd tell me what was working, and I more or less started out with what had been going for him. Coach Schnelker was a lot of help to me - he called a couple of plays on that scoring drive near the end that worked real good. I really got a lot of help from him, Zeke Bratkowski, Bart and Coach Devine."...Bill. Lueck: "Dave Hampton made that touchdown run himself. I hit Larry Wilson but there was somebody else over, Roger Wehrli, I think. Dave must have made a heckuva run to get away from him...Wilson surprised me on the play. The safety usually tries to sidestep you, but he just lowered the shoulder and came at me."...Mike McCoy: "I was really weak because of the flu. I only played three series in the second quarter...I felt worse in the second half."...Bob Hollway (Cardinal coach): "There was no question about the team's effort. This is why I feel sorry for them. They made a great effort, especially the defense. We gave them only one touchdown. That catch by Mel Gray was a great play...The guys deserved a better fate."...Jim Hart: "I was going to hit Fred Hyatt on that touchdown pass which went to Mel Gray. I saw Hyatt free but I was still running back and couldn't throw then. I had to wait. Then I threw over him. Ken Ellis saw I was throwing to Hyatt and dropped off of Mel. Gray got behind Ellis and caught my overthrow."

A PACK FRIEND...HO, HO, HO

DEC 6 (St. Louis-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Coach Dan Devine and many of his Packers looked like little kids, wide-eyed, surprised and almost unbelieving. And why not? There was Santa Claus...the guy in the red suit across the field from them. And he was bearing gifts...or at least gift. At least that was the impression transmitted from St. Louis via the tube Sunday as cameras poked curiously at the Packer coach and bench as Cardinal Coach Bob Holloway decided to forgo a field goal attempt and try to waste a few more seconds with fourth down at the Green Bay 30 and 52 seconds to play. When it became obvious what Santa...er, Holloway...was planning, the Packers reacted quickly. Devine, Dick Himes and his offensive platoonmates began frantically signaling the defenders not to take another 'timeout after the fourth down play. They didn't...and it proved to be a lifesaver for the Packers who found this tie, unlike the old cliché about a tie being like kissing your sister, more like kissing your second best girl. It wasn't the greatest but when you earn it with a field goal on the last scrimmage play of the first half and another on the final play of the game, it's a long way from sister kissing. On the other hand, the boo birds are going to have a feast in St. Louis. They were already in action before the game began. But the decision to pass up a field goal attempt from the 37 by one of the league's finest kickers is sure to add a lot more voices to the choir. Indeed, the decision to let quarterback Jim Hart simply fall on the ball three times was enough to recruit a new basso or two...or two thousand. It won't count against their official giveaway totals, but the Cardinals and ol' Santa Hollway certainly got carried away by the spirit of the season in this one. Notably, however, the Packers were able to take quick advantage of that unexpected generosity. And, in fact, judging by the antics of Himes and his cohorts at the moment of truth, they were very confident of doing just that. What's encouraging about this is that the Packers obviously hadn't given up, despite the real meaninglessness of the game and almost ridiculous misfortune that keeps mounting against them: the pass meant for Fred Hyatt but caught for a touchdown by Mel Gray...Hampton's fumble on the kickoff. I had the idea they were ready for this game and that they wanted it very badly. TV analyst Alex Hawkins kept talking about sacrificing your body and the Packers were willing to do just that in this one. Frankly, I thought they played well. What I particularly liked

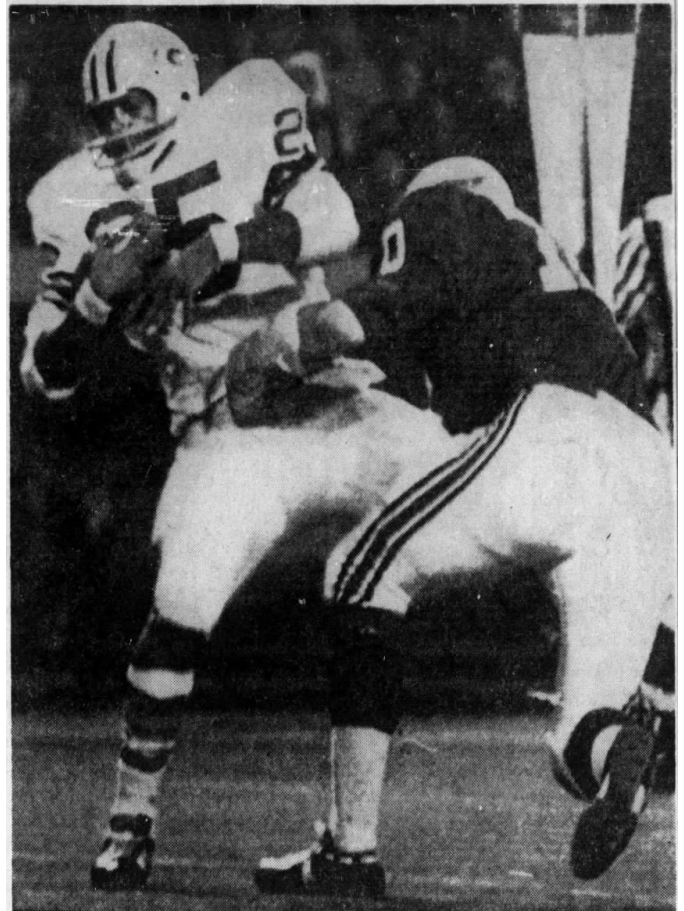
was the fact that they didn't get any silly penalties...though Gilly was ticketed for clipping in a key situation. But the Packers overcame that one and turned on a beautiful 86-yard march that had only the one passing play to get out of the hole with first and 22 at their only 14. It was climaxed by Bill Lueck wiping out All-Pro Larry Wilson to spring Dave Hampton for 212 yards and a go-ahead touchdown. There were, of course, some disconcerting things about the game. For instance, Bart Starr's arm still lacks the strength and accuracy needed (though who can throw with a gloved hand). And more important, the coaching action of sending John Spilis in for Dave Davis, which held up the Packers and ticked away a few precious seconds in that evinced that he didn't have to score on one play." Even after that final turnover, DD had conducted himself like a winner, consulting with the offensive unit while the defense was striving to contain the Cardinals and conserve the clock. "I just told the offense we'd have one timeout left," Devine said. "I was telling them to go right to the ball, and telling them what play we could run and what formation." Hunter, moving in under the center with only 48 seconds left, quickly hit rookie Dave Davis with a "sideliner" but he caught it out of bounds. The freshman quarterback then found Donny Anderson, coming out of the backfield, and the Golden Palomino wrung 15 yards out of the play...

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PACK ACCEPTS GIFT OF SANTA HOLLWAY

DEC 6 (St. Louis Post-Dispatch) - The poorest home harvest in the football Cardinals' 12 seasons in St. Louis just had ended in a tie. Appropriately, recognizing a ribbon-wrapped gift when they saw one, members of Southeast Missouri State College's snazzy marching band played "Jingle Bells." A group of Santa Clauses in the stands were wearing red, but it was the fans who saw red in the weird windup to a dismal 1-5-1 season at Busch Stadium as the Big Red presented the Green Bay Packers a tie for Christmas. And even though coach Bob Hollway can and should be miffed because the Big Red failed



Dave Hampton (25) goes across the goal line to score a touchdown for the Packers during the fourth quarter of Sunday's game in St. Louis. The Cards' Rolf Krueger (70) gets to Hampton too late for the TD saving tackle. (AP Wirephoto)



FOLLOW THE LEADER: St. Louis Cardinals MacArthur Lane (36) follows his blocker, Irv Goode (55), for a gain of four yards during the 4th quarter of Sunday's game at St. Louis. The run helped set up a Cardinal touchdown with 1:08 remaining with a Cardinal lead of 16-13. But Green Bay came back with a tying field goal with only three seconds remaining in the game. (AP Wirephoto)

to execute a critical clock-killing series of downs, the Bidwills' football foreman must accept his share of blame for the standoff which came off smelling like a defeat. Mind you, Hollway has good reason to be unhappy with his troops' failure to run down the clock. But he can't avoid exposure to what truly must rate, in this opinion, as a coaching blunder comparable to the last-minute onside kick at San Diego when St. Louis had no timeouts left. There, you will recall, the Chargers fielded a short kickoff, just after a come-from-behind Cardinal touchdown had tied the game with 17 seconds left. And, after taking a timeout, San Diego needed only one completed pass to set up a tie-breaking field goal by Dennis Partee as time ran out. So the Big Red kissed off what would have been a hard-earned 17-17 draw in that one. And yesterday, after coming from behind dramatically to score on a long strike from Jim Hart to Mel Gray with 68 seconds left, they blew what should have been a 16-13 victory. Everything Looked (Mel) Gray The Pack isn't back, no matter how snappy the slogan. Dan Devine, who was accustomed to getting the most out of the least at quarterback through most of his 13 years as coach at the University of Missouri, is short in the pivotal position again. Bart Starr, who once resembled a master surgeon in the way he dissected an enemy defense, doesn't have the arm to reach his target any more. And Scott Hunter is a rookie at a position where, a vastly improved Hart has proved, experience is the best teacher. As usual, though, with Devine-coached teams, the Packers play it extremely tough defensively and stick it to the foe with an aggressive ground game. With the Big Red playing spiritedly, too, yesterday's game

was a head-knocker in which the kicking of Jim Bakken, doing a dandy job punting (Chuck Latourette was out with an ankle injury suffered in practice Saturday) as well as placekicking, figured to be decisive. Suddenly, past the middle of the fourth period, the Packers put together a crushing drive to a touchdown and a 13-9 lead. Curiously, perhaps because of Devine's contributions to Ol' Mizzou and because of spectators' disenchantment with the home side's season, some in the crowd of 50,443 had exhorted the Packers in surprising volume: "Go...go...go." But then the faithful took over, pleading for a rally, and Hart gave it to them. Hart, basically, is doing a better job than his receivers (John Gilliam, for instance, dropped a couple which hurt yesterday) and for once, thanks to Gray's quick reflexes, Jim got a break when his bomb intended for tight end Freddie Hyatt grazed the gold helmet of cornerback Ken Ellis and bounced to Gray. Gray, coming back to throw a downfield block, grabbed the slightly deflected pass that Ellis had lost in the lights, turned and took it for the winning...No, not the winning touchdown, though Devine summed it up well when his former Mizzou stars now with the Big Red-Gray, Roger Wehrli and Johnny Roland-visited him in the Packers' dressing room as he wrapped a new bandage around his throbbing, swollen left leg, the one in which he suffered multiple fractures in a sideline mishap the first game of the season. Embracing Gray - the old Tiger emotionally hugged each of his former players as they came up to him - Devine smiled and said, "I'd been showing my guys Missouri film clips of you, Mel, cautioning them not to let you get behind them, but you can see what good it did. For a moment there, I thought you'd done me in."...HOW NOT TO WIN: The crowd had reason to think so, too, particularly when Dave Hampton, the most fumble-prone of the Packers, coughed up the ball, which the Big Red recovered at the Green Bay 32 with 59 seconds remaining. Man and boy, I've never seen a football team use only seven seconds in running three plays, but that's precisely what happened. Unlike Devine, who thought Green Bay had three timeouts left, Hollway at least knew that the visitors could stop the clock just twice, so the St. Louis coach ordered Hart to take the ball from center and drop immediately to the ground, to avoid a fumble. Hollway's intentions were good and his judgment sound, to this point, because even if only a few seconds ticked off in two plays, the Packers would be unable to stop the clock on third and, if necessary, fourth down. The game would run out because, when no clock-stopping tactics are possible, 30 seconds can be run off between plays. However, after Roland was guilty of illegal procedure on second down and the Packers chose to take the down instead of the penalty, thus saving a timeout, it might have been wise to switch to a quarterback rollout or a sweep, to consume more time. But Hart again dropped quickly to take only two more seconds off the clock, and the Packers used what Hollway realized was their last timeout. With the ball at the Green Bay 33 and 52 seconds left, a field-goal attempt seemed likely. Even a high punt might have killed time. But the coach's decision was to come out in running formation and try the sweep on which Mac Lane was thrown for a 12-yard loss. When the Packers got to the Big Red 20 with three seconds left, Devine didn't try to be foolish or greedy. He summoned placekicker Tim Webster and gratefully accepted the Christmas tie that Santa Claus Hollway had offered him.

