



Baltimore Colts (12-1) 16, Green Bay Packers (5-7-1) 3
Saturday December 7th 1968 (at Green Bay)



Packers Lose 16-3; Hopes Hanging by Thread

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(GREEN BAY) – The Packers' three-year reign as pro football's elite now dangles by a mathematical thread. Practically, it faded into the pages of history in sunny Lambeau Field Saturday afternoon before the charge of the Baltimore Colts, the surging heirs apparent. Frustrated by offensive errors, four lost fumbles and a grudging Baltimore defense, the Packers went without a touchdown for the first time since 1965 as the streaking Hosses fashioned a 16-3 victory. For the defending champions, it was a little like looking into a mirror. The Colts, men inspired since a 30-20 stumble against the Cleveland Browns Oct. 20, followed the longtime Green Bay formula, forcing the Packers into mistakes and making the "big play" to swiftly capitalize.

STILL IN RACE

Despite this latest misadventure, the Packers (5-7-1) still are in the NFL's Central Division race - technically. But they now require considerable cooperation from the Rams and 49ers, who must defeat the Bears and Vikings, respectively, today to keep their hopes alive. If this should come to pass, they then would be able to claim the crown by dispatching the Bears in their season finale at Chicago next Sunday - providing the Eagles can handle the Vikings in Philadelphia, not an overly bright prospect. Deadly opportunists, the invaders converted three Packer fumbles into 13 points with impressive dispatch. Setting the tone early, they parlayed a Donny Anderson fumble into a 26-yard Earl Morrall touchdown pass to Willie Richardson with only 5:05 gone in the first quarter.

TIGHTFISTED OCCASION

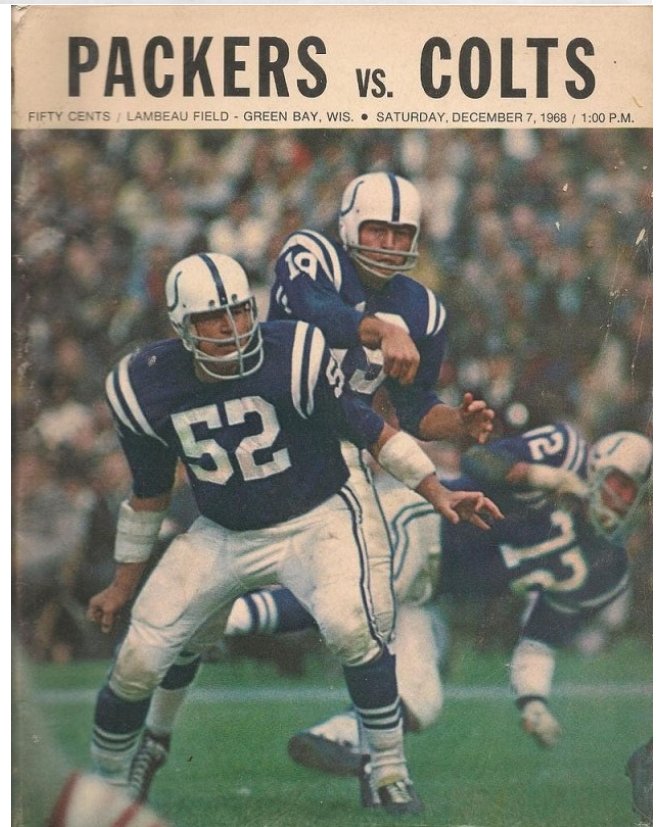
That was more than enough to win on this tightfisted occasion, least productive afternoon the Packers have had since they shaded the Rams, 6-3, in Milwaukee on Nov. 14, 1965, with two Don Chandler field goals. The Colts didn't rest their case there, however. Left-footed Lou Michaels toed a 37-yard field goal to cap an early second quarter push, then later added two 15-yarders, the first following a Zeke Bratkowski fumble at the Packer 48 just before the half. The other came in the third quarter in the wake of an Anderson fumble, recovered by Mike Curtis at Green Bay's 37. The Packers, meanwhile, went empty-handed save for a 45-yard, first quarter Mike Mercer field goal which hit the right upright and ricocheted to the left and over the bar.

FLASHED RESILIENCE

Despite their difficulties on attack, which heightened the sense of impending disaster, the Packers flashed their old resilience briefly early in the fourth quarter and brought a largely silent capacity crowd of 50,861 to life. A jarring Willie Davis tackle jolted the ball from the hand of Baltimore quarterback Earl Morrall on the first play of the final period and Lionel Aldridge, scooping up the fumble, rumbled 12 yards to the Green Bay 39. Revitalized by this turn of events, the Packers charged to a first down on the Colt 10 in six plays, the major item being a 24-yard Bratkowski pass to split end Claudis James.

HOPES EVAPORATED

But here, after a three-yard bolt up the middle by fullback Jim Grabowski, Packer hopes evaporated as three successive passes misfired. The first, intended for Boyd Dowler, was long up the middle, the second, aimed at Carroll Dale, was broken up on the goal line by Colt cornerback Bobby Boyd and the final effort, intended for Grabowski, was short and into the ground at the one as Bratkowski was hurried by a bristling rush. The Packers later had one final opportunity, but it expired at the Baltimore 43 with 3:39 remaining when Elijah Pitts was inches short on a fourth-and-one situation. It was an unhappy climax to a frustrating afternoon for the once potent Packer offense, held below 200 yards for the first time this season. The Bays settled for a net of 163 yards, only 66 passing, an obvious tribute to a marauding Colt defense which now has permitted only two enemy touchdowns in seven games.



DEFENSE NOT GENEROUS

It thus was little short of remarkable that Bratkowski, holding forth at quarterback in the injured Bart Starr's absence, was able to complete 13 of 24 passes for 113 yards and was intercepted only once. Although handicapped by those four offensive turnovers, the Green Bay defense also was not overly generous with the explosive Hosses, limiting them to 242 yards, including a mere 104 passing. And, champions to the end, the Packers went out in style. Bart Starr, Willie Davis and Lee Roy Caffey, among others, shook off their gloom to pause and proffer congratulatory handshakes to the Colts as they wended their way to the dressing room.

BALTIMORE - 7 3 6 0 - 16

GREEN BAY - 3 0 0 0 - 3

	<u>BALTIMORE</u>	<u>GREEN BAY</u>
First downs	14	9
Rush-yards-TDs	38-138-0	29-66-0
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	10-20-128-1-0	13-24-113-0-1
Sacked-yards	2-24	2-16
Net pass yards	104	97
Total yards	242	163
Fumbles-lost	2-2	5-4
Turnovers	2	5
Penalties-yards	2-21	2-10

SCORING

1st - BA - Jerry Richardson, 26-yd pass from Earl Morrall (Lou Michaels kick) BALTIMORE 7-0

1st - GB - Mike Mercer, 45-yard field goal BALTIMORE 7-3

2nd - BALT - Michaels, 37-yard field goal BALTIMORE 10-3

3rd - BALT - Michaels, 15-yard field goal BALTIMORE 13-3

3rd - BALT - Michaels, 15-yard field goal BALTIMORE 16-3

RUSHING

GREEN BAY - Donny Anderson 11-48, Jim Grabowski 11-27, Elijah Pitts 3-0, Zeke Bratkowski 4-(-9)

BALTIMORE - Terry Cole 21-83, Tom Matte 17-55

PASSING

GREEN BAY - Zeke Bratkowski 24-13-113 1 INT

BALTIMORE - Johnny Unitas 20-10-128 1 TD

RECEIVING

GREEN BAY - Jim Grabowski 5-26, Carroll Dale 3-33, Claudis James 1-24, Donny Anderson 1-18, Boyd Dowler 1-8, Chuck Mercein 1-3, Elijah Pitts 1-1

BALTIMORE - John Mackey 6-47, Ray Perkins 3-55, Willie Richardson 1-26 1 TD

'WE HAD TO PLAY OUR BEST AND DIDN'T'; PHIL PRAISES COLTS

DEC 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Phil Bengtson, maintaining a championship regalness even as his army licked its wounds, had a simple explanation for Saturday afternoon's painful defeat at the hoofs of the Baltimore Colts. Head held high, the Packer coach declared, "We played a heckuva good football team. They were an awful good, hustling ball club. We knew they would be and we knew that to beat them we would have to play our best. We didn't play our best." Obviously, Bengtson was only confirming what had been apparent throughout the 16-3 loss, triggered by a rash of four lost fumbles, an interception, a four yard punt and a bewildering series of mix-ups in the backfield. "Considering the way the game went, our defense played pretty well in holding them to 16 points," the coach volunteered in an attempt to find some solace in the beating that leaves the Packers in the well known "one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel" situation. Three of the fumbles were turned into scores, a touchdown and two field goals. Bengtson said he couldn't remember when the Packers had fumbled so much. At least three times Bratkowski turned around and found little but confusion in his backfield. "Those were on audibles and they just didn't hear them the noise and so forth," Bengtson explained. The Packers, fully aware that the proud Colt defense hadn't given up a touchdown in three straight games, tried some strategy in realigning their offense right from the start. Boyd Dowler took over Marv Fleming's tight end position and Claudis James moved into Dowler's split end spot. Bob Hyland opened at center in place of Ken Bowman. "We thought we were going to have to throw, so we thought we might create a little different problem for their defense," Bengtson reasoned in regard to the switch in ends. As to Hyland, he explained, "Lots of their defenses have a man right in front of the center. Hyland's stronger and better equipped to handle that." At one point late in the first half, Bratkowski was shaken up as the Colts were penalized for roughing the passer and rookie Billy Stevens began warming up on the sidelines. It prompted a question as to Bart Starr's availability. "I've been wondering all week about that," Bengtson said. "But he's got a cartilage pull here in his ribs and it's quite painful and very slow in healing."

'HEARTACHE TO END IT LIKE THIS:' KRAMER

DEC 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "What a heartache to end it like this." Jerry Kramer, a mountain of a man at right guard for the Packers through their glory years, tried to swallow the gagging medicine of defeat like the same kind of man Saturday afternoon. But it

'Heartache To End It Like This:' Kramer



The ball is knocked out of the hands of Donny Anderson (44) by linebacker Mike Curtis (32) (Source: Green Bay Press-Gazette)

was difficult. Perched in front of his locker, he talked in a low voice, the sort of loud whisper that drones through a funeral home. At times, he tried to cover his face with bloodied, skin-torn hands but he couldn't mask the sincere anguish in his eyes "What a heartache to end it like this," he repeated. And no matter what else he said, it came out the same way. "I think we were ready. We were down early in the week. But by yesterday I think we had decided to forget everything that's gone

wrong and just give it our best today. It was awful emotional in here before the game. High emotion. The speeches...everybody just felt it. I think we were ready. And I thought we were playing well. We were opening some good holes. We had a lot of pep. But we'd make five yards and then fumble...or a penalty. Maybe we were too ready. I think that was Donny's (Anderson) trouble. It might have been too emotional. He was awfully tight. You know what it was like? It was like playing your last college game. The speeches...well, we knew it was the last game here for a lot of the guys. I'm telling you, it was really emotional." Lionel Aldridge substantiated Kramer's appraisal of the team's attitude. "Bob Skoronski reminded us that this was probably the last home game for a number of our veteran players. It was obvious how much it meant to them. I know it made me want to play a little harder," he said. But the pre-game emotion that carried over to the post-game mourning, picked up another facet along the way. With only moments left in the game, Packer Band

Director Wilner Burke called over his microphone "For four years these wonderful Packers have given some great thrills. How about a standing ovation for them." And the 50,861 Packer Backers rose without hesitation and roared their love for the team. "It was a beautiful crowd. These fans are beautiful," Kramer, with a bit of an appreciative smile contrasting with the glistening wetness in the corners of his eyes. Other players echoed Kramer's sentiments and Carroll Dale added, "I suppose about 75 per cent of the people watching were glad to see us die but these fans here were just great."

TURNING POINT: TRY WOOD'S NEAR THEFT

DEC 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Turning point? That's the usual thing we like to look for in a game. Baltimore Coach Don Shula pointed to the Packers' failure to score from the 7-yard line early in the fourth quarter as the turning point. And, indeed, it did leave his Colts in complete command since the Pack left itself two touchdowns short when Zeke Bratkowski's fourth down pass nosed into the ground. But if you want a real turning point, back up. Back up all the way to the first few minutes of the game...to the fourth play from scrimmage. The Colts had taken the kickoff and marched to one first down. They had a second and seven situation on the Packer 35 and Earl Morrall dropped back to pass. He was harried but not hit and he rifled the ball down the middle. Then Willie Wood, racing over from his safety position, leaped right into the path of the ball...grabbed it...and dropped it. You want a turning point? Consider that play. The Packers were underdogs fighting for their lives. They had blown their big opportunity a week ago in a fourth quarter that will live with them as perhaps the darkest 15 minutes of their football lives. They needed a big play. Call it a big break, if you wish, but a really big play to pull them back up. An interception early in the game could have been just that play. Instead, the Colts wound up with the first big play of the game...actually two consecutive big plays. Halted on that initial drive by Dave Robinson's blitzing tackle of Morrall, the Colts punted and David Lee lined the ball to the Packer 8-yard line, where it died. Four plays later, Mike Curtis put a smashing tackle on Donny Anderson and the ball popped loose to be recovered by Bob Boyd on the 28. In two more plays, the Colts had scored. That almost had to be the death blow right there dealt out in three stages...the punt, the fumble and the TD pass...A large sign on the east side of the field, hung by some optimistic supporters, read, "It's Not Too Late in '68 - Go Packers Go." And, strangely, for those who have an abundance of optimistic blood, it is still not too late...if the Vikings and Bears lose today...and next week. The Packer pulse is weak but it's still there. But in the Packer dressing room, there was no apparent thought given to that possibility. Hearts were heavy and the atmosphere was so gloomy one could only conclude that the great Packers had finally succumbed. A tipoff was the smattering of retirement talk. Up to seven or eight names were mentioned as having played their last game in Lambeau Field.

WE TAKE PRIDE IN THIS WIN: SHULA

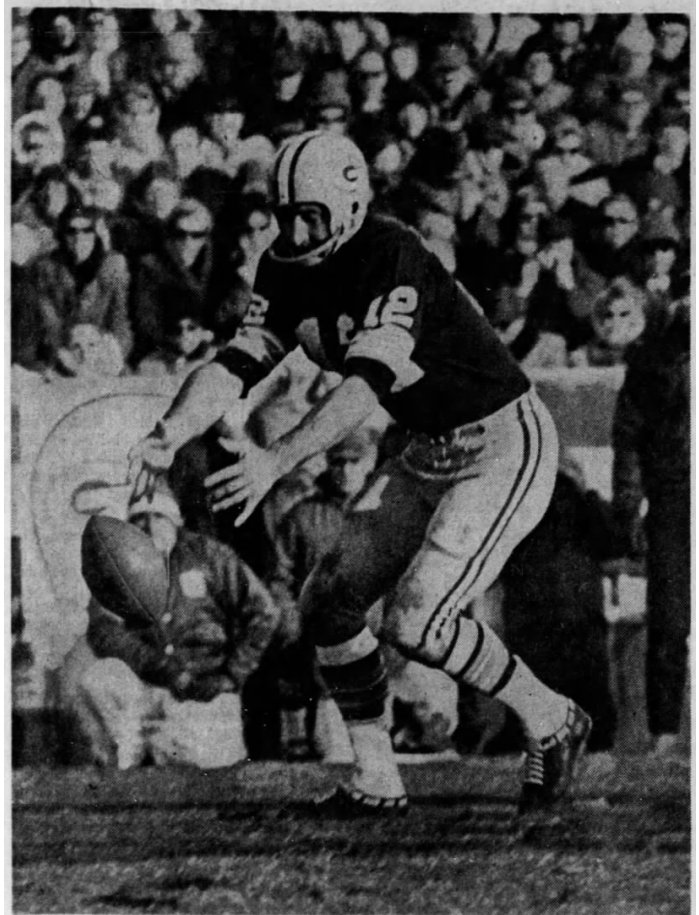
DEC 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Rams have the "Fearsome Foursome" and the Cowboys have the "Doomsday Defense." The Colts? They just have 11 guys...11 guys who do the job. That was the word from Baltimore Coach Don Shula after his Colt defense held the Green Bay Packers to nine first downs and 163 yards in mounting a 16-3 win over the Pack in Lambeau Field Saturday afternoon. Shula, holding forth in the visiting coaches room after the game, beamed, "We have just 11 guys out there fighting for their lives and getting the job done. We don't have any big names or super stars. We just have a bunch of guys working together." It was the fourth straight game in which the Colt defense has not yielded a touchdown. The string started with a 27-0 win over the Cardinals, followed with

a 21-9 victory over the Minnesota Vikings and last week the Hosses blitzed the Atlanta Falcons, 44-0. Relishing the victory, Shula said, "Our defense played real well and has all year. The last time we were here the situation was a little sadder." Shula's reference was to the 1965 playoff game when the Packers beat the Colts in sudden death overtime to win the Western Division title...**TAKE PRIDE IN WIN:** "We must take pride in this win. If we are going to go on and be the champs, we wanted to be the ones to knock out the Packers," Shula said. In taking notice of the Packers' four fumbles, four of which the Colts recovered, Shula shrugged and said, "Fumbles are all part of it. We lost five in a row to the Packers and played fine football but made mistakes and lost. Today they were the ones who made the mistakes." Shula also praised his offensive line, particularly for providing pass protection for quarterback Earl Morrall. "We didn't expect them (Packers) to blitz us as much as they did," he said...**STOPPED PACK ON 7:** "We go in with the idea to try and execute and do what is there. We didn't have any game plan to just try and run on the Packers," Shula said of the Colts' attack. Asked about Richardson's (Willie) touchdown pass catch, the Colt mentor said, "It was a heckuva catch, especially considering we were going into the wind and you have to put points on board when the wind is against you. Nitschke (Ray) and Robinson (Dave) were blitzing and Adderley (Herb) was all alone with Richardson." If there was a turning point or a point where the decision was finalized, Shula felt it was the defense's holding the Packers on the 7-yard line. "If they would have scored there, we would have been in trouble. They would have had the momentum and the wind at their back. I can't say enough about our defense," Shula said. About the Packers playing without the services of regular quarterback Bart Starr, Shula said, "I can't say enough good about Bart. I am sure they missed him but you know Zeke (Bratkowski) has beaten us on many occasions in the past years."

