



Green Bay Packers (6-3) 23, Chicago Bears (3-5-1) 17  
Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> 1972 (at Chicago)



# Marcol kicks Packers into division lead

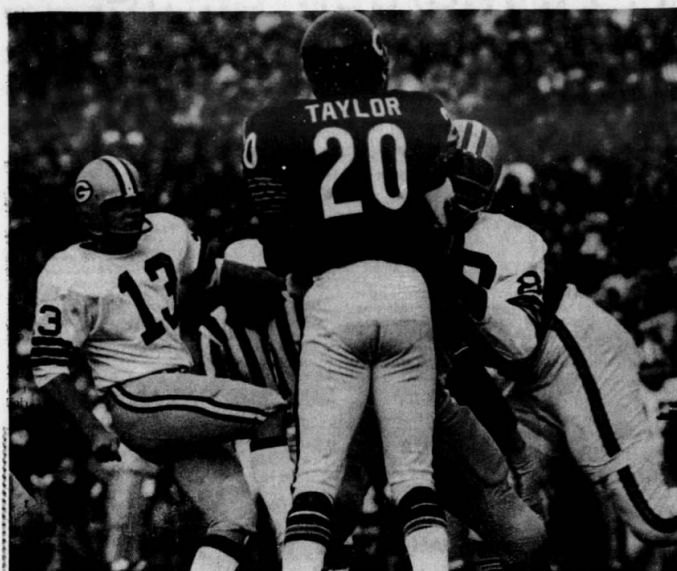
## GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(CHICAGO) - Judging by past experience, Chester Marcol's Windy City "fan mail" should pick up this week. Last month, after his 37-yard field goal forged a 20-17 victory over the Bears, the Packer rookie received an unsolicited piece of advice from a Bear buff, apparently exasperated because a Marcol bullseye also had beaten the Bruins in a pre-season game, 10-7. Although the letter was unsigned, it bore a Chicago postmark and the message was both clear and concise. It read: "Dear Chester: "Go back to Poland." After what transpired in Soldier Field Sunday afternoon, the Polish-born placekicker is expecting more of the same - by special delivery. Although the elements of victory were many and diverse, it again was Marcol's seldom erring toe which proved the difference as the Packers frustrated the Bears, 23-17, with the help of some late heroics by Jerry Tagge, Willie Buchannon and Dave Robinson. His flawless footwork produced Green Bay's last nine points and his final field goal, a 21-yard chip shot, put him in the Packer record book - after just nine games as a pro. It was his sixth straight success - he was three-for-three for the day - and his 20th of the year, eclipsing the club's previous single season standard of 19, set by Don Chandler in 1967. Those contributions, along with a 12-yard touchdown burst by John Brockington and a one-yard scoring plunge by quarterback Scott Hunter, left the Packers in exclusive possession of the NFC's Central Division lead at twilight with a 6-3 record, following a 16-14 assist from the Vikings against previous co-leader Detroit. What, Dan Devine was asked, had wrought this turnabout (the Packers were 3-5-1 at this point in 1971)? "There are a lot of reasons," said the chief architect of the resounding renaissance. "A lot of hard work by both players and coaches the great attitude of a bunch of hustling young guys. That's still the most important thing. "We're better on pass defense, we have a better kicking game. In fact we are better on all of our special teams. At least, so far we are. We still have a way to go...But the season gets shorter every week." Devine's opposite number, portly Abe Gibrón, might agree with this last - for different reason - now that his Bears have fallen 2 ½ games off the pace with only five games remaining. But Abe was making no apologies for the Midway Monsters' performance. "It's a shame when you beat the out of somebody and still get beat," said Gibrón, obviously alluding to the fact his Bears had outyarded the Packers, 261 to 170, rolling up 19 first downs to Green Bay's 8. "But you can't give 'em 17 points and put your offense under the gun," he said, "and expect to come back." The reference was to a bad snap to punter Bobby Joe Green, felled for an 18-yard loss which gave the Packers excellent field position at the Chicago 24, an 87-yard kickoff return by Ike Thomas and a Jim Carter interception, which the Packers converted into a 17-7 halftime lead. Devine conceded football's fortunes had gone Green Bay's way early but countered by observing. "On their last drive to a touchdown, I thought they had a couple of breaks. One was a fumble that was blown dead and one was an interception we dropped. I think those things even out over the course of a game." Devine also could have pointed out he had lost his starting quarterback for most of the afternoon in the wake of a second quarter scramble which left a groggy Hunter a little unsure of his identity. That could have been a bit sticky, had Tagge not exhibited admirable calm and confidence in his regular season debut. "I wasn't surprised," Devine said, "I've talked to Jerry about being ready to go. Jerry and I have related well together ever since he came to the Packers. I'm not surprised he played well, and he played well. It's nice to have two young quarterbacks. I thought he did just like Douglass - he played extremely well. I thought he showed a lot of poise." Admitting that he had "closed down" the offense temporarily after Tagge first replaced Hunter late in the second quarter. Devine explained, "We were kind of playing the clock and the lead (17-7) on these first couple of series Jerry was in there." Tagge's backfield companion, John Brockington, credited the rookie with a major assist. "That was the best thing about the game - Jerry



*Bears linebacker Dick Butkus lifts Green Bay Packers running back John Brockington off the turf as he makes this crushing tackle during the second quarter of the ball game*

coming in off the bench cold and playing well," he said. "I was really proud of that cat. He didn't get rattled. He had one bad series, but the team hung with him and he didn't let it get to him. Jerry did an outstanding job. That's a lot of pressure, plus the Bears were the team that hurt him in the pre-season. That had to be in the back of his mind." Tagge's first substantial contribution came in the third quarter when, beginning at the Green Bay 10, he engineered a drive to the Chicago 14, setting up Marcol's second and record-tying field goal. Surprisingly enough, Gibron said nothing about Marcol's historic field goal performance, although it was achieved with little help from the Bears. Obviously at Abe's behest, they did their best to disconcert the fabulous freshman along the way. "On every kickoff I made, Gary Kosins came right for me," Chester said. "He obviously was trying to put the wood to me - to soften me up. But I was able to dodge him - that's no problem. The Bears do it to every kicker in the league, I guess. So I was expecting it. I always do. You can expect anything from the Bears. But, from my point of view, it just makes you want to do better. Just before my last field goal attempt, Dick Butkus came way out of his way to try to throw me off. I made a little scuff mark to mark the spot where I intended to kick from. Butkus came over and rubbed the mark away. He never said a word, he just rubbed it out with his shoe." As has been recorded, such distractions failed to deter the former Hillsdale College prodigy. And neither, he reported, did that final kick's importance. "It was just another field goal to me Chester said. "It just escaped my mind completely that I could break the Packer record by making that one. I didn't even know that I had broken it until after the game. I was aware of how many I needed earlier in the week, but I had forgotten about it." That record-breaking field goal attempt, emphatically true to the mark like Chester's first two efforts, might not have developed had it not been Dave Robinson's opportune bulldogging of Bobby Douglass. It forced a fumble, recovered by Alden Roche at the Chicago 19. "It was a blitz," Robinson said. "I saw Douglass had his back to me and I had to decide whether I should just try to dump him or take a chance on trying to rake him and jar the ball loose. So I went for the rake and the ball popped out.



#### Another 3 points

Chester Marcol kicks one of the three field goals that helped the Packers beat the Bears, 23-17, Sunday in Chicago and enabled him to break Don Chandler's club record (20 to 19). The Bear No. 20 is the Bears' Joe Taylor. (Post-Crescent News Service Photo)

**GREEN BAY - 14 3 3 3 - 23**  
**CHICAGO - 7 0 3 7 - 17**

|                    | <u>GREEN BAY</u> | <u>CHICAGO</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| First downs        | 8                | 19             |
| Rush-yards-TDs     | 34-123-2         | 40-179-2       |
| Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT | 10-4-47-0-2      | 24-11-139-0-1  |
| Sacked-Yards Lost  | 1-7              | 4-22           |
| Net Passing Yards  | 40               | 117            |
| Total yards        | 163              | 296            |
| Fumbles-lost       | 2-0              | 4-2            |
| Turnovers          | 2                | 2              |
| Yards Penalized    | 7-60             | 4-30           |