TIE HAD GOOD EFFECT ON PACKERS: DEVINE

DEC 7 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Dan Devine is nearing the end of a dismal freshman year, and the rookie National Football League coach says he is at last in shape to be a sophomore. "I'm way ahead of the game now," he said, remarking he had been hired by the Green Bay Packers a few days before the critical winter draft of players and "had no idea what

we would be doing." Equipped with Bart Starr's sore arm and rookie Scott Hunter's shortage of experience, the Packers have blundered to a 3-7-2 record with two games remaining-Sunday against the Chicago Bears and Dec. 19 against the Miami Dolphins. "Whether we can put all the pieces together in two years, I don't know," Devine said. "But we are going to give it a heck of a try." The St. Louis Cardinals came from behind in the closing minutes of Sunday's game by recovering a Packer fumble. Some sideline decisions by Cardinal management helped Green Bay set up a field goal and salvage a 16-16 tie. Devine said two things about the final quarter underscore his faith in a happier future for the Packers. An important factor, Devine said, was that "we did not fold our tents when they shot ahead." "It is real important this year that we don't quit," he said. The other bit of inspiration, the coach said, was an 85-yard scoring drive that put the Packers ahead despite a 15-yard clipping penalty against guard Gale Gillingham. "That was the best drive we put together all season," he said. Devine said he wouldn't fault Gillingham, whom he described as "the best guard in football." A 57-yard pass play to St. Louis' Mel Gray put the Cardinals ahead, even though the toss took a detour off the helmet of Packer defender Ken Ellis, "It morale-shattering enough to have that kind of pass completed," Devine sighed, brightening because it didn't eat into his club's spirit. "Our defense hangs there," he continued, "and Doug Hart comes up with the biggest play of the game in throwing MacArthur Lane for a 12-yard loss on fourth down." "If you look for some bright spots this season," he said, "there are some." Even Hunter looked brighter than he has been for most of the season. The novice quarterback continues to win Devine's devotion. Veteran Donny Anderson and rookie John Brockington continue to shape up as one of the better backfield tandems in the league. When asked the standard Monday-morning question about Starr, 37, the coach said the ace quarterback is "definitely" capable of performing for the Packers. "He is in a little streak of bad luck," Devine said.



Former Baseball Great Jackie Robinson pours coffee for Mrs. Vince Lombardi, wife of the late and famous football coach, at a luncheon in his honor and for other top athletes at Leone's Restaurant in New York Monday. Jackie was picked as The Man of 25 Years in Sports by Sport Magazine, which sponsored the affair. (AP Wirephoto)

AHEAD OF GAME NOW - DAN

DEC 7 (Green Bay) - The figure 2, rather than 1, now appears under the letter 'T' opposite Green Bay in the National Football League's Central Division standings. Outwardly, this is the only change in the Packers artistic circumstances, currently 3-7-2, as the result of Sunday's 16-16 stalemate with the St. Louis Cardinals. And that of itself is not overly significant, considering ties are totally disregarded in NFL computations, eliminating even the "half a loaf" comfort. Yet Coach Devine is convinced there were some intangible benefits of more than casual importance that will bear future fruit in his long range rebuilding project. "I think the tie has had a good effect on the team," he said during the course of a customary Monday afternoon analysis of the weekend's exertions. "I feel we proved two things to ourselves in the process."...TIE IMPORTANT: Prefacing his elaboration by asserting, "I don't think St. Louis would have played it any different if three points would have won the game." Devine said. "I think we showed we could put a good drive together, move the ball, when we needed to - particularly by overcoming that 15-yard penalty at the start of it. I think this game also showed the defense the importance of forcing them to kick a field goal, and that's all they were able to put on the board until that long completion to Mel Gray for the touchdown in the closing minutes. I think that from the team point of view, and that of the coaches, the tie therefore was important to us...Of course, we still made more mistakes than I would like."...DEVINE HEARTENED: The Packer coach was particularly heartened by the quality of that late, 73-yard push, which was capped by Dave Hampton's two-yard sweep right. "That drive was as good a drive as we've had all year," he said. "Probably to people back in Green Bay, it looked like an old Green Bay drive and to people in St. Louis, it probably looked like an old Missouri drive. When we scored, I might add, it was like being in Green Bay." Taking out the official play-by-play account, he began to run down it, ticking off the plays with satisfaction. "Here is the way it went: We get 23 yards on first down, then 14, 11, 9, 8, 14 again, zero on a trap down on the goal line, 4 and then 2 and the touchdown...I'd like to see some more like that...FINE EXECUTION: "It was a matter of fine execution, and the fact that sometimes these things just jell. And we went right at 'em that time, which is something we hadn't done all day. We'd throw a pass on first down and it would be incomplete - although I must admit a pass took us out of the hole on first down...It was terrific execution, the best we've had all year." In this connection, Devine described himself as "very pleased" with the performance of rookie quarterback Scott Hunter, who replaced Bart Starr in the second quarter...HAD TIME OUT LEFT: "Scott was sharper than he's been the last few times he's played," he said. "That should help his confidence...I think it was good, I might add, for him to be out of there for a little while. I might add, however, that we did have a timeout left there in the last minute and he should have known. And if I'd had two good legs, I'd have gone out and told him...You can be darned sure he'll know in the future. I know an official told us we had no timeouts left," Devine conceded. "I'm just guessing, but when they got that penalty for illegal procedure on second down, I think the official may have thought we called timeout. And Willie Wood may have, but time was already out...I think the referee had it right - there was a timeout left." The Packer leader termed Doug Hart's subsequent last minute breakthrough, which forced the Cardinals to turn over the ball and provided a last play field goal opportunity for Tim Webster, "a really great

- "I think, judging from the film, that Al Matthews trapped that ball in the third quarter. I thought, at the time, that he had intercepted it...It was a well officiated game, except for that discrepancy on the timeouts - which is a pretty big item.
- "Losing Mike McCoy with the flu for most of the game hurt...He played the run well, but he wasn't up to it on the pass rush...We had several other guys who were sick who played. Francis Peay was sick, for one.
- "Dave Davis (rookie wide receiver) showed some courage in there blocking for a little guy...He also made two tackles inside the 20, which is virtually unheard of in Green Bay these days.
- "Jim Carter made some mistakes in the first half but he stayed in there and played a good second half...And Clarence Williams stood in there pretty good.
- "I don't know yet what we will do about practice this week. I guess the field is pretty wet. There is the possibility of working in some areas of the stadium, if it's dry enough...We've got to work - even if we had to work inside somewhere. We can't miss a day again, like we did last week. I don't mind working inside - sometimes it's a good, concentrated learning.
- "Ray Nitschke will see some action Sunday (on Ray Nitschke Day). It won't detract from our defense any, and it won't be any sacrifice in efficiency, for him to see action."

DEC 7 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - If there are any openings for a forecaster in the National Water Polo League, count me in. Last weekend in the National Football League was the kind that drives bookmakers (legal and otherwise) out of business and predictors into hiding. The incredible NFL is becoming more incredible...and, if the current trend continues, the season when all 26 teams will finish with 7-7 records can't be far off. In no fewer than five games, teams with Super Bowl aspirations (and, in most cases, with credentials to match) lost to also-rans. Maybe it's a bit premature, to call Atlanta an also-ran...nonetheless, the Falcons were underdogs against Oakland. The other upset victims were Miami (which had been overpowering against Kansas City in its latest start), Minnesota (which was favored by 12 points over erratic San Diego) and Pittsburgh (which had been in definite AFC Central contention and which was favored by a touchdown over Houston). None of these playoff contenders had yet clinched a division title, so there was no way to explain any letdown if indeed any let down occurred. Anyway, the net result for this corner was a record of seven wrong, five right and one tie. Fortunately, I had plenty of company. The authors of the other two predictions columns published by the P-C fared no better, so Elinor Kaine and Mike Rathet and I went down the drain together. Elinor missed eight and Mike failed on seven...I don't know about you, but I wouldn't bet a wooden nickel on any of the NFL's remaining 26 regular-season games. There is no sure-fire (or even logical) way of sizing up the final two weeks of play or to figure which seven teams will join Cleveland in the first round of the playoffs. Eleven teams remain in the running for those 11 berths. The "obvious" is no longer obvious...meaning it's futile, for example, to say that Kansas City has one "breather" left, in the Buffalo game; or that Baltimore has a "sure thing" in the New England game...The Packer-Cardinal game typified the wacky weekend. The Packers - as one coffee shop QB put it - won, lost and tied the game all in the last two minutes. The weird wind-up included a deflected pass, which the Cards' Mel Gray hauled in for the TD that apparently beat his old college coach, Dan Devine...it included an unbelievable Packer conservation of time, as the Cards consumed only 14 seconds to run four plays...and it included the nearly-as-unbelievable piece of strategy in which St. Louis forsook a field goal or a punt to run the ball on fourth down and give the Packers favorable field position...The pluses, from a Packer standpoint were (1) a 211-yard running

[illegible]

attack, with John Brockington, Donny Anderson and Dave Hampton returning to their pre-Atlanta form. (2) The regaining of form and confidence by Scott Hunter, who apparently has snapped back from that traumatic goal line interception in the second Minnesota game. (3) The place-kicking of rookie Tim Webster, whose showing in his first pro "field goal" game makes him a serious candidate for 1972 kicking duties...Packer minuses chiefly were: the condition of Bart Starr's passing arm and the continued lack of an NFL-caliber pass rush by the Bay defense. As some cynics suggest, if Starr continues to pass as he has been doing, he'll play himself right out of the Hall of Fame. No one, I'm sure, would want to see Bart make the "Warren Spahn" mistake and stick around after his once-great skills have been eroded. Maybe Starr's arm will grow stronger with time - especially during a long off-season rest. We hope so. But, Sunday, Starr's passing was more of a liability than an asset (just as it was for part of the 1970 season). Opposition defenses know they can pull in tight to choke off the run as well as the short pass. And, maybe someone could convince Bart to save the glove he wore for his next golf match...The "black and blue" division boys took a lot of lumps Sunday. The NFC Central division - once considered the strongest in football - failed to record a victory in four games. Minnesota, Detroit and Chicago lost, while Green Bay salvaged a tie.