COLTS SATISFIED BUT STILL WARY OF RAMS

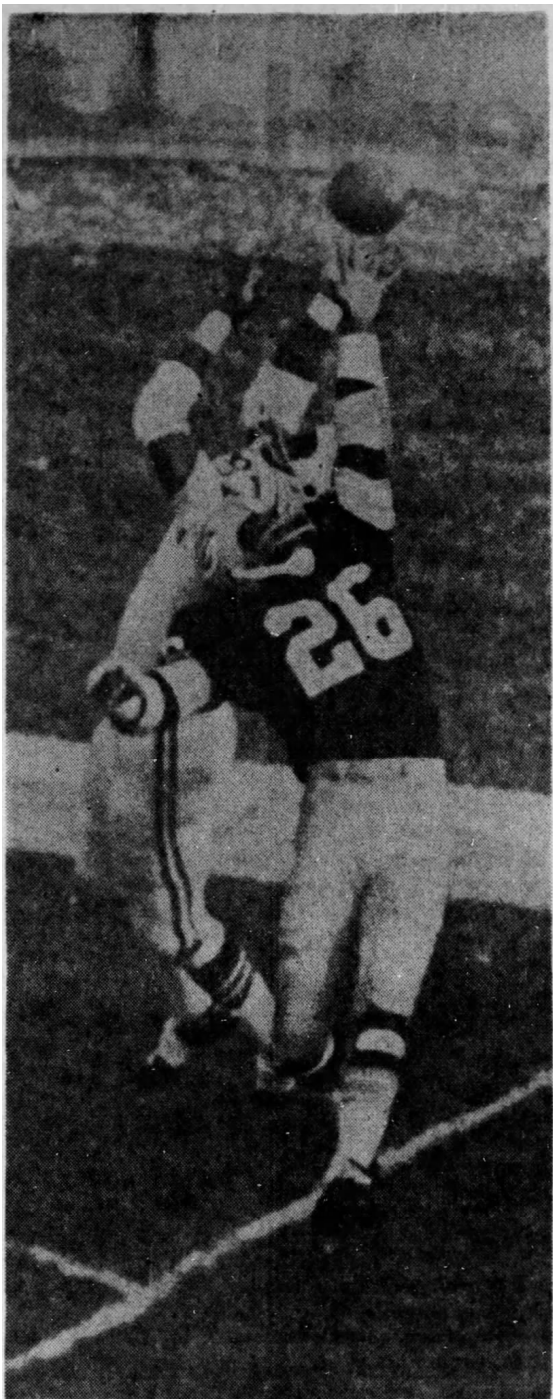
DEC 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Baltimore dressing room Lambeau field Saturday afternoon was the scene of mixed emotions. The Colts were whooping it up and cheering over their just completed 16-3 win over the Green Bay Packers but they were also a bit apprehensive when asked about next week's encounter with the Los Angeles Rams for the Coastal Division title in the NFL. "I don't like to say too much about it. I don't want to get overconfident, but if we play like we did today and have in the past we should win it. But you never take anything for granted," Lou Michaels, who booted three field goals against the Packers, said...**PRESSED ON MISS:** Michaels kicked three pointers from the 37, 15 and 13-yard lines and had a 47-yarder go astray. "I pressed too much on that one. I tried to put more oomph into it than I really should have. I should have realized that the wind was strong enough to carry it," Michaels added. Earl Morrall, who has led the Colts all season after taking over for injured Johnny Unitas, gave great credit to his offensive line. "They gave me good

protection. The Packers were blitzing at us pretty good. We had to rush our plays a little, but our running game was working real good. You have to give credit to our front line and our backs. The backs were picking the holes real well. Matte (Tom) had a good game and Cole (Terry) was exceptional," Morrall said...**GAME BALL TO COLE:** Cole picked his way for 83 yards in 21 carries, a feat which earned him the game ball. "Terry got the game ball and as a rookie that is quite an accomplishment and one he richly deserved," Coach Don Shula commented. In reflecting on his touchdown pass to Willie Richardson in the first period, Morrall said, "Willie made a great play on it. He slipped coming off the line. He was supposed to be coming across on a curl in but went to the outside. I hung it outside and Willie just went up and got it." Richardson concurred. "I slipped and I didn't make my break. I was surprised Earl stayed with me instead of



Fumbles on Offensive plays kept the Green Bay Packers in trouble Saturday afternoon in their 16-3 loss to the Baltimore Colts in Green Bay. In the top photo, Packer quarterback Zeke Bratkowski chases a loose football, and at top right, halfback Donny Anderson (44) also turns to try to field one that got away.





The Colts' Willie Richardson (87) leaps over the head of Packer defender Herb Adderley (26) to grab a touchdown pass in the first quarter of Baltimore's 16-3 win.

going to a secondary receiver...**MACKEY CATCHES SIX:** "I wasn't sure I was going to catch it but I was sure I wasn't going to let him (defender Herb Adderley) catch it. Herb might have misjudged it. I was playing the ball and just went up and got it," Richardson said. Tight end John Mackey led the Colt receivers with six catches for 47 yards. "We were just trying to keep their defense honest," Mackey said in explaining his part in the victory. "We were sort of delaying at the line. I was staying in there and then going out. We kept their linebackers back that way," he said. Mackey wasn't making any predictions about the Colts chances of going on to the championship but stated, "We always feel we are going to win it. We felt that last year and didn't and the year before and didn't. We feel it this year too and maybe," Mackey said and let it hang...**NOT MANY MISTAKES:** Bob Boyd, speaking on behalf of the Colt defense said, "Our plans went pretty much the way we wanted them to go. We wanted to stop their (the Packer) running game and force them to pass. "There is no question we had a lot of breaks and I think we kept field position on them today," Boyd said. In looking ahead Boyd said, "We are going out to win. There is no question about it. We are confident we can win and it is just a matter of going out there and winning it. If we go out and do the job, we will win it. If we don't do the job we don't deserve to win it." But Bill Curry, the former Packer now toiling at center for the Colts summed up the game best: "We didn't make too many mistakes."

RAY ASSURES ZEKE: NO MAN TO BLAME

DEC 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - A hint of moisture in his eyes, Zeke Bratkowski chucked his disconsolate son, Bobby, under the chin. Then he turned to stare vacantly toward his locker in the Packer dressing room, silent and somber up the wake of a 16-3 loss to the Baltimore Colts which had all but eliminated them from the NFL's Central Division race. Bratkowski, who had gone the route at quarterback in behalf of injured Bart Starr, obviously was blaming himself for what had just happened in Lambeau Field. But rough, tough Ray Nitschke would have none of it. Walking over to Bratkowski, he clasped his shoulders and sympathetically advised, "Relax, relax...no one man loses a football game." The veteran field general, whose task had been complicated by some bobbled handoff exchanges and five fumbles, subsequently indicated he had no ready explanation for them. "The only way I can tell you," he said sadly, "is that they were backfield mixup...it was a combination of automatics and ball handling." Although shaken up in the second quarter on a play which cost the Colts 16 yards for roughing the passer, Bratkowski said it had not affected him. "I just got hit on the head," he informed. "It wasn't a factor." The Colts, who held the Packers to a season low of 163 yards, had not employed anything unexpected, Bratkowski said. "We tried to stay to our game plan as far as the defenses were concerned, and we did pretty well. I thought the coaches had a real fine game plan developed for us. We figured we could run and throw against them, and we broke some plays pretty good."

RICHARDSON MADE HIS ONLY CATCH PAY OFF FOR TD

DEC 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "That was the only catch he made all day," Herb Adderley unhappily mused, "but it was a big one." The Packers' all-NFL left cornerback was methodically describing Earl Morrall's first quarter touchdown

pass to flanker Willie Richardson, maneuver which produced the Colts' winning points in their 16-3 victory over the Packers in Lambeau Field Saturday afternoon. "I was playing the ball," Adderley explained. "When Richardson fell down in running his pattern, I kept going back. When I got into the end zone, I wasn't sure where I was relative to the end line. I didn't want to keep going beyond the end line, so I stopped...**WIND CAUGHT BALL:** "I should have kept going, I guess. The ball seemed to hang up there and the wind caught it. When I jumped and tipped the ball, he reached around me to catch it...He made a nice play on it." Elsewhere in the quiet Packer dressing room, teammate Carroll Dale explained how his best TD chance had gone awry. "In the Colts' defense, they try to have help all the time," he reported. "On that pass down on the goal line, Bobby Boyd had help outside. It's pretty hard to get inside when he's just standing there." "I was trying to keep them from getting it intercepted," Carroll added. "He was inside me and I only had one hand on it, and he had both arms wrapped around my arm."...**SLIPPED TO TURF:** Earlier in the afternoon, a second quarter Colt interception had developed because he slipped to the turf, he said. "But," he smiled faintly, "they fumbled it back to us anyway." Donny Anderson, who had seen two fumbles



bloom into 10 Baltimore points, ruefully reported, "Both times, I got hit and the ball squirmed out...When it's cold, the ball is slick, plus the jersey is smooth. It just happens-I feel worse about it than anybody else."...**RESPECT FOR MACKEY:** On a more pleasant subject, the **Fans wave flags at the Green Bay Packer-Baltimore Colt game during the Pride and Patriotism day. All fans were given flags to wave during the ceremonies.**

Packers' only score of the game, placekicker Mike Mercer confided, "I've had a lot of field goal attempts hit a post and bounce back, but this is the first time one has gone through for me." "I played a right to left wind and it wasn't there," he added by way of explanation. "It doesn't matter, though, how they go through, as long as they do...I've had my share the other way." Dave Robinson, the Packers' left linebacker, came away with profound respect for Baltimore's tight end John Mackey. "He's good and he's smart," Robinson said. "When they run something the other way, for example, he sets up something for the future. When he wants to use 'em, he knows whether he can go inside or outside."...**NEXT TO MORRALL:** Mackey, the day's leading pass receiver with 6 catches for 47 yards, "is always talking to the quarterback," he continued. "I noticed he's next to Morrall in the huddle formation and he keeps him on his toes. If you make a mistake on one play against him, you have to be extra careful on the next one." Fellow linebacker Ray Nitschke, analyzing what had transpired, offered, "They didn't do anything we didn't expect. They're a solid football team with a good running game and a fine passing attack...All things considered, we did well to hold them to one touchdown. They've been scoring a lot of points." He discounted offensive fumbles, which complicated the defenders' task, asserting, "That's beside the point...that's part of the game." Lionel Aldridge, whose fumble recovery had staked the Packers to their last major opportunity in the fourth quarter, reported, "Willie Davis, who hit Morrall, and myself were probably the only people on the field who saw the ball. I just picked it up and tried to run a couple of steps with it." Summing up the situation with characteristic simplicity, elder statesman Forrest Gregg said, "It was a tough ball game...We played hard and we fought hard, but we made too many errors." Then, realistically appraising the immediate future, he concluded, "We've got a chance, but the Vikings still would have to lose to Philadelphia, and that isn't very likely."

HEARTS SWELL AS GREEN BAY SHOWS COLORS

DEC 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - They showed the colors Saturday in Green Bay. More than 50,000 football fans, in a stunning and moving moment, offered a sea of waving flags for the nation to see through the coast-to-coast eyes of television. The program, called a "pride in patriotism" crusade, was born in the minds of a trio of Green Bay housewives who felt they wanted to do something to show national feeling. They presented their idea to the Packer Corp. and the Green Bay area Chamber of Commerce. Local merchants raised \$6,000 to buy the flags. The St. Norbert Chamber Singers and the Packer Band and Golden Girls chipped in with patriotic airs and the Southern Illinois University marching band added a medley of anthems, including a stirring rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner." At the end of the national anthem, a capacity crowd of 50,861 waved their flags. On television, an announcer mentioned that there have

Bear, Viking Wins End Packers' 3-Year Reign



Sad Donny Anderson Leaving Field, Symbolizes Packer Fall —Press-Gazette Photos

been many memorable moments in sports "and this is certainly one that will be long remembered," he said. But a man from Baltimore paid, perhaps, the highest compliment. Harry Hulmes, general manager of the Colts, said in the press box: "I doubt seriously if this sort of thing could be held any place in the country other than Green Bay."

DEPOSED PACKERS STILL CAN CONTROL CENTRAL RACE: PHIL

DEC 9 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers no longer rule pro football's universe. Still on a brief vacation, they today found themselves out of championship contention for the first time in four years. And, for the first time since 1959, a record unparalleled in sports history, without some kind of post-season playoff berth. Nudged to the brink of elimination by Saturday's 16-3 loss to the Baltimore Colts in Lambeau Field, they were forced to sit unhappily by Sunday as the Minnesota Vikings and Chicago Bears presided at their official ouster from the NFL's Central Division race with 30-20 and 17-16 victories over the San Francisco 49ers and Los Angeles Rams, respectively...ONE LAST HURRAH: With it, of course, ended the Packers' three-year reign as NFL champions, only such parlay recorded since the league adopted a divisional alignment in 1933. Twenty-four hours earlier, their final chance to avoid their first sub-.500 season since 1959 also had evaporated when Baltimore's victory left them with a 5-7-1 record and only one game remaining. That closing assignment, however, provides the Packers with a glittering opportunity for one last hurrah, Coach Phil Bengtson points out. Although disappointed over a season which he had begun with high hopes for a fourth straight title, he noted, "We may be out of it but we can now control who goes...100TH GAME: Bengtson had reference to next Sunday's invasion of Chicago for the Packers' 100th regular season meeting with the Bears, current co-leaders of the Central Division. Victory is a virtual necessity for the Bears, because the Vikings face the lowly Philadelphia Eagles (2-11) in their finale. Did he feel, Bengtson was asked, that his athletes could rebound from

Saturday's unpleasantness with a superior performance? "I don't know why they shouldn't," he said. "We'll get together Tuesday (the players were given Sunday and today off) and we'll know better then what the attitude is. I'm sure they want to finish on a good note...And beating the Bears would be a good one."...ECHOES SENTIMENTS: Forrest Gregg, the Packers' annual all-NFL offensive tackle, echoed Bengtson's sentiments in a separate assessment. "I feel we can still play a good football game," he said. "After all, we still have the same players we had when we won championships. I think everybody would like to finish the year with a good note...I'm sure it will have bearing on everybody's play." He has no illusions about the magnitude of the assignment, he added. "It's always a tough ball game, being a rivalry game, and particularly now, it won't be any different. Since they have a chance to win the title, I'm sure they'll come to play so we'll have to be sure we do."...CAN'T LIE DOWN: Henry Jordan, speaking for the defense, also expressed hope that he and his teammates will be able to go out with glory, although he was less positive in his appraisal. "I hope we can come up with a fine performance," he said, "but I'm not the cocky Jordan I once was...But I hope we knock the Bears out of it just to keep our pride up. We can't just lie down and die." Although it had not been entirely unexpected following Saturday's loss to Baltimore, Sunday's official elimination had been a disappointment, Gregg admitted. "As long as there's any hope at all, you've always got something to hang on to," he pointed out. "Now you know for sure." The 12-year veteran laughed and added, "The Vikings will be pulling for us for a change. I didn't see much of the Viking game on television, of course, because only a few minutes of it was presented, but the Bears looked pretty good. They played a determined game. Their defense played it really tough." Despite recent events, Gregg sees a bright future for Green Bay. "I still think the Packers have a chance to win it again next year," he asserted. "The talent is there. It's just a matter of regrouping and attitude. We played some real good football this year...and, of course, we also played some that wasn't so good. "If everybody can come back with the right attitude next year. I think we can come back and win it."...DIDN'T WORK OUT: In reviewing the Packers' fall from the heights, which had seen them lose four of their last six games, Bengtson observed, "It was a combination of a series of things, among them the injuries to the defensive line and to Bart Starr...It would be pretty hard to put your finger on any one thing. I thought at the beginning of the season

Pro Football				
By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				
American League				
Eastern Division				
	W.	L.	T.	Pct.
xNew York	10	3	0	.769
Houston	6	7	0	.462
Miami	5	7	1	.417
Boston	4	9	0	.308
Buffalo	1	12	1	.077
Western Division				
Kansas City	11	2	0	.846
Oakland	11	2	0	.846
San Diego	9	4	0	.692
Denver	5	8	0	.385
Cincinnati	3	11	0	.214
x-Clinched division title				
Sunday's Results				
Kan. City 40, San Diego 3				
Miami 38, Boston 7				
New York 27, Cincinnati 14				
Oakland 33, Denver 27				
Saturday's Game				
Kansas City at Denver				
Only game scheduled.				
Sunday's Games				
Boston at Houston				
New York at Miami				
Oakland at San Diego				
Only games scheduled				
National League				
Eastern Conference				
Capitol Division				
	W.	L.	T.	Pct.
xDallas	11	2	0	.846
New York	7	6	0	.538
Washington	4	9	0	.308
Philadelphia	2	11	0	.154
Century Division				
xCleveland	10	3	0	.769
St. Louis	8	4	1	.667
New Orleans	9	9	1	.250
Pittsburgh	2	10	1	.167
Western Conference				
Coastal Division				
xBaltimore	12	1	0	.923
Los Angeles	10	2	1	.833
San Francisco	6	6	1	.500
Atlanta	2	11	0	.154
Central Division				
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538
Chicago	7	6	0	.538
Green Bay	5	7	1	.417
Detroit	4	7	2	.364
x-Clinched division title				
Saturday's Results				
Baltimore 16, Green Bay 3				
Sunday's Results				
Chicago 17, Los Angeles 16				
Cleveland 24, Washington 21				
Detroit 24, Atlanta 7				
Dallas 28, Pittsburgh 7				
Minnesota 30, San Fran 20				
Phila'phia 29, New Orleans 17				
St. Louis 28, New York 21				
Sunday's Games				
Baltimore at Los Angeles				
Dallas at New York				
Green Bay at Chicago				
Pittsburgh at New Orleans				
San Francisco at Atlanta				
Detroit at Washington				
Minnesota at Philadelphia				

that we were capable of going all the way, and I still think they were - it just didn't work out that way. We lost a lot of close ones. We were in every one of 'em and we could have won all of them." Did he feel, as some experts had suggested, that age had been a factor in the team's decline? "No, I really don't think it was," Bengtson replied...DISCOUNTS COMPLACENCY: He also discounted the possibility of complacency. "I don't think there was any," the former Clark Shaughnessy aide declared. "I felt we had good effort. I think there was a little bit of tension resulting from pressure, a little anxiousness that was reflected in offsides and fumbles. But I never saw any evidence of complacency in practice or in a game." Although there have been hints that several key veterans are on the verge of retirement, Bengtson said none had officially announced such intentions to him.

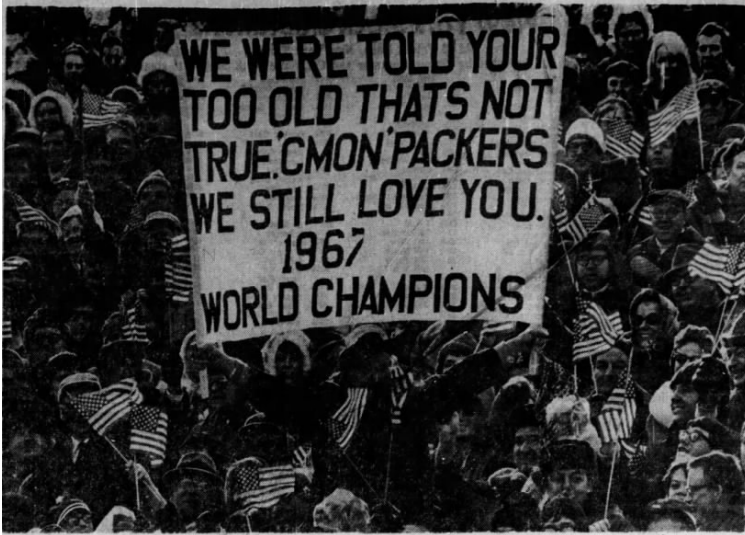
PITTS WARNS FOES: 'WAIT UNTIL 1969!'

DEC 9 (Green Bay) - "Grandpa was never a quitter," an old British ballad relates, "and I don't suppose he'll be a quitter now." Elijah Pitts, who was on the battleline during the weekend as the Green Bay Packers fumbled away the epilogue of the golden era, stood in the wreckage and warned other NFL clubs that the aging lions will still have teeth next season. "The thing that determines how big a man you are is how you come back," he said. "We'll be back next year." The Packers' chances for a fourth consecutive NFL title were put in the grave by Baltimore's 16-3 conquest Saturday, and by a pair of victories Sunday by Minnesota and Chicago. The ghost of glory past filled Lambeau Field as Saturday's game drew to a close. The sellout crowd of 50,861 gave grandpa's spirit a standing ovation, and the band played "Auld Lang Syne." "Wasn't that great?" Jerry Kramer said. "What a heartache to end up like this. This might be my last game in Lambeau Field." Kramer listed several other Packers who he said, because of the approach of retirement ages, might also have seen their last game on home turf. He lamented that it had to be Green Bay's first game since 1965 without a touchdown. Among those he mentioned in his list was Bart Starr, the club's ace quarterback who was absent with rib injuries which coach Phil Bengtson said might keep the all-pro signal-caller out of next Sunday's finale in Chicago. In 1963, when a pair of Chicago Bear victories helped deprive Green Bay of the NFL title, Starr similarly missed about half the season. That season, however, was only a recess in the golden period under former head coach Vince Lombardi. The Packers, under Lombardi, were world champions in 1961, 1962, 1965, 1966 and 1967. They would still be in the running for the 1968 title had they beaten Baltimore Saturday. "Give us back our fumbles," Kramer said, "maybe..." Baltimore recovered four of Green Bay's five fumbles and converted three of them into 13 points. It left the Packers with a 5-7-1 record, and even beating the Bears next week wouldn't save the defending world champions from their first less-than-.500 season since before Lombardi's management. "People were ready to bawl," Kramer said. Veteran Forrest Gregg said the loyalists' ovation touched him. "That ovation really got to me," he said. "These are the greatest fans in football. I just can't express how badly I feel." Baltimore's Bubba Smith, having locked horns through the afternoon with Gregg, had compliment for his vanquished foe, who had played no small role in Green Bay's previous marches over the Colts to championships. "Besides being a great tackle," Smith said, "he's a beautiful person...even in defeat." Like Pitts, Baltimore center Bill Curry, who had started his pro career with Green Bay, said he doesn't expect age to halt the Packer prowess. "I have great respect for the Packers," he said. "They're still awfully tough inside that 20."