#### **SCORING**

1<sup>st</sup> - GB - John Brockington, 12-yard run (Chester Marcol kick) GB 7-0

1<sup>st</sup> - CHI - Cyril Pinder, 4-yard run (Mac Percival kick) TIED 7-7

1<sup>st</sup> - GB - Scott Hunter, 1-yard run (Marcol kick) GB 14-7

2<sup>nd</sup> - GB - Marcol, 51-yard field goal GB 17-7

3<sup>rd</sup> - CHI - Percival, 38-yard field goal GB 17-10

3<sup>rd</sup> - GB - Marcol, 21-yard field goal GB 20-10

4<sup>th</sup> - CHI - Bobby Douglass, 1-yard run (Percival kick) GB 20-17

4<sup>th</sup> - GB - Marcol, 21-yard field goal GB 23-17

#### **RUSHING**

**GREEN BAY** - John Brockington 19-70 1 TD, MacArthur Lane 7-57, Scott Hunter 4-4, Jerry Tagge 4-(-8)

**CHICAGO** - Don Shy 17-76, Bobby Douglass 12-68 1 TD, Jim Harrison 9-20, Cecil Turner 1-11, Cyril Pinder 1-4 1 TD

#### **PASSING**

**GREEN BAY** - Scott Hunter 3-0-0 2 INT, Jerry Tagge 7-4-47

**CHICAGO** - Bobby Douglass 24-11-139 1 INT

#### **RECEIVING**

**GREEN BAY** - MacArthur Lane 2-20, John Brockington 1-14, Carroll Dale 1-13

**CHICAGO** - Earl Thomas 3-47, Don Shy 3-27, George Farmer 2-51, Jim Seymour 1-13, Bob Wallace 1-9, Jim Harrison 1-(-8)

# Pro Football At A Glance By The Associated Press

| NFL                 |   |   |   |       |      |     |
|---------------------|---|---|---|-------|------|-----|
| American Conference |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| East                |   |   |   |       |      |     |
|                     | W | L | T | Pct.  | Pts. | OP  |
| Miami               | 9 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 250  | 103 |
| New York Jets       | 6 | 3 | 0 | .667  | 279  | 192 |
| Buffalo             | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222  | 168  | 253 |
| Baltimore           | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222  | 139  | 186 |
| New England         | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222  | 109  | 296 |
| Central             |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| Pittsburgh          | 7 | 2 | 0 | .778  | 233  | 134 |
| Cleveland           | 5 | 3 | 0 | .625  | 141  | 134 |
| Cincinnati          | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 169  | 152 |
| Houston             | 1 | 8 | 0 | .111  | 104  | 233 |
| West                |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| Oakland             | 5 | 3 | 1 | .611  | 229  | 169 |
| Kansas City         | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 202  | 156 |
| Denver              | 3 | 6 | 0 | .333  | 181  | 232 |
| San Diego           | 2 | 5 | 1 | .313  | 152  | 203 |
| National Conference |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| East                |   |   |   |       |      |     |
|                     | W | L | T | Pct.  | Pts. | OP  |
| Washington          | 8 | 1 | 0 | .889  | 227  | 124 |
| Dallas              | 7 | 2 | 0 | .778  | 217  | 149 |
| New York Giants     | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 210  | 191 |
| St. Louis           | 2 | 6 | 1 | .278  | 122  | 195 |
| Philadelphia        | 2 | 6 | 1 | .278  | 86   | 194 |
| Central             |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| Green Bay           | 6 | 3 | 0 | .667  | 179  | 161 |
| Detroit             | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 213  | 185 |
| Minnesota           | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 199  | 135 |
| Chicago             | 3 | 5 | 1 | .389  | 149  | 165 |
| West                |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| Los Angeles         | 5 | 3 | 1 | .611  | 178  | 148 |
| Atlanta             | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 199  | 183 |
| San Francisco       | 4 | 4 | 1 | .500  | 232  | 175 |
| New Orleans         | 1 | 7 | 1 | .167  | 135  | 253 |

## Sunday's Games

New York Jets 41, Buffalo 3  
Pittsburgh 16, Kansas City 7  
Miami 52, New England 0  
Oakland 20, Cincinnati 14  
San Francisco 24, Baltimore 21  
Denver 16, Los Angeles 10  
Philadelphia 18, Houston 17  
Minnesota 16, Detroit 14  
Green Bay 23, Chicago 17  
Atlanta 36, New Orleans 20  
Washington 27, New York Giants 13  
Dallas 33, St. Louis 24

## Monday's Game

Cleveland at San Diego, 9 p.m., EST  
national television

## Sunday's Games

### All Times EST

Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.  
Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m.  
Dallas at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.  
Green Bay at Houston, 2 p.m.  
Minnesota at Los Angeles, 4 p.m.  
New Orleans at Detroit, 1 p.m.  
New York Giants at St. Louis, 2 p.m.  
New York Jets at Miami, 1 p.m.  
Oakland at Denver, 2 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1 p.m.  
San Diego at Kansas City, 2 p.m.  
San Francisco at Chicago, 2 p.m.

## Monday's Game

Atlanta at Washington, 9 p.m., national television

## GAME BALL TAGGE'S REWARD IN DEBUT

NOV 13 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The temperature was in the damp, low 40s Sunday at Soldier Field, a stone's throw from the chill of Lake Michigan. But Jerry Tagge, suddenly summoned from the bench, could have been in Miami. "I had no trouble warming up," he later jested. "My blood and adrenalin were flowing pretty fast. It was a long awaited day for the former Green Bay West quarterback, who used to envision himself in Packer green and gold while selling peanuts and hot dogs at Green Bay's Lambeau Field as a teenage vendor. Drafted in the first round last February after winning All-America status at the University of Nebraska, he had made two pre-season appearances. But, progress slowed by an injury, he had yet to call a regular season play - until Sunday afternoon. Then, when starter Scott Hunter was knocked groggy on a scramble, his major league debut abruptly arrived. And, by any standards, the ex-Wildcat's response to Dan Devine's impromptu summons was entirely respectable. Tagge, at the controls most of the second half when the cobwebs failed to clear for Hunter, drove the Packers to what proved to be a game-deciding field goal in the third quarter with an impressive show of poise and completed four of seven passes overall for 47 yards. "We moved the ball fairly well," Tagge conceded in a post-game appraisal of his performance, "but I did some things wrong. I missed Mac Lane in the end zone one time and Pete Lammons another time when he was in the open.. "But that's going to happen, I guess. I'm just happy to get in a game, actually."...SLY SMILE: Flashing a sly smile, he added, "Frankly, I was happy to get in there with a 10-point lead. That made it a lot easier. It was a big boost to me, just to play. If there was any slip in my morale, it's right back up there. "The hardest part for me in not playing has been keeping my concentration. It's hard to keep your concentration up from week to week when you're not playing. So I work twice as hard in practice in an effort to stay sharp. "What I've been trying to do is stay alert. All I can do is stay up mentally and try to get myself ready to play 60 minutes each week, even if I may not get in. You never know when your time is going to come, but you know it will come sometime. "Today," he noted with a smile, "was a taste." Inevitably, he was asked what kind of role assistant coach Bart Starr has played in his Packer development. "Bart pats you on the back, helps keep your confidence up, for one thing," Tagge said. "And he keeps you alert. He tells you when you're doing a good job, and when you're not. He's been great to me." Just as predictably, the strapping ex-Cornhusker was queried about his hopes for a starting assignment. "The main thing on my mind," he said, "is winning. If I can contribute, of course, I want to contribute as much as I can." Tagge patently had no quarrel with the decision to play it ultra-conservative when he first replaced Hunter. "I was cold," he said, "so there was a lot of merit to it." Crediting flanker Carroll Dale with a key contribution to his initial success, he said, "Carroll made a great catch there in the third quarter. I threw it where it had to be, but the linebacker was coming over. Carroll had to kind of stop and dive back for it. It boosted my morale and I think it boosted the team's morale." Slipping into a dark brown, leather jacket, Tagge cradled a football in his left arm as he prepared to leave the dressing room. "Yeah, I got a game ball," he replied in confirmation. "It's a Packer ball...it means a lot to me."

## 'SHOULDN'T HAVE RUN'

NOV 13 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) –Bobby Douglass was shaving verry carefully, dragging the razor almost gingerly down his neck and back up. He didn't want to make a mistake...another mistake. Bobby Douglass also was shaving verry slowly, as if he were trying to put off the inevitable meeting with the press, a meeting sure to center around his biggest mistake of the day. It was third down, five yards to go on the Packer 10 with time rapidly ticking away in the first half. Only about 13 seconds remained and Bear Coach Abe Gibron sent his kicker, Mac Percival, onto the field. Then, with a second thought, he called him back. The Bears were going to try once more for the touchdown. Quarterback Douglass fell back to pass, then charged ahead in customary Douglass style. He drove to about the 5-yard line and was being dragged down when the ball suddenly flicked off. to his right and went bounding toward the sideline, where Packer Al Matthews eventually recovered it. One play later, the half ended and the Pack held a 17-7 lead. "I shouldn't have run, that's obvious," Douglass acknowledged as the unavoidable questions came up while he slapped lime lotion around his fresh cheeks. His coach, Abe Gibron, had earlier agreed with that but insisted on accepting the blame himself. "We needed the touchdown. I never dreamed what happened would happen," he said in a surprisingly light manner. "It was supposed to be a drop back to Farmer (George) against a full press - but if he throws it in the stands, we kick the field goal.