TOGETHERNESS IS KEY

DEC 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - One of pro football's most articulate athletes, towering Francis Peay can discourse at length on his favorite subject at the drop of the proverbial hat. But the eloquent Pennsylvanian needs only one word to explain the surprising success of the Packers' offensive line this season: Togetherness. "All offensive lines are naturally close," the former University of Missouri All-American says. "There is so much pressure on us. There is so little recognition and yet we bear the brunt of the blame for things that misfire on offense...That suffering together ties all offensive linemen together. For example, we had 64 plays against St. Louis Sunday. If you get beat once on a pass play, it's not a bad day but it's not a good day, either. Yet, if the defensive lineman gets to the passer once, he's had a relatively good day...'**MADE A PACT**': "There's something unbalanced here - the value system is unbalanced. Consequently, we offensive linemen try to stay together and pool our talents...The first thing after that game in Atlanta two weeks ago, which we all were disappointed about, Ken Bowman said that we offensive linemen would stick together and any difficulties we had wouldn't be overbearing. What it boils down to is that we made a pact, right from the start, that there would be no pettiness, no jealousies. And this is something we've put into practice, these are not mere words. We're 24 hours on football. On a trip, for example, we talk together about techniques, or how we can do something better. We even have our own audibles. Each lineman from Bowman over to left, in other words, Bill Lueck and myself, and each from Bowman over to the right, Gale Gillingham and Dick Himes, have worked out little techniques. While the quarterback audibilizes, we've developed some little audibles of our own. It might be a funny incident we shared, or something else. Bowman knows my voice, so even though I have to call over Lueck's voice and over the crowd noise, he recognizes it. It's instinctual. "You can only do this by being together, thinking together and welding the group into one concrete block...We laugh together, criticize together. Really, it's a beautiful experience." Pinpointing the basic unifying factor, Peay noted, "We're all in the same age bracket and have much the same values, which contributes to the rapport. If there was anything that could bind us together, it would be this. That is the one common denominator. And I don't think - there is anyone who feels he is better than any of the others. Gale Gillingham is one of the finest players I've seen - I don't think I've ever seen him play a bad game. And yet there is no one who is more critical of his performance than he is. And I think he's sincere...We're definitely not critical of each other. That's something that just doesn't exist." In addition to unity, similar physical attributes and the acumen of new line coach Rollie Dotsch have been major factors in the Pack's rise to rushing prominence, Peay said...'**CHANGED OUR ATTACK**': "I think we have an exceptional rarity among offensive lines," the six-year veteran observed. "We all are mobile. All of us are capable of pulling. We like to hit hard - I think each one in our line tries to pride him- self on his quickness. I think that's our basic technique. We've changed our attack several times during the season, which has helped us a lot, and this is due to the coaches. I played under Coach Dotsch at Missouri and I've always had an extensive amount of confidence in his knowledge. I had a feeling that he would be a vital part of a resurgence here. Still we haven't won, so there's still something missing. We had 211 yards rushing Sunday, but we only had 16 points, so obviously there is a need for improvement. You know you need at least three touchdowns to win. But I'm sure we're going to. I don't even worry about that, having played under Coach Devine at Missouri...He will win."

NICEST GIFT FOR RAY? RUINIZATION OF BEARS

DEC 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers never have needed any inspiration to gird for the Chicago Bears. The mere fact that their immemorial enemies lie immediately ahead is sufficient to set our heroes pawing the turf. And Sunday afternoon's 106th imbroglio with the Bruins will be no exception. But the green and gold readily concede they will be going into Lambeau Field combat with an added incentive - because teammate Ray Nitschke will be saluted in conjunction with their final home showing of the season...**TREASURE VICTORY**: As is the custom on such occasions, the venerable middle linebacker will receive several handsome gifts during pre-game ceremonies, which will feature appearances by Nitschke's former high school and college coaches. For their part, the Packers - from Coach Dan Devine on down - are hoping to present him with the one he would treasure most - a victory over the Midway Monsters. Devine set the tone following Tuesday's practice, the first exercise devoted to priming for the Bears. "The ceremony Sunday is a very deserved honor for an athlete who has contributed as much to the Packers as Ray has," he said. "I'm really pleased that we have the kind of fans who would arrange a 'day' for him. I admire Ray's dedication. I haven't seen anyone who prepares himself for a game as well as he does...And I always have a warm spot in my heart for a hitter. I also admire Ray because even though he is a highly competitive kind of a guy, he has taken not playing with good grace. He's certainly had a lot of opportunities to pop off, particularly when he's been out of town, but he hasn't...This team has hung together real well. These are intangibles

that are important." Devine also made a statement that could be sufficient to "make" Ray's day in itself. He indicated it might behoove Nitschke to prime himself for extensive involvement in Sunday's match, although he has seen little action of late. "I'm leaning toward starting Ray," he said, an announcement which is certain to lift the fiery veteran's spirits. Unaccustomed to the inactivity thrust upon him by the decision to go with youthful Jim Carter, he has been pacing the sidelines like a restless lion...PHYSICAL GAME: Huge Bob Brown, one of Nitschke's more substantial defensive colleagues, admits winning for the sake of the team has to be uppermost in Sunday's considerations. "But," he added, "I also want to win it for Ray...I'd like for us to dedicate this game to Ray Nitschke. I think Ray has been just fantastic. I've



We couldn't give a day - or a victory - to a much finer guy. It's going to be a typical Packer-Bear game, of course, a more or less physical game. For that reason, I don't think Ray's day could have come at a more appropriate time. Also because of the fact that I'm sure Ray will want to look good against the Bears because he is from Chicago." Defensive captain Willie Wood, who ascended to starting status at the same time Nitschke succeeded Tom Bettis at middle linebacker, expressed similar sentiments. "We'd like to put a climax on what the whole day means," he said. "We'd like to leave Ray with a good taste in his mouth, in terms of celebrating his day. It will be just that much more important for us to win because it will be his 'day.' I'm sure the guys are taking this into consideration. Ray has had himself a tremendous career and everything he gets, he deserves...I'm pleased that the fans are concerned enough to have a day for him." Indestructible Ken Bowman, speaking for the offense, assured, "We want to help make Ray happy. I'm sure it would mean a lot more to him if we win...He's always been a winner."...PACKER PATTERN: The Packers may need all the psychological help they can get Sunday, judging by the state of the practice field, which was little better than a quagmire Tuesday. "I don't know if it's any worse than it's been in the past," Devine noted, "but it's got to tie the record...If it's any worse, you can't work. But we had to do something - we got done whatever we could."...As was the case last week, the Packers were able to use only the width of the field which borders South Oneida Street, barely sufficient space within which to maneuver. "There is a possibility of working in the stadium," Devine said, adding, "If we do, we'll work on the sidelines - not on the field itself...I'd go inside before I'd give up."...Devine said he has not decided on who his starting quarterback will be. Veteran Bart Starr, relieved by rookie Scott Hunter in the second quarter of the Cardinal contest, has drawn the nod the last two weeks. "I'm not sure right now," the Packer leader informed, "but I'd have a tendency to say I'd be leaning toward letting Scott take up where he left off last Sunday." Hunter missed Tuesday's workout, along with Rich McGeorge, Al Matthews and Dave Davis, because of a one-day military stint...DD expressed himself rather explicitly on another subject, a suggestion the Packers had been "flat" in last Sunday's 16-16 tie with the St. Louis Cardinals. "I thought our guys did a pretty darned good job," Devine declared. "They were ready to play and they played darned hard...I've never seen a team more ready to play than we were and I notice Bob Hollway (Cardinal coach) said the same thing about his team. "Just because you're not technically perfect doesn't mean you're not hitting...I can take any amount of criticism personally, but I don't think it's fair to the boys to say they were flat...There was no way we could hit any harder. We got down on kickoffs and tackled a guy on the six-yard-line once. In fact, we tackled two inside the 20 and one on the 21 on kickoffs. I'm far from satisfied technically, because of such things as being too far off a receiver and falling down. But when you're running plays where you have seven guys on their fannies, which we did time after time, you're hitting. I don't want to make a big deal of it, but I want to be fair to the players because I've been critical of them, maybe more than I should have...There were some pretty darned good football teams that got beat last Sunday by teams inferior to St. Louis."

PEP RALLY FOR BEARS LIKE CHEERING IN A GRAVEYARD

DEC 8 (Chicago Tribune) - Like cheerleaders in a graveyard, a bunch of grade school kids greeted the Bears yesterday in Soldier Field and turned a bleak practice into a pep rally. The kids were on a field trip with their teacher and most of them didn't know their heroes had died Sunday, that they were yelling for ghosts, men going thru the motions of throwing passes and catching punts. Furthermore, the kids didn't care. The Bears are the Bears win or lose, and when Ron Smith fumbled a kick they booed. When Mac Percival made a field goal, they cheered. They saved the biggest applause for the team's exit and the noise brought a smile to Coach Jim Dooley's face. "Nothing but cheers today," he said. "Nothing but cheers." In the locker room, Dooley asked Quarterback Bobby Douglass if he had seen John Brodie and Len Dawson work in Monday night's San Francisco-Kansas City game on television. "Did you see the ends criss-cross? Did you see them use the tight end?" the coach asked. Douglas nodded. "It's



Jim Dooley

... Nothing but Cheers

RAY'S DAY SUNDAY



the same thing we were trying to do," Dooley said. Dooley might have added: "Did you see the running games? Did you see the blocking of guys like Cas Banaszek, Forrest Blue, Ed Budde, Mo Moorman, Jim Tyrer?" For it was the lack of a Bear running game that Dooley lamented the most after last Sunday's loss to Denver. You better make a damn running game go or no quarterback is going to win," he said. "We come up with too many second and 10 or third and 5 situations. Let me tell you something. You read a lot about those important third down plays. Well, third down is nothing but the result of first and second down failure. It's your last chance. "You give any quarterback second and 6 and he'll control the game. There is nothing worse than second and 7 plus, but if it's second and 5 or 6, it's your dictation." Dooley's theories all come back to the running game. A team has to make 4 or 5 yards running on first down instead of 1 or 2. That's what the Bears can't do. Whether it's the plays or the players is getting to be a tiresome debate. In fact, you've heard all this before. You read it every December, it seems. A dozen games played, two left, and no running game. The blockers haven't worked together long enough and they're too cautious. Good defense, poor offense, the Bears are hoping to stay around .500. It's a story that is getting to be older than those kids out there in Soldier Field, who perhaps cheer because they don't know any better.

FOUR ASTRONAUTS WILL SEE PACKER-BEAR GAME

DEC 9 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Four astronauts will be in the stands when the Green Bay Packers play the Chicago Bears Sunday. The astronauts, who will visit the Fox Valley this weekend and will be honored at a special banquet in Appleton Friday, are Donald (Deke) Slayton, Eugene Cernen, John Swigert and Ronald Evans. They will be honored by the Appleton Rotary Club at a dinner and program at the Kimberly-Clark Corp. hangar at the Outagamie County Airport. They plan to do some hunting in the area Saturday. Slayton is director of flight crew operations of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The Sparta native was one of the original Mercury astronauts. Cernan was the lunar module pilot of Apollo 10 and pilot of the Gemini 9 mission. Swigert was the command module pilot on the ill-fated Apollo 13, and Evans will be the command module pilot for the forthcoming Apollo 17 mission. The astronauts will be staying with Harold Mares of Appleton, a friend of the four.

BEARS SCRIMMAGE; DOOLEY DELAYS NAMING STARTERS

DEC 9 (Chicago Tribune) - Jim Dooley sent the Bears thru their first mid-week scrimmage of the season yesterday afternoon in Soldier Field, a rather drastic maneuver that reflects the general condition of Chicago's pro football team. "We scheduled the hitting to work on certain types of run blocking, to work on coming off the ball quicker and to give some running backs like Joe Moore and Jim Harrison, who haven't had a lot of opportunities, the chance for some blocking experience," the head coach explained. The "hitting" was not an all out scrimmage but still was very unusual for a practice session during the season. There is virtually no contact work during practice for any pro team once the regular season begins. Asked if the scrimmage session was a preparation for Harrison and Moore, the Bears top two draft choices, to get their first starting assignments in the backfield, Dooley replied: "I haven't decided yet who any of the starters in the backfield will be. I want to wait and watch them in practice the next two days before making up my mind. Bobby Douglass and Kent Nix will get equal time working at quarterback and Moore and Harrison will get as much work as the other running backs." Although Dooley is delaying his decision on a starting offensive unit for Sunday's game in Green Bay, he seemed to be leaning toward the same crew that has been so painfully ineffective the last three weeks - Douglass at quarterback and Cyril Pinder and Bill Tucker or Jim Grabowski at fullback. Yesterday's session had an atmosphere of desperation about it and obviously there are a number of Bears who are having a hard time concealing their drooping morale. In Green Bay, Coach Dan Devine is also having trouble selecting his starting quarterback. Veteran Bart Starr has started the last two games against New Orleans and St. Louis but rookie Scott Hunter had to be called on last week to get the Packer offensive moving. "I don't know yet who it will be but right now I'm leaning a little toward Hunter, hoping he can pick up where he left off in the St. Louis game," Devine said. Hunter guided the Packers on a long march just before halftime last week for a field goal, then conducted a 76-yard drive for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter and with 50 seconds remaining in the game took the Packers the length of the field for the game-tying field goal. The man who got those final three points was Tim Webster, who was activated just two weeks ago. Webster was a second-string kicker at Arkansas last season and signed with the Packers as a free agent last summer. He did not participate in any of the pre-season games but has been coached by veteran Lou Michaels, who was returned to the taxi squad two weeks ago when Webster was activated.