GREEN BAY FANS SHED NO TEARS FOR FALLEN CLUB

DEC 9 (Green Bay) - The crucial game was over, the season's joys and sadness were relegated to memory. Unlike the last three years, residents of this small Wisconsin city were not discussing

the post-season NFL outlook. Yet, there were no tears over the fallen champions, the Green Bay Packers. "We have to give someone else a chance to be on top," said Dan Van Dyke, a Green Bay resident...COMPANION AGREES: His companion agreed: "We have had the title a long time, and we'll get it again." Elsewhere around Green Bay Saturday night and Sunday, in the wake of the Packers' 16-3 loss to the Baltimore Colts, local fans repeated similar thoughts. Of course, they were sorry their team was no longer No. 1. But, as one woman said: "You can't expect to win it all the time." "These are sophisticated fans," said a veteran sportswriter, Lee Rummel of the Green Bay Press-Gazette. "They are very, very loyal to the Packers, but they also want to see good football." "If the Packers are not the best, then they will come out to see the Colts or the Los Angeles Rams, or any other team that is playing good, solid football," he said. The Saturday defeat, followed with victories Sunday by the Minnesota Vikings and the Chicago Bears, cancelled any chance of Green Bay winning a fourth consecutive NFL championship. Even should the Packers, 5-7-1, defeat Chicago in their season finale next Sunday, the club still ends the year with the first less-than-.500 record since 1958. Baltimore was the first team since 1965 to deprive the Packers of a touchdown. Green Bay sealed its own fate by surrendering four fumbles to the Colts, three of which were converted to 13 points. While Green Bay residents were taking the dethronement in stride, out-of-town Packer fans were not as generous. "I'm real disappointed. They played lousy," said a Dubuque, Iowa, lawyer who had driven 230 miles to see Saturday's game...CHECK OUT: Early Sunday,



This Sign Was Displayed by hopeful Packer fans during Saturday's National Football League game at Lambeau Field. A portion of the crowd is shown with flags that were used in a special ceremony. The Colts scored a 16-3 win over the Packers. (Post-Crescent News Service Photo)

guests at a hotel began checking out, homeward bound. Football fans were easy to recognize. Besides suitcases, they carried huge coats and boots, many of them fur-lined. Many had been in use in last December's national championship game when temperatures dropped to 13 below zero. The mercury was much kinder Saturday, but the same fans came prepared. Spectators, most of them from Wisconsin and Michigan's nearby Upper Peninsula, said with few exceptions they would be back next year, rooting for the Packers, win or lose.

PACKER ELDERS WAITING TO CONSIDER RETIREMENT

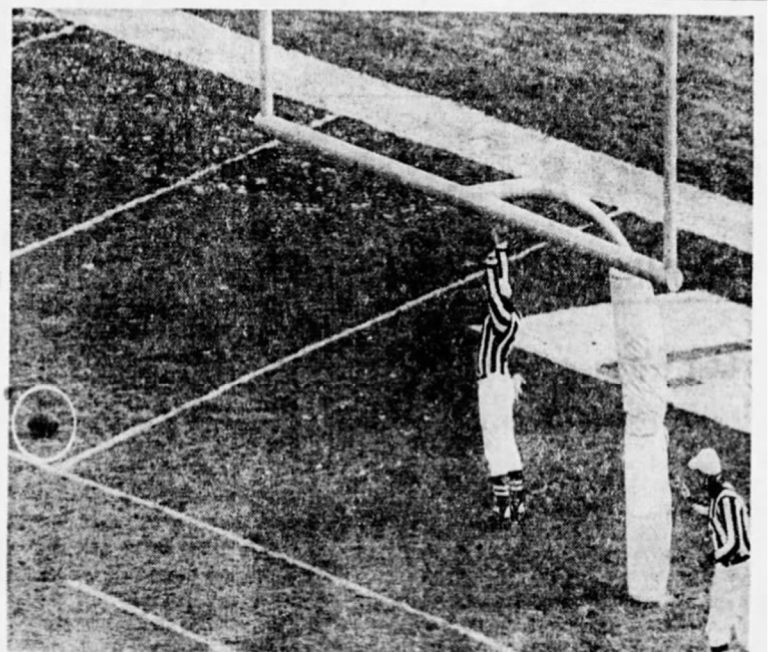
DEC 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Inevitably, near the end of a long and disappointing season, the veteran athlete talks of retirement. It thus is not surprising that such thoughts have crossed the minds of several Packer elders as they approach Sunday's season finale with the Bears in Chicago. At this point, however, none of them has officially indicated Sunday's season finale with the Bears in Chicago will be his last game in green and gold. And one, quarterback Bart Starr, reported Monday

night he definitely will return in 1969. Four of the five others surveyed indicated they will wait until after the season is over to weigh all factors at their leisure before making a decision. The other, Offensive Capt. Bob Skoronski, said, "I prefer not to make any comment now. I don't have anything to say about that at this time."...**NOT OLD CLUB:** Dispelling rumors that he was about to call it a career at 34, Starr said, "No, it's certainly not true. I don't have any plans to retire. "I'm just sorry I haven't been able to contribute more to the team in the last few weeks," continued Starr, troubled with rib injuries much of the season. "I don't have any plans to retire," Mr. Quarterback repeated, then added with a chuckle, "I hope they're not ready to ask me to." His fellow field general, Zeke Bratkowski, said, "I haven't given it any thought at all. I'm going to wait until the season is over and see what the club's plans are. I'm sure they'll be working the young quarterbacks in."...**EXPECTED LAST YEAR:** The 37-year-old veteran, a superbly conditioned performer, appended, "I really don't think we're an old ball club. Maybe chronologically, but not physically. Willie Davis, the Packers' 34-year-old defensive captain, said, "Very seriously, I'm going to take a look...I haven't made any 100 per cent decision. There are some things relative to my situation that I want to set straight before I leave town. I came back this season thinking that this would be my last year. But the season has left such a bad taste in my mouth that I hate to think I played my last game for Green Bay under such circumstances." Jerry Kramer, youngest of the polled veterans at 32, confided, "Personally, I'm going to wait and see. I can't tell yet - I'll have to get away from it for a while and look back on it..."**GET REAL DISCOURAGED:** "It's something that's ever present, ever constant on my mind, of course. But it's the kind of thing where you're up one week and down the next. Two weeks ago (following the Packers' victory over Washington), I was sure I was going to play another year. I felt we were going, but then we lost the next two and I didn't know if I wanted to play another year or not. You get real discouraged, real down...It'd be pretty silly to make a statement right now." Forrest Gregg, who is 35 and an eight-time all-NFL tackle, said, "Right now, I don't know what I'm going to do. We've got one more game to play. When that's over, I'll probably be able to make a decision."...**MENTAL PRESSURE:** Defensive tackle Henry Jordan, hampered by a back injury most of the 1968 season, took a similar position. "Really, I don't know what my decision will be," the 33-year-old Jordan said. Then, with typical Jordanian humor, he added, "I don't know if my creditors will let me retire." On a more serious note, he added, "The biggest part of my decision will be based on whether I can continue to take the mental pressure. My wife doesn't agree with me on this, because she's seen me limping around, but the mental pressure is rougher than the physical pressure. I have a big idea that's why Coach Lombardi gave up coaching, because of the mental pressure. Unless you're a participant, you can't realize what the pressure can do to you. It's with you all week in practice and during every game. You've got to be keyed up at all times. After a while, you wonder if you can make it or not."

REMEMBER TITLETOWN?

DEC 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Football Fans; Everywhere, U.S.A.; Dear Fans: This letter is coming to you from Titledown. Remember Titledown? That's our proud little hamlet, famous for bathroom tissue, mackinaws, Red Smith, electric football fields, Chili John's and the Packers. The Packers. This letter is most difficult to write because, according to the Packers' standing in the NFL, we can no longer officially claim to be Titledown. Note, however, that I said according to the NFL standings. That was intentional because, frankly, we feel that despite the Packers' unfortunate year, we remain Titledown. After all, is Los Angeles really a City of Angels? Is Brotherly Love rampant in Philadelphia? Is it windy in Chicago every day of the year?...**HUMAN NATURE VICTIMS:** The name Titledown means much more to us than a place atop the standings this one season. The name was not easily earned. It did not come about in one year. It was the amazing eight years from 1960 through 1967 that gave us the undeniable right to claim the name Titledown. In that span, the Packers won six championships of one sort or another, ranging from the Western Division to the World. And never in that span did they finish out of a post-season playoff of some sort or another. True, all that has come to an abrupt end this year. Just why is not easily pinpointed. But I suspect that our beloved Packers were simply the victims of the most dangerous of all diseases, human nature. Age, a bit of unintentional complacency, another bit of equally unintentional relaxing after all those years under a stinging whip. These are the germs in human nature that eat away at success. Then there was the law of averages that tells the ball, which once bounced your way, to

bounce the other way. And the cycle rule in sports that has brought even the Yankees to their knees...WONDERFUL OVATION: But through all this, our Tittletown supporters have not wavered. If anything they have banded even more closely together. Their wonderful, touching, standing ovation in the last minute of Saturday's game must have proven that to you. That ovation was particularly impressive because it came in the closing moments of a 16-3 defeat that drained the last ounce of optimism from virtually all of those people. Many of them were still predicting the Packers would snap out of what appeared to be a slump. But Saturday's game, in which the once awesome Packers were, well...pretty awful, confirmed what nobody really wanted to admit. Yet, that standing ovation and the sincere humility of the players, their gratefulness and their dejection at having fallen as far as they had, gave Tittletown another meaning. For no matter what the standings say, Green Bay...its team and its fan remains a champion. And the day may come...soon, I hope...when this championship spirit will again be reflected in the standings. And there are some compensations. For though I had to cancel my hotel reservations in Miami, I'm looking forward to a more relaxed holiday season. Hoping you too have happy holidays, I remain, Yours in Tittletown, L.W.



— Press-Gazette Photo by Ken Behrend
It's Good — But What is the Ball Doing There?
 Mike Mercer connected on a 45-yard field goal and ball hit the uprights and dribbled over the cross bar.

BENGTSON DECLARES HE DOESN'T EXPECT TOO MANY BAYS TO RETIRE

DEC 10 (Appleton Post-Crescent) — The Green Bay Packers' dismal climax to their worst NFL season in a decade has, not unexpectedly, produced a ream of retirement rumors. The Packers, with 13 veterans more than 30 years old, were especially gloomy after Saturday's loss to Baltimore. That best explains why retirement might have been on their minds, coach Phil Bengtson insisted Monday. "I don't think there will be wholesale retirements," Bengtson said. "A player may feel ready to quit after a defeat. But after a few weeks, they may think differently." A Minneapolis sports commentator reported he had heard No. 1 quarterback Bart Starr would be quitting after next Sunday's season finale against the Chicago Bears...**'NO COMMENT':** "I have absolutely no comment on that," Starr said Monday night. "I don't know where these things get started. I really can't say at this time, and that's as honest as I can be." Starr said he doesn't know whether his rib injuries will keep him out of the Chicago game, "but I sure want to play." He was absent from the Baltimore game. The Colts' victory in Lambeau Field, the Packers' last game of the year, was Green Bay's first NFL game since 1965 without a touchdown, and cancelled Packer chances for a fourth consecutive NFL crown. "You know what it was like? It was like playing your last college game," guard Jerry Kramer said. "We knew it was the last game here for a lot of guys. I'm telling you, it was really emotional." Kramer said it might have been "my last game in Lambeau Field," and he added such veterans as Bob Skoronski, Forrest Gregg, Henry Jordan and Starr, each with 11 or more years in pro football. Lionel Aldridge said Kramer wasn't the only Packer feeling low. "Skoronski reminded us that this was probably the last home game for a number of our veterans," Aldridge said. "It was obvious how much it meant to them. I know it made me want to play a little harder." The sellout crowd of 50,800 gave the Packers a standing ovation, and the band played "Auld Lang Syne."

LONG UNCERTAIN OF GRID FUTURE

DEC 10 (Appleton Post-Crescent) — Bob Long is not sure what his football future is. The former Packer end who became an Atlanta Falcon via a trade this year and then missed the last part of the season after being injured in an automobile crash reported Sunday he suffered two broken vertebrae which had not been previously detected. A visitor in the Packer dressing room, Long said the breaks were discovered only after he had been released from the hospital, but continued to suffer pain in his back. Long added that he will not know if he can play any more football until the breaks are completely healed. A resident of Green Bay, Long has been here for the past several days but plans to return to Atlanta this week.

NOTES AND NOTIONS

DEC 10 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - As the current ditty tells it, "Those were the days, my friends; we thought they'd never end." They were great while they lasted, but the Packer glory days are indeed over. The collapse of the status quo - the "sacking" of Tittletown, as it were - means an adjustment in the outlook of everyone in Packerland. For the Packers themselves, it means becoming a part of the vast throng of Super Bowl spectators come January and a downward revision of spending habits to exclude the usual \$25,000 in playoff winnings. For Vince Lombardi, it means taking a long, hard general manager's look at the Packer picture to see what is needed to get the Bays back in the forefront of the football parade. And, for most fans, it means re-living the vibrant Lombardi title years and voicing a "wait till next year" optimism for anyone willing to listen. There are many months ahead for post-mortems on "what went wrong?" and guesses on what might happen in the future. But, for now, there's a final piece of 1968 business — at Wrigley Field Sunday — to clean up. A title remains to be decided, and the Packers — in the unaccustomed role of "spoiler" - will play a big role in determining who their Central Division successor will be. If the Packers merely go through the motions, with a "what's the difference?" attitude, the Bears will win in a

romp. But, if the Bays are determined to hold their heads high, to end their official championship reign looking the part of champions, the Bears' high hopes for a title could yet evaporate. If there's anything left of the famed Packer pride, the team will go all out to avoid the ignominy of: (1) Three losses to the same team in a season; and (2) a last-place finish. The Bears have already beaten Green Bay in an exhibition game and in a league battle at Lambeau Field – both times by narrow margins. The Packers will indeed finish in the Central basement if they lose to the Bears and Detroit stops Washington. If the Packers need incentive, they can recall how costly the loss to the Bears was to their title chances just after they had seemingly cranked up their momentum with a big win over Dallas...Four of the six berths in the pre-Super Bowl playoffs have now been filled. Baltimore, Dallas and Cleveland, of the NFL, are certain to be in the first round of playoffs, while the New York Jets are the only sure AFL entrant to date. Minnesota and Chicago are vying for the final NFL opening, while Kansas City and Oakland are scrapping for the last AFL berth. Baltimore continues to look like the best bet to succeed Green Bay as world champion, but the caliber of some of the other qualifiers is so high that the Colts' task is thorny, to say the least. Baltimore rates a 95 on our Super Bowl index, while Chicago and Minnesota are dark horses, at 80 apiece. In the AFL, Kansas City now looks most impressive, at 92, while the Jets and the Raiders are rated at 88. The NFL carefully scheduled four season-ending games among division powers with the hope that titles might be riding on all the outcomes. But recent events have turned the Colts-Rams, Browns-Cards and Cowboys-Giants games into little more than exhibitions. Only the Bear-Packer clash retains titular flavor... The Bears, who have destroyed the myth of a "1-man football team" (even if that man is a super-star named Gale Sayers), cannot be given enough credit for hanging in the race to the final weekend despite the high incidence of key injuries. The battered bruins have overcome adversity like the Packers formerly did. This writer, among others, made the mistake of counting the Bears out of the race at least three weeks ago. Maybe the Rams made that mistake, too, and thought a little too hard about the imminent Colt game, which now doesn't mean a thing. At any rate, the Bears played like a team possessed and wouldn't be denied...The "boo-boo," in depriving the Rams of a vital down in the fading seconds of Sunday's game, climaxed a season of hard-to-believe NFL officiating inefficiency. I imagine in a way, this is poetic justice - since the Rams won a big early-season game at the expense of the Packers on a pair of controversial decisions in the closing minutes. Even so, one hates to see a mathematical blunder happen in any key game... The Eagles struck a blow for NFL integrity when they went all out to beat New Orleans - and did defeat the Saints - when it meant losing the No. 1 draft choice. While no one would accuse the 49ers of "dogging it" against Minnesota Sunday, one couldn't help but feel they didn't play with the same degree of determination and dedication they showed against the Packers the preceding week. The 49ers declared that beating the Packers was something "special," and their play certainly bore it out. That's the kind of approach the Packers were up against each week... Saturday's Packer-Colt game was disappointing in more ways than the final score. It was the first time in at least nine games of the classic series that a certain "anything can happen" electricity was missing. Baltimore didn't overpower the Packers by any means - in fact, 13 of its 16 points came the "easy" way, after a Green Bay mistake. The Packer offense was highly disappointing – as fumbles and missed signals took most of the continuity out of the attack except for a fourth-quarter drive that reached the Colt 7-yard line. Even though the Green Bay dynasty was tottering at the time, the Packers still commanded a great deal of respect. A feeling persisted that the Bays might still pull out a 1-point victory if they could have made that initial long drive pay off.

CONCANNON RECOUNTS PRAYERS, BIG FINISH

DEC 10 (Chicago Tribune) - "What a hell of a windup it's going to be! Imagine, the last game of the schedule, and we're fighting for a playoff berth, and we're playing it at home, and it's against the Packers That's the way it ought to be, right?" The whole thing seemed almost too much for Jack Concannon to grasp, just as the current exalted status of the Bears taxes the credulity of even the most avid Chicago sports fan. It's just too much, the way the Bears came roaring back from a 1 and 4 record to press their title challenge into the final week of play, and yesterday, after huddling with the coaching staff at the club's Madison street headquarters, Concannon was still all a-twitter over the 17 to 16 victory at Los Angeles Sunday...ASK EXTRA HELP: "I think everybody on the sideline was praying in the last few minutes when our defense was out there. I know I was," said the Bear quarterback. "It seemed like the last minute was going to last forever. "We tried as hard as we could - we on the offense – to give the defense a little bit more to work with. But my leg was hurting. The shot they had given me in the first quarter when I pulled a hamstring was starting to wear off, and I couldn't run well enough to call any more rollouts. So all we could do was just keep pounding off tackle at the Rams, double teaming them and trying to get some yardage with Ronnie Bull and Brian Piccolo"...YOU SAW IT HERE: Concannon actually didn't believe his head coach, Jim Dooley, who had predicted in a story carried exclusively by The Tribune last Tuesday that 17 points would beat the Rams. "I thought it would take at least 20, and that's what I was shooting for," Jack said. "I figured two touchdowns, two extra points, and two field goals was the minimum we needed, even with a great job by our defense. And we almost got 20, except for the blocked field goal." Concannon is the only quarterback in football, now that Bart Starr and the Packers have slipped from greatness, who can reveal his game plan a week ahead of time and get away with it. There never was any secret about how the Packers went about winning - they simply out blocked, out-tackled, and outexecuted every opponent. The Bears have been forced by adversity to adopt the same simple, direct formula for winning football. So Concannon can say as he did last week, without any attempt at guile, that the Bears hoped to beat the Rams by doing what the Chicago offense does best - run the ball, mix in a few rollouts, and concentrate on the short passing game. No fancy stuff... FOLLOW SAME PLAN: "That's exactly what we'll attempt to do again next Sunday against the Packers," Concannon said yesterday. "We've always felt we can run pretty well against them. We may throw a few long passes just hoping for a break. But our basic attack is the running game off tackle and the short passes." The Bear quarterback said the hamstring which tightened up on him in the last quarter Sunday was no longer bothering him yesterday. He incurred the injury while attempting to run after a screen pass play failed in the opening period. "Bull was the intended receiver," Concannon recalled. "The linebacker [Jack Pardee] keyed off Bull. For the play to succeed, Pardee would

have had to give ground and drop back. But he just stood there, and I knew the play hadn't fooled him, so I started to run. I came down hard on my heel as I tried to make a cut. That's usually when you pull hamstrings." None of the Bears apparently were aware at the time of the mistake made by officials which deprived the Rams of a down during their frantic, futile bid for the winning score...**BEAR COACH EXCITED:** "To me, it looked like the Rams had about eight downs - not three!" quipped Dooley. "My eyes were going back and forth from the clock to the quarterback [Roman Gabriel] to the deep receivers downfield. I wasn't looking at the downs marker. The excitement was overwhelming." Although the Bears got their share of breaks in the game, they survived a wave of minor misfortunes of the type which used to do them in. Guard George Seals came up with his weekly holding penalty and Punter Jon Kilgore, who was presented to the Bears at midseason by the Rams with George Allen's compliments, became a Trojan horse by getting two kicks blocked. Additionally, Ron Smith, a former Bear, was responsible for blocking one of Mac Percival's two field goal tries. But all in all, the Bears came up with a fantastic performance. There was nothing flukish about the Chicago victory. It was Concannon's finest game in a Bear uniform, the blocking by the offensive line was of major league caliber, and Linebacker Dick Butkus once again demonstrated that he may be the greatest football player in the country. Now it's back to Wrigley field for one final 1968 stand for the Bears. Win, lose, or draw against the Packers, they won't be back in Chicago until next year...**HOME SWAN SONG:** If the Bears beat Green Bay, their next stop will be against the Colts Dec. 22 in Baltimore for the Western conference championship. The winner of that one goes to either Dallas or Cleveland for the NFL title game Dec. 29. Then it's on to Miami and the Super bowl Jan. 12 - or is that getting ahead of the story even in this wacky, wild and wooly season?