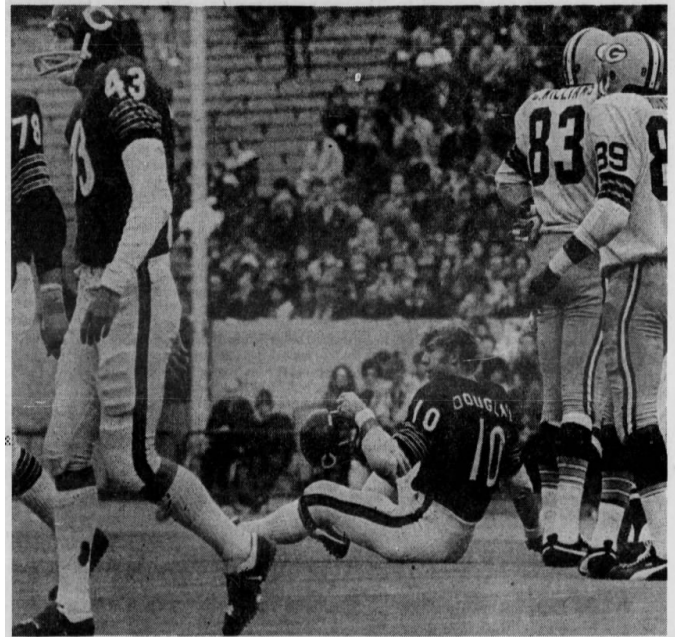


You can't make mistakes against a machine like Green Bay." Douglass, now struggling to turn his golden but wet locks into a dry look, made an effort at a smile as he added "My hindsight is 20-20." There seemed to be some question, however, as

to whether he simply fumbled the ball, tried to toss it out of bounds, or had tried to lateral it and the strapping Bear general did not immediately offer any answer, declaring. "I'm not going into that." But when it was revealed that Jimmy Harrison had talked about it in terms of an attempted lateral to him. Douglass broke down and offered an explanation. "Farmer wasn't there. He was covered by both the corner and the safety. The ball should have been thrown away. But I was trying to do something - fourth down. Somebody hit me as I turned and I couldn't tell what happened after that." Actually, of course, it wasn't fourth down. If the pitch hadn't been errant, the Bears might still have had a chance for a field goal. In fact, Gibron was second guessing himself too. "If we had let Percival in, we probably wouldn't have kicked anyway. I don't know what would have been better - passing from field goal formation or dropping back." In any event, the touchdown sought, perhaps wisely by Gibron but in perhaps just as unwise manner by Douglass, would not have come off no matter what since the Bears were called for screening on the play. Nevertheless, Douglass' fumble prevented the goal...and Chicago folks seemed to think that play made the big difference in the game. But Gibron emphasized, "Don't blame Bobby. He saw a chance to score. If he had made it, he would have been a hero." Packer Coach Dan Devine, a generous victor, saw it much the same way. "I thought all of his decisions were excellent," Devine said when asked specifically about Douglass' move on that play. "I thought he played a fantastic game. I'm not going to second guess a guy who played a great football game."

#### DEFENSE PROVES EQUAL TO TASK ... AGAIN

NOV 13 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) — Hawg's Heroes did it again. They may sag. but they don't drop. They may bend, but they don't break. They may leak, but they bail themselves out. I mean, look at the statistics: the Bears made 19 first downs to eight for the Packers: the Bears gained 261 yards to 170 for the Packers the Bears had the ball for 68 plays to 44 for the Packers. But the Packers won, 23-17. The statistics and score don't jibe - until you consider the Packer defense. Green Bay scored this way: 1 - a touchdown on a 24 yard drive after a bad snap from center by the Bears; 2 - a touchdown on an 11-yard drive after an 89-yard kickoff return; 3 - a field goal after an interception at the Bear 39; 4 - a field goal after a drive from its own 10 to the Bear 14; 5 - a field goal after recovering a fumble at the Bear 19. That adds up to only one real drive...and that one paid off only in three points, Equally as significant, other than for No 4 above, the Packers made only one first down after the first 15 minutes and 41 seconds of the game...and that first down was followed one play later by a Bear interception. The defense was tested, to say the least. And not only by the Packers lack of offense. The Bears presented a dazzling array of sets, showing many varieties of I, Pro Double Flanker and Wishbone formations, some with a man in motion and some without. But the defense was equal to the task, though some may think giving up 17 points is hardly spectacular. In light of the offense's help, though, I think the defense was magnificent. Even the much maligned pass rush. "They've got a good pass rush obviously," said the man who knows best, Bear quarterback Bobby Douglass. He was caught four times for losses and was pressured and decked a number of other times. "They're tough. Brown and those guys. Their front four is good. But they're really tough against the run," he added. Rich Coady, the Bear center, tried to brush off the question of the Packer pass rush, which was launched more often than not from an odd man line with Bob Brown over center and Mike McCoy flopping to the Bears' strong side, either side of Brown. "We threw the ball more today than usual and that makes it easier for them to rush the passer," he said "But we practiced against that odd man stuff all week." His remarks came out sounding like the Bears knew what the Packers were about to do but couldn't stop it. Bear Coach Abe Gibron added to that when it was suggested that McCoy had been particularly effective on this day. "They just caved in Brown and sent McCoy around," he said, making it sound so simple. But the Bears couldn't stop it. Douglass tried to praise his line but when the matter of Dave Robinson having smashed him from the blind side and forced a fumble on the Bear 19 late in the game was brought up, Douglass growled, "Somebody was supposed to have a pickup on him. We knew they would blitz sometimes." Sure, there were times when Hawg's heroes gave a bit. But they gave both ways.

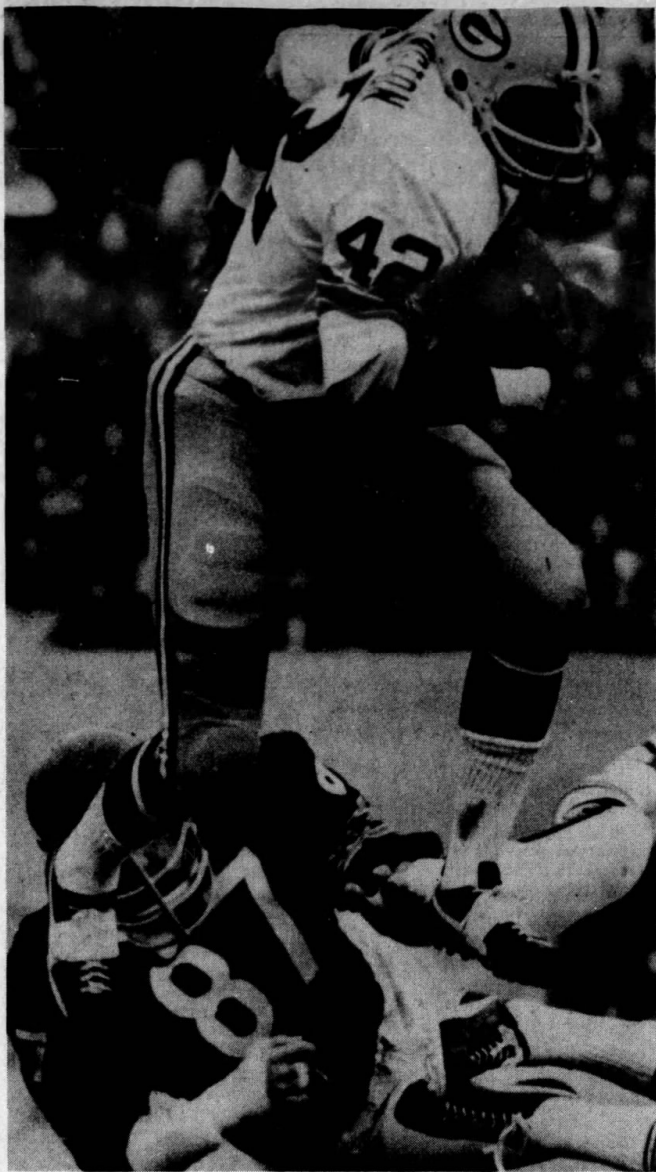


Bear Bobby Douglass Takes an Enforced Rest



Who's Got the Ball? — The Packers had the ball, at a critical moment, after this fumble late in the fourth quarter by Bears' Quarterback

Bobby Douglass. Alden Roche (87) is right there to scoop up the turnover and down it on the 19-yard line.