Ken Bowman – Spirit of '76 May Be Best of '71

KEN BOWMAN - SPIRIT OF 76 MAY BE BEST OF '71

DEC 9 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "Kenny Bowman always reminds me of the Spirit of '76, the picture I used to see in the history book," Domenic Gentile said, a fond smile lighting up his darkly mobile features. "He should have a fife in his mouth when he comes into the training room after the game, blood running down his face and a hunk of tape hanging from his forehead," the Packer trainer observed Wednesday during a brief break from his daily ministrations to the green and gold. "In fact, we have a little joke between us...If he's really bleeding bad when he comes in, he'll make like he's playing a fife." The chances of such a scene being repeated following Sunday afternoon's Lambeau Field collision with the Bears are obviously excellent consider Bowman's primary adversary will be Dick Butkus, the Bruins' devastating middle linebacker...HAS NO EQUAL: But even should it come to pass, it may not accurately reflect what transpired on the field. Butkus admittedly has no current equal at his position. But Bowman, long unsung, also has few peers among National Football League centers. In fact, Packer coaches feel the feisty ex-Badger is at least as good as - if not superior to - Mick Tingelhoff of the Vikings, who has been an automatic all-pro in recent years, much as the Packers' Jim Ringo was before him. Cherubic Rollie Dotsch, in his first year as the Pack's offensive line coach, is understandably cautious about making sweeping statements, but that only lends weight to his evaluation. "I haven't seen all the centers in the league, of course," he says, "but I do know that Ken compares very favorably with a guy like Tingelhoff." Fellow coach John (Red) Cochran, back on the staff this season after a three-year hiatus, leaves no room for doubt. "Bowman is better," he flatly asserts, "than Tingelhoff." Dotsch, impressed with the budding barrister's contributions, adds, "Ken is as consistent as anybody you'll find. He's not overpowering, so he has to rely on scrap, quickness and experience to survive. He certainly has to be one of the smallest centers in the league, if not the smallest...COMPETITIVE ZEAL: "I don't think you can say enough about his competitive zeal and his tenaciousness. Everybody on the team admires him for it and he's certainly a good leader for the offensive line. Consistency and scrap, just plain old scrap, typify Ken. One thing about him is that, even though he might get beat on a play initially, he'll make that second and third effort to do his job." Coach Dan Devine, who admits to having had early doubts, has long since been sold on the man with the corrugated brow. "At the start of our spring camp at Arlington (Texas), I thought he was the kind of guy I was going to have trouble relating to. But by the time I left Arlington, I realized he was going to be one of our stoutest people. As I've said before, Kenny Bowman is going to be in Green Bay as long as he wants to be. One of the things I was aware of when I came here, of course, was that he's had a history of injury and we didn't know whether we'd get a full season out of him. But he's played every game, and played well. And he's just so damned loyal. Kenny has done everything I've asked him to do - and to the very, very best of his ability. And I don't know how you could ask any more than that. Another thing about Kenny is that he knows we can win. He's convinced of it - that we can win during his playing span...You can't let a guy like that get away." Bowman, admittedly looking forward to Sunday's confrontation with the fearsome Butkus, depreciates his ability to play despite the contusions and abrasions he regularly acquires. "Do I have a high threshold of pain? I brag to my wife about it," he quipped, "but I don't know if I'd come out and say it publicly...But I really don't feel pain that much. In fact, with the dislocations I've had, I really have had very little. It's uncomfortable, but as far as being painful, I don't really notice it. The joint is in a weird position, I guess. From talking to other people, I guess it's supposed to be painful, but I don't seem to have any. As far as the bruises and gashes I get on my hands, that's because I can't pad them like some of the other linemen do because I have to be able to pass the ball." "The gashes on my forehead come from my helmet," says Ken, who has put his embattled cranium to good use in recent off-seasons, having acquired a cum laude law degree from the University of Wisconsin last June. "I thought I had that problem licked for about a year and a half, until all of a sudden I got a new helmet. They put the headband in backwards at the factory and left a piece of metal exposed. "It was delivered just before the first Bear game and I didn't hit anybody hard enough during practice that week to find out about it...But on Sunday," he dryly noted, "George Seals took care of that. He hit me hard enough to let me know it was there." Despite the weekly jousts with such as Butkus and Seals, and the attendant "discomforts," the durable eight-year veteran assures, "I feel better at this point of the year than I have for a long time. Maybe I'm getting younger instead of older...PACKER PATTERN: Devine, commenting on the approach of Sunday's "Ray Nitschke Day" ceremonies, reported, "If Ray starts at middle linebacker, Jim Carter will start at the outside. This is no reflection upon Tommy Crutcher, who has played quite well in place of the injured Dave Robinson, but we would like Jim to get as much experience as possible."...Devine, who earlier had indicated Scott Hunter is likely to draw the starting quarterback assignment, hinted there could be a change in plans. "Bart Starr looked better today than he has," he said. Asked if this could be significant. DD replied, "It means something as far as starting is concerned, but we will defer an announcement on a decision until the end of the week. Bart definitely made progress. He looked sharper in the passing drill today than any time since I've been here."...Devine said he had not decided whether rookie Dave Davis would get another starting call at split end. "Dave did quite well against the Cardinals but I couldn't say right now whether he will start...John Spilis played well, too."...On another subject, he volunteered, "John Brockington gets my vote as rookie of the year this week. He played his best game of the season against the Cardinals. It was his most consistent game - he did everything well."...MOVE INSIDE: The Packers moved "inside" for Wednesday's practice, working out in Lambeau Field. "We worked from the sidelines as much as we could - until it got impossible to throw," he said, adding with an impish grin, "It was better than last Tuesday's practice." That day's workout had to be cancelled because it was impossible to remove a heavy blanket of snow from the South Oneida Street field. "As far as harming the stadium turf is concerned," Devine said, let's say we

can't hurt it any more than it already has been. John Proski (Stadium custodian) tells me it's the most unusual winter in his long experience."

ROOKIES LIKELY RUNNERS: DOOLEY STALLS ON QB CHOICE

DEC 10 (Chicago Tribune) - Uncertainty and probably a little secrecy were the keynotes of the latest episode concerning those inexplicable Chicago Bears Jim Dooley, the harassed head coach, changed signals after yesterday's practice session, at which time he had promised to reveal his starting quarterback and backfield for Sunday's encounter with the Packers in Green Bay. Instead Dooley employed a stalling tactic. "We've decided not to pick the starting quarterback until game time Sunday," began Big Jim. What about the running backs? "Well, we won't know that either until game time altho we have a pretty good idea who they will be," Dooley replied. If the starting runners are to be dictated by the amount of practice time this week then the rookies from Missouri, Joe Moore and Jim Harrison, will get the call. Dooley even strayed far enough to promise that Moore and Harrison "definitely will be in there more than before" which doesn't really commit the head coach to anything since Harrison hasn't carried a ball this season and Moore has run only five times for 25 yards. "We just want to make sure of our starters," Dooley explained about the delay. "We are giving equal practice time to Bobby Douglass and Kent Nix and, they will both be ready at game time. Kent had not been getting much work the last few weeks in practice but he has had plenty this week." Dooley described the Bears workouts as "spirited type but nothing unusual except that we have a lot of different men in different positions." One of the items apparently concerning the Bears is the condition of the field in Green Bay. They have been told that it is extremely wet and muddy and that a cold wave is expected this weekend to freeze the entire mess. Lambeau Field is equipped with electric wiring underneath the natural turf to prevent freezing but this likely will merely cause more mud. Such conditions won't do much for the Bears almost nonexistent running game. It might also aid John Brockington, the Packers' hard-driving runner, who needs only 31 yards to reach the 1,000 mark and become only the fourth rookie in professional history to reach that plateau. The others were the Bears Beattie Feathers in 1934, Buffalo's Cookie Gilchrist in 1962, and Paul Robinson of Cincinnati in 1968. Brockington gained 160 yards against the Bears in their first meeting on the Soldier Field Astro Turf. In Green Bay, the Packers announced that Rookie Scott Hunter will be their starting quarterback Sunday instead of Bart Starr, who had started the previous two games for Green Bay but had not been effective.

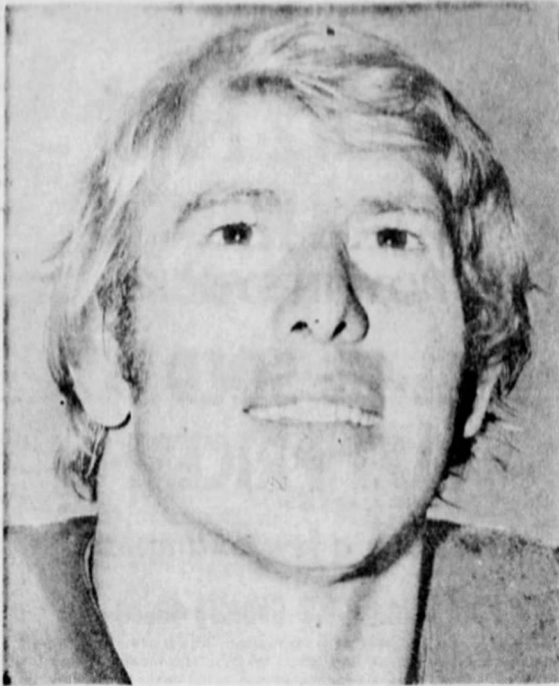
BUTKUS LOOKING AHEAD

DEC 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Dick Butkus, believe it or not, is looking past Sunday's match with the Packers. Sounds like heresy, admittedly, on the part of a principal in pro football's oldest rivalry. What, you are entitled to ask, ever became of the old "take 'em one at a time" approach, invented by Amos Alonzo Stagg and refined by George Halas? Before the marauding middle linebacker is accused of holding our athletes cheaply, it should be disclosed that the hulking Bruin's long range vision is largely figurative. Ed Stone, writing in Chicago Today, explains why...JUST BIDDING MY TIME: "The pain and stiffness in his surgical right knee have made it a frustrating year for Butkus. The Packers and Vikings know better than to expect Dick to let up in the Bears' last two games; he wouldn't know how to do it. But he's already thinking about 1972. "'I'm just bidding my time," he said. 'I can't wait until next season. There's no way they could stop me if I was 100 per cent.' "Butkus is determined to regain most of his mobility through an off-season conditioning program, and the preparations began last week. He started on some special stretching exercises in which 'the trainer forces my knee all the way back.' "...FORCED TO CHANGE STYLE: A post-operative infection, Stone reported, had retarded the former University of Illinois luminary's recovery. "Butkus wasn't able to risk this kind of exercises early in the season because he was 'hardly able to walk without pain' then. The stretching might have caused further injury. " 'The knee is strong now,' he said. 'The only thing it lacks is flexion. I can't go all out. I haven't run at full speed yet. "'It's harder for me to react now and to change moves. I can't take as many chances, so I'm not as aggressive. Before, I could play hunches, and if I was wrong, I could react. 'I've had to change my style this year. When I'd see blockers coming down low, I'd hurdle them to get to the ball. Now I can't get my leg up, so I try to push 'em away, which is hard to do. 'It's frustrating to me that I can't do more, but I don't think I'm doing that damn bad, considering what I've gone through.'" Miami center Bob DeMarco will attest to that. Following the Dolphins' resounding victory over the Bears the week before last, he fervently observed, "Butkus is a helluva man...even with that knee. Most guys wouldn't be out there. I played against him when he was well, and his lateral movement's not the same. The knee bothers him...you can see it...but he's still tough."...WAITING FOR NEXT YEAR: Stone noted, in this connection, "Butkus was trying to hold together a Bear defense that the Dolphins were ripping apart. He was trying to do it on a leg and a half, as he has all season. "He made twice as many tackles as anybody else on the field, but he doesn't have the mobility to do all the things he used to do. This has been especially evident in the last month." Butkus, meanwhile, is mentally