STARR STORY ONLY OPINION

DEC 11 (Minneapolis) – The Associated Press said today it erred in a Monday story about the rumored retirement of Packer quarterback Bart Starr. It quoted Hal Scott, sports commentator for WCCO-TV, as saying Starr would retire at the end of this season. Scott offered the statement as his own personal opinion. The Associated Press also quoted Hal Scott as saying his source for the report was his brother, Ray Scott. Ray Scott is a former regular telecaster for Packer games and a CBS sports announcer who makes his home in the Twin Cities. Both brothers said there had been no communication between them on the subject before Hal Scott's telecast.

ROZELLE CONSIDERS, GORDY DEFENDS LOMBARDI 'LOSERS' BOWL STATEMENT

DEC 11 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Vince Lombardi's incidental criticism of the NFL's Playoff Bowl has been defended by John Gordy, president of the NFL Players Association. which is the game's chief beneficiary. Lombardi, who reportedly incurred the displeasure of the commissioner's office, had been criticized for his quote in an ad in the Wall Street Journal: entitled, "What it takes to be No. 1." It reads: "There is no room for second place. There is only one place in my game and that is first place. There is a second place bowl game, but it is a game for losers played by losers." The Playoff Bowl matches second place teams in the two NFL conferences. Gordy, a guard for the Detroit Lions, said, "I would believe, under Mr. Lombardi's philosophy - which is not of a second place nature in anything he does and which I appreciate as a player - that in all probability the mention of the Playoff Bowl was brought in as a point of emphasis. I wouldn't think people who might be going to the runner up game or think about watching it on TV would be affected by Lombardi's statement. Only their way of life. People think of him as a winner." Commissioner Pete Rozelle said, "We are looking into the matter. The ad was brought to my attention the day it was published." Commenting about reaction to the ad by the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS). Which telecasts the game, Rozelle said, "Forget TV. It is against us (the NFL) and the gate."

CONCANNON, DEFENSE CHIEF PACK PROBLEMS

DEC 11 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The last time the Packers fraternized with the Bears, they ran afoul of Gale Sayers and Virgil Carter. The incomparable Sayers amassed 205 yards rushing as Carter, the Bears' Cinderella quarterback, maneuvered the Midway Monsters to a 13-10 victory in Lambeau Field Nov. 3. Both Bruins since have fallen prey to disabling injuries and will be confined to spectator roles when the Packers collide with the Chicagoans for the 100th time in the windy city's Wrigley Field Sunday afternoon. But the recently deposed world champions will have new problems to face in the upcoming exchange, not the least of them that potent intangible, momentum...**HECTIC DECISION:** The Bears have it in considerable measure following their hectic 17-16 decision over the Rams in Los Angeles last Sunday, an item which held them in the NFL's Central Division race. And they also have a revitalized Jack Concannon, the Bears' original No. 1 quarterback this season, who has returned to the throttle in Carter's absence. Wally Cruice, the Packers' veteran chief game scout, feels the one-time Philadelphia Eagle will provide the Bays with their most difficult moments in Sunday's match...**LOT OF CONFIDENCE:** Cruice, here Tuesday to enlighten the Pack about the Bears, said, "Concannon's had a lot of experience and he has a lot of confidence now. "He's unorthodox - he uses a lot of rollouts and bootlegs, so it's difficult for teams to play against him. And the Bears have been made to realize they've got to go with that style or they don't have anything, with Sayers gone...And they've done a remarkable job, coming back like they have since losing him."...**SIMPLE FORMULA:** Cruice's assessment is corroborated by the Chicago Tribune's Cooper Rollow, who Tuesday noted, "Concannon is the only quarterback in football, now that ... the Packers have slipped from greatness, who can reveal his game plan a week ahead of time and get away with it. There never was any secret

Yardmaster			
OFFENSE			
	Yards Rushing	Yards Passing	Total
Dallas	1962	2835	4797
Cleveland	1902	2669	4571
Baltimore	1745	2728	4473
San Francisco	1536	2715	4251
New York	1828	2177	4005
St. Louis	1793	2066	3859
Pittsburgh	1570	2280	3850
Los Angeles	1767	2025	3792
Chicago	2232	1535	3767
Green Bay	1684	2024	3708
Detroit	1572	2082	3654
New Orleans	1442	2078	3520
Washington	1092	2348	3440
Minnesota	1776	1550	3326
Philadelphia	1281	1994	3275
Atlanta	1254	1760	3014
DEFENSE			
	Yards Rushing	Yards Passing	Total
Los Angeles	1230	1680	2910
Baltimore	1174	1891	3065
Green Bay	1666	1639	3305
Dallas	1141	2173	3314
Minnesota	1773	1699	3472
Detroit	1608	2021	3629
Cleveland	1639	2127	3766
San Francisco	1725	2145	3870
New Orleans	1954	1987	3941
New York	1872	2149	4021
Chicago	1639	2416	4055
St. Louis	1429	2672	4101
Philadelphia	1996	2238	4234
Washington	2064	2251	4315
Pittsburgh	1539	2903	4442
Atlanta	1987	2875	4862

about how the Packers went about winning - they simply out blocked, outtackled and outexecuted every opponent. "The Bears have been forced by adversity to adopt the same simple, direct formula for winning football. So Concannon can say as he did last week, without any attempt at guile, that the Bears hoped to beat the Rams by doing what the Chicago offense does best-run the ball, mix in a few rollouts, and concentrate on the short passing game. No fancy stuff."...**RUN OFF TACKLE:** "That's exactly what he'll attempt to do again next Sunday against the Packers," Concannon told Rollow. "We've always felt we can run pretty well against them. We may throw a few long passes just hoping for a break. But our basic attack is the running game off tackle and the short passes. The Bear quarterback said the hamstring which tightened up on him in the last quarter Sunday is no longer bothering him. He incurred the injury while attempting to run after a screen pass play failed in the opening period," Rollow added. Troublesome though he is likely to be, Concannon will not be the Packers' only problem as they attempt to salvage a final moment of glory from a disappointing season. "The Bears have been winning games on their defense," Cruice notes. "Their offense hasn't been getting too many points for the defense."...**FEW INJURIES:** The secret, he added, "is they haven't had any injuries on the defensive team. They've been able to keep the unit together...They had some problems earlier in the season, when they gave up 38 points to Washington and 42 to Detroit, but since then they've changed everything around as far as the principal of the defense is concerned...And they've put Joe Taylor in there at one halfback for Curtiss Gentry." Concannon, with a contending team for the first time after stints with the somewhat less successful Boston Patriots and Eagles, reportedly is overcome by it all. "What a heck of a windup it's going to be!" he told Rollow. "Imagine, the last game of the schedule, and we're fighting for a playoff berth, and we're playing it at home, and it's against the Green Bay Packers. That's the way it ought to be, right?"...**PACKER PATTERN:** Packer Coach Phil Bengtson Tuesday drilled his athletes for the first time since Saturday's loss to Baltimore. They worked out in Lambeau Field, instead of on the S. Oneida Street practice field, and will continue to practice there the rest of the week, he said...Bengtson announced that quarterback Don Horn, who rejoined the team a week ago after a 4 1/2-month service hitch, may be activated for Sunday's game. A decision will be made later in the week, he said, adding, "We'll see how he looks and if he picks up the stuff"...It is not certain at this point whether starting quarterback Bart Starr will be available, Bengtson also reported. "We're going to give him a couple more days' rest and see what it looks like," he said. Starr, who re-injured his ribs in San Francisco two weeks ago, was forced to sit out the Colt game...The Bears were excused from practice Tuesday morning to attend the funeral of Phil Handler, veteran assistant coach who died shortly after watching the Bears' narrow victory over the Rams Sunday but reported for a squad meeting in the afternoon.

MATTER OF BOUNCING BACK

DEC 11 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "I hate to go home for Christmas...It means we're not here getting ready for something." The author of this somewhat doleful pronouncement was Bob Hyland, the Packers' huge sophomore center, even more prominent than usual in a nearly empty dressing room. "Now," he said, half to himself, "it's a matter of bouncing back." It being the final day of a short vacation for the recently deposed world champions, Hyland subsequently was persuaded to pause for reflection upon a more pleasant personal development. The former Boston College luminary, a sometime Packer regular in 1967, had made his first start of the season in Saturday's 16-3 loss to the Colts. "It's a strange feeling," he confided. "That was the first contact I've had this year...since August." Hyland, who went the first three quarters against the Hosses before being relieved by incumbent Ken Bowman, said he found it difficult to assess his performance. "I really don't know right now how well I did. It having been the first time I've played this season, it's pretty hard to tell. I watched the replay on television at midnight and it wasn't as bad on television as I thought I had done." "But," he added ruefully, "I haven't seen it in our films yet and I'm sure Coach Wietecha will have some pointed comments to make. It's kind of hard to come back after such a long layoff and do very well, I guess, although I was hoping to."...**'YOU'RE NEVER SATISFIED':** This prompted the handsome White Plains, N.Y., native, one of sports' more articulate citizens, to philosophize for a moment. "It's great playing on the special teams," he said. "Their success definitely can make a difference in whether you win or lose. But the name of the game is still to be one of those top 22 guys...You're never satisfied until you are with this select group. I was very happy to make a bit of a return. I came back here with high hopes this year. I took a new attitude on my weight and decided I'd get down to 250 to see how it would be. I played at close to 260 last year. I worked like a dog in the off-season to get down to 250. But the coaches became dissatisfied with me early in the season and, very seldom after a season starts, do they change that lineup. They decided on Kenny Bowman early in the season...**HAVEN'T BEEN COMPLACENT:** "I know one thing, that Ken and I have never been complacent because we've got this little rivalry going," Hyland continued. "I try to help him as much as I can and he does the same." Had Saturday's assignment given him new hope for 1969? "This is the way I'm looking at next year," he replied. "The first week after the season ends, I'm going to be thinking of next year. I hope everybody who is returning here will be doing the same thing. We're going to have to rededicate ourselves to winning. Whatever the price is, we're going to have to pay it. We've never known anything but success and I don't think we'll be satisfied with anything less." Turning to the matter at hand, Sunday's season finale against the title-contending Bears in Chicago, Hyland concluded, "We've got to finish in a strong way...For the first time we don't have anything to lose."

NEW TUNE FOR STARR AND PACKERS - AS SPOILERS

DEC 11 (Chicago Tribune) - Bart Starr was teary-eyed as he trudged up the concrete ramp to the dressing room after last Saturday's Packer loss to Baltimore in Green Bay. Starr hadn't played in the game in which the Colts pounded the final nail into the Packer coffin, except to hold for Mike Mercer's placement kicks. But the veteran quarterback obviously was moved as the crowd of 50,800 gave the Packers a farewell ovation and the band played "Auld Lang Syne."...**"TOO GOOD A TEAM":** "This is too good a team to have this happen to, way too good a team." Starr mumbled as he slouched on a folding chair in front of a locker which bore his name. The sign on the adjoining locker read "Zeke Bratkowski" and Starr began slowly to peel off his uniform as the inevitable semicircle of reporters assembled around Bratkowski, who had played the entire game at quarterback while Starr rested his ailing ribs. Zeke, who at 37 is three

years older than Starr, also was mumbling, but for different reasons. Bratkowski felt a personal responsibility for what had just happened to the Packers. His passing arm had not been sharp, he had fumbled away the ball at a crucial time, and he felt he had failed his teammates when they needed him most. "I only wish I could have done a better job," Bratkowski said. "The Colts are a tremendous team, but we could have beaten them."...**KRAMER EMOTIONAL:** Across the locker room, Guard Jerry Kramer was talking about emotion. "This may have been my last game in Lambeau field," said Kramer. "It's time to start thinking about retirement. You know what it was like out there? It was like playing your last college game. I felt real high emotionally." Will the Packers be able to rise to an emotional or competitive edge against the Bears Sunday in Wrigley field, now that Green Bay has been eliminated from the title picture? "A Packer-Bear game could never be meaningless to us," Kramer said. "It's always our biggest game, whether a championship is at stake or not. We might just be pretty good spoilers."... **KNOWS WHAT'S WRONG:** Returning to the subject of emotion in football, a pet Kramer theme, the veteran Packer guard said he thought he could put his finger on what ailed the Green Bay club this year. "It wasn't over age or any of the other reasons that have been advanced," Kramer said. "It was simply that we had a difficult time getting keyed up high enough Sunday after Sunday as we had done in previous years.

"We used to come up high emotionally for almost every game, certainly for every big game. This season we just couldn't seem to get that adrenalin running."...**IT'S UP TO COACH:** Without mentioning Coach Phil Bengtson by name, Kramer gently rapped Bengtson's knuckles. "The most important job of a coach is to get his team 'up' to play Sunday after Sunday. Not all coaches have this ability. Vince (Lombardi, retired Packer coach and now general manager) had it. He could fire you up just by looking at you."

HONOR BUTKUS FOR UPSET ROLE

DEC 12 (Chicago Tribune) – After a two-day layoff, the Bears yesterday began preparations for Sunday's Wrigley field final with Green Bay which they hope will be a springboard to the post-season playoffs. And as Coach Jim Dooley's men trotted out onto the surprisingly green playing turf in Wrigley field on an unseasonably mild December day, they learned that one of their members had been honored for his performance in last Sunday's thrilling victory in Los Angeles...**MODEST ABOUT HONOR:** Dick Butkus, the Bears' fiery middle linebacker, was named defensive player of the week by the Associated Press for his demonstration of winning football against the Rams. Butkus, who intercepted a pass and recovered a fumble in addition to putting on a fierce, one-man display of helmet-rattling, was typically modest as he accepted congratulations. "Actually, I don't know that it was even my best game of the season," said the one-time Illinois star. "But I appreciate the honor very much. Everybody had a great day Sunday - Dick Evey, Jim Purnell, and Doug Buffone especially. It was a big day for the team." Dooley, commenting on Butkus' performance against the Rams, declared, "Dick is a pro every game. He is consistently outstanding. He got more help this time than he had been getting. It's the kind of team effort we're going to need against Green Bay."...**WORK 90 MINUTES:** After putting the Bears thru a 90-minute workout in which the running game which will be used against the Packers was installed, Dooley indicated he would not be surprised if Bart Starr returns at quarterback for Green Bay. Zeke Bratkowski played last weekend against Baltimore while Starr nursed his sore ribs. "I think we may see Starr this week-it's just a hunch," the Bear coach said. "At least we have to plan to face Starr, even though he may not play." The Bears must be ready to face any one of a number of offensive formations. The Packers, in this "down" year, have departed from their standard attack on two different occasions, with a noticeable lack of success...**DOWLER IS SWITCHED:** Against the Bears in an earlier meeting this season, Green Bay put in the slot formation which other opponents had used successfully against Chicago. The Bear defense had no difficulty containing the Packer version of the slot. Last Saturday in the losing effort against Baltimore, Green Bay benched Marv Fleming and made Boyd Dowler into a full-time tight end during the first half for the first time in his career. Bratkowski threw only one pass in Dowler's direction and at half time the experiment was junked, Dowler returning to his normal split end spot and Fleming resuming his regular post at tight end. Reached in Green Bay yesterday, Dowler explained that "we were striving for a little more mobility, and Coach [Phil] Bengtson thought maybe this was the answer. Of course, I can't block in the same league with Fleming, although I didn't do a bad job. In the second half, it became obvious we had to get our running game going so we went back to our regular positions..."**HE HAS "GRADUATED":** "The older and slower you get," quipped Dowler, "the more positions you get to play. When Max [McGee] was playing, I was a flanker. He made me look like a nine-second man. Then I became a split end, and now I've 'graduated' to tight end." Donny Anderson, Packer halfback, yesterday reacted indignantly when asked if the coaches had taken him to task for dropping the ball at two critical moments against the Colts. "I didn't 'drop the ball', Anderson snapped. "I fumbled. There's a difference. Dropping the ball is like kicking the can. You fumble when you get hit."



(TRIBUNE Staff Photos: By Phil Mascione)

Meeting of the Minds

Quarterback Jack Concannon (left) and Coach Jim Dooley conferring at practice session in which Bears worked on maneuvers to be used against Green Bay Sunday.

Dooley, discussing the matter of fumbles, speculated that there probably is a good reason when Packer running backs lose the ball. [Fullback Jim Grabowski has a history of fumbling against the Bears, incidentally]. "Vince Lombardi has drummed that philosophy of running with abandon into the Packers for so many years," said Dooley, "that they all really hit in there hard. Sometimes they hit so hard they get the ball jarred away from them." "That's our job," said Ed O'Bradovich, the man of a thousand words, "to jar the ball away from them."