### Look out

John Brockington ran past and over Bears in Chicago Sunday as he helped the Packers score a 23-17 win. On the ground is Steve DeLong. (Post-Crescent News Service Photo)

**QUOTABLE QUOTES: IKE THOMAS SAW ONLY PAY DIRT**  
 NOV 13 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Quick Packer-quotes: Ike Thomas: (on his 89-yard kickoff return): "Cal Withrow got the big block that sprung me and Perry Williams got one, too, I didn't see any of the other numbers, frankly. I never saw Cecil Turner either, but I felt him. I saw Ron Smith when he slipped down but I didn't see anybody else back there. All I saw was paydirt. That could have been my third touchdown runback in the last two years. I had two with Dallas last year...Maybe next week."...Cal Withrow (on the same return): "After they criss-cross coming down at us, I get a chance to scan and pick up the most dangerous man - like on a blitz. I picked off Clem Holloway. I gave him a pretty good lick."...John Brockington (on his touchdown run): "It was an off-tackle play and I read it. Their line pinched down and our lineman blocked them the way they wanted to go. I just had to slide along the line until I found daylight. Mac Lane did the same thing on his 35-yard run. He just slid down the line and was gone like a dog."...Al Matthews (on Bobby Douglass' second quarter 'fumble'): "I don't know what it was, really. I'll have to see the film. It looked like he tried to pitch it out of bounds. Fred Carr had his hands on it first. By the time I got to it, my momentum carried me out of bounds with the ball. Freddie and I were the only ones over there. If I could have got hold of it in bounds, I could have gone all the way." Jim Hill "I wasn't surprised the Bears moved the ball well on us on those two long drives. The Bears are a much better team than their record indicates. Jim Harrison and Don Shy are fine backs and so is Bobby Douglass. They didn't surprise us - they just executed better."...Dan Devine: "I think, although I have no way of knowing for sure about the Bears, that both teams may have been a little tight at the beginning. I thought we were a little overeager."...John Brockington again: "I'm glad we're through with the Bears. It takes so much out of you mentally. Last night, I didn't sleep well and it was bugging me before the game today. Your stomach's churning and you're tight. Yoo keep telling yourself what you have to do, and you know they're going to try to intimidate you. You just have to play above that."...Chester Marcol: "We flip-flopped our tackles, as we have been for the last few weeks. in an off-man situation. Bob Brown played over the center's nose when we were in an odd-man line. Bob likes to play there and Mike McCoy has a little more agility to do what we want him to do in that situation. Mike has good pursuit. It really doesn't make any difference to me which side either one

of them plays as long as they get the job done."...Dan Devine "I don't know what signal was given back there between Ike Thomas and Bob Hudson when Ike bobbled the ball and returned it only to the 10. That may have been in Braille. I'm going to have to check that out. Neither one is very talkative, you know."...Chester Marcol again: "Gary Kosins said a few things to me now and then when he came after me on those kickoffs - but nothing that was printable I said a few things to him too. But he never got to me all day long. I TOLD HIM HE WAS WASTING HIS TIME."...Abe Gibron, Bear coach: "You can't make mistakes against a machine like Green Bay."

### IT'S WHAT BROCKINGTON DID DO, WHAT DOUGLASS DIDN'T

NOV 13 (Chicago Tribune) - Green Bay's 23-17 victory over the Bears yesterday was a story of what John Brockington of the Packers did and what Bobby Douglass didn't do. Brockington is a coach's dream. He's a strong, durable running back who stands in a class by himself. He accelerates so quickly off the 3-point stance, he's past the line with his natural instincts, looking for the opening. That's something you can't teach. With all due respect, Washington's Larry Brown is a great back, but Brockington is bigger and stronger. For example, on Green Bay's first touchdown of the game, the Bears were caught in a blitz and Brockington read it well, going to the outside for the touchdown. Now for Douglass. It was evident to me that Bobby had problems all afternoon finding his secondary receivers. A quarterback should be able to spot his secondary receivers when his primary targets are covered. Since Green Bay did a good job in controlling Douglass' runs, he was forced to stay back there and throw the ball. Bobby's biggest fault is his inability to find his secondary receivers. If he ever does master that - look out. On an interception of a Douglass pass that led to a 51-yard field goal by Chester Marcol, Douglass kept looking toward the same receiver all the time. Generally, any good defensive back can read a quarterback's eyes. The interception, a fumble, and a long kickoff return gave Green Bay field position thru most of the first half, yet the Bears'

## NOTES AND NOTIONS

| Pro Football At A Glance<br>By The Associated Press |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------|------|-----|--|
| NFL                                                 |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
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| Baltimore                                           | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222  | 139  | 186 |  |
| New England                                         | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222  | 109  | 296 |  |
| Central                                             |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Pittsburgh                                          | 7 | 2 | 0 | .778  | 233  | 134 |  |
| Cleveland                                           | 6 | 3 | 0 | .667  | 162  | 151 |  |
| Cincinnati                                          | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 169  | 152 |  |
| Houston                                             | 1 | 8 | 0 | .111  | 104  | 233 |  |
| West                                                |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Oakland                                             | 5 | 3 | 1 | .611  | 229  | 169 |  |
| Kansas City                                         | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 202  | 156 |  |
| Denver                                              | 3 | 6 | 0 | .333  | 181  | 232 |  |
| San Diego                                           | 2 | 6 | 1 | .278  | 169  | 224 |  |
| National Conference                                 |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| East                                                |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
|                                                     | W | L | T | Pct.  | Pts. | OP  |  |
| Washington                                          | 8 | 1 | 0 | .889  | 227  | 124 |  |
| Dallas                                              | 7 | 2 | 0 | .778  | 217  | 149 |  |
| New York Giants                                     | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 210  | 191 |  |
| St. Louis                                           | 2 | 6 | 1 | .278  | 122  | 195 |  |
| Philadelphia                                        | 2 | 6 | 1 | .278  | 86   | 194 |  |
| Central                                             |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Green Bay                                           | 6 | 3 | 0 | .667  | 179  | 161 |  |
| Detroit                                             | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 213  | 185 |  |
| Minnesota                                           | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 199  | 135 |  |
| Chicago                                             | 3 | 5 | 1 | .389  | 149  | 165 |  |
| West                                                |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Los Angeles                                         | 5 | 3 | 1 | .611  | 178  | 148 |  |
| Atlanta                                             | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 199  | 183 |  |
| San Francisco                                       | 4 | 4 | 1 | .500  | 232  | 175 |  |
| New Orleans                                         | 1 | 7 | 1 | .167  | 135  | 253 |  |
| Monday's Game                                       |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Cleveland 21, San Diego 17                          |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Sunday's Games                                      |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| All Times EST                                       |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.                     |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m.                      |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Dallas at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.                      |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Green Bay at Houston, 2 p.m.                        |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Minnesota at Los Angeles, 4 p.m.                    |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| New Orleans at Detroit, 1 p.m.                      |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| New York Giants at St. Louis, 2 p.m.                |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| New York Jets at Miami, 1 p.m.                      |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Oakland at Denver, 2 p.m.                           |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1 p.m.                     |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| San Diego at Kansas City, 2 p.m.                    |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| San Francisco at Chicago, 2 p.m.                    |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Monday's Game                                       |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |
| Atlanta at Washington, 9 p.m., national TV          |   |   |   |       |      |     |  |

# Dan's Gambles Paying Off in Blue Chips

touchdown with a few more plays. It was a bit reminiscent of the Packers conservative approach in the Atlanta game when they couldn't move the ball closer for a field goal try on a sloppy gridiron.