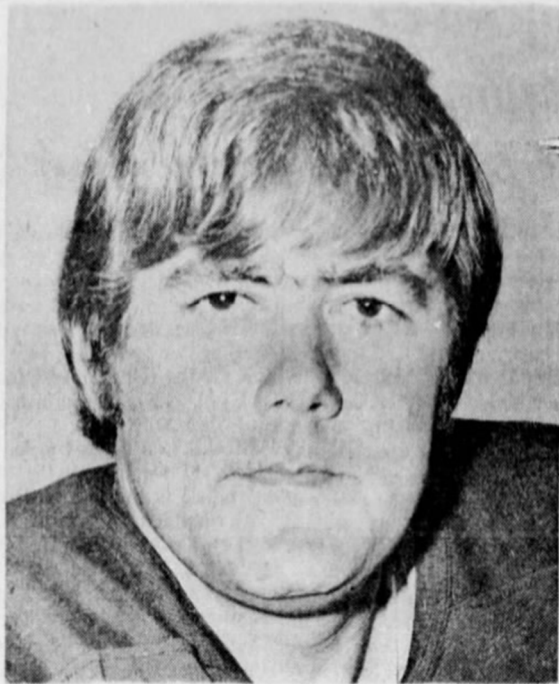


Willie Wood Jailed: But it's all in fun. The Green Bay Packer defensive halfback, who is state honorary chairman for the March of Dimes, was placed behind bars as part of the charity's campaign for funds to be conducted Saturday in the city. The idea is to bail Willie out by making contributions - and before the Bear game Sunday. Teen-age volunteers will be collecting donations, including Holly Hirn and Tom Alberg here. (Green Bay Press-Gazette Photo)

Hunter To Start... Maybe Nitschke



Bear Quarterback Bobby Douglass



Bear Quarterback Kent Nix

marking time. "If I miss a tackle, it's a big deal. Let people say what they want. I can only do so much...I just want to get through this year."

HUNTER TO START ... MAYBE NITSCHKE

DEC 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Rookie quarterback Scott Hunter, a "relief pitcher" the last two weeks, will return to starting status against the Bears Sunday, Packer Coach Dan Devine announced Thursday. Veteran Bart Starr, reactivated only Nov. 22 after recuperating from two shoulder operations, has started the last two games. In this connection, Devine noted, "Bart's shoulder continues to progress and we're confident he will regain full strength in his arm...He's available to play Sunday, of course. It's not that he's not available to play. Devine said he also was "leaning toward" starting Ray Nitschke at middle linebacker (with Jim Carter moving to the outside) and rookie Dave Davis at split end in place of John Spillis.

BE WARY OF DOZING BEARS

DEC 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Beware of a Bear bearing a tale of woe. If this sounds vaguely unfamiliar, it should. But the "quotation" fits the spirit of this week's message from Dan Desmond, long-time publicity director of the Chicago Bears, who will grace Lambeau Field Sunday afternoon in anti-social company with the Packers. "We can only score field goals," Dan lamented from beneath his rakishly tilted hat on a visit to Titledown. "We haven't scored a touchdown in the last three games. This is the first time since 1933 that a Bear team has gone three straight games without scoring a touchdown. In '33, we lost to the Boston Redskins, 10-0, tied the Eagles 3-3 and lost to the Giants 0-3 in succession before scoring a touchdown in our next game...HITS UPRIGHT TWICE: "To give you an example of how things have been going for us, we had a first down at the 16 in the second quarter of last Sunday's game at Denver and, 11 plays later, we wound up losing the ball on downs at the 23. And Mac Percival had two field goal attempts hit the right upright, one at each end of the field...We also lost the game, 6-3. But this has been a strange season for us," Desmond admitted. "We've done some unexpected things. For example, we're going to finish about where only a few of the experts thought we would, but slightly above where most of them said we would - in fourth place. There's no way the Packers can pass us now, so we're sure of third...LOST ON MERIT: "Of our six losses, only two of them have been close," he said, continuing his recitation. "The other four we lost were lost completely on merit. There is nothing to look back on and say, 'If we had only done this, or had only done that.' "Five of our six wins have come by a total of 15 points, in contrast, and the other one - the only breather we've had - was by 35-14 over New Orleans...GORDON RETURNS: "Overall, we've gone farther than many people figured. But to get that close and then blow it like we have is a little hard to take. If you're 5-2 in the first half of the race, as we were, it's reasonable to assume you're going to come close in the last half, but we haven't. Of course, Coach Dooley has had to make a lot of improvisations because of injuries, like the one that put Gale Sayers out for the season. He picked up Jim Grabowski first, then

Cyril Pinder, for our backfield...and Steve Wright (like Grabowski a former Packer from the Redskins to help out our offensive line). He's also started two rookies all the way, Jerry Moore at safety and Charlie Ford at cornerback...And now that Bill Staley is out for the season, another rookie, Tony McGee, has taken over in the defensive line. Dick Gordon, who was the league's leading receiver a year ago, also has missed a couple of games because of a sprained knee. But he'll be back for Sunday's game." Devine, who has had physical problems of his own, both from the personal and team standpoint, can't get too dewy-eyed over the Bruins' tribulations. And he is frankly suspicious of an ambush. "I understand the Bears scrimmaged yesterday," he mildly but pointedly observed following Thursday's workout, which saw the Packers return to the South Oneida Street practice field after moving into Lambeau Field Wednesday. Devine was prompted to comment because a scrimmage this stage of the season is unheard of in the pro ranks. "I'm sure the Bears will be excited Sunday," he dryly

noted. "They're going to come out like a bunch of wild-eyed kamikazes. Denver didn't make a first down against them for 2 ½ quarters, you know."...PACKER PATTERN: Tight end Rich McGeorge, suffering from a virus, took to his bed immediately following Thursday afternoon's team meeting and a visit to team physician Dr. E. S. Brusky. Devine admitted he is "concerned" about how the "bug" might affect the strapping sophomore's Sunday status...Speaking of the Sabbath, he observed, "Naturally, at this time of the year, you expect to play in inclement weather. But I'm hoping that it's as good weather as possible because I've always felt the best team usually is going to win in fairly good weather."...Turning to a related topic, he added, "I would say the stadium field is in poor condition. The reason it's in poor condition is that it's been an extremely wet fall and the field has been used a lot. It's going to be a major project to overhaul it." Asked again about the possibility of installing artificial turf for practice purposes in 1972, Devine replied, "I'm sure we (he and the executive committee) will discuss it. I've always felt - since the origination of synthetic turf - that you needed a place to practice in the inclement weather. I think this is a year that its value has been pretty well proved. And if we had it, it probably would cut down on expenses. For example, we went to St. Louis a day early last week because we couldn't practice here. "I admit that right after a storm, it probably wouldn't be great, so it's certainly not the answer to everything, but it's a partial answer. I think its big advantage is for practice. I still have mixed emotions about it as a playing surface. I think the jury is still out on that...You can always put it in but once you get it in, it's going to be tough to get out."...Casting an eye toward another future, project, the Feb. 1 pro football draft, Devine revealed, "We had our first staff meeting last night with our director of player personnel, Pat Peppler. "We had a three-hour session, about where the top players are and what they're doing. We'll know more about that later. Our coaches are going to see more post-season games this year than they ever have before. I would like to see us make as intelligent a move as we did on getting Alden Roche and John Brockington as the result of our Don Horn trade with Denver." Devine said. Queried about the possibility of draft-related transactions this time, he replied, "The possibility of a trade always does exist, of course, but I don't feel that we are any more trade-conscious than Baltimore, Miami or anyone else."...Devine, who has prudently stayed out of the danger zone of late, Thursday had his first close call since suffering a five-way fracture of his left leg during the Pack's Sept. 19 opener against the Giants. Somewhat hemmed in on a practice field narrowed by recent snow accumulations, he was the victim of what he described as "a broadside" by defensive tackle Bob Brown, a mere 6-foot-5 and 260 pounds. "I took a pretty good shot from him on the left side but it didn't do any damage," Devine said, quipping.

NITSCHKE CEREMONIES SCHEDULED

DEC 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Packer fans will have a final opportunity to purchase Nitschke Day bumper stickers and buttons at Lambeau Field prior to Sunday's game against the Bears and thereby contribute to the scholarship fund being established in Ray Nitschke's name. An announcement of the amount of money realized from the sale will be a part of the ceremonies honoring the Packer linebacker, which will begin as soon as the teams leave the field after the pre-game warmup. The ceremonies will also include the introduction of Nitschke's grade school, high school and college coaches, Elmer Johnson, Andy Puplis and Ray Eliot; his wife Jackie and sons John and Richard. Telegrams from Marie Lombardi and NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle will be read. Master of Ceremonies for the affair will be Packer radio voice Gary Bender. Among the presentations will be a plaque from Nitschke's 1954 Proviso East (Ill.) high school class as well as a 35-horsepower tractor and some live sheep from Simplicity of Port Washington.

PACK LINE WANTS BROCK TO TAKE RUSHING CROWN

DEC 11 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers will have two major objectives in Sunday afternoon's 103th tete-a-tete with the Chicago Bears. Make that three...The first, of course, is to win. The second, which would automatically accompany the first, is to make "Ray Nitschke Day" a resounding success for No. 66. And the third is to acquire 1,000 yards for fullback John Brockington - with all possible haste. Gale Gillingham, the Packers all-pro guard, certified to this last in the wake of Friday's exertions, conducted indoors for the first time in a decade. "We want to see Brock get it right away," Gillie declared. "because we not only want him to get a thousand yards but we want him to win the rushing title." The broad-beamed Minnesotan is well aware that Brockington, who needs only 31 yards to reach the former, has four major challengers for the latter...CLOSE ON HEELS: Chief among them is Denver's Floyd Little, only 11 yards to the rear of Brockington at this point with 958. Also tight on the ex-Buckeye high-stepping heels are Larry Csonka of Miami (939), the Rams' Willie Ellison (929) and Steve Owens of Detroit (911). Gillingham explained that professional satisfaction - a 1,000-yard season for Brockington obviously would reflect favorably upon the offensive line - is only one factor in the desire to see the big rookie crash the



YOUNG PEOPLE CONVENE: Over 200 youth attended the Fox Valley Campus Life dinner and program held this week at the Forum. Purpose of the group is to develop a physical, mental, social and spiritual balance in the teenager to enable him to successfully communicate in word and deed his faith in Jesus Christ to his campus, friends and world. Standing, from left, are John Benson, part-time director of the local group, and Carroll Dale, the Green Bay Packer player who was guest speaker, shown chatting with Gary Gruman and Laura Schell. (Green Bay Press-Gazette Photo)

magic circle. "Brock runs hard and he's a heckuva nice guy, too...And his speed and desire help make our job easier. Lately, we've been running him behind the guards more than we were earlier. He had a little problem during the first part of the season but lately he's been running behind us (Gillingham and Bill Lueck) real well. Our tackles are blocking down field more than they have in the past, which also helps...That is not only because of Brock, but because of Hamp (Dave Hampton) and Donny (Anderson), too. We're getting a lot more guys into the open this year."...VINDICATION FOR LINE: If and when Brockington scales the 1,000-yard plateau - presumably some time Sunday afternoon in Lambeau Field - it will represent irrefutable vindication for himself and his colleagues up front, Gillie conceded. "All I read all last winter was how bad our offensive line was. If somebody gets a 1,000 yards, we probably won't have to read about that all this winter. Of course, we would have liked to have had a few more wins. But, short of that, at least we've got a couple of guys looking good - Brock and Andy...They've both had good years." Although one of his closest pursuers could beat him to it - an Eastern time zone favors Csonka, who will be performing with the Dolphins against the Colts in Baltimore - Brockington is a good bet to become the first of the current candidates to reach his goal...ONLY TWO PACKERS: And, when he does, he will become only the fourth rookie - and 25th runner - in pro football history to do it. Beattie Feathers, then a freshman with the Chicago Bears, was the first ever, rolling up 1,004 yards in 1934, and Washington's Larry Brown and Ron Johnson of the Giants were the most recent, joining the club in 1970 with 1,125 and 1,027 respectively. To date, only two Packers are members of the elite, Tony Canadeo, then celebrated as "The Gray Ghost of Gonzaga," went over the top in 1949 with 1,052 and Jim Taylor, the only rusher ever to do so, turned the trick five consecutive times, beginning in 1960. by announcing that Ray Nitschke, to be honored with a "day" prior to Sunday's game, will start at middle linebacker to mark the occasion. "That means, of course, that Jim Carter will start at strong side linebacker," Devine said. The Packer leader also revealed that rookie Dave Davis will make his second consecutive start at split end, replacing veteran John Spilis. With the South Oneida Street practice field muddy and waterlogged, the Packers moved into the Coliseum Room of Bilotti's Forum for Friday' session. It was their first indoor practice since the early 1960s when a snowstorm forced them to use the Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena. "It worked cut real well, it was a good attentive workout," Devine reported, puckishly appending, "although we couldn't punt the ball very high." He admitted having been forced inside "may have retarded us a little but I think we made the best of it...The practice field was unusable and Lambeau Field is covered." The Packers closed out their 1971 home practice schedule in the stadium this morning, where they confined their exercises to the sidelines...They enplane at 10:30 Monday morning for Miami and a week of Florida workouts prior to their season finale against the Dolphins. There have been rumors that the job of Bear Coach Jim Dooley is in jeopardy but George Halas, the Bruins' venerable owner, reportedly has colorfully described such reports as "all bull (bleep)."