Packers, Bears First To Hit 100-Game Milestone

PACKERS, BEARS FIRST TO HIT 100-GAME MILESTONE

DEC 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) — It has been somewhat obscured by the Packers' recent dethronement, not to mention distracting championship overtones, but a great sports milestone will be reached in Chicago's venerable Wrigley Field Sunday afternoon. Green Bay's erstwhile triple titlists and their immemorial antagonists will become the first teams in pro football's half century history to meet for the 100th time. There are several other rivalries of substantial longevity, particularly that of the Bears And St. Louis (nee Chicago) Cardinals, which began a year prior to the first Packer-Bear collision in 1921, but none which begins to compare in frequency of combat. The Bears and Cardinals, for example, have played "only" 75 times, partially because they did not meet between 1959 and 1965, the first five years the Redbirds were in St. Louis...SALUTE HALL OF FAME: Sunday's match, upon which hinges the NFL's Central Division championship, thus deserves special treatment. And such it will have. All of the living Hall of Fame members of both teams will be saluted between halves, as well as in a special, expanded souvenir game program. One of them, Bear founder George Halas, will be honored in absentia. Papa Bear warded the game ball following the Bruins' hairline 17-16 victory over the Rams last Sunday, is still in a London hospital recovering from surgery to correct a hip condition. The Bears' quarterback coach, Sid Luckman, also will be missing from the field because his presence will be required in the Chicago dressing room, and Jimmy Conzelman will not be in attendance, but 14 other P-B luminaries of the past will be much in evidence. The Monsters of the Midway will be represented by the legendary Bronko Nagurski (1930-37 and 1943), Ed Healey (1920-27) Link Lyman (1922-34), Red Grange (1925-37), Joe Stydahar (1936-42), and 1945-46), Danny Fortmann (1936-46), George (Brute) Trafton (1920-32) and Clyde (Bulldog) Turner (1940-52). For the Packers, the immortal passing combination of Arnie Herber (1930-41) and Don Hutson (1935-45) will be briefly reunited on the turf on Wrigley Field where, in 1935, they collaborated for two touchdowns in the last three minutes to forge an electrifying, 17-14 victory and a rare sweep of the season series. They will be joined by their longtime teammate, Clarke Hinkle (1932-41), Cal Hubbard (1929-35), Mike Michalske (1929-37) and the fabled John Blood McNally (1929-33 and 1935-36). Later, in the evening, there will be unique gathering at Chicago's Edgewater Beach Hotel, where the Packer Hall of Famers will be guests of the Bears at their annual alumni soiree, first such fraternization in the rivalry's history. Before that comes to pass, however, their present day counterparts will be enhancing the rich and colorful tradition of their 48-year-old series by deciding the Central Division title. Barring a major upset in Philadelphia, where the co-leading Vikings meet the Eagles, it is incumbent upon the Bears to win if they hope to make the NFL's Western Conference playoff a week hence. A victory is essential for the Bears, since the co-leading Minnesota Vikings figure to handle the oft-beaten Eagles in Philadelphia, But the Packers, dedicated to finishing on a happy note, relish the role of potential spoiler. If the green and gold should pull off an upset - they are three-point underdogs at this juncture - they would reach a new plateau. It would be their 40th success in the all-time feud, compared to 54 defeats and 6 ties. The Packers, 13-10 Bear victims at Lambeau Field Nov. 2, have not lost a season series to the Monsters since 1963 and have won 11 of their last 15 meetings.

PACKERS' DUBIOUS DISTINCTION - SHARE NFL LEAD IN FUMBLES

DEC 12 (Green Bay) — The Green Bay Packers are used to leading many categories in the NFL statistics. But in the latest figures, Green Bay leads an unfamiliar category - fumbles. The Packers have fumbled 23 times this season to share the lead in that department with

National Football League Statistics

LEADING PASSERS (Thru 13 Games)												
	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yards	TDs	LP	Int.	Pct.	Av.			
Meredith, Dallas	300	170	56.7	2494	21	65	11	3.7	8.31			
Morrall, Balt.	303	177	58.4	2812	25	84	17	5.6	9.28			
Starr, G. B.	171	109	63.7	1617	15	63	8	4.7	9.46			
Brodie, S. F.	221	122	55.2	2804	22	65	19	5.0	7.44			
Tarkenton, N. Y.	294	161	54.8	2285	20	84	12	4.1	7.77			
Nelsen, Clev.	270	143	53.0	2150	19	87	10	3.7	7.96			
Jurgensen, Wash.	292	167	57.2	1980	17	99	11	3.8	6.78			
Munson, Det.	293	161	54.9	2053	15	86	7	2.4	7.01			
Gabriel, L. A.	339	166	49.0	2167	18	60	15	4.4	6.39			
Berry, Atl.	153	81	52.9	1433	7	66	13	8.5	9.37			
Kilmer, N. O.	279	150	53.8	1768	13	47	17	6.1	6.34			
Shiner, Pitt.	288	143	49.7	1745	17	61	16	5.6	6.06			
Harl, St. L.	295	131	44.4	1938	13	80	18	6.1	6.57			
Kapp, Minn.	238	122	51.3	1560	8	61	17	7.1	6.55			
Snead, Phil.	265	134	50.6	1490	9	55	21	7.9	5.62			

Standings based on completion percentage, touchdown passes, interception percentage, and average yards gained. LP—Longest pass [yards].

LEADING SCORERS												
	TR	TP	TT	EP	FG	T						
Kelly, Clev.	15	4	19	0	0	114						
Clark, Dallas	0	0	0	50	17	107						
Michalske, Balt.	0	0	0	44	18	98						
Percival, Bears	0	0	0	22	23	91						
Cockroft, Clev.	0	0	0	45	15	90						
Cox, Minn.	0	0	0	28	18	82						
Gossett, L. A.	0	0	0	34	16	82						
Brown, Minn.	11	2	13	0	0	78						
Durkee, N. O.	0	0	0	24	18	78						
Bakken, St. L.	0	0	0	37	13	74						
Gogolak, N. Y.	0	0	0	35	13	74						
Warfield, Clev.	0	12	12	0	0	72						

TR—Touchdowns by runs. TP—Touchdowns by passes. TT—Total touchdowns. EP—Extra points. FG—Field goals. T—Total points.

LEADING RUSHERS												
	Att.	Yds.	Av.	L	TDs							
Kelly, Clev.	238	1172	4.9	65	15							
Woodesick, Phil.	193	867	4.5	54	3							
Sayre, Bears	138	856	6.2	63	2							
Willard, S. F.	202	805	4.0	28	5							
Hoak, Pitt.	159	777	4.9	77	3							
Perkins, Dallas	179	772	4.3	28	4							
Brenshaw, St. L.	183	744	4.1	66	4							
Brown, Minn.	200	727	3.6	32	11							
Anderson, G. B.	158	707	4.5	42	5							
Mattie, Balt.	175	631	3.6	23	8							
Farr, Det.	128	597	4.7	46	3							
McCall, N. O.	145	579	4.0	48	4							
Gros, Pitt.	151	579	3.8	44	3							
Jones, Minn.	128	536	4.2	43	1							
Lewis, S. F.	127	513	4.0	22	1							

L—Longest run [yards].

LEADING PASS RECEIVERS												
	No.	Yds.	Av.	L	TDs							
McNeill, S. F.	49	975	19.7	1	7							
Jefferson, Pitt.	52	935	18.0	10	10							
Hayes, Dallas	50	879	17.6	9	7							
Abramowicz, N. O.	50	828	16.6	7	9							
Taylor, Wash.	48	650	13.5	5	5							
Warfield, Clev.	47	963	20.5	12	12							
Rentzel, Dallas	47	879	18.7	6	6							
Smith, St. L.	46	746	16.2	2	2							
Smith, Wash.	44	618	14.0	4	4							
Washington, Minn.	43	706	16.4	5	5							
Williams, S. L.	43	682	15.9	4	4							
Mackey, Balt.	43	626	14.6	5	5							
Jones, N. Y.	42	976	23.2	7	7							
Dale, G. B.	42	818	19.5	8	8							
Morin, Clev.	42	789	18.8	5	5							

INTERCEPTION LEADERS												
	No.	Yds.	L	TDs								
Davis, Clev.	8	162	44	0								
Boyd, Balt.	8	160	49	1								
Alexander, S. F.	8	155	66	1								
Owens, Wash.	8	109	38	0								
Williams, N. Y.	8	67	21	0								
Lockhart, N. Y.	7	130	72	2								
Krause, Minn.	7	82	29	0								
Williams, L. A.	7	51	36	0								

LEADING PUNTERS												
	No.	Yds.	Av.	L								
Lothridge, Atl.	68	44.4	70	44								
Bragg, Wash.	70	43.6	64	44								
Latourette, St. L.	60	41.7	55	44								
Widby, Dallas	53	41.7	84	55								
Baker, Phil.	51	41.2	55	84								
McNeill, N. O.	42	40.8	58	84								
Depoyster, Detroit	66	40.6	60	58								
Anderson, Green Bay	52	40.6	65	58								
Walden, Pitt.	62	40.5	57	58								
Studsill, L. A.	75	39.7	57	58								
Lee, Balt.	45	39.1	59	57								
Spurrier, S. F.	64	38.9	54	57								
Cockroft, Clev.	58	38.5	59	57								

PUNT RETURN LEADERS												
	No.	Yds.	Av.	L	TDs							
Hayes, Dallas	14	249	17.8	90	1							
Haymond, Phil.	15	201	13.4	54	1							
Latourette, St. L.	28	345	12.3	86	1							
West, Minn.	18	188	10.4	98	1							
Jefferson, Pitt.	26	258	9.9	80	1							
Meador, L. A.	16	130	8.1	40	0							
Brown, Balt.	16	125	7.8	25	0							
Rentzel, Dallas	13	97	7.5	27	0							
Voik, Balt.	23	170	7.4	24	0							
Harris, Wash.	12	132	7.3	20	0							
Smith, G. B.	16	111	6.9	52	0							
Smith, A.	26	171	6.6	24	0							

KICKOFF RETURN LEADERS												
	No.	Yds.	Av.	L	TDs							
Pearson, Balt.	13	463	35.6	102	2							
Smith, L. A.	24	682	28.4	94	1							
Barney, Det.	24	652	27.2	98	1							
Sayer, Bears	17	461	27.1	46	0							
Latourette, St. L.	41	1083	26.4	75	0							
Harris, Wash.	21	541	25.8	49	0							
West, Minn.	20	512	25.6	82	0							
Baynham, Dallas	22	557	25.3	40	0							
Adderley, G. B.	13	320	24.6	50	0							
Shy, Pitt.	28	622	22.2	80	0							
Haymond, Phil	27	655	24.3	98	1							
Howard, N. O.	32	533	23.2	36	0							
Leigh, Clev.	14	322	23.0	41	0							

the Washington Redskins. The opposition has gathered in 17 of the Packers bobbles – and recovered fumbles have a tendency to lead to scores. Green Bay also has given the ball away 15 times on pass interceptions. Six lost fumbles by Donny Anderson have marred an otherwise good season. Anderson leads Packer rushers and is ninth in the league with 707 yards on 158 carries; has caught 25 passes for 333 yards; has scored six touchdowns and averaged 40.6 yards on 52 punts. Jim Grabowski has lost four fumbles, Zeke Bratkowski and Claudis James two each and Travis Williams, Willie Wood and Herb Adderley one apiece. Last season Green Bay lost only 10 fumbles.

PHILADELPHIA OFFICIAL DENIES MOVE OF VINCE

DEC 12 (New Orleans-Appleton Post-Crescent) – The chief aide of Philadelphia Mayor James Tate said Wednesday afternoon there was "nothing tangible" to the rumor in recent months that Vince Lombardi would take over the Philadelphia Eagles. Lombardi, general manager of the Green Bay Packers who retired from coaching this year, has been mentioned prominently in pro football and Philadelphia circles as the possible member of a group that might buy the Eagles. "The people of Philadelphia would be glad to have him (Lombardi) come," commented Tony Zacca, Mayor Tate's No. 1 staff man. "There has been no official contact with the mayor's office on the matter." Zacca replied to a question. Usually, big city mayors know of impending major developments in their metropolitan areas. Zacca said there was probably more speculation outside of Philadelphia that Lombardi might eventually have something to do with the Eagles. Jerry Wolman, owner of the Eagles, is having financial difficulties. General manager-coach Joe Kuharich has rated low on the popular and won-lost polls. Rumors started in October that Lombardi might be the member of a combine seeking to buy the Philadelphia club. Lombardi, who has a long-term contract as Packer general manager, has repeatedly denied he will leave Green Bay. In Wisconsin, and during the NLC convention here, some mayors from the Badger State speculate that Lombardi intends to eventually seek public office. Zacca said in parting, "I don't know the situation with the Eagles today. We've got a two-game winning streak going, you know."

FOUR-DIVISION SYSTEM COMPARED WITH PAST PRO FOOTBALL SETUP

DEC 12 (New York) - The new four-division system in the NFL finds three champions crowned before the final week and only the Chicago-Minnesota battle in the Central Division still to be determined. Dallas already has won the Capitol, Cleveland the Century and Baltimore the Coastal. In the old days when the league was split only into an Eastern and Western Conference, there still would be a fight in the East with Dallas holding a one-game edge over Cleveland. Baltimore would have been home safe in any case. Just for kicks, here is the way they would line up under the old system:

Eastern Conference

Dallas	11-2
Cleveland	10-3
St. Louis	8-4-1
New York	7-6
Washington	4-9
New Orleans	3-9-1
Pittsburgh	2-10-1
Philadelphia	2-11

Western Conference

Baltimore	12-1
Los Angeles	10-2-1
Chicago	7-6
Minnesota	7-6
San Francisco	6-6-1
Green Bay	5-7-1
Detroit	4-7-2
Atlanta	2-11

You get some weird standings if you confine the present four divisions to games played among the teams in their own division. Here's the way it would look with one game to go:

Century Division

St. Louis	4-0-1
Cleveland	4-1
New Orleans	1-4
Pittsburgh	0-4-1

Capitol Division

New York	5-0
Dallas	4-1
Washington	2-4
Philadelphia	0-6

Central Division

Minnesota	3-2
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Chicago	3-2
Detroit	3-2-1
Green Bay	0-4-1

Coastal Division

Baltimore	5-0
Los Angeles	3-1-1
San Francisco	1-3-1
Atlanta	0-5

It is interesting to note that Green Bay did not win a single game in its own division, managing only a tie with Detroit. Of course, the Packers still have one big game to go against the Bears Sunday. When the powers that be get around to setting up the merged leagues for 1970, they might be interested in tossing around some of those division standings with an eye on future scheduling.

PACKERS EYE HORN

DEC 12 (Green Bay) - With Bart Starr ailing, and Zeke Bratkowski feeling the effects of his 37 years, the Green Bay Packers may activate their second-year quarterback, Don Horn, for their game against the Bears in Chicago Sunday. Horn at the moment is not on the Packer roster, having been released from the army just before Thanksgiving. Coach Phil Bengtson said, "there's a real good possibility" Horn will be activated. "Not to start - at least I don't think so - but to play later in the game. "We hold out every hope that Bart will be ready," Bengtson said. "If he is, then of course, he'll play. We have to go with every veteran we can in this one."

BAYS' DAVIS NOT SURE IF HE'LL RETIRE

DEC 13 (Green Bay) - The 100th renewal of the NFL's oldest rivalry was scheduled to be the swan song for Willie Davis. Now he's not sure. "When I went to camp (last summer), I really had the feeling that we would win a fourth straight championship," the Green Bay Packers defensive end said. "If we had won, this would have been my last year." The Packers slipped under new coach Phil Bengtson to a 5-7-1 record, their worst in a decade. But they still will have a say in who wins the Central Division crown. If Green Bay wins Sunday over Chicago, the title and a Western Conference playoff berth goes to Minnesota. If the Packers lose, Chicago will meet the Baltimore Colts. "We fell short in such a way that it has left a bad taste in my mouth," said Davis, an 11-year veteran from Grambling (La.) College...

IN 17TH ROUND: The 6-foot-3, 245-pound defensive co-captain was drafted in the 17th round by the Cleveland Browns in 1956. After serving a military stint, Davis was traded to Green Bay in 1959. He was named to The Associated Press All-Pro team in 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967 and has played in the last five Pro Bowl games. "If I was convinced that through the draft and off-season trades the club would be better without me, then I might call it quits," Davis said. "I'm not sure right now what I'm going to do." Turning to the Packer misfortunes, Davis said it was a multitude of things that led to their dethronement. "Lack of consistency, injuries, kicking problems: when you put together all these things you can readily see why the Green Bay Packers failed to win again," he said. "One thing that hurt us as much as anything was our kicking," Davis said. "If we had had successful kicking early in the season we could have won at least a couple more games. That would have meant we could have won the division title a week ago." "Injuries hurt us, especially in our defensive line, and Bart (Starr, quarterback) missed almost five games." Davis knocked the idea that the Packers lost because of their ages. "Look at Baltimore," he said. The Colts' highly-regarded defense include Bob Boyd, 30, and Lenny Lyles, 32, at halfbacks; linebacker Don Shinnick, 33, and linemen Billy Ray Smith, 33, and Ordell Braase, 36. Other "senior citizens" at Baltimore include quarterbacks Earl Morrall, 34, and John Unitas, 35; center Dick Szymanski, 35; receivers Timmy Brown, 31; Alex Hawkins, 31, and Jimmy Orr, 32, and kicker Lou Michaels, 31. "The older guys at Green Bay are really grading out higher," Davis said. "Forrest Gegg (34) may not be as good as he was four years ago, but he still is probably our top lineman." "As long as performance is there, age doesn't matter," Davis said. "The real key is whether a player has the desire, spirit or attitude to play the game. You have to have the dedication to pay the price it takes to win."

ALDRIDGE CREDITS RECOVERED ANKLE FOR PERSONAL LATE SEASON SURGE

DEC 13 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Joel David Hanner, all-pro as a player and perfectionist as a coach, is not easily impressed. But the Packers' defense chief shook his blond head in admiration after viewing the performance of Lionel Aldridge against the Colts on film earlier in the week. "Lionel played great," the massive Arkansan declared. It was the latest, he subsequently pointed out, in a series of superior efforts from Aldridge, who has been little short of sensational in recent weeks...NOTHING MYSTERIOUS: The subject of Hanner's accolade, who finishes out his sixth NFL semester against the Bears in Chicago Sunday afternoon, says there is nothing mysterious about his late season surge. "The reason for it is that I'm healthy," Aldridge informed during a post-practice assessment Thursday. "I hurt my ankle, the same one I broke last year, in one of our pre-season games and it continued to bother me," he explained. "I kept re-injuring it every week. Then, finally, I got through a few games without hurting it again and it healed up pretty well. Now it's a



The Green Bay Packers will face one of the National Football League's toughest defenses Sunday when they invade Chicago to face the Bears. The Bears' Roosevelt Taylor (24) is shown upending the Rams' Mike Dennis in last Sunday's game. No. 53 is Bear linebacker Jim Purnell, former University of Wisconsin star. (AP Wirephoto)

100 per cent."...BEST ALL YEAR: Colt quarterback Earl Morrall can attest to this last after watching in dismay as the former Utah State athlete zeroed in on his fourth quarter fumble Saturday and lugged it 12 yards to the Packer 39 to key the home forces' last major scoring threat. "That's the best game I've had all year, no doubt about it," Aldridge admits. Knowing that some of his veteran teammates might not be back next season was a factor in his performance, the former all-NFL end also concedes. "I'm sure it had a little to do with it," he said. "They've been friends of mine for several years and it can't help but make you want to play even harder." "Also, we still had a chance at the championship. And we were playing Baltimore – a good football team. That's always an additional incentive." How had he found the Hosses?...WE HELPED THEM: "I didn't think they played as well as they have in some of their other games, but they played good football. I think we more or less helped them to win more than that they beat us." Aldridge, a Milwaukee radio and television sportscaster in the off-season, expects to take his "Colt" edge into Sunday's swan song against the Bears. "It's like playing Baltimore," he said. "And it's another team in our division. So far we haven't beaten anyone in our division. The rivalry and the tradition are a couple of outside things which help get you ready. And they've beaten us twice before this season (10-7 in the Midwest Shrine Game Aug. 19 and 13-10 here Nov. 3). "To lose to our arch rivals three times in one season," he added with a wry smile, "wouldn't sit too well with any of us. It's also a chance for us to end the season on a winning note and prepare for 1969."...PACKER PATTERN: It is "very probable," Coach Phil Bengtson said Thursday, that quarterback Don Horn will be reactivated for Sunday's struggle. Horn is currently "cramming" on the Packer offense, having returned from Army duty only 10 days ago. The status of No. 1 field general Bart Starr "is about the same – no improvement," Bengtson said. He did not rule out the possibility of Starr's starting against the Bears, however...Bengtson also indicated cornerback Bob Jeter, who sat out the Colt game because of a sprained ankle, is likely to be ready Sunday. "Bob said it was better today," the Packer headmaster reported...The Packers will stage their final workout of the season in Lambeau Field Saturday morning and enplane for Chicago, via United Airlines charter, at 12 noon. They will headquarter at the Drake Hotel in the Windy City. Some of the players will leave directly from Chicago for their off-season homes immediately after the game.

PACKER FANS LAUNCH DRIVE

DEC 13 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – A campaign to extend the Packers a vote of confidence, and spur them on in Sunday's season finale with the Bears at Chicago, has been launched. New bumper stickers proclaiming, "The Pack Will Be Back," will be available at all service stations in Green Bay Saturday morning through the courtesy of "Martha's Coffee Club," an organization based at Martha's Restaurant, Paul Mazzoleni reported. Mazzoleni expressed the hope fans will pick up the stickers in time to display them when the Packers enplane for Chicago from Austin Straubel Field at noon Saturday. A total of 20,000 stickers have been printed, he said.