## **DAN'S GAMBLER PAYING OFF IN BLUE CHIPS**

NOV 14 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Leaning back comfortably in his chair as he related past uncertainties to present prosperity, Dan Devine candidly conceded, "Every draft choice is a gamble." The Packers' meticulous maestro made the admission Monday during an impromptu discourse on "How To Build a Winner." Or was it "Green Bay's Answer to George Allen?" More specifically, it bore upon how two of those "gambles" have paid off for the NFC's Central Division leaders. In the main, Devine's off-the-cuff dissertation dealt with the maneuvers which brought Chester Marcol, the placekicking Pole, and Jerry Tagge to Green Bay. Marcol, of course, has been a potent force in the Packers' surge to a 6-3 mark. Having already expunged the team's all-time single season field goal record, while Tagge, it was intimated, has just begun to make his presence felt. Devine, who has revamped his roster with painstaking care and an eye to total contribution by each individual, was explaining the thinking and planning which had gone into these two moves in an effort to reduce the element of risk. "Our idea on going with Chester was a long range thing, and I don't necessarily mean field goals," Devine said, partially in jest. "A guy like that - what is he, 22-years-old - should be able to kick until he is at least 35, barring injury." Placekicking proficiency, he assured, was only one consideration. "I know his coach at Hillsdale, Frank Waters, real well. Also Waters' assistant coach, Warren Spragg. We put a lot of research into the thing in talking to them before we ever drafted Chester. You could find out a lot about his character and his personality from them, and how he reacted to pressure. Before we made the pick the day of the draft, I talked to Spragg extensively by telephone to be sure that Chester's ankle problem was not going to be anything that was likely to continue to be a problem. From the kicking standpoint, we felt he was a guy who could give us all ranges of field goals and could kick off, too," Devine said. "He also was a good punter, which figured in our thinking, not that it was a main factor. And, of course, if a guy is going to be around a long time, you want to get a good person. Chester is a real fine young man." Cautioning against expecting too much of the placekicking phenom, Devine said, "He's not going to do everything the way you'd like him to do it. By that, I mean he's not always going to have booming kickoffs. And he's going to have days when he misses field goals, too. Every draft choice is a gamble, of course. This, for example, is the first time our trade of Kevin Hardy has paid dividends. We wouldn't have had Jerry Tagge if we hadn't made that trade. Speaking of trades, by the way our trade with Dallas looked pretty good Sunday, too. Ike Thomas's runback of the kickoff was a big lift and Ron Widby did just a great job of punting. We could have traded Hardy for somebody who possibly could have helped us win a game or two more last year. But this is part of the same idea with Marcol. So, even if I'm not here. some guy is going to have a lot of good young guys. It's hard to sit back and wait on this kind of thing. It's like an investment. You don't know when you're going to get a dividend. so it makes you feel good when you do get one, like we did from Tagge against the Bears Sunday. We're in a pretty good spot now. with two young quarterbacks who can play in the NFL. Scott certainly has proved by his play this year that he can play in the NFL. And Jerry proved it Sunday, as well as in the pre-season games he played in. I wasn't concerned about his having to play, of course. I said three weeks ago that I would not have been a bit afraid to go to Jerry if something happened to Scott. When I think of our quarterback situation at the start of last season, I have to be encouraged," Devine said, obviously alluding to the fact that Bart Starr was plagued with a chronic arm problem and Hunter was a rookie. "I always thought Bart could have played some more. of course, and I'm sure he would have if his arm hadn't been troubling him. But, considering the circumstances at that point, we're in much better shape now. And when you get two young quarterbacks for a sixth round draft choice and a trade of Kevin Hardy, you have to feel you've done pretty well. Hardy is a fine football player, but we felt we were pretty well set at defensive tackle with Bob Brown and Mike McCoy. Mike, by the way, had his best game ever Sunday. At the same time, if Scott hadn't been hurt Jerry might not have a chance to play until scrimmages in training camp next year and our pre-season games." Asked what effect Tagge's performance against the Bears might have on his future quarterback plans, Devine replied, "I don't know. I will say, however, there is a re-evaluation being made in a couple of spots. We had some great play Sunday but I feel we need a little bit better performance in a couple of areas. There's no way we can have a lethargic performance against Houston next Sunday. I think Bill Peterson has his feet on the ground there now. I think he's found professional football is football. "And, if you take away that fantastic field goal kicking by Tom Dempsey Sunday – he made six out of seven, including one for 53 yards – the Oilers win the ball game. They rushed for something like 256 yards. Houston's just playing a hair away from winning." Although the Packers are unbeaten in three road appearances, Devine looked ahead to the Houston invasion by observing, "True, our road record is good, but we got beat pretty bad in Houston (20-3) earlier this year. As far as the future is concerned, there's only one way I can feel. We play Houston Sunday and what happens after that, happens. Certainly, I follow what the other teams are doing. and what their schedules are, but I'm not thinking past Sunday. Houston can make its season by beating the leader of the black-and-blue division. We haven't played a lethargic game and this would be a great time to do it. Also, much of coaching is done in the projection room behind closed doors by way of criticism. And you have a tendency to under-criticize your squad when you're winning because they've been doing what you've asked them to. It's only human. You have much less tendency to criticize a guy who has just put out for you than if he had goofed off "

## **PACKERS PLAYED 'TEAM' FOOTBALL**

NOV 14 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Analyzing Sunday's 23-17 victory over the Bears in the wake of a lengthy film review, Packer Coach Dan Devine noted, "Carroll Dale's catch for a first down in the third quarter was a big play for us. That play

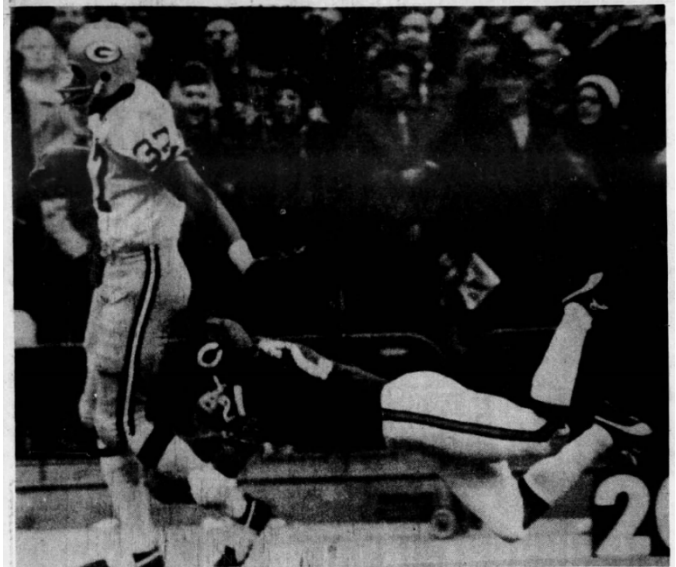
just illustrates what a team game football is, I might add. Perry Williams ran such a good pattern on the play that he took the coverage out of the hook area and Carroll was able to turn in there. There was just a little alley in there and Jerry hit the alley. Carroll made a good catch because he had to reach back a little because the alley was sort of behind him. By the same token, I can't overlook the fact we had eight penalties. I wish I knew what was causing it. We're really going to work on fundamentals this week in an effort to correct that. They are just penalties we have to avoid - and they were made by experienced people." Noting the Packers had not thrown a pass in the first half, Devine pointed out, "The score was 17-7 and that was the only thing that was important at halftime. Actually, we had a pass called one time, but we fumbled the exchange and lost five yards. "Our running game was going great so, with my brilliant strategy, I figure it's a good time to pass," he volunteered with a faintly sardonic smile. "Of course, when Jerry went in at quarterback, we just felt if we could get out with that 17-7 lead at halftime, we'd be all right. We felt then he could get himself together at halftime and do some things in the second half." Touching upon an area which had been a source of considerable concern coming into the season, Devine announced with satisfaction, "The pendulum has changed. I suppose if I had to single out one area for real, downright hustle Sunday, it would have been our coverage of kickoffs and punts. Defensively, the Bears did a lot of things different than they had done against us the first time we played them this year. They blitzed a lot more. On John Brockington's run, they blitzed a lot of people and didn't leave anybody back there. But it was a fine run on John's part, especially the last few yards."

#### **SCOTT LEARNED LESSON**

NOV 14 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Shuffling into the dressing room like a punch drunk pug squaring off for action Monday, Scott Hunter facetiously queried, "How many rounds did I last?" Hunter, who appeared none the worse for wear after Sunday's kayo in Chicago, soberly informed, "It was a lesson well learned – just like a slap on the head from the schoolteacher. When I ran, I should have run over where Carroll Dale and John Brockington were, where there was protection, instead of trying to do it on my own. They won't get a clean shot at me again." Conceding "I was out for the count," Hunter reported, "I thought I was all right at halftime. And, for any other position, I probably would have been. But for playing quarterback, I probably was still a little dis-attached. On one interception in the third quarter, I called the wrong audible. On the other one, I was trying to throw it away, but being a little dis-attached, I didn't do a very good job of it." Tight end Pete Lammons, impressed by the abandoned running of MacArthur Lane, declared, "That Mac Lane, they ought to outlaw him. He's Super-Hoss. He'll do some punishing on you, I'll tell you that. Brock runs hard, and he'll run over you. But Mac just plain annihilates you." Middle linebacker Jim Carter, paying tribute to Bear quarterback Bobby Douglass, said, "He puts a strain on your defense. We blitzed the outside linebackers a little more Sunday and the ends rush outside a little more but, no matter what you do, Douglass is going to gain some yards."

#### **PHIL BENGTON NAMED INTERIM COACH OF NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS**

NOV 14 (Foxboro, MA) – Phil Bengtson, who helped Vince Lombardi take the Green Bay Packers from a doormat to five National Football League championships and victories in the first two Super Bowls, was set to tackle another tough job today as interim coach of the New England Patriots. Bengtson, an outstanding tackle at the University of Minnesota before his graduation in 1935, was named to lead the Patriots for the remainder of the season Monday night, just a few hours after John Mazur resigned in the wake of a 52-0 blitz by unbeaten Miami. "It's for five games," New England General Manager Upton Bell said. "The money, the terms, just for five games. There was nothing else discussed with Bengtson. He is a man respected throughout football and he's our head coach for the next five weeks." Bengtson, who left the San Francisco 49ers after eight years as an assistant coach to answer Lombardi's call to join him in Green Bay in 1959, was a surprise choice after Mazur became the Patriots' third coach in less than four years to leave the club. Mazur, a former Notre Dame quarterback who also helped to build a couple of champions as an assistant coach with the Buffalo Bills, took over the Patriots midway through the 1970 season when Clive Rush was asked to step out. Mazur was given a one-year contract for 1971, before Bell was lured from the Baltimore Colts' front office. It was no secret that Bell wanted his own head coach, but he had to accept Mazur. With the arrival of quarterback Jim Plunkett, the Patriots surprised everyone last season, compiling a 6-8 record. Bell thought he had authority to hire a new coach but found out differently as the club's board of directors handed Mazur a new one-year contract. Mazur and Bell disagreed on many things. Both had difficulty containing themselves to prevent a public airing of their troubles. The Patriots lost their season opener to Cincinnati, but then fashioned one-point upset victories over Atlanta and Washington. Everything since has been downhill with both the offense, including Plunkett, and the defense at fault in six consecutive losses. After the 52-0 humiliation by the unbeaten Dolphins in Miami, and a review of a 2-7 record with only 109 points scored and 296 given up, Mazur called it quits. Bengtson, an assistant



**END OF LINE:** The Packers Ike Thomas (32) is stopped by Chicago's Cecil Turner (21) at the Bear 11 but not until the fleet Packer had returned a kickoff 89 yards in Sunday's game. (Post-Crescent News Service Photo)

# Packers Remember Houston in August

coach at Missouri and Stanford before joining the 49ers in 1951, comes to the Patriots from the San Diego Chargers, where he was defensive coordinator last year and director of pro scouting this season.