HAVE SOME RELIGION

DEC 11 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Today, I'm giving all of you religion...sort of. This space is being turned over to Miss Judy Hiersman, the Press-Gazette religion editor. But before you fold your hands, consider that Judy is a rather intent sports fan who spent five years working in Missouri before returning to her native Packerland (she is originally from Sheboygan). Last weekend, Judy returned to Missouri for one of her periodic visits to her old stamping grounds...and just happened to catch the Packers-Cardinals game in Busch Stadium. Here is a report of her experience: "Interest in professional football is high in St. Louis this year though the people I talked to readily admit that they may be among the world's worst fans. During my last visit to the area, four years ago, I couldn't find anyone very interested in the Cardinals. Last weekend, I couldn't find anyone who wasn't. Unfortunately, most of the people are rather disenchanted with the coach, Bob Hollway, and the quarterback, Jim Hart - in that order - and have a great deal to say about the club's owners, the Bidwells...all of it bad. They seem to be very much impressed with the Green Bay type of ownership and with the year-in, year-out loyalty of the Packer fans, conceding, as one person put it, 'I guess we haven't learned how to back a team properly - if we lose, we hate them.' That statement was proven Sunday afternoon. The initial appearance of the Cardinals was greeted with scattered booing and their departure, after the game ended in a tie, was visibly hastened by the outraged reaction of the fans. But the biggest gripe I found was that Dan Devine was allowed to slip out of the state and their hands. Every Cardinal fan I talked to expressed great admiration and respect for the former University of Missouri coach and felt he could have done a lot for the Cardinals. One rather fanatical supporter reflected I'm sure the Packers gave Devine a good deal, financially, and a big part of the action. Those #&*%&c Bidwels wouldn't dream of parting with a cent more than necessary, much less any of their authority.' "At the game, I warned all the Cardinal fans around me that it wasn't over yet, even though only 52 seconds were



Three of The Four astronauts who visited Appleton this weekend tried on new hunting jackets presented to them Friday night. From left, they are Jack Swigert, Eugene Cernan and Donald "Deke" Slayton. Not shown is Ron Evans. At right is Appleton business man Harold Mares, the astronaut's host. Their agenda for the rest of the weekend includes attendance at the Green Bay Packer game Sunday.

Bears, Packers Play Out String on Nitschke Day

left. They just smiled. But when 'we' tied it on the last play, they stood in shock for a moment and then poured out their displeasure with a crescendo of boos. Yes, I'd say they have a lot to learn about being fans. Personally, I go along with the welcome sign carried into Busch Stadium by some other Packer fans. It read 'Win or Lose - We Back the Pack.' Amen, Judy.

BEARS, PACKERS PLAY OUT STRING ON NITSCHKE DAY

DEC 11 (Green Bay-Chicago Tribune) — The blue teams from the Black and Blue division straggle together for a few parting shots tomorrow—nothing really meaningful, mind you, unless Coach Jim Dooley's future with the Bears is hanging on the outcome of these final two contests. Still it is a meeting of the National Football League's two oldest antagonists and anytime the Green Bay Packers and Chicago Bears cross paths the game takes on some added luster. There will also be ceremonies for one of the most illustrious middle linebackers, Green Bay's Ray Nitschke, who for 14 years has been the center of great Packer defensive units. Tomorrow is "Ray Nitschke Day" and even tho the former Maywood, Ill., prep star no longer is a starter, there will be plenty of emotion generated on behalf of the popular giant and thus, the Packers. All of this helps add to what otherwise would be a routine afternoon matching two teams going nowhere. Neither the Bears [6-6] nor Packers [3-7-2] can improve on their third and fourth place standings, respectively, in the Central Division. The Packers haven't won since they beat the Bears 17-14 in Chicago Nov. 7 while the Bears have lost their last three in embarrassing fashion, scoring only three points in each. Chicago's offensive efforts, in fact, have been almost putrid. The Bears rank last in the National Conference in total offense and among the 26 teams in the National Football League they stand 25th in number of touchdowns scored [18]. Only Denver [15] has tallied fewer. Such statistics seemingly would make Head Coach Dooley eager to make changes in his offensive alignment but the harassed head man has hesitated all week and finally pleaded he would not blame his starting quarterback or running backs until game time tomorrow. Bobby Douglass has been the quarterback and Cyril Pinder and Bill Tucker the latest running backs for the Bears. There is a strong lobby this week for veteran Kent Nix to replace Douglass and untested rookies Jim Harrison and Joe Moore of Missouri to take over the running responsibilities. "I've told both Douglass and Nix to be ready, and we could even alternate them," Dooley said yesterday. "Certainly if one starts and we don't think he's doing the job we'll change, even in the first quarter. Douglass has been missing the target because of indecision," Dooley continued. "We've had receivers open and he hasn't thrown. He's taken too much time to make up his mind. He can't do that. You have to anticipate and he hasn't. But I think he can improve." Dan Devine, the Packers coach, also was faced with a quarterback decision but early in the week selected rookie Scott Hunter to replace Bart Starr, who had started the previous two games. At the same time Devine issued an apology of sorts to his squad for some of his recent criticism. "I've been critical of this team publicly - much more so than I should have been, maybe. But this kind of criticism isn't fair to the players. There were some pretty damn good football teams beaten last Sunday by teams inferior to St. Louis [which the Packers tied 16-16]," Devine said. One man Devine cannot be critical of is John Brockington. The former Ohio State running back is a cinch for rookie of the year honors and needs only 31 yards against the Bears to reach the 1,000-yard mark and become only the fourth rookie in pro history to reach that figure. He gained 160 yards against Chicago in their first meeting. Turf conditions in Lambeau Field seem to favor Brockington. The field is a muddy mess from more than a week of rain and snow. The weather and field problems were so bad this week the Packers were forced to move their practices indoors - to a restaurant banquet room. Brockington proved earlier against Detroit that his tremendous leg drive and high kick give him an advantage in the mud and this presents a serious problem to the Bears, whose defense against the run rates next to last in the N.F.C. on dry ground.

A DAY FOR RAY

DEC 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) — Ray Nitschke, middle linebacker of the Green Bay Packers for 14 years, is one of the favorites of pro football fans, not only in his home bailiwick but throughout the country. It is, therefore, eminently proper that Nitschke will be formally honored during today's Packer-Bear game as a fitting climax of "Ray Nitschke Day," the ultimate accolade a pro athlete can receive from the fans. Nitschke has received numerous honors for his excellence on the gridiron. His defensive play and the inspiration it brought to his teammates contributed enormously to the Packers' championships during the 1960s. He has brought to the game intense desire to excellence which he achieved through a full measure of application of his technical knowledge and physical skills. Pro football fans are not easily fooled when they evaluate the contributions a player has made to a team's success, not in one game or one season but over a period of years. For that

► Pro Grid Standings

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	O.P.
Minnesota	10	3	0	.769	218	129
Detroit	7	5	1	.583	314	255
CHICAGO	6	6	0	.500	165	218
Green Bay	3	7	2	.300	237	261

EAST DIVISION

	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	O.P.
Dallas	9	3	0	.750	333	196
Washington	8	3	1	.727	225	146
St. Louis	4	7	1	.364	212	229
Philadelphia	4	7	1	.364	161	267
N. Y. Giants	4	8	0	.333	186	279

WEST DIVISION

	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	O.P.
Los Angeles	7	4	1	.636	266	208
San Francisco	7	5	0	.583	245	186
Atlanta	6	5	1	.545	247	233
New Orleans	4	6	2	.400	229	302

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	O.P.
Cleveland	7	5	0	.583	244	243
Pittsburgh	5	7	0	.417	211	256
Cincinnati	4	8	0	.333	250	209
Houston	2	9	1	.182	182	283

EAST DIVISION

	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	O.P.
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	296	119
Miami	9	3	1	.750	288	168
New England	5	7	0	.417	211	295
N. Y. Jets	4	8	0	.333	164	272
Buffalo	1	11	0	.083	161	352

WEST DIVISION

	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	O.P.
Kansas City	8	3	1	.727	264	185
Oakland	7	3	2	.700	309	249
San Diego	5	7	0	.417	233	275
Denver	4	7	1	.364	173	209

YESTERDAY'S GAMES

Minnesota 29, Detroit 10.
Baltimore 14, Miami 3.

TODAY'S GAMES

CHICAGO at Green Bay, 1 p. m.
Dallas at New York Giants, noon.
Houston at Buffalo, noon.
New England at New York Jets, noon.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, noon.
St. Louis at Philadelphia, noon.
Cleveland at New Orleans, 1 p. m.
Atlanta at San Francisco, 3 p. m.
Denver at San Diego, 3 p. m.
Oakland at Kansas City, 3 p. m.

TOMORROW'S GAME

Washington at Los Angeles, 8 p. m.



Ray Nitschke ... Packer, Father, Man

have contributed heavily to his athletic success. "My father died when I was three years old and my mother when I was 13. I lived with two older brothers after that and they were good to me, but you know how boys are. They love each other but it's not like having the love of a mother and father. For a long time, I went through life thinking nobody cared about me, that everybody was against me. Playing football probably helped me because it was a chance to let myself go, to prove to myself by competing that I was just as good as the boy who did have a father and mother, just as good as the boy from the good neighborhood." ...NEW IMAGE: Ray, quietly professorial in dark-rimmed spectacles, concedes he was a brawling swinger in his first two seasons with the Packers, somewhat in the Johnny Blood tradition. "I wasn't smart enough to realize how much of a fool I was," today's Nitschke says. "Getting married and settling down, I have been more concerned with being a man. The image I made is past history, but what I do is for the future - it affects those close to you. I don't do the foolish things I did because what I do reflects upon my family and my loved ones." A model husband and father, he traces his turnabout to his 1961 marriage to Jackie Forchette, a trim, vivacious product of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. "Marriage was the thing that really helped me to develop, as far as caring for others than just myself," he says. "I think it changed my whole life around. I was being a selfish, conceited individual. The responsibilities of family life turned me on. Without question it was the turning point in my life. It gave me more of a purpose, more of a goal - a definite purpose in life. I think it helped me grow as an individual, to develop a much fuller personality and character...HAPPINESS AT HOME: "And it also made me a better football player. When you play, you not only play for yourself - you play for your loved ones. And when you work, you work for your loved ones. I think that's what makes you what you are. There's no question that it has motivated me to do the very best I could...It couldn't have happened if I wasn't motivated." Fond father of two adopted sons, John Raymond, 8, and Richard Carl, 5, he finds stability and renewal in his family. "No matter what profession you have in life, you have to have happiness at home," Nitschke says with conviction. "You have to find it at home...I've had a happy family life and I think it has helped me to go about my job in a better way. I've been blessed with a wonderful wife and wonderful children. The family is the single most important thing to me because of not having had a very sound family life in my youth. I look to the family as my strength...And I put a great deal of emphasis on it because what I lacked as a child I want to give to them." As much as football has meant to him and the Nitschke household, he has attempted to deemphasize its role at home...OWN GOALS: "I try to keep all of my trophies and pictures in the background as much as I can because I don't want that kind of thing to influence the children," Ray says. "I don't want them to think they have to play football. It's hard,

reason they are showing their admiration and respect for Ray Nitschke, whom they are properly honoring as one of the all-time greats of the Packers and, indeed, all of pro football. Nitschke is certainly deserving of all the accolades for the standards of excellence he has set as a ball player and a man.