PICK BEARS BY 3 POINTS

DEC 13 (Chicago) - The Chicago Bears have been made a three-point favorite over Green Bay Sunday and the oddsmakers undoubtedly were thinking about a field goal by Mac Percival. Percival, a former Texas school teacher, can hit from anywhere inside the 50-yard line. His leg may make the difference if the Bears score the victory that would give them the NFL's Central Division crown with an 8-6 record. The Packers know Percival from experience. He booted a 43-yard field goal on a free kick with 32 seconds of the game to play to give the Bears a 13-10 decision the last time they played Green Bay. Prior to that, he had booted one of 47 yards in the last three seconds for a 26-24 triumph over Minnesota. Percival's field goal tally card shows 23 in 34 attempts. Six of them have been from 40 to 47 yards long, five of them 31 to 39. The longest was 50 yards against the New Orleans Saints.

COLTS HAD ONE COMING

DEC 13 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – John Steadman, sports editor of the Baltimore News American, is a fine gentleman, a highly congenial citizen who is impeccable of both manner and speech. But he tends to be slightly myopic about his beloved Colts. For example, John only recently ceased publicly bemoaning the controversial field goal with which Don Chandler and the Packers shaded the Hosses in their historic "fifth quarter" playoff here in 1965. And, even in the glow of the Colts' just clinched Coastal Division championship, acquired partially at the Packers' expense, he couldn't resist the opportunity to shed a tear for what might have been...ON 'HEARTBREAK AVENUE': In a column entitled, "Colts Had This One Coming," Steadman declaimed earlier this week, "They know what it is to live on 'Heartbreak Avenue.' The Baltimore Colts have spent time there." "Poetic justice was being served. "The Colts are winners of their division and now enter into the juvenile playoff system the NFL invented. "They have to play another game – and win - before they can do championship battle, which will be held Dec. 29 in either Cleveland or Dallas. But the first objective has been reached. They have qualified as a divisional representative - one of four - and this is the path that leads to the NFL title and, hopefully, the Super Bowl on Jan. 12." After this brief burst of optimism, the veteran wordsmith lapsed into melancholy reflection. "The Colts have lived with frustration and disappointment for so long, they are first cousins to bad luck," he wrote. "The picture that comes back today is the long plane ride home from Los Angeles a year ago. There was Coach Don Shula crushed emotionally and alone with his pain, wondering what he had done to deserve that kind of an outcome. Players paced the aisle of the plane. The football world had fallen in on them. It shouldn't have been that way but it was..."DESERVED THE OPPORTUNITY: "The Colts and Rams had tied with identical records of 11-1-2 but there had been no provision for a playoff." "If you tie in a ping pong game, you get the chance to have a playoff," said John Unitas. "And Dan Sullivan said league titles ought to be decided on the field - not in a meeting room by legislators. 'We deserve the opportunity to play them again'," said Sullivan. 'Any other day but the time when we played the Rams and I honestly believe we would have won, like the day before or the day after.' "But this chance wasn't afforded the Colts. For the first time in the history of major league professional sports, a title was decided arbitrarily in the rules that had been especially contrived - instead of the two teams meeting in competition to break the tie. The Rams didn't stay around long. They were knocked out the next week by the Green Bay Packers while many astute observers believed the best team in all of football wasn't even in the playoff proceedings. This of course, was the Colts."

PACKERS HOPE TO RUIN SOMEONE ELSE'S YEAR

DEC 13 (Chicago Tribune) - The most dangerous delusion the Bears could suffer this week would be to assume that the Green Bay Packers, eliminated from the title race for the first year since 1964, are going to roll over and play Morpheus Sunday afternoon in Wrigley field. The Packers, from Quarterback Bart Starr on down to the last man on the taxi squad, appear to be getting ready to reap maximum enjoyment out of their role as potential spoiler to the Bears' playoff hopes. "The shoe is on the other foot this year." Linebacker Ray Nitschke said yesterday. "This is something new to us - not being in the title picture and getting a chance to ruin somebody else's season like everybody is always trying to do to us. I'm looking forward to playing against the Bears." Here are the answers of other Packers, who were asked the following question by a Tribune reporter: "What motivation will you have against the Bears Sunday now that you have been eliminated from the championship race?" Bart Starr, quarterback: "I would like to think we have the type of people on this ball club who, regardless of what's at stake, would want to come in and do the best we can. We owe a lot to each other and to pro football fans. If we give anything less than the best we have in us, we'll be cheating all those people. I think we will be highly motivated."...Zeke Bratkowski, quarterback: "The best way I can answer the question is to recall a game two years ago at Los Angeles when we had the divisional title wrapped up. All the Rams had to do to go down to Miami to the Runner-up bowl was to beat us and yet we won."...Boyd Dowler, pass receiver: "We have a responsibility to ourselves, to the Minnesota Vikings (who are tied with the Bears for first place in the Central division), and to the NFL to give everything we've got. For the first time in a long time, we don't have any pressure on us. It should be fun."... Forrest Gregg, offensive tackle: "Just say Packers and Bears, and you've said enough. This game has been a big rivalry for



'The Pack Will Be Back'— Coffee Club's Packer backers. Larry Kabat holds up one of 20,000 bumper stickers being distributed at gas stations around the city by Martha's Rondeau. (P-G Photo)

many, many years. You would be foolish to anticipate anything other than a tough ball game. The Bears played it to the hilt against the Rams. They were very, very aggressive. That's my kind of game."...Donny Anderson, running back: "We're very anxious to end the season the best we can, with the pride and tradition we've always had. I think our chances are good. The Bears have beaten us twice this year - the Shrine game at Milwaukee and the regular season game at Green Bay. It's not like us to let a team beat us three times in the same season."...Willie Davis, defensive end: "For once I'll be able to lie there on my back at the end of a play and look up into the face of somebody else who's under pressure. We know what it's like. When it was the other way around, everybody else was always out to get us. Now we've got the chance to be the spoiler. I'm coming to Chicago with one thing in mind - to play the best football I can play."

HORNUNG: BEAR GAME NO. 1 FOR PACKERS

DEC 13 (Chicago Tribune) - For the first time since 1959, Green Bay will be playing the Chicago Bears Sunday in a game that means nothing to the Packers. But wait a minute. Don't say that. Say instead that it means nothing to them except that it is a Bear game and that, of course, means everything. Paul Hornung, the former Packer star who is a Packer still at heart ("Naturally I'll have to be for the Packers Sunday," says the WBBM radio and television personality), can tell you why the Packers cannot be

expected to make it easy for the Bears to win the Central division title. "The Bears' game was always the big game for the Packers," said Hornung the other day between taping sessions in the CBS studios. "It was always an easy game to get both teams up for. Coach Lombardi would always go back and point out the long history of the series." The Bear game in Green Bay used to be the season's opener for both teams and that was one reason why it was easy to get prepared for, said Hornung...But despite the fact that the players were professionals, the emotional impact was there, too. "It may sound strange," said Hornung, "but because of the intense rivalry, the Bear and Packers players probably got closer to each other than they did with any other team. I know I had more friends on the Bears than on any other team in the league and believe me it made me want to beat them that much more." When the Packers would play in Chicago, Hornung would be further inspired by the fact that many of his friends from Notre Dame would be in Wrigley field to watch him. Hornung illustrated the intensity of feeling in a Bears-Packers game by quoting the Bears' Richie Petitbon. "Richie used to say there were only two places in the world he'd like to bomb - Louisiana State university and Green Bay. Richie played for Tulane in college, of course." From the Packers' viewpoint, the rivalry was spurred on by the fans, who had a traditional hatred of the Bears. "They used to make one road trip a year and it would always be to Chicago because it was such a convenient trip." Hornung can recall few details of any of the Bear games he participated in, but he does remember the highlights...Could be wrong but I think we beat the Bears in my rookie year. We only won three games all year, but I'm sure one was against the Bears." (It was, 21 to 17). "Then Coach Lombardi's first game was against the Bears and we won it, 9 to 6. We won our first four games that year, then finished seven and five. I remember one of my biggest thrills in a Bear game was breaking the scoring record against them but I don't recall anything else about the game. I guess I'd

have to say that the Bear game that meant most to me, though, was my first game after my year's suspension. That was the game where I had the free kick and we won, 23 to 12." Awhile later somebody asked Hornung if he didn't recall the time he got hurt while scoring a touchdown in Wrigley field and he exclaimed, "O, my gosh, how could I forget that? Doug Buffone hit me and it bent my neck back. That was the play that ended my career. I played a few series against the Rams later but I was lucky to get out of there alive." For the players, the coaches, and the fans, the best things-and the worst-can happen in a Bears-Packers game.

BRAWLING BEARS IN CONTENTION DESPITE NEW PENALTY RECORD

DEC 14 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Bears have never been overly congenial, but this year the Monsters of the Midway have outdone themselves. In direct contradiction of the pro football precept which decrees the team making the fewest mistakes will be the most successful, the title-contending Bruins have set an all-time NFL record for penalties in a season. The Bears, who can seal the NFL's Central Division championship if they weather the Packers' charge in Wrigley Field Sunday afternoon, have been penalized 1,133 yards in 13 games to date... 107 PENALTIES: The old record, which they set in 1951, was 1,107 yards. The Monsters have not surpassed their '51 standard of 118 penalties, however, having collected only 107 assessments to date. But, Publicity Director Dan Desmond drolly points out, "We still have another Sunday to try to do something." The Chicagoans' penchant for mayhem could be a factor in Sunday's collision, but the Packers are more concerned with another of the Bears' proclivities. Despite the substantial loss of Gale Sayers a month ago, they continue to lead the NFL in rushing, largely through the contributions of Sayers' successor, Brian Piccolo, and Ronnie Bull... PACKERS EIGHTH: The Packers, in contrast, rank a somewhat distant eighth in the NFL on defense against the run. Aided by improvement in the offensive line, the Bears have averaged nearly 5 yards per attempt in amassing 2,232 yards. The Packers have permitted 1,666 yards, a 3.8 average per rush. Our heroes have been niggardly against the pass, however. They lead in fewest yards allowed, 1,639, fewest first downs, 88, and lowest average yards per game, 126.1... PACKER PATTERN: Although the Bears lead the NFL in rushing, the Pack's Donny Anderson goes into action as the rivals' leading active ground gainer. Ninth in the league at this point, the Golden Palomino has rolled up 707 yards in 158 carries. Fullback Jim Grabowski has accumulated 503 yards in 124 attempts... The Bears' No. 1 rusher at the moment is Piccolo, with 405 yards in 108 attempts... Packer pass catching honors are still very much at issue. Carroll Dale is out front at the moment with 42 receptions for 818 yards and a 19.5 average but Boyd Dowler is tight on his heels with 40 catches for 486 yards... Dale is a good bet to emerge as the Pack's leading scorer. He has totaled 48 points on 8 touchdowns, runner up Donny Anderson 36 on 6.

MUST WAIT ON STARR, SAYS BENGTON

DEC 14 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - The resurging Chicago Bears will try to wrap up the Central Division title of the NFL against the Green Bay Packers Sunday in the Bears' homecoming" finale. More than 100 former Bear players, plus 15 Packer and Bear Pro Football Hall of Fame members, are to attend the dramatic finale wrapping up a son of unprecedented Bear injuries. The Bears, playing the last four games without peerless Gale Sayers and the last three without surprise rookie quarterback Virgil Carter, seek a second triumph over the Packers and a section title with a 8-6 record... CONCANNON STARS: Sayers was sidelined with a shattered knee against San Francisco Nov. 10. Carter suffered a broken ankle the following Sunday against Atlanta after directing the Bears to four straight victories. However, Jack Concannon, whose earlier injury gave Carter his chance, came back to quarterback the Bears to close triumphs over New Orleans and Los Angeles in their last two starts. Chicago is a three-point choice over the Packers, beaten earlier by the Bears 13-10 at Green Bay and now dethroned as both sectional and world champion with a 5-7-1 record. The Bears can even grab the title despite a loss to the Packers, if co-leader Minnesota also loses its finale at Philadelphia. Among the attending Hall of Famers will be: Bears - Dr. Dan Fortmann, Red Grange, Ed Healey, Link Lyman, Sid Luckman, George Trafton and Bulldog Turner. Packers - Arnie Herber, Clark Hinkle, Don Hutson, Johnny Blood McNally and Mike Michalske. They will be introduced at halftime, receive engraved watches and attended the Bears' season - ending "alumni" party... CAN'T ATTEND: Also invited, but unable to attend, were Jimmy Conzelman of the Bears and Cal Hubbard of the Packers. Injuries have also troubled the Packers. It probably wouldn't be known until just before game time Sunday whether quarterback Bart Starr would be able to play. He unlimbered his arm Thursday and Friday in practice at Green Bay, but was still nursing rib injuries that kept him out of last week's crucial loss to Baltimore. Coach Phil Bengtson said he might call up second-year quarterback Don Horn should Starr have to be idle. Horn is being groomed for front-line duty with Green Bay, but was sidetracked this season for military service.

RUSHING						
	No.	Yd.	Ave.	L	Td	
Anderson, Pack.	158	707	4.4	42	4	
Grabowski, Pack.	124	503	4.1	25	4	
Piccolo, Bears	108	405	3.7	19	2	
Bull, Bears	92	394	4.2	24	2	
Pitts, Pack.	72	264	3.7	12	2	

PASSING						
	Att.	C	Yd.	Int.	Td	
Starr, Pack.	172	109	1617	8	15	
Bratkowski, Pack	124	67	766	7	2	
Concannon, Bears	117	61	544	7	3	
Rakestraw, Bears	67	30	361	7	1	

RECEIVING						
	No.	Yd.	Ave.	L	Td	
Dale, Pack	42	818	19.5	63	8	
Dowler, Pack	40	486	12.3	55	4	
Piccolo, Bears	28	291	10.4	44	0	
Anderson, Pack.	25	333	13.3	47	1	
Fleming, Pack.	25	278	11.1	32	3	
Gordon, Bears	23	320	14.0	50	2	
Denney, Bears	22	241	11.0	46	2	

'Packer Weather' on Tap Tomorrow

'PACKER WEATHER' ON TAP TOMORROW

DEC 14 (Chicago Tribune) - "It looks like it's going to be Packer weather," the U. S. meteorologist said yesterday. The man at the government bureau was asked to take an advance look at the weather prospects for tomorrow's Wrigley field battle between the Bears and Green Bay. His answer will need no explanation to pro football fans, all of whom know that "Packer weather" means the kind of climate meant for Eskimos and Saint Bernards... "NOT BITTERLY COLD": "Actually, it's not going to be too bad for this time of year," the meteorologist said. "We expect a cold day, but not bitterly cold, with the temperature just below the freezing mark at the opening kickoff.



A Penny for . . .

Pensive Brian Piccolo watching Bear workout yesterday in Wrigley field. Bear running back's thoughts most likely were on important contest with Green Bay Packers tomorrow afternoon.

(TRIBUNE Staff Photo: By Phil Mascione)

We don't look for snow. It should be clear and bright, and the wind will be moderate - say 10 to 16 miles per hour from the northwest." The tarpaulin is in place in Wrigley field, but no special precautions have been taken against Old Man Winter of the type that were necessary in 1963, when the Bears and New York Giants met for the NFL title on a particularly miserable Dec. 29...TONS OF STRAW: To get the field ready for that memorable game [which the Bears won, 14 to 10], tons of straw were packed under the tarpaulin, and several gasoline blowers were brought in to pump warm air into the area between the tarpaulin and the turf. "It was an elaborate procedure," Club President Muggs Halas recalled yesterday, "but it was necessary that year because the field had already been frozen for weeks before the game. We were trying to warm it up and make the footing as good as possible." Wrigley field has not as yet had a hard freeze in this unseasonably mild campaign. The grass, amazingly, is still green and, unless precipitation creates a problem, the playing conditions should be good tomorrow...REMEMBER 1963?: It's the most important game for the Bears since that 1963 bout with the Giants, in which Bill Wade scored two touchdowns on quarterback sneaks and the Chicago defense terrorized Y. A. Tittle into total submission. If they beat the Packers, the Bears will qualify for a playoff berth against the Colts in Baltimore on Dec. 22 for the Western conference championship. The winner goes against the Eastern monarch Dec. 29 for the NFL title. There finally was an indication yesterday as to the identity of the Packers' starting quarterback, which has been cloaked in secrecy and rumor all week. Zeke Bratkowski probably will get the nod, Coach Phil Bengtson said...ZEKE LIKELY TO START: "It's very likely Bratkowski

will play and that Bart Starr will not play," Bengtson told the Tribune by telephone. "Bart has not thrown a pass all week. Chances [of Starr's playing] are real slim." The Packer coach said he probably will activate Don Horn, who has returned after a 4 1/2 -month army stint, to back up Bratkowski along with rookie Billy Stevens. "We can wait until Sunday to activate Horn if we want to," Bengtson said. "I'm sorry to be so evasive about all this, but we've been holding out the hope all week that maybe Starr could play." Starr has missed three complete games, including last week's loss to Baltimore, because of a rib condition. Horn is the man regarded as Starr's eventual successor, and the Bear game might be a propitious time for the Packers to take a look at him under stress. Owner George Halas of the Bears, who is recuperating after hip surgery in England, will not know how his club makes out against the Packers until he gets a telephone call from his son, Muggs, after the game. If the Bears win, Ed McCaskey, Halas' son-in-law and club vice president, will take an extra print of the game film to England when he flies to visit the owner Monday. If the Bears lose, McCaskey will leave the movie at home.

PACKERS PASS WORTH CAR, HOUSE, CHILDREN AND WIFE, MAN SAYS

DEC 15 (Chicago) - Persons wanting to scalp their tickets for Sunday's football game between the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Bears certainly will get a premium. However, it is difficult to see how one offer can be topped. A woman has been weighing offers for her one ticket from neighbors and parish members. But the leading bid came from her son-in-law who offered: "The car, the house, five children and your daughter back."

FLU BUG STRIKES

DEC 14 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Halfback Donny Anderson and Linebacker Ray Nitschke had what was described as a "touch of the flu" but Green Bay Packer Head Coach Phil Bengtson said both are expected to start today's 100th game against the Chicago Bears. Left guard Gale Gillingham, felled by the flu Friday, has recovered and also will start Bengtson said.