## **PACKERS REMEMBER HOUSTON IN AUGUST**

NOV 15 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – In all candor, the prospect of playing a team with a 1-8 record is not calculated to inspire fear and trembling, all coachly forebodings to the contrary notwithstanding. Unless, that is, said team happened to manhandle you in an earlier exchange. That, quite clearly, is Dan Devine's built-in ace in the hole as he attempts to hone the Packers for Sunday's invasion of the fabled Houston Astrodome. From all present indications, it will not be necessary for him to "psych" his athletes extensively for this one, even though the Oilers long since have been eliminated from the AFC's Central Division race. Memories of a 20-3 pre-season disaster in Houston apparently will be sufficiently sobering to prevent the kind of letdown which often occurs when a division leader encounters an also-ran. "There's no chance we're going to be taking anything for granted, for a couple of reasons," defensive end Clarence Williams testified following Tuesday's practice. A light, 45-minute session conducted in wintry winds. "First of all, there's the race itself. You don't want to lose any time, and we certainly don't want to lose now," said the towering Texan, alluding to the one-game lead the Packers currently own in the NFC Central. "And the other is the fact that we want to get revenge. The last time we played the Oilers, they knocked us around - they beat us up physically. So we've got to go down there and play a disciplined football game. "We also know everybody is going to do everything they can to beat us, because we're leading our division. That's the way it always is when you're a leader. We learned a lot, too, in that first game at Houston. I've got a lot of respect for (Dan) Pastorini after playing against him. He moves around a lot back there and he has a strong arm. And since we played 'em, they've gotten Paul Robinson and Fred Willis in a trade, and I have a lot of respect for them. They've strengthened the Oilers' running game. So we have to be up, mentally and physically. Because of what happened down there in August. We know it's going to be a tough game," said Williams, obviously convinced what he was anticipating will be documented in the 'Dome.' I don't think we'll be taking them lightly, especially considering the way we played against the Bears Sunday. We can stand a lot of improvement. We didn't play as well as I know we can, even though we won. So we have to get our team momentum back for the stretch drive." There were concrete indications that this wary approach was not mere talk, Devine was pleased to note. Nodding approval as those players who saw little or no action Sunday ran a series of unsupervised sprints on the adjacent practice field, he said, "These guys are pretty good, running on their own. I haven't been ordering them to run," he explained, "although I watch them out of the corner of my eye, of course. But the fact that they're doing it on their own is the mark of a good ball club." Devine also volunteered an indirect defense of the offense - held to 170 yards in Sunday's 23-17 victory over the Bears. "People forget what you say during the week," he said, "but even Detroit had trouble making 14 points against the Bears and Abe Gibrion said Detroit has the best offense in the league. The Bears intercepted four of their passes in the second half. That just might be why we didn't pass much in the first half at Chicago. That's why I'm not as concerned about our offense as some people are. Naturally, I'd like to see our offense do better, and we have to eliminate crucial mistakes. But, considering better than half of Detroit's rushing yardage against the Bears came off the option, which we don't have, and that the Bears stopped the Lions' passing game, our offense didn't do that bad."...PACKER PATTERN: Devine, again asked if Jerry Tagge's skilled performance against the Bears might affect his quarterback plans, replied, "Scott Hunter ran with the first group this morning. I haven't made a decision yet," he added, "and probably won't until game time. I wouldn't say there is a real element of doubt about who will start, but I would say there is an element - if only to keep them guessing." Tagge, meanwhile, was still bubbling over his pro debut. "It really was great to play," he beamed. "I can't say enough about getting a chance to play...That's what it's all about. It's a lot easier to stay up mentally. When you don't get in a game for nine weeks, it's hard to stay up. As far as a starting chance is concerned, all I can say is I want to be 100 per cent prepared if needed. The coaches are paying me, so I want to do whatever they want me to do," said the former Green Bay West and Nebraska luminary. "Naturally, I want to play but, more important. I want to win." Asked if quarterback coach Bart Starr had commented on his baptismal performance, Tagge revealed, "Bart just said he was really pleased that I was ready to play...That means a lot to me. I just feel more a part of things now."

## **HUNTER SHOULD BE READY**

NOV 15 (Green Bay) - Coach Dan Devine said Tuesday Scott Hunter probably will be able to play at Houston Sunday, but added an "element of doubt still exists" concerning the Green Bay Packers' starting quarterback. Rookie quarterback Jerry Tagge saw his first National Football League regular season action last Sunday, completing four of seven passes as the Packers regained sole lead in the NFC Central Division by defeating the Chicago Bears 23-17. Tagge was pressed into service after Hunter was tackled by two Bears in the open field and turned up dazed. However, Hunter practiced with the first team Tuesday after undergoing tests and treatments for a head injury. "He'll rebound well, I'm sure, and I think he'll be able to play against Houston," Devine said. Houston has won only one regular season game and suffered its eighth defeat Sunday when Philadelphia, behind six field goals by Tom Dempsey, won 18-17. However, the Oilers defeated the Packers 20-3 in a preseason game. "There's only one way I feel about our standing in the divisional race right now, and that's that we play Houston this week," Devine said. "What happens after that happens. Houston would be able to salvage its season by knocking off the leader of the 'Black and Blue' division," he said. "We haven't played flat this year and Sunday would be a lousy day to start." Although Houston has allowed 233 points, fourth most in the league, Devine said the Oilers have bigger and stronger defensive backs than Chicago and overall "a very good defense." "Philadelphia's six field goals attest to that, plus Cleveland didn't score until the fourth quarter at Houston, and that courtesy of a turnover," he said. The Packers

worked out Tuesday in high winds and 32 degree temperatures. Devine conceded the Oilers may have an advantage practicing this week in a warm climate and on artificial turf, but he downplayed it. "We're in pretty good shape for the stretch," he said. "We haven't had any real serious injuries since the Oakland game (Sept. 24) and we can't complain." Detroit and Minnesota, each one game behind Green Bay with 5-4 records, play New Orleans (1-7-1) and Los Angeles (5-3-1), respectively; this weekend.

#### **PERSONALITY PARADE (KEN BOWMAN)**

NOV 15 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - This being a highly competitive world, it is hardly customary for one athlete to endorse another playing the same position. But there are occasional exceptions. A case in point is the relationship of Ken Bowman, the Packers indestructible center, and his backup, fiery Cal Withrow. Though Withrow is so combative he frequently has been accused of taking gratuitous swipes at the enemy after the whistle, he is a walking public relations department for Bowman, whom he considers uncrowned king of NFL centers. "On the average, last year and since he's settled down and started to play his game this year, nobody in the league grades out higher consistently than Bo does right now," Withrow insists. "All this talk about Forrest Blue of the 49ers being all-pro center is something I can't buy. I'd have to see 150 games of his on film and compare them to Bo over the same number of games before I'd accept that, if it should happen to come out that way. They'd have to prove it to me. Since I've been here, I've never seen Bo play a bad game - at least what I would consider a bad game. Ken may have a different idea of what a bad game is - he has very high standards. He's not afraid to be critical of himself, I might add, which is one of his big assets. Plus he has great determination, and he's quick. He's not a big, strong center, so he uses his quickness. Bo uses some techniques that are a little different than other centers, but they work for him. "He does some unorthodox things that somebody else couldn't do. But he can get away with it, because he's smaller and quicker." Continuing his positive critique, Withrow noted that Bowman's scholarly approach also has been of material assistance to the ex-Wisconsin Badger's survival in the NFL. "Bo is very intelligent, too," he said of the nine-year veteran, who recently acquired a law degree and opened an off-season practice in De Pere. "For example, he makes all the offensive line calls. And he pretty well knows what everybody else on the offensive team is doing. When he diagrams plays, he draws in the ends and everybody. He analyzes where he's got to get his man, which is a little different than the average offensive lineman, who usually is only concerned with his own specific area. Ken feels this is an asset to his game, knowing what everybody else is doing on every play." His "press agent" also could have mentioned that, more often than not, the 29-year-old Rockford native has played with an imposing collection of contusions and abrasions, not to mention a chronic shoulder problem that has required surgery in the past. In the process, he has earned the sobriquet of "The Spirit of '76" from Packer trainer Domenic Gentile, accustomed to seeing him arrive in the training room somewhat the worse for wear. Although Bowman was not entirely happy with his performance in Sunday's 23-17 victory over the Bears, Withrow couldn't concur in his appraisal. "Ken didn't feel he had a good day," he said, "but I'll tell you one thing, he didn't hurt the team. Of course, a bad game to Bo is one where he missed four blocks. You know how he is - he wants everything perfect." In contrast to most such competitive situations, Bowman and Withrow have become close personal friends since the latter came to the Packers from the San Diego Chargers in a 1971 trade. "I probably pal around with Bo more than anybody else on the team," Cal says. "In fact, this being our day off, I'm going out to his house right now. Naturally, we talk a lot about playing center," he said, appending with a dry chuckle, "I don't know too much about law, that's for sure."