RAY NITSCHKE ... PACKER, FATHER, MAN

DEC 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – At peace with the world for the moment, Ray Nitschke was the bulky picture of domesticity. Leaning back in a comfortable armchair, he cradled his chocolate brown miniature poodle, Vegas, in the crook of a beefy left arm - the same arm which the likes of Jim Brown and Gale Sayers have found to be a weapon of instant violence. Nitschke was relaxing in the family room of his huge red brick colonial home, majestically poised at the crest of a hill like historic Mount Vernon, and it was a time for reflection...DREAM COME TRUE: "It's been a dream come true, just to play pro football," he said, his mind flashing back over 14 National Football League seasons and five world championships. "Then to be with such a great organization as the Packers - it's been an unbelievable experience for any human being. I was so involved in athletics all of my youth. It was an outlet for me, so I was obsessed with the idea of going on and becoming a pro athlete. I saved bubble gum cards and the whole bit - about every sport. I kept up on all the batting averages and statistics on all sports. All my spare moments, it seems like I was out kicking a ball, or throwing a ball, or hitting an object...So it's all been like a dream come true. "But there was no way that I ever expected anything like what is happening would happen or could happen...I never dreamed a 'day' would be held for me, even in my wildest imaginings," said Nitschke, to be saluted by Packer fans before today's Bear game in Lambeau Field. Raymond Ernest Nitschke, orphaned at 13, has come some distance from humble beginnings. Now a national celebrity and officially acclaimed as pro football's all-time middle linebacker, an honor of Olympian proportions, he admits his early circumstances may

of course, to keep it away from them. "But each child has his own personality and his own goals. They're too young, really, to tell whether they have any aptitude for sports. The older boy is musically inclined and he's taking organ lessons now." On a strictly personal basis, Nitschke looks upon the game that made him famous as a survival of the fittest. "It's a violent sport and you can't feel too much for the other guy," he says with eminent practicality, "although I would never hurt anybody intentionally...That's one of the great things about it - the basic premise of man dealing with man...REWARDING CAREER: "It's not purely a physical thing - it's mental as well as physical. It's real competition and it's not just one play. It's many plays...To me, a person's courage for contact is shown and tested because of the nature of the game. I have no regrets over choosing it ahead of baseball, which I also was pretty good at. I've already had as long a career as most baseball players have. I've had a long and rewarding career - the fame and everything has been unbelievable," Nitschke said with a trace of wonder. "I've gone all over the country and been recognized. "Of course," the balding blond noted with a smirk, "I'm an easy guy to recognize. I think I've been able to accept this responsibility of being in the limelight. To me, it's always been an honor to be a celebrity, to sign autographs because I thought this was something that would never happen to Ray Nitschke. "When people do ask for my autograph, I'm very thrilled that they do ask...I think it's a responsibility a ball player should have to the game because it has given me a lot - not only financially and the fame but internally, within. It has given me my education, the opportunity to go on and enjoy what you're doing. I owe the game a lot and I get very upset when people don't give something back...Not only do I want to be patient with the fans, but I want to be unselfish in every respect." Unlike most athletes, Nitschke has no "greatest thrill" memories. "They've all been important," he says. "To me, every game is an important game. I've always approached it this way...I've never looked beyond the game - the one-at-a-time philosophy. And I've never really been satisfied with any of the games I've played. I think this is what has kept me going, kept me striving...GET PREPARED: "As far as I'm concerned, you have to get yourself prepared each week. It's something you have to do, you have to work on - it's a concentration thing. It's a matter of concentrating, taking each week as a single unit and doing it the same way for the good team and the lesser team. I still do that but I find myself not as ready this season," he admitted. "Knowing I'm not going to play, I find myself not as keyed up as I'd like to be...My happiness is in playing." The fans recognize the depth of his desire and it could partially account for the greater outpourings of affection that have greeted his every appearance this season, one that has seen him give way to youthful Jim Carter as a starter. That, and knowing what he has overcome. Adjusting to relative inactivity, after a decade of being "where the action is," has not been easy for the University of Illinois immortal. "I'm a very proud guy," he says, "and it's hard for me to accept not playing a more important role than I have played." Now nearing the end of his 14th season, a career which ranks second only to Bart Starr's in Packer longevity, Nitschke concedes he has given more than casual thought to retirement...but it will not come this year...PLAY 15 YEARS: "I'm naturally concerned about the prospect," he says. "Yet I feel in my heart that I'd like to play another year to prove to myself that I can play 15 years. My philosophy is that it's a privilege to play. Not everyone can play - is physically able to play. I still feel I'm young enough to, and I still have the desire to play. I still have this determined attitude. You are only young once - I don't want to look back and feel that I retired too soon. If you still feel like you want to play, then you should stay. Football is an emotional game - it has to come from within. A player will know when he doesn't have that feeling any more. I still feel that I can play to the level that I want. I haven't had too many opportunities this past year to show what I can do...But the furnace is still burning. Next to my first year, this has been the longest...That (the Packers were 1-10-1 under the late Scooter McLean) was a disappointing year. And there haven't been too many that I've been associated with - other than those two - that have been." Although not yet ready to call it a career, Nitschke is well aware that time is fleeting - and he has definite ideas about his non - football future...STAY HERE: "Beyond this, we want to continue to live here," he says. "We've grown to love the people, the area and the state of Wisconsin. I have a few things going right now that will make me part of the community when I'm not playing football, and I won't have to leave. I'm sure I'll be involved in some athletic endeavor...I'll get myself involved because of my high regard for athletics - for what it has done for me and can do for other people. As I said before, it's all been a dream...The fame, the financial rewards, being part of a great team. I've had it all. I haven't really had any disappointments. I've admired the whole organization, the story behind the Packers. It's a beautiful sports story and to be part of the tradition is just a fabulous thing. I'm very thankful to all who have made the dream possible - to all who have given me encouragement and guidance and the associations...It's just been a fantastic career."

OFFICIAL: RAY'S DAY

DEC 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Gov. Patrick J. Lucey has proclaimed Sunday "Ray Nitschke Day" in Wisconsin in honor of the veteran Green Bay Packer middle linebacker. In his proclamation, the governor asked that all citizens "pay tribute to this man as a professional athlete and be aware of his selfless contributions."

BEARS, NO. 66 FOREMOST ON PACK MINDS TODAY

DEC 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Strictly on the basis of the records, it should be a yawny afternoon in Lambeau Field, where the Packers and Bears today fraternize for the 106th time. But don't risk the family bundle on that premise. Although both of pro football's oldest enemies long since have been eliminated from the NFL's Central Division race with 3-7-2 and 6-6 marks, respectively, there are signs which point to the kind of Pier 6 brawl they first made famous in years of mutual contention. There are rumors that Bear owner George Halas, still a militant competitor as a citizen of 76 summers, had a private "chat" with the players last week following a 6-3 loss to the Denver Broncos, in which the Bruins failed to score a touchdown for the third consecutive game. It was the first time this ignominy had befallen the Monsters of the Midway since 1933, and Papa Bear, who led them to eight world championships as coach and player, is not overly fond of being embarrassed...FUEL FOR FIRE: Coach Jim Dooley, whose Bear future is said to be somewhat tenuous, also reportedly added fuel to the fire by scrimmaging his athletes in mid-week, a pro football rarity these days. The memory of a last minute, 17-14 loss to the Pack in their first 1971 collision in the Windy City likewise is not calculated to improve the Chicagoans'

disposition. The Packers coming off a final second, 16-16 tie with the Cardinals have some special incentives of their own, although of a slightly different character. Not the last of these is the fact it will be "Ray Nitschke Day." The emotion of the moment is expected to have a salutary effect upon his teammates, who would like to make sure the celebrated middle linebacker enjoys the occasion. They also are intent upon checking John Brockington into the NFL's 1,000-Yard Club, an exclusive group which currently numbers only 24 members, including former Packers Tony Canadeo and Jim Taylor...TOTALS 969 YARDS: Brockington, who will take the field with 969 yards in 180 attempts, would become the first Packer to crash the elite circle since 1964 when Taylor soared over the 1,000 mark for the fifth and last time with 1,169. The Bays also would like to win just for the sake of winning, an experience they haven't enjoyed since their last session with the Bears. That was back on Nov. 7, when lefty Lou Michaels dissolved a 14-14 tie with a 22-yard field goal as only 59 seconds remained. In the interim, the Packers successively ran afoul of the Vikings (3-0), despite their best all-around performance of the season, the Atlanta Falcons (28-21) and the New Orleans Saints (29-21) before tying the Cardinals. Michaels since has given way to rookie Tim Webster, due to make his debut before the home folks today. Webster, a free agent from the University of Arkansas, made his pro bow against the New Orleans Saints in Milwaukee two weeks ago, when his efforts were confined to kickoffs and extra points...KICKS FOR TIE: Last Sunday at St. Louis, the soft-spoken Oklahoman attempted a field goal under game conditions for the first time since high school and, after a traumatic baptismal, hit on three of four tries, including a 27-yard launch which forged the tie on the final. His initial attempt, from the 25, struck the right upright. He also missed from the 42 and connected from the 28 and the 12. Packer Coach Dan Devine, who led with Bart Starr the last two weeks, in part to determine how far the 16-year veteran has come back from two shoulder operations and in part to permit Scott Hunter to study The Master in action, will open with the rookie at quarterback. Hunter apparently earned the assignment by directing a strong stretch drive against the Cardinals last week after replacing Starr, a stint which saw him complete 13 of 23 passes for 129 yards without interception, the first time he has gone through an afternoon without being frisked...FACES ACID TEST: His accuracy is likely to receive the acid test this afternoon, however. The Bears, largely standard earlier in the season, have taken to blitzing with abandon of late and, with the awesome Dick Butkus leading the charge, it could be somewhat hectic for the freshman field general. Dooley hasn't officially decided on his quarterback - he says there will be no announcement on that subject until game time - but the "smart money" says former Packer Kent Nix will supplant the huge left- hander, Bobby Douglass, off key of late after leading the Bruins to an early upsets of the Lions. Nix, also a former Steeler and Viking, was a Bear hero even earlier. He keyed late rallies which spurred the Monsters past Pittsburgh and Minnesota before going into eclipse following an injury...BEARS HOLD EDGE: Whoever starts at quarterback (Jack Concannon, architect of the Bears' 35-17 romp over the Pack in Chicago last December, also is reportedly available) will have two of the NFL's top targets at his disposal. Strapping (6-foot-4) George Farmer has caught 37 passes for 564 yards and Dick Gordon, the league's leading receiver a year ago, 36 for 494. Both have four touchdowns. The incomparable Gale Sayers is out for the season and Don Shy, a refugee from the Saints, has been the Bears' most consistent ground gainer. Shy, who teams with ex-Packer Jim Grabowski in the starting backfield, leads the team with 420 yards in 116 attempts. Grabowski, used primarily as a pass blocker, has contributed 149 in 50 carries, leaving the Bear duo well off the pace of the Pack's Brockington-Donny Anderson tandem. They have amassed an imposing 1,661 yards between them, the Golden Palomino contributing 692. Although the Packers won their first '71 exchange, the Bears still hold a substantial lead in the 51-year-old rivalry. They have won 55, the Packers 13, and six have ended in ties. The Bears also hold an edge in scoring, 1,705 to 1,507.