STARR, DOUBTFUL STARTER, SAYS PACK READY FOR BEARS

DEC 14 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Bart Starr, the Packers peerless field general, is a doubtful participant in today's closing exchange with the title-hungry Bears. But Mr. Quarterback has every confidence his colleagues, despite the lack of their customary championship incentive, will give a resounding account of themselves in the 1 o'clock (WNFL, Channel 2) collision. "I just feel we're going to play a real fine game," Starr says, adding for emphasis, "I really do." Considering the things that have happened to us," he said, "our morale is excellent. That type of feeling points up one of the big reasons why you're proud to be a member of such an organization." The 34-year-old Alabamian politely but firmly discounted any possibility the Packers would be "just playing out the string," as so many teams have done in a like position...TOUGH TO SWALLOW: "We've had a miserable season and it's a tough thing to swallow," he admitted, "but there's too much pride in this organization to let that happen." Much to his sorrow, Starr probably will not be able to lend a hand in the proceedings, which will find pro football's oldest enemies colliding for the 100th time. "It is very unlikely," Coach Phil Bengtson reported, "that Bart will play." Zeke Bratkowski, as he has so often in such past situations, is expected to hold forth at the Packer throttle, perhaps

for the last time...**HAVE ACTIVATED:** Don Horn, the Packers talented sophomore quarterback who has been out of the service less than two weeks, has been activated to back up Bratkowski. Rookie Bill Stevens also is available if needed. Whatever the afternoon brings, the recent world champions will go into it as 3-point underdogs to the resurgent Bruins, once left for dead but now in a fair way to capture the NFL's Central Division championship. Although they presently share the Central lead with Minnesota's Vikings on 7-6 records, the Bears would qualify for the Western Conference playoff against Baltimore with a victory by virtue of their two previous decisions over the Vikings...**CAN ESCAPE CELLAR:** For the Packers, victory would assuage their wounded pride and lift them to within one game of a .500 finish at 6-7-1. It also would assure them of escaping the division cellar, presently occupied by the Detroit Lions with 4-7-2. The 3-point odds are not unrealistic, considering the Monsters of the Midway will be playing in their ancient but familiar Wrigley Field, and what they have to lose. They also will be taking to the turf with impressive momentum, having survived a last minute Ram revival to shade Los Angeles last time out, 17-16, and hang in the Central Division race. In addition, they are likely to be spurred by the memory of Phil Handler, their longtime defensive line coach, who was fatally stricken minutes after watching that hectic triumph over the Rams on television...**TO FOLLOW SCRIPT:** The Bears, via quarterback Jack Concannon, already have announced they will follow the same script which produced victory dividends against the Angelenos. "We've always felt we can run pretty well against the Packers," he said earlier in the week. "We may throw a few long passes just hoping for a break. But our basic attack is the running game off tackle and the short passes." This indicates, of course, heavy emphasis on the power thrusts of running backs Brian Piccolo and Ronnie Bull, not to mention the bootlegs of Concannon, who scored the Bears' winning touchdown against Los Angeles with a 4-yard sweep of the Rams' left flank. The former Eagle quarterback also is a better than average marksman, having completed 61 of 117 passes for 544 yards, 52.1 percentage and 3 touchdowns. Because of the Bears' affinity for the short pass, halfback Piccolo is their leading receiver with 28 catches for 291 yards. Split end Dick Gordon is next up with 23 for 320, followed by tight end Austin Denney with 22 for 241. While the Packer defense is attempting to cope with the Bruins' possession approach, the recently unproductive attacking unit will be facing a Bear resistance which has tightened immeasurably in recent weeks after a burst of uncharacteristic generosity in the early days of the season...**HELD WITHOUT TD:** The Packers, held without touchdown for the first time in three years in last week's 16-3 loss to the Baltimore Colts, will be looking for their first TD since the middle of the third quarter in their 27-20 disaster at San Francisco Dec. 1. Bengtson indicated he will lead with the same offensive format that opposed the Colts, which means Boyd Dowler will be opening at tight end, instead of Marv Fleming, and Claudis James will be holding forth at Dowler's split end stand. Defensively, Bengtson announced, Doug Hart will be making his second successive start at right cornerback in place of Bob Jeter, who has been hobbled by a sprained ankle since the first quarter of the San Francisco game. The Packers will be in search of their 40th success in the storied series, which began in 1921. The Bears have won 54 times and there have been 6 ties.

NEWS AND NOTIONS

DEC 15 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - The successors to a pair of the biggest coaching names in football will send their teams against each other at Chicago's Wrigley Field in an intriguing regular season finale today. Jim Dooley, who replaced George Halas, will direct the Chicago Bears; while Phil Bengtson, Vince Lombardi's hand-picked successor, will oversee Packer strategy. It's been an "elevator" year for both new head coaches - with the Bears dropping six games and the Packers seven. In a "normal" year, neither team would be in title contention at this late date. But, because of the weird goings-on in the Central Division, the Bears are still in the thick of it. In fact, if the Bears win the division title today, Dooley will be in the front ranks of "Coach of the Year" candidates. It has been a 4-stage Bear season to date. It started most inauspiciously for Dooley, as the Bears lost four of their first five and were raked over the coals by fans and writers. Then, in stage 2, the Bears became hot and won four in a row to vault to the top of the division. Bear performance and morale suffered after the loss-by-injury of Gale Sayers and Virgil Carter and two straight losses seemed to drop them out of contention for good. Then, came Stage No. 4 - victories over New Orleans and the Rams, which moved them right back up there again. The Packers, too, have been up and down all season. Prospects were rather bleak after a 2-3-1 beginning. But then came the victory over Dallas, with all the attendant psychological value that it theoretically represented. The very next week, the Bays fell into the valley again - with their loss to the Bears - and stayed there until a final burst of hope appeared. The Packers had beaten New Orleans and Washington - for their only 2-win streak - and led the 49ers, 20-7, after three periods. Then came the now-familiar 5-period collapse (against the 49ers and the Colts) in which Green Bay was outscored 36 to 3 and the dynasty's fall was complete... The Packer "breakdown" has been both individual and collective. There's no question that a number of veterans, who played key roles during the championship years, had off seasons which must either be categorized as slumps or a permanent diminution of their

Finale

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE WESTERN CONFERENCE

Coastal Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
*Baltimore	12	1	0	.923	374	120
Los Angeles	10	2	1	.833	288	172
San Francisco	6	6	1	.500	289	298
Atlanta	2	11	0	.154	373	375

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	223	305
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	258	225
Green Bay	5	7	1	.417	253	200
Detroit	4	7	2	.364	204	227

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Capitol Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
*Dallas	11	2	0	.846	403	176
New York	7	6	0	.538	284	297
Washington	4	9	0	.308	235	355
Philadelphia	2	11	0	.154	185	327

Century Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
*Cleveland	10	4	0	.717	394	271
St. Louis	9	4	1	.692	325	259
New Orleans	3	9	1	.250	222	313
Pittsburgh	2	10	1	.167	230	373

*Clinched Division Title

Saturday's Results

St. Louis 27, Cleveland 16

Today's Games

Baltimore at Los Angeles
Dallas at New York
Green Bay at Chicago
Pittsburgh at New Orleans
San Francisco at Atlanta
Detroit at Washington
Minnesota at Philadelphia

Probable Starting Lineups:

OFFENSE

GREEN BAY	CHICAGO
James	SE
Skoronski	LT
Gillingham	LG
Bowman	C
Kramer	RG
Gregg	RT
Dowler	TE
Bratkowski	QB
Anderson	RB
Grabowski	RB
Dale	FL

DEFENSE

GREEN BAY	CHICAGO
Davis	LE
Kostenlik	LT
Jordan	RT
Aldridge	RE
Robinson	LLB
Nitschke	MLB
Caffey	RLB
Adderley	LH
Hart	RH
T. Brown	LS
Wood	RS

Packer-Bear Series

Packers won 39, Bears 54, 6 ties.
Points - Packers 1,404, Bears 1,621.

talent. Collectively, the offensive and defensive units were inconsistent. Each had its good games, or good quarters, but seldom were they able to put it together in the same 60-minute span. To attribute the Packer decline to only one or two factors - such as age or the coaching change - is to oversimplify. It seems that a combination of circumstances brought about the downfall. It's difficult to judge how much weight to assign to each of these factors but it's almost certain that all of them played some part. The (1) coaching and (2) age factors cannot be overlooked, of course. Others are (3) Injuries, (4) breaks, (5) a decrease of the Packers' victory appetite; (6) an increase in extracurricular pursuits; and (7) early placekicking troubles. The change in field command has to be significant - even if it's only because of the personality difference between Vince Lombardi and Bengtson. It's difficult to evaluate accurately Bengtson's first year because of the various mitigating circumstances. But, he was on the hot seat from the moment he took the job (he wouldn't get too much credit if the Packers had retained their title, and he almost certainly would be the object of criticism if they lost it). No one will ever know if Lombardi could have driven the Packers to a fourth straight title - but, unfortunately, for Bengtson, the record shows he (Phil) didn't do it. It certainly must have been a sizable adjustment for the players, going from Lombardi's driving, perfectionist tactics to Bengtson's low-key approach. Under Lombardi, the players, at times, got so steamed up that they were ready to "take it out" on the opposing team. The age factor is self-explanatory. A number of the veterans could already be, or will soon be, a trifle slower and are unable to shake off bumps and injuries as fast as they once did. The Packers have had key injuries before - in fact, in almost every one of the five Lombardi title years - but this was the first time the Packers weren't able to keep the caliber of play as high with reserves. Undeniably, the type of breaks (fumbles, interceptions, etc.) that came Green Bay's way in the title years went against them this season. Officiating would have to be included, since, controversial calls in the Ram and Bear games, especially, proved significant in the outcome. "Victory hunger" is an intangible, to be sure, but it's almost too much to expect players to retain a ravenous appetite year after year. Any letdown that did occur was, I'm sure, subconscious - but things just cannot be quite the same after players enjoyed the financial and other rewards the Packers have known for three straight years. In this regard, the total concentration on the task of winning was possibly missing. So many of the Packers have business ventures going that their time and energy have become divided. Field goal kicking woes undoubtedly contributed to a couple of early defeats. Mike Mercer appears to have solved this problem - if his recent 5-for-5 is any criterion...When one considers the number of close games the Packers lost, the gap between them and the top teams of '68 is not at all wide. But, therein lies a danger. If Lombardi and Bengtson regard this season as purely a "hard luck" one - with every expectation that the same personnel can provide different results next year - they'll be asking for trouble. They would be falling into the traps that claimed the football Giants and the baseball Yankees several years ago. The parade passed those championship teams by without the commanders realizing it. What's needed is a thorough, unsentimental study of every Packer position to determine which members of the "old guard" are no longer competitive with the better people in pro football...Today's game is likely to be an emotional one from both teams' standpoint. The Bears will be sky high because of the chance of winning the title that seemed out of the question when Sayers was carried off the field. Unless we miss our guess, the Packers will be highly charged, too. Winning would take some of the sting out of the disappointing season...those intending to retire want to end notable careers on a high note...and those Packers figuring to return want to prove they still have "it." They'd like to be part of the "Pack will be Back" campaign of '69.

Packers Face Bears in Wind-Up

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Green Bay PACKERS

No. Name Position

- 10 Stevens, BillQB
- 12 Bratkowski, ZekeQB
- 15 Starr, BartQB
- 21 Jeter, BobDB
- 22 Pitts, ElijahFB
- 23 Williams, TravisHB
- 24 Wood, WillieDB
- 26 Adderley, HerbDB
- 27 James, ClaudisFL
- 30 Mercein, ChuckFB
- 33 Grabowski, JimFB
- 37 Vandersea, PhilTE
- 38 Mercer, MikeK
- 40 Brown, TomDB
- 43 Hart, DougDB
- 44 Anderson, DonnyHB
- 45 Rowser, JohnHB
- 50 Hyland, BobC
- 55 Flanigan, JimLB
- 57 Bowman, KenC
- 60 Caffey, Lee RoyLB
- 62 Lueck, BillG
- 64 Kramer, JerryG
- 66 Nitschke, RayLB
- 68 Gillingham, GaleG
- 70 Crenshaw, LeonDT
- 71 Peay, FrancisT
- 72 Himes, DickT
- 74 Jordan, HenryDT
- 75 Gregg, ForrestT
- 76 Skoronski, BobT
- 77 Kostelnik, RonDT
- 81 Fleming, MarvTE
- 82 Aldridge, LionelDE
- 83 Carr, FredLB
- 84 Dale, CarrollE
- 86 Dowler, BoydE
- 87 Davis, WillieDE
- 89 Robinson, DaveLB



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BOB McMILLAN
3808 Riverside Dr.
336-3811



ED JAGODINSKY
631 E. Mission Rd.
437-6889



ROGER LADE
1187 Oregon St.
499-1971

Chicago BEARS

No. Name Position

- 10 Bukich, RudyQB
- 11 Concannon, JackQB
- 12 RakestrawQB
- 17 Petitbon, RichieDB
- 20 Taylor, JoeDB
- 21 Turner, CecilFL
- 24 Taylor, RooseveltDB
- 26 McRae, BennieDB
- 29 Bull, RonRB
- 32 Kurek, RalphRB
- 33 Hull, MikeTE
- 41 Piccolo, BrianRB
- 43 Jones, BobE
- 44 Lyle, GaryRB
- 45 Gordon, DickE
- 46 Gentry, CurtisDB
- 48 Livingston, AndyRB
- 49 Hazelton, MajorDB
- 50 Pyle, MikeC
- 51 Butkus, DickLB
- 53 Parnell, JimLB
- 55 Buffone, DougLB
- 59 Kuechenberg, RudyLB
- 60 Kriewald, DougG
- 62 Reilly, MikeLB
- 63 Wetoska, BobT
- 65 Jackson, RandyT
- 67 Seals, GeorgeG
- 72 Cadile, JimG
- 73 Cornish, FrankDT
- 74 Mass, WayneT
- 76 Johnson, JohnDT
- 79 Evey, DickDT
- 83 Percival, MacK
- 84 Denney, AustinTE
- 85 Holman, WillieDE
- 86 Phillips, LoydDE
- 87 O'Bradovich, EdDE
- 88 Green, Bobby JoeP

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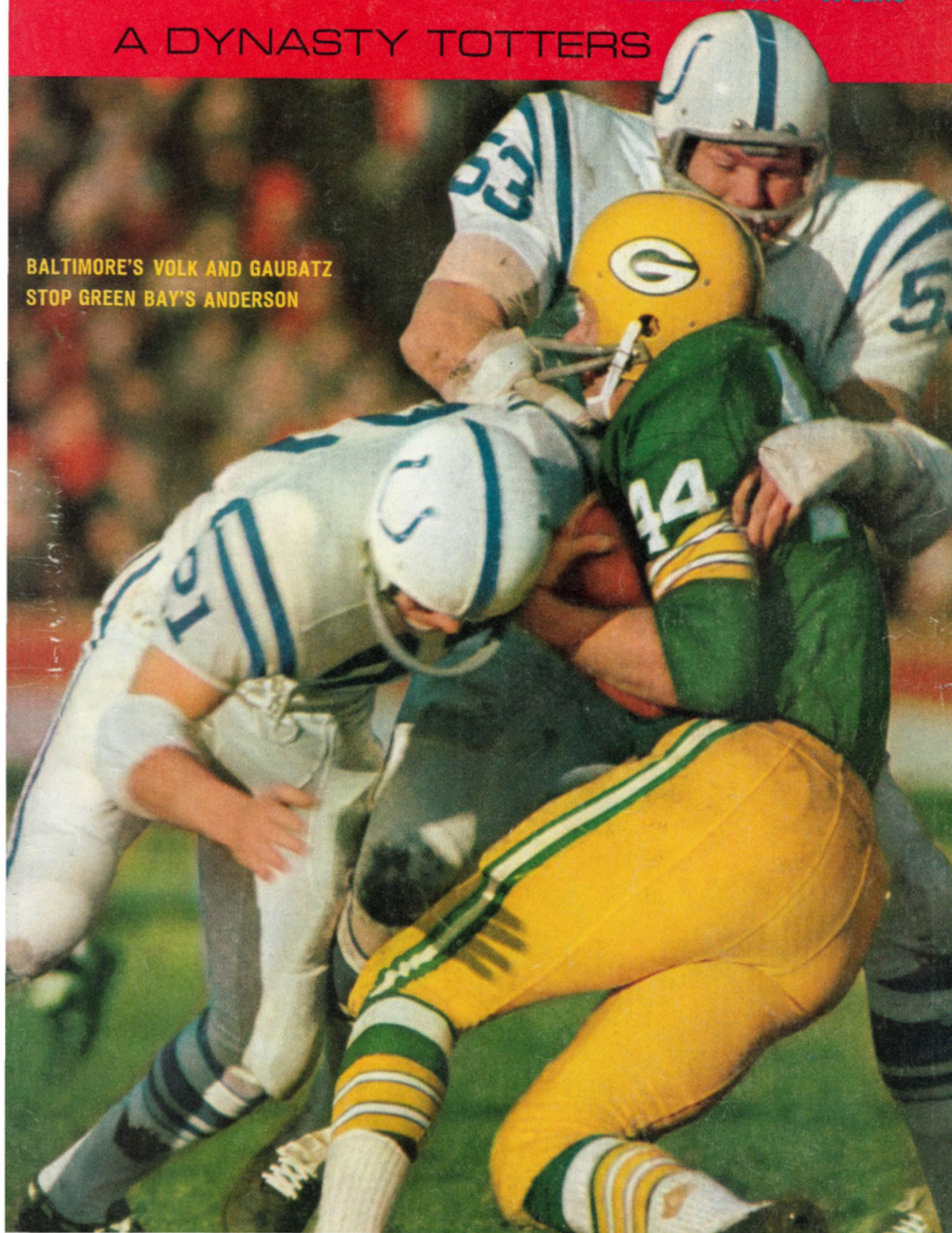
Sports Illustrated

DECEMBER 16, 1966

50 CENTS

A DYNASTY TOTTERS

BALTIMORE'S VOLK AND GAUBATZ
STOP GREEN BAY'S ANDERSON



AU REVOIR, PACKERS!

When Green Bay lost to the powerful Baltimore Colts last week it meant that the old champions would not be in the Super Bowl this time, but it would be wrong to assume that they will not come back

by **TEX MAULE**

The Baltimore Colts, relying on the toughest defense (see cover) this side of the Berlin Wall, looked very much like the Green Bay Packers last week. The old Green Bay Packers. This was unfortunate for the current edition of the Packers, who looked more like the Vassar Coquettes as the Colts stifled them 16-3 before more than 50,000 Green Bay fans last week.

The loss snuffed out what dim hope the Packers had to win their fourth straight championship. Now the Central Division title could well go to the Chicago Bears, who have come back from the dead after losing Gale Sayers and three quarterbacks at various stages of the campaign. They are tied with the Minnesota Vikings, but because they beat the Vikings twice during the season they can clinch the title with a victory this week over the Packers. If the Bears lose, they will almost certainly finish second to Minnesota, since the Vikings should have an easy game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

The Packers' defeat by Baltimore was, in a way, a microcosm of the whole unfortunate year for Green Bay. The team made five major mistakes—four lost fumbles and an interception—and a host of minor ones, including a booming four-yard punt from the toe of Donny Anderson. The defense was stubborn most of the game, but each of those four fumbles gave Baltimore the ball in Green Bay territory and led directly to two field goals and the lone touchdown. Meanwhile, the Packers did not get beyond the Colt 35 until the fourth quarter. Their three points came in the first

period when Mike Mercer banked a field goal off the right upright from the Baltimore 45-yard line.

To be sure, much of the Packers' misfortune was caused by the Baltimore defense, a unit which has now gone four games without giving up a touchdown. In 13 games this season the Colts have yielded only 120 points, and a quarter of those came in their one bad show of the year, a 30-20 loss to the Cleveland Browns.

Countless words undoubtedly will be written describing the Green Bay debacle as the end of a dynasty, but this is a theory the Packers themselves do not endorse. To them, the disasters of 1968 were an interruption, not an end. All the bad luck Green Bay escaped in the nine years under Vince Lombardi seemed to descend upon the team in Phil Bengtson's first season as coach, and the avalanche of injuries, bad bounces, missed field goals and untimely penalties resulted in Green Bay's first losing season since 1959.

When the Baltimore game was over, the atmosphere in the Packer dressing room was more resigned than funereal. It was almost as if the players had expected the worst, although before the game Jerry Kramer, when asked if he thought Green Bay had a chance against the Colts, said, "You're damned right we have. We'll beat them."

After the game he shook his head. "I hope we got rid of all of it this year. Everything that can happen to a ball club happened. I keep thinking about what it says in the Bible. Three fat years and then three lean. Or is it seven and sev-

en? We had enough bad luck for seven years all in one."

Aside from injuries, which wiped out most of the defensive line and sidelined Quarterback Bart Starr for key games, including last week's, the Packers suffered from lack of a field-goal kicker for most of the season.

"You figure we could have won four games we lost if we had had a long-range kicker," said Elijah Pitts, the running back who shares time with Anderson. "We win those four games, this one doesn't mean a thing. But it doesn't do any good crying about it. We learned some things this year. We had some adjustments to make. We found out you don't get ready for a game by starting to think about it on Friday. You got to think about it all the time all week. We'll be back next year."

Although Pitts did not go into detail on the adjustments the club had to make, it was clear that he was referring to the change from Lombardi to Bengtson, from the emotional, hypercharged approach that Lombardi used to whip his club into a frenzy week after week to the rather cool, intellectual administration of his former assistant.

"We have to get ourselves up," one veteran said. "We're pros. We should. But somehow we didn't."