#### **DEVINE HONORARY LEADER OF STATE HEART DRIVE**

NOV 16 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Dan Devine, head coach and general manager of the Green Bay Packers, will serve as honorary chairman of the 1973 Wisconsin Heart Fund. Devine's appointment and acceptance were announced by S. V. Francis, state Heart Fund chairman. The fund drive will run February 1-28. The Packer coach did radio and TV spots publicizing the Wisconsin Heart Association's 1972 drive. "I certainly enjoyed working with Wisconsin Heart last year," Devine said, "and would consider it an honor to assist again." Devine will encourage state residents to back the Heart Association's research, community service and educational programs with their time and dollars. He will also promote educational efforts to inform the public about heart and circulatory disease. During the Heart Fund drive, about 25,000 volunteers will solicit donations and distribute educational literature throughout the state. Heart disease and stroke are Wisconsin's no. 1 killers.

#### **PACK FACES MILWAUKEE DECISION**

NOV 16 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - They are not called the Midwest Packers, as in New England Patriots. They are not called the Wisconsin Packers, as in Minnesota Vikings. They are not called the Green Bay-Milwaukee Packers, as in Kansas



**PHIL BENGTSON INSTRUCTS QB JIM PLUNKETT:** *New head coach Phil Bengtson went to work with the New England Patriots in Foxboro, Mass., Wednesday, putting the players through a workout in Schaefer Stadium. Bengtson said he would give the defense top priority for Sunday's game against Buffalo and that he hoped to streamline the number of offensive and defensive plays.*

# Pack Faces Milwaukee Decision

City-Omaha Kings. The name of the team is the GREEN BAY Packers - just as in Milwaukee Bucks and Milwaukee Brewers. But the Packers continue to split their schedule between Green Bay and Milwaukee. The Milwaukee Brewers don't play any games in Joannes Park Stadium, though the crowds they usually draw in Milwaukee County Stadium could also be put into Joannes. The Milwaukee Bucks dole out a few games to Madison and one exhibition game to Green Bay - the games in Madison more because of schedule problems than any other reason. But the Packers continue to split their schedule between Green Bay and Milwaukee. There really is little reason for it, other than what has now become tradition. And the opportunity to change that tradition and bring the full schedule to Green Bay is close at hand. The Milwaukee County Board's finance committee has recommended spending \$889,000 to modernize and expand County Stadium next year, but only if the Packers promise to renew their contract with the county when it expires at the end of 1975. Most of this initial outlay of money would be used to add 3,300 seats to the upper deck grandstand on the first base side. But the entire program covers four years and will include an additional 7,600 seats, new administration quarters and artificial turf. So the question in Milwaukee apparently is whether the Packers will agree to extend their present contract, which officially ends Feb. 1, 1976. I put that question to Packer President Dominic Olejniczak and his answer was that "It is premature to even discuss that." He prefaced that, however, by pointing out that "We have not heard from Milwaukee about it." And what if he does hear from the Milwaukee people? "We will have to see what they are talking about and take it to the executive committee. Depending on the nature of the question, we may take it to the entire Board of Directors," he said. There are several points to be made here. The first of which is that there is really no reason for the Packers to play a split home schedule. With Lambeau Field a truly major league facility, the economic stability of the Fox River Valley area and the fine roads leading to Green Bay from all directions, the stadium will continue to be filled even though all games are played here. Secondly, the ticket prices in Milwaukee and Green Bay are currently scaled to insure the same income from games in either place, thereby not incurring the wrath of visiting teams which might object to playing at the lower income site. The average ticket price in Milwaukee is higher because Green Bay has about 8,000 more seats. But if Milwaukee gains 3,300 seats, the income there will be higher, higher, that is, unless Milwaukee prices are generally lowered (not likely) or Green Bay prices increased. There are indications from at least some members of the Board of Directors that they would not want to see another price hike in Green Bay. Additionally, there are reports that some board members are not sure they understand why the new County Stadium tenants (Brewers) are being catered to financially in contracts and are beginning to at least mull over the idea of playing all games in Green Bay. In case anyone is concerned that if the Packers became truly Green Bay Packers the NFL might approve another franchise for Milwaukee, the fear is unfounded. The NFL Constitution and By-Laws clearly states that the "home territory of Green Bay Packers shall extend to and include all of Milwaukee County..."

## MIKE BECOMING REAL MCCOY

NOV 16 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Two years ago, the Packers paid a fancy price for the draft rights to Mike McCoy. To get them, they dealt three established veterans to the Bears - center Bob Hyland, himself a previous No. 1 draft choice, former all-pro linebacker LeeRoy Caffey and running back Elijah Pitts. Because there was desperate need for a premium defensive tackle and the monolithic McCoy was the top-rated college player in the nation that year, few eyebrows were raised among the faithful at the time of the trade. But, as injuries delayed his maturity, some of them began to wonder if the price was right, perhaps because the specter of the Rich Moore fiasco still loomed freshly upon the Green Bay horizon. Moore, it may be remembered, was first transferred from the defensive line to the offensive line as a last resort, then traded to the New England Patriots for the now departed John (Bull) Bramlett. Both long since have been waived out of the NFL. Any such doubts concerning McCoy's pro football future should be rapidly dissolving in the wake of his recent performance as Bob Brown's partner in the much improved front four. Since recovering from a broken foot, suffered in a pre-season game at Houston Aug. 19, the ex-Notre Dame strongboy has become increasingly prominent in the Packer pass rush with each passing week. Following Sunday's victory over the Bears, Coach Dan Devine took note of McCoy's artistic advances, describing his latest effort as "Mike's best game" since his own arrival upon the Green Bay scene in 1971. Defensive Coordinator Dave Hanner, who always has been steadfastly confident of the huge Pennsylvanian's potential, concurs. "In fact," he said Wednesday, "Mike has played pretty well for the last three weeks." Predictably, Hanner was quick to add with coachly caution, "He still has to improve, though, and I think he will. He's working at it. All he needs is experience and techniques, more than anything else." Conceding the pass rush has been "one of Mike's problems" Hanner noted with satisfaction, "The pass rushing he's done lately is the best he's done since he came here. To give him credit, he's improved quite a bit in his techniques. But I've always thought he was going to be a good one. I think he's a good tackle now, although he has a lot of improving to do. And he could be a great one. He not only has good speed for his size, but he has good agility. He's just a good athlete. In this league, being big and strong and fast is not enough - you still have to have the techniques. You have to know the type of techniques to use and when to use 'em. Of course, knowing when to use 'em will come with experience." McCoy, commenting on his technical progress as the Packers continued to gird for Sunday's invasion of Houston, observed, "There are a lot of techniques you can use, like the pull, the push, the head slap. The one I like now is the pull technique - I pull 'em by me and jerk 'em down. I like to deliver a head slap along with it, just to keep 'em thinking." The burly blond, whose development originally was delayed when he suffered a sprained knee on the first play of the '71 season against the Giants, traces his recent improvement to his defensive teammates in general and Brown in particular, as well as to a personal approach he has taken in recent weeks. "Everybody's playing so well," he said, "you just