CHICAGO		GREEN BAY	
OFFENSE			
Gordon	WR	Davis	WR
Jackson	LT	Peay	LT
Holloway	LG	Lueck	LG
Coady	C	Bowman	C
Cadile	RG	Gillingham	RG
Wright	RT	Himes	RT
Wallace	TE	McGeorge	TE
Farmer	WR	Dale	WR
Nix	QB	Hunter	QB
Shy	RB	Anderson	RB
Grabowski	RB	Brockington	RB
DEFENSE			
Holman	LE	C. Williams	LE
Seals	LT	McCoy	LT
McGee	RT	Brown	RT
O'Bradovich	RE	Roche	RE
Buffone	LLB	J. Carter	LLB
Butkus	MLB	Nitschke	MLB
Brupbacher	RLB	Carr	RLB
Ford	LCB	Ellis	LCB
Taylor	RCB	Matthews	RCB
Smith	LS	Hart	LS
Moore	RS	Wood	RS
Packer-Bear Series			
Packers won 43, Bears 55, 6 tied, Points			
— Packers 1,507, Bears 1,705.			

Bears, No. 66 Foremost on Pack Minds Today

Ray Nitschke ... Packer, Father, Man

Page Gives the Vikings a Clear Edge

PAGE GIVES THE VIKINGS A CLEAR EDGE

DEC 25 (The Sporting News) - The difference between the Vikings and Lions is Alan Page. In their four years of title dominance in the so called Black and Blue Central Division, the Vikings have been challenged only by the Lions. But the Lions really haven't been close. They don't have an Alan Page. So now the Vikes have beaten the Lions eight times in eight games in the four years. A sampler of just what Page does on a football field was displayed the day the Vikings clinched their fourth title with the 29-10 victory over the Lions. Page blocked a punt for a safety. He batted away a pass. He provoked guard Chuck Walton into a 15-yard holding penalty which injured a Lions' drive. He busted through two blockers and dumped Greg Landry, dashing the Lions' offensive momentum. He twice dropped runners for losses. And he intimidated the Lions...Oh, did he !! On successive plays Page drew 15-yard penalties for over-aggressive head slapping and roughing passer Landry. After that Page was enraged and the Vikings were invincible. Nobody Can Block Alan "There isn't any one man in football who can block Alan Page," said Lonnie Warwick, the Vikes' middle linebacker. "He's the best football player I've ever seen or will see." "It doesn't pay to get Alan Page upset," said Bud Grant, who isn't thrilled by many other people or events. "He's been having a super year but, when they called the successive penalties on him, he seemed to come up with a little extra and he was a part of some big plays that helped up win the game." Big plays the Vikings' non-offense was outgained by the Lions, 236 yards to 134. The Lions totaled 17 first downs to seven for the Vikings. The 29 points were directly attributable to the play of Page's defense and the special teams. The passing netted only 21 yards...and that is not the route to the Super Bowl. But defense is...MINNESOTA - The Vikings didn't celebrate when they clinched the title. Emotion is not their custom. "We're not blasé," said Page. "If we win three postseason games, then you'll see a celebration to end all celebrations." "It's only a step," said the unenthused Grant. "It's an opportunity eight of us are going to have. We've just got one of those eight shots. A team has to win three straight in postseason play or it means nothing." Grant will use either Gary Cuozzo, Norm Snead or Bob Lee in the playoffs - maybe one will start each game, if the Vikings go the distance. That's Grant's system. Cuozzo, on the bench for three weeks, played against the Lions, but completed only four of 15 passes for the 21 yards. "We played the game for what it was," said Cuozzo. "We could have thrown the hell out of the ball. It might have been exciting. But it might have lost the game, too. We were playing for the points. That's what counts."...OWNER FORD ANNOYED: DETROIT - What counts now with the Lions after their inglorious demise in what was expected to be a playoff season is owner Bill Ford's disenchantment. Moments after the Lions fell at Minnesota, Ford warned there would be changes. Coach Joe Schmidt is safe - but some members of his staff are vulnerable. Ford has fired assistant coaches before and only three years ago Schmidt had to battle to save two of his assistants. Among Ford's postgame commentary was! "Our defense obviously was substandard. We make basic fundamental mistakes that we should make only at training camp. Some of this must be a reflection on the coaching staff. This is the first year we've gone downhill since Joe's been coach. We'd been inching up, inching up. I felt we'd do the equivalent of last year, reach the playoffs. We can't keep slipping. It involves players and coaching. Other clubs, such as Atlanta and Chicago, have been improving and we're going the other way. That's going to stop, and if heads have to roll, that will be. I want to keep both Greg Landry and Bill Munson. I'm not sure we utilized both quarterbacks as well as we should have. Yes, I'm happy with the coach and to the best of my knowledge, he's happy." Should be an interesting post-holiday season with the Lions...BEARS DEFICIENT IN RUNNING...CHICAGO - Although he benched him, Jim Dooley absolved Bobby Douglass for the Bears' offensive lethargy. The blame is the Bears' running game-the area where they acquired a platoon of recruits this season. They drafted runners high and picked up three veterans from elsewhere, but the offense now has produced a single touchdown in four games. Said Dooley: "We're getting stuffed. We're not getting the ball. We're cautious. We're not hitting people. You'd better make the run go or no quarterback will look good. Especially today, with the zone defenses, you'd better be able to run." How the Bears miss Gale Sayers! To arouse the Bears, Dooley conducted a midweek scrimmage, a seldom-used form of punishment in the pros. But the Bears still were impotent in losing to the Packers...DEVINE'S FOUR REASONS: GREEN BAY - Dan Devine cites four reasons why the Packers were not a viable team in his rookie pro season. They were injuries, ability, attitude and age. Only attitude comes under the realm of coaching, and ability, too, but only after a couple of years of drafting. An anonymous veteran of the Packers had this to say about the coaching in Green Bay: "Vince Lombardi had personality, but it was all Lombardi. Phil Bengtson had no personality at all. Devine seems like a helluva nice guy with a good personality. I think he's going to do a lot of things in the off-season. Right now I think he's mentally marking down who's doing what. Indeed, it should be a very eventful off-season in Detroit, Chicago and Green Bay.

NFC central



By JERRY GREEN

Packer Stix

PACKERS		RESULTS	OPP.	SCORES BY QUARTERS					
				ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	TOTAL	
40 N.Y. Giants at G.B. (56,263)			42						
34 Denver at MKE (47,957)			13	G.B.	31	85	47	74	237
20 Cinn. at G.B. (56,263)			17	OPP.	47	69	61	84	261
28 Lions at Detroit (54,418)			31						
13 Minn at G.B. (56,263)			24	SCORING	TDR	TDP	FGS	PAT.	PTS
13 Rams at L.A. (75,351)			30	Michaels	0	0	8/14	18/19	42
14 Lions at MKE (47,961)			14	Anderson	5	1	0	0	36
17 Bears at Chicago (55,049)			14	Hampton	4	1	0	0	30
0 Vikings at Minn. (49,784)			3	Brockington	3	1	0	0	24
21 Falcons at Atlanta (58,850)			28	McGeorge	0	4	0	0	24
21 Saints at MKE (48,035)			29	Hunter	3	0	0	0	18
16 Cardinals at St.Louis (50,443)			16	Dale	0	3	0	0	18
BEARS AT GREEN BAY (56,263)				Webster	0	0	3/5	4/4	13
				Hart	1	0	0	0	8
				Ellis	1	0	0	0	6
				Bratkowski	1	0	0	0	6
				Spilis	0	1	0	0	6
				Conway	0	0	0	5/5	5
				RUSHING	NO.	YDS	AVE	LONG	TDR
179 FIRST DOWNS		200		Brockington	180	969	5.4	54t	3
98 by RUSHING		89		Anderson	162	692	4.3	31	5
75 by PASSING		97		Hampton	59	269	4.6	41	2
6 by PENALTY		14		Hunter	18	36	2.0	16	2
3396 TOTAL NET YARDS		3516		Starr	2	10	5.0	9	0
656 Total Plays		746		P.Williams	2	1	.5	3	0
5.2 Ave Gain Per Off Play		4.7		Bratkowski	1	1	1.0	1	1
54.7 Ave No. Plays		62.2		Krause	3	-6	-2.0	2	0
1977 NET YARDS RUSHING		1491		RECEIVING	NO.	YDS	AVE	LONG	TD.
427 No. Plays Rushing		429		Dale	29	507	17.5	56t	3
4.6 Ave Gain Per Rush		3.5		Anderson	23	263	11.4	39	1
1419 NET YARDS PASSING		2025		McGeorge	21	387	18.4	50	4
1534 Gross Yds. Passing		2137		Spilis	14	281	20.1	39	1
218 Attempts/Comp.		302/162		Brockington	10	54	5.4	19	1
46.3 Pct. Comp.		53.6		Hampton	3	37	12.3	19t	0
11 TD Passing		20		Davis	1	5	5.0	5	0
23 Had Intercepted		15		K.O.RET.	NO.	YDS	AVE	LONG	TD.
13/115 Tackled/Yds. Lost		15/122		Hampton	39	1159	29.7	90	1
7.0 Ave Gain Per Att.		7.1		Krause	2	52	26.0	29	0
15.2 Ave Gain Per Comp.		13.2		P.Williams	2	41	20.5	20	0
48/1895 PUNTS/YDS		53/2054		Ellis	1	22	22.0	22	0
39.5 PUNT AVE.		38.8		Pitts	1	22	22.0	22	0
0 Had blocked		0		Davis	1	22	22.0	22	0
30/119 PUNT RETURNS/YDS		18/146		Carter	1	5	5.0	5	0
4.0 Ave Gain Per Ret.		8.1		INTERCEP.	NO.	YDS	AVE	LONG	TD.
5 Fair Catch		10		Ellis	6	10	1.7	5	0
51/1391 KICKOFF RETURN/YDS		48/1160		Robinson	3	44	14.7	23	0
27.3 Ave Per Return		24.2		Hart	2	73	36.5	69	0
15/189 INTERCEPTED BY/YDS		23/432		Randolph	1	34	34.0	34	0
24/19 FUMBLES/LOST		27/13		Matthews	1	20	20.0	20	0
237 TOTAL POINTS		261		Wood	1	8	8.0	8	0
29 Touchdowns		30		Nitschke	1	0	0	0	0
15 TD Rushing		5		PUNTS	NO.	YDS	AVE.	LONG	
11 TD Passing		20		Anderson	47	1580	37.6	58	
3 Others		5		Duncan	6	216	36.0	47	
20/11 FIELD GOAL ATT/MADE		28/15		NO.	YDS	AVE.	LONG	P.C.	TDS
51/494 PENALTIES/YDS		53/463		Anderson	47	1580	37.6	58	0
				Duncan	6	216	36.0	47	0
FIELD GOALS		MADE	ATTS	BLK.	LONG				
Michaels		8	14	1	44				
Webster		3	5	0	28				
Conway		0	1	0	0				
DIST.		UNDER	21-	31-	41-	OVER			
Michaels		20	30	40	50	50			
Webster		3/3	2/5	2/4	1/2	0/0			
Conway		1/1	3/4	0/0	0/1	0/0			
PUNT RETURNS		NO.	YDS.	AVE.	LONG	P.C.	TDS		
Ellis		20	88	4.4	30	1	0		
Wood		4	21	5.2	9	2	0		
Pitts		5	13	2.6	5	2	0		
Randolph		1	0	0	0	0	0		
PASSING		ATT.	COMP.	YDS.	PCT.	TKD/YDS	TD.	LONG	INT.
Hunter		131	69	1041	45.7	10/79	6	56t	16
Bratkowski		37	19	244	51.4	1/12	4	50	3
Starr		22	10	147	45.5	2/24	0	27	3
Patrick		5	1	39	20.0	0/0	0	39	1
Anderson		3	2	9	66.7	0/0	1	5	0