However, the Packers were up for Baltimore. They opened play with what is an atypical defense for Green Bay, a club that makes almost a fetish of

continued

Outleaping Packers' Adderley, Colts' Richardson takes pass for game's only touchdown.



Outleaping Packers' Adderley, Colts' Richardson takes pass for game's only touchdown.



Unable to play because of bruised ribs. Quarterback Bart Starr (right) accepts postgame condolences of Baltimore's Billy Ray Smith.

orthodoxy on defense. From the first offensive play by Baltimore until the end of the game, the Packers gambled. They do not blitz often, but on this chill, bright and windy afternoon, they did it well over half the time. In the first half, on one sequence covering two Colt offensive series and nine plays, the Packer linebackers, in various combinations, blitzed all nine times.

"We didn't expect them to come so much," Earl Morrall, the Colt quarterback, said after it was over. "Every time we went into a slot formation they blitzed. I had to audible a lot to take care of it."

The Colts picked up the Green Bay blitz much of the time. Coach Don Shula varied the Baltimore blocking assignments so that the blitzing linebackers never knew who would take them. And although the Packer play worked well enough to spoil Baltimore drives several times deep in Green Bay territory, it cost the Packers a touchdown early in the game.

This happened the second time Baltimore got the ball, after Donny Anderson had fumbled and Colt Cornerback Bobby Boyd had recovered on the Green Bay 28. With second and eight, the Packers blitzed, and Morrall, with strong protection, had time to loft a high trajectory pass to End Willie Richardson in the corner of the end zone. A blitz usually forces the cornerbacks into single coverage on the flanker and spread end. In this case Richardson did not exactly beat Herb Adderley, but he timed his leap for the ball better and took it just behind and over the outstretched fingertips of the Packer defender for the only touchdown of the game.

On other occasions, throwing against the augmented rush, Morrall narrowly missed open receivers on deep patterns. Although he was dropped only twice, he was hurried several times.

"The blitzes were a calculated risk," said Packer Linebacker Lee Roy Caffey later. "If you don't make Baltimore respect the red dog, they'll check backs out of the backfield. We didn't want them putting that many receivers into the secondary. When you come at them, they have to keep backs in to block.

That's what they had to do today and it worked out pretty well. It was just one of those days. We've had a hell of a lot of them this year. But I'll tell you one thing. We haven't played a team all season I thought was as good as we are. What was it General MacArthur said? We will return."

Willie Davis, the All-Pro Packer defensive end and captain, took the defeat and the end of the Packer championship string as bitterly as any of the players.

"This will be the first time since I started playing football I was on a team that finished worse than second," Willie said. "All year I've tried not to take the frustration and disappointment home with me or out on the streets with me. I smile and talk to people like nothing is wrong, but I don't know how I can stand the off season now with this to think about. I have to go home to Chicago and think it over for a long time. I've had a good career and maybe now is the time to call it quits. I don't want to just hang around and fill a uniform. The way I feel now I don't think I'll come back unless Coach Bengtson tells me he is in a bind and really needs me next year. I'd come back for him."

Ray Nitschke, who had his usual bristling afternoon at middle linebacker, said, "It's all in the game. We got to forget this year. We got to look ahead, not back."

The Packers obviously have much to look ahead to.

"We got only four games out of Bob Brown," said Dave Robinson, the big corner linebacker. "In one season he broke an arm and a leg. Weatherwax wrecked his knee and we didn't get one minute out of him and he's the biggest man on the squad. These were the guys we figured on to rest Henry Jordan and Ron Kostelnik and both of them played with injuries. We got a lot of good young ones and you can't figure us for all those injuries again. We'll be back."

If they should fail to recapture their Lombardi years, the problem will very likely be found at quarterback. Starr, when healthy, is still one of the most capable quarterbacks in football, but at 35 he has reached the age where injuries linger, and it would be foolhardy to expect him to grow sturdier in the seasons to come. Zeke Bratkowski, who has been a useful replacement for Starr, is 37 and ready to retire. The Packers

will have to develop a good young quarterback and do it immediately if Bengtson is to duplicate the accomplishments of Lombardi.

Given the good young quarterback and health, the Packers may still have trouble dominating the league as they did from 1960 through 1967. The Colts, a nice blend of experience and youth, will be around for quite a while, and so will the Rams, 49ers, Vikings, Cowboys and Browns.

Baltimore, with the best defense since the 1963 Chicago Bears and the best No. 2 quarterback in the league, clinched the Coastal Division when the Bears upset the Rams on Sunday and now stands a very good chance of replacing Green Bay as both NFL and Super Bowl champion. Johnny Unitas did not get into the game against the Packers, but the week before, in the 44-0 rout of Atlanta, he played part of the second half, completed five of 10 passes and threw the ball with much of his old skill. Should Morrall falter, Unitas may be ready.

But it is that magnificent defense that has given the Colts impetus since their surprising loss to Cleveland on Oct. 20.

"We have played together so long now we react without thinking," said Jerry Logan, the Baltimore strong safety who limited the Green Bay tight ends to a total of one catch. Bengtson moved Boyd Dowler from spread end to tight end to beef up the Packer passing attack, but the move proved fruitless against the tenacious guarding of the Colt secondary.

"After you have been together as long as we have you know instinctively where your support is coming from and you know it is coming," Logan said. "We've got some good young ones, too. I know Mike Curtis has been a big help to me at linebacker. I think he's the best corner linebacker in the league right now and that makes my job a lot easier. And I know Bobby Boyd won't make any mistakes. That means I can take chances I wouldn't normally."

"There's no place for the other quarterback to go on third and eight," one Colt said with satisfaction. "Most clubs, you got someone you can pick on then, some guy you know you can beat. You save him for that third-and-eight call. But there isn't anyone to save on this club. They are all tough."

That's just the way it used to be with the old Packers.

END

Unable to play because of bruised ribs, Quarterback Bart Starr (right) accepts postgame condolences of Baltimore's Billy Ray Smith.

AU REVOIR, PACKERS!

When Green Bay lost to the powerful Baltimore Colts last week it meant that the old champions would not be in the Super Bowl this time, but it would be wrong to assume that they will not come back

DEC 15 (Sports Illustrated) - The Baltimore Colts, relying on the toughest defense (see cover) this side of the Berlin Wall, looked very much like the Green Bay Packers last week. The old Green Bay Packers. This was unfortunate for the current edition of the Packers, who looked more like the Vassar Coquettes as the Colts stifled them 16-3 before more than 50,000 Green Bay fans last week. The loss snuffed out what dim hope the Packers had to win their fourth straight championship. Now the Central Division title could well go to the Chicago Bears, who have come back from the dead after losing Gale Sayers and three quarterbacks at various stages of the campaign. They are tied with the Minnesota Vikings, but because they beat the Vikings twice during the season they can clinch the title with a victory this week over the Packers. If the Bears lose, they will almost certainly finish second to Minnesota, since the Vikings should have an easy game against the Philadelphia Eagles. The Packers' defeat by Baltimore was, in a way, a microcosm of the whole unfortunate year for Green Bay. The team made five major mistakes—four lost fumbles and an interception—and a host of minor ones, including a booming four-yard punt from the toe of Donny Anderson. The defense was stubborn most of the game, but each of those four fumbles gave Baltimore the ball in Green Bay territory and led directly to two field goals and the lone touchdown. Meanwhile, the Packers did not get beyond the Colt 35 until the fourth quarter. Their three points came in the first period when Mike Mercer banked a field goal off the right upright from the Baltimore 45-yard line. To be sure, much of the Packers' misfortune was caused by the Baltimore defense, a unit which has now gone four games without giving up a touchdown. In 13 games this season the Colts have yielded only 120 points, and a quarter of those came in their one bad show of the year, a 30-20 loss to the Cleveland Browns. Countless words undoubtedly will be written describing the Green Bay debacle as the end of a dynasty, but this is a theory the Packers themselves do not endorse. To them, the disasters of 1968 were an interruption, not an end. All the bad luck Green Bay escaped in the nine years under Vince Lombardi seemed to descend upon the team in Phil Bengtson's first season as coach, and the avalanche of injuries, bad bounces, missed field goals and untimely penalties resulted in Green Bay's first losing season since 1959. When the Baltimore game was over, the atmosphere in the Packer dressing room was more resigned than funereal. It was almost as if the players had expected the worst, although before the game Jerry Kramer, when asked if he thought Green Bay had a chance against the Colts, said, "You're damned right we have. We'll beat them." After the game he shook his head. "I hope we got rid of all of it this year. Everything that can happen to a ball club happened. I keep thinking about what it says in the Bible. Three fat years and then three lean. Or is it seven and seven? We had enough bad luck for seven years all in one." Aside from injuries, which wiped out most of the defensive line and sidelined Quarterback Bart Starr for key games, including last week's, the Packers suffered from lack of a field-goal kicker for most of the season. "You figure we could have won four games we lost if we had had a long-range kicker," said Elijah Pitts, the running back who shares time with Anderson. "We win those four games, this one doesn't mean a thing. But it doesn't do any good crying about it. We learned some things this year. We had some adjustments to make. We found out you don't get ready for a game by starting to think about it on Friday. You got to think about it all the time all week. We'll be back next year." Although Pitts did not go into detail on the adjustments the club had to make, it was clear that he was referring to the change from Lombardi to Bengtson, from the emotional, hypercharged approach that Lombardi used to whip his club into a frenzy week after week to the rather cool, intellectual administration of his former assistant. "We have to get ourselves up," one veteran said. "We're pros. We should. But somehow we didn't." However, the Packers were up for Baltimore. They opened play with what is an atypical defense for Green Bay, a club that makes almost a fetish of orthodoxy on defense. From the first offensive play by Baltimore until the end of the game, the Packers gambled. They do not blitz often, but on this chill, bright and windy afternoon, they did it well over half the time. In the first half, on one sequence covering two Colt offensive series and nine plays, the Packer linebackers, in various combinations, blitzed all nine times. "We didn't expect them to come so much," Earl Morrall, the Colt quarterback, said after it was over. "Every time we went into a slot formation they blitzed. I had to audible a lot to take care of it." The Colts picked up the Green Bay-blitz much of the time. Coach Don Shula varied the Baltimore blocking assignments so that the blitzing linebackers never knew who would take them. And although the Packer ploy worked well enough to spoil Baltimore drives several times deep in Green Bay territory, it cost the Packers a touchdown early in the game. This happened the second time Baltimore got the ball, after Donny Anderson had fumbled and Colt Corner-back Bobby Boyd had recovered on the Green Bay 28. With second and eight, the Packers blitzed, and Morrall, with strong protection, had time to loft a high trajectory pass to End Willie Richardson in the corner of the end zone. A blitz usually forces the cornerbacks into single coverage on the flanker and spread end. In this case Richardson did not exactly beat Herb Adderley, but he timed his leap for the ball better and took it just behind and over the outstretched fingertips of the Packer defender for the only touchdown of the game. On other occasions, throwing against the augmented rush, Morrall narrowly missed open receivers on deep patterns. Although he was dropped only twice, he was hurried several times. "The blitzes were a calculated risk," said Packer Linebacker Lee Roy Caffey later. "If you don't make Baltimore respect the red dog, they'll check backs out of the backfield. We didn't want them putting that many receivers into the secondary. When you come at them, they have to keep backs in to block. That's what they had to do today and it worked out pretty well. It was just one of those days. We've had a hell of a lot of them this year. But I'll tell you one thing. We haven't played a team all season I thought was as good as we are. What was it General MacArthur said? We will return." Willie Davis, the All-Pro Packer defensive end and captain, took the defeat and the end of the Packer championship string as bitterly as any of the players. "This will be the first time since I started playing football I was on a team that finished worse than second," Willie said. "All year I've tried not to take the frustration and disappointment home with me or out on the streets with me. I smile and talk to people like nothing is wrong, but I don't know how I can stand the off season now with this to think about. I have to go home to Chicago and think it over for a long

time. I've had a good career and maybe now is the time to call it quits. I don't want to just hang around and fill a uniform. The way I feel now I don't think I'll come back unless Coach Bengtson tells me he is in a bind and really needs me next year. I'd come back for him." Ray Nitschke, who had his usual bristling afternoon at middle linebacker, said, "It's all in the game. We got to forget this year. We got to look ahead, not back." The Packers obviously have much to look ahead to. "We got only four games out of Bob Brown," said Dave Robinson, the big corner linebacker. "In one season he broke an arm and a leg. Weatherwax wrecked his knee and we didn't get one minute out of him and he's the biggest man on the squad. These were the guys we figured on to rest Henry Jordan and Ron Kostelnik and both of them played with injuries. We got a lot of good young ones and you can't figure us for all those injuries again. We'll be back." If they should fail to recapture their Lombardi years, the problem will very likely be found at quarterback. Starr, when healthy, is still one of the most capable quarterbacks in football, but at 35 he has reached the age where injuries linger, and it would be foolhardy to expect him to grow sturdier in the seasons to come. Zeke Bratkowski, who has been a useful replacement for Starr, is 37 and ready to retire. The Packers will have to develop a good young quarterback and do it immediately if Bengtson is to duplicate the accomplishments of Lombardi. Given the good young quarterback and health, the Packers may still have trouble dominating the league as they did from 1960 through 1967. The Colts, a nice blend of experience and youth, will be around for quite a while, and so will the Rams, 49ers, Vikings, Cowboys and Browns. Baltimore, with the best defense since the 1963 Chicago Bears and the best No. 2 quarterback in the league, clinched the Coastal Division when the Bears upset the Rams on Sunday and now stands a very good chance of replacing Green Bay as both NFL and Super Bowl champion. Johnny Unitas did not get into the game against the Packers, but the week before, in the 44-0 rout of Atlanta, he played part of the second half, completed five of 10 passes and threw the ball with much of his old skill. Should Morrall falter, Unitas may be ready. But it is that magnificent defense that has given the Colts impetus since their surprising loss to Cleveland on Oct. 20. "We have played together so long now we react without thinking," said Jerry Logan, the Baltimore strong safety who limited the Green Bay tight ends to a total of one catch. Bengtson moved Boyd Dowler from spread end to tight end to beef up the Packer passing attack, but the move proved fruitless against the tenacious guarding of the Colt secondary. "After you have been together as long as we have you know instinctively where your support is coming from and you know it is coming," Logan said. "We've got some good young ones, too. I know Mike Curtis has been a big help to me at linebacker. I think he's the best corner linebacker in the league right now and that makes my job a lot easier. And I know Bobby Boyd won't make any mistakes. That means I can take chances I wouldn't normally." "There's no place for the other quarterback to go on third and eight," one Colt said with satisfaction. "Most clubs, you got someone you can pick on then, some guy you know you can beat. You save him for that third-and-eight call. But there isn't anyone to save on this club. They are all tough." That's just the way it used to be with the old Packers.

An Empire Collapsed on Lambeau Field

AN EMPIRE COLLAPSED ON LAMBEAU FIELD

DEC 21 (The Sporting News) - The crowd rose and cheered, the band played "Auld Lang Syne," and an era ended. The era was that of the Green Bay Packers, who dominated professional football as few teams ever had for almost ten years, until the Baltimore Colts earned a 16-3 victory and overthrew a dynasty December 7. It can be said, of course, that the era ended last February, when Vince Lombardi retired as coach and named his top assistant, Phil Bengtson, as his successor. It fell to Bengtson, then, to improve upon perfection, to duplicate the masterpiece of three NFL championships, and two Super Bowl victories, with which the Packers had written one of the brightest chapters in league history. It had seemed an all but impossible task at the outset, but it took a preposterously long time to prove that it indeed was. And, in a way, it was fitting that the Colts, professional football's dominant team of this season, applied the coup de grace. Colt Coach Don Shula thought so. "We were proud to be the ones to knock them out of this thing," he said. "They are the champions - they were the champions - and we beat them here. Even when we lost five in a row to them (a string broken last season, we played good football, but we made mistakes and lost. Today, they made the fumbles and lost)." ...WINDUP IN GREEN BAY: On the part of the Packers, the time for frustration had passed, and been replaced by a quiet nostalgia. The game was the last of the season in Green Bay, and for many of the players, it might have been even more permanent than that. "What a heartache to end up like this," said guard Jerry Kramer. "This might be my last game in Lambeau Field, you know-maybe it's the last one for Bob Skoronski and Forrest Gregg and Bart Starr and Henry Jordan, too - and we wanted it. God, we wanted it." And not primarily, it appeared, because it could still rescue a Central Division championship. He rejected a suggestion that Green Bay might still win its division - the chance remained then, although it evaporated later in the weekend when Minnesota and Chicago won. "No, we just wanted this for ourselves," he said. "For us, for the people we've all known here and the club and our teammates and ourselves. "This wasn't a flat game for us. Skoronski (the offensive captain) talked to us before the game, and things got a little emotional. People were ready to bawl when he finished, and maybe we wanted it too much. "We did want it, though. We weren't flat. I know I never wanted anything any more in my time here." Offensive tackle Forrest Gregg sounded a similar note in discussing the season as a whole. "I wanted to win as much as I ever did," he said. "And I put as much effort into this season as I ever did in any year." What happened, then, to bring down the mighty? "In all frankness, I don't think age had a thing to do with it," Bengtson said. "We have some age, but so do other clubs. I would have to say it wasn't a factor..." STARR INJURIES DECISIVE: "The simplest thing to say is that the injuries did it, and more than that, you could just say the injuries to Starr. After all, there aren't many teams that did very well without their quarterbacks. The obvious exception, of course, is the Colts. But at least Earl Morrall had replaced John Unitas at the beginning. That's probably the first thing to think about." Starr's season was an unhappy one. He still ranks among the league's top handful of passers, but he missed three games in their entirety, and played in only parts of

three others, including one game in which he participated in exactly one play. So, of the Packers' first 13 games, Starr was available for full duty in only seven. "I don't want to detract from Zeke Bratkowski," Bengtson said. "But Starr was the leading factor in our attack. Our game was designed around the things he could do, and we didn't have him available for a good share of the time. That's just a fact." There were other factors. Green Bay's kicking game was an immediate factor in two defeats, and a contributing factor in a third; not until Mike Mercer was rescued from the AFL scrap heap late in the season did the Packers begin to get their fair share of field goal points. After a shaky beginning, Mercer hit on five straight kicks - the last three from 44, 44 and 45 yards - to close that particular door, albeit after the horse had departed. The problems in the defensive line began sooner and lasted longer, however. Injuries, of a seriousness and intensity too great for even Green Bay's good depth, first stripped the defensive line of effectiveness and then of reserve strength. Defensive end Bob Brown and defensive tackle Jim Weatherwax, two third-year men counted on for strong reserve help, spent much of the season in street clothes - Brown with a broken arm and then a broken leg, Weatherwax with knee surgery. The extra weight thus put on the regulars was considerable, and was not lessened by Henry Jordan's bad back or Ron Kostelnik's sore knee. "Jordan has played all season on guts," Bengtson said simply. The future is clouded now, with the possibility of a spate of retirements contributing to the murkiness. "We'll be surprised if there are not some retirements," Bengtson said. "But we don't anticipate any wholesale retirements." Who the men might be, of course, is another matter. Eight men are 32 or older, however. Among them is Gregg, who said, "At the end of a year - particularly a bad year or a disappointing year - everybody talks retirement. I don't care who you are, the season is long... 'WE'LL BE BACK': "But when it comes down to it next summer, a lot of them will be back, after all." And, of course, the Packers will, too. "The thing that determines how big a man you are is how you come back," running back Elijah Pitts said. "We'll be back next year." But it is unlikely to be the same. The three consecutive NFL championships the Packers won from 1965 to '67 was a problem no team in the modern era had solved before, and the dominance the Packers exercised between 1961 and '67 - five league championships in those years - may never be duplicated. Now the team has to learn to live with its first record under .500 since 1958, and now the Packers will have to watch a Super Bowl game from the paying seats, or on television. And what of Lombardi, who fulfilled his promise to leave the coaching of the team to Bengtson? "It's premature to talk about the season," he said. "Call me next week and I'll be happy to get together with you. It isn't over yet." But it really is. All but the shouting.