want to play well yourself. That helps me tremendously. It's a team type of thing. The fact that Bob Brown is playing so well alongside me is a big lift, of course. Last year we took a lot of grief in the front four. But a man is a man and you can't just sit there and take that sort of criticism forever. I think that matured us quickly. You hate to keep reading that." On a more personal basis, he explained, "The main thing I try to do is improve each week. To do that, each week I try to concentrate on the things I was lax in the week before. I think that has helped me since I came off the foot injury. Plus I'm in better shape now. I missed seven games during the heat of training camp and the early part of the season, which didn't help my conditioning any. But now I'm in good shape, and you naturally play better when you're in condition. My legs are back and I feel good." The former consensus All-American added, "Everybody has been patient, too. I can be thankful for that. Now, we've just got to keep going. And I'm sure we will. A lot of guys on this team are playing well, and some of them are playing well even though they're hurt. Hurt or not, you have to push yourself to do the job and still play well. A lot of guys are doing it now. That's what makes a winner." McCoy is sure he can live with his current discomfort. "Sometimes in cold weather, the foot I broke still bothers me. But I can move around on it real well - that's no problem." Delighted to be back at defensive tackle after a temporary transfer to offense while he was recuperating from that injury, McCoy is openly enthused about the Packers pre-eminence in the NFC's Central Division after playing on a loser for his first two seasons as a pro. "It's really different this year," he volunteered. "What did we win last year, four games? And six the year before? We've already won more than half as many as we won the last two years. It really makes a difference in the attitude. It's exciting to play this year. We're not desperate any more - we're confident now. And I think confidence is the main ingredient in winning. It's been just tremendous. Last year, the season dragged. But this year, it's gone fast." Inclining a bow toward the coaching staff for its part in this revival, McCoy said, "I think Coach Hanner is doing a tremendous job with us. There have been times when he really could have been ticked off with us, but he's been really patient. Coach Devine has been patient with our defense, too, and I think it's starting to pay dividends. We're shooting for 5-0 in our last five games. This thing is going down to the wire. I don't think there's any doubt about that. As I said a couple of weeks ago, I don't think anybody is going to be leaving his seat."...PACKER PATTERN: Fullback John Brockington, hampered by a hamstring pull, was excused from heavy work as the Packers staged their customarily lengthy Wednesday workout on the South Oneida Street practice field. Coach Dan Devine assured that Brockington, who jogged lightly around the perimeter of the field, "will be back in there tomorrow."...As was the case last week, the Packers will hold their Saturday practice on the road. They will enplane for Houston at 7:30 a.m. Saturday and work out on the Astrodome's AstroTurf upon arrival...Patently concerned over the possibility of a letdown against the Oilers, 1-8 in the Central Division of the AFC, Devine reacted tartly to a question along those lines. "If our players are thinking past Houston," he briskly retorted, "we're going to get beat."...Devine praised Bart Starr for his role in preparing rookie Jerry Tagge for his major league debut, which came against the Bears last Sunday and materially assisted in a 23-17 victory. "Jerry's performance was an example of what a good job Bart has done with the quarterbacks," he said. "He had Jerry well prepared when his chance came. Bart, incidentally, has made the adjustment from playing to coaching extremely well. It's been a smooth transition."

#### **OILER KICKOFF RETURNS: EARN PETE'S WORST LABEL**

NOV 16 (Houston Post) - Bill Peterson proclaimed Wednesday that from sea to shining sea his Houston Oiler kickoff return team has no equal. "It's got to be the worst in America," Peterson said bluntly at his weekly news conference. "Out blocking not's real good and our people are beginning to think they're going to drop the ball before it's ever kicked." While Houston's returns have been relatively tame this year, with 31 yards the longest, it was Sunday's performance against lowly Philadelphia that popped Peterson's cork. In the 18-17 loss Willie Rodgers fumbled the opening kickoff and only returned it to the Oiler 14 yard line. Other series following Tom Dempsey field goals began at the Houston 20, 20, 18, 17 and 19 yard lines. "Willie's our best returner but now he's fallen into the habit of dropping the ball. I just don't know what can be done about it," Peterson said. Although Rodgers is a rookie, he's the club's veteran returner with 10 attempts for a 22-yard average. After Peterson waived little Linzy Cole, who in the exhibition season proved unreliable, he tried such players as Al Johnson, Zeke Moore, Robert Holmes, Benny Johnson and Lewis Jolley. Like last week, Jolley and Johnson will be the deep men when the Oilers play the Green Bay Packers Sunday afternoon in the Astrodome. "We've worked with (Ken) Burroughs some but he's just not a great runner, to be frank," Peterson said. "Finding the lane, picking the hole isn't the easiest thing. There are people who can do it and people who can't. It's sort of like a sixth sense." Without good returns, Peterson said, a rather unfortunate cycle begins - at least in Houston's case. "We probably work on specialty teams more than anyone in football but we can't get results. As a result," he said, "we don't have field position and you're not able to gamble with imaginative football. "Down there it's tough to get good pass protection for the long pass and you're forced to give up the football...and then they've got field position on you." At Wednesday's afternoon workout, Peterson made two adjustments in his return team. To give the Oilers more size, Guy Roberts (6-1, 215) replaced Rhett Dawson (6-1, 188) and Ralph Miller (6-4, 260) filled in for Jim Beirne (6-2, 195). "It's nothing major but maybe it will help us. We need something - it seems like on every return someone misses a key block," Peterson said...OILER NOTES: Elvin Bethea (bruised forearm) and Ron Saul (bruised shoulder) are expected to be ready for Sunday's game with the Packers. Green Bay, meanwhile, will be in top physical shape for the Astrodome rematch. It won't be the same Packer offensive team however, that was here in a 20-3 exhibition loss. New starters include wide receiver Leland Glass, guard Malcolm Snider, end Len Garrett and tackle Bill Hayhoe...A crowd of about 38,000 is expected.

#### **BROWN'S AUTO FOUND**

NOV 17 (Manistique, MI) - A car stolen from veteran Green Bay Packer defensive tackle Bob Brown was found here Wednesday two weeks after it was taken. Police said Brown's Super Bowl ring, credit cards and other papers were still in the car. The 1973 auto, reported stolen in Green Bay two weeks ago, was in good condition, except it was out of gas.

## THE PACK COMES BACK

NOV 17 (Houston Chronicle) – When the Green Bay Packers announced early in 1971 that they had turned to Dan Devine, the highly successful University of Missouri athletic director and head football coach, to get the Pack back on top in the National Football League, there were a lot of surprised faces in the professional football congregation. What did a college coach who had never played a down of professional football know about coaching in the pros? And after the Packers finished last season with a 4-8-2 record, their worst in 13 years, there were a lot of folks in Wisconsin to whom Packer football is a religion who wanted to send Daniel John Devine packing. But with the Pack leading the rough, tough black and blue Central Division of the National Conference by a game over Detroit and Minnesota, those same fickle fans who were against Devine are now singing his praises. Nothing is expected to happen to the Packers this weekend when they come to the Astrodome to play the Oilers that will hurt their position in the standings...TAKE OPPOSITE PATHS: The two teams have taken directly opposite paths since their meeting on the same man-made meadow last August, a meeting that ended with the Oilers on the large end of a 20-3 score. While the Packers have improved steadily, the Oilers have gone downhill and now own the worst record in all of the NFL, one victory and eight defeats. What has happened to turn the Packers into winners? First, and probably foremost, there's Dan Devine, who is applying the same formula for success on the pro football field that he did at Ariona State and Missouri. "Devine's approach to football is very much like that of Vince Lombardi, though they are two distinctly different personalities," said a member of the Packer family who was around when the Pack was winning everything in sight under Lombardi. "Devine is just as serious as Lombardi was, but he's not as emotional. Seldom does he raise his voice. On the other hand, it was not unusual for Lombardi to rant and rave. Devine has an excellent sense of humor and he's not afraid to use it. But I believe some people are surprised to see how stern and hard-nosed he can be."...A JUMP IS A JUMP IS A JUMP: The jump from college to professional football is just as great as the leap from high school to college. "I think it takes any coach coming from the college ranks at least a season to get his feet on the ground," said a veteran NFL observer. "And I think that is what has happened in Devine's case. And it has also taken him some time to surround himself with what he terms, 'my kind of people.'" When he arrived in Green Bay, Devine found some malcontents on his squad. One was Donny Anderson, the running back from Texas Tech. Another was veteran defensive end Lionel Aldridge. During the off season, Devine traded both of them. He sent Anderson to St. Louis for MacArthur Lane, another running back and an excellent blocker. Aldridge went to San Diego for safety Jim Hill, a former Texas A&I star from San Antonio. There were other changes, too. Seventeen of the 40 players on the active roster the Packers will bring to Houston are new to the team this year. Of the 17, seven are starters, not including both kickers who are also new to Green Bay. Not only do the Packers have a new look, but a young look. Of the first 40, 38 have five or fewer years experience in the NFL. Of the 11 offensive starters, nine have five or fewer years experience. Of the 11 defensive starters, nine have five or fewer years. But the Pack and Devine aren't through rebuilding. They'd like to have a defensive tackle of the aggressive type of Mike Tilleman of the Oilers to improve their pass rush. They want a good wide receiver, not just one with good speed but one who runs precise pass routes. The Pack is back, but not quite all the way. But far enough to avenge that 20-3 defeat in August, before the results started counting in the standings.

## MORTALITY RATE OF NO CONCERN TO OILER COACH

NOV 17 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – When Bill Peterson signed on to direct the Houston Oilers, with whom head coaches have had an uncommonly high mortality rate, he jested about the length of his contract. "It's supposed to be for 10 years," said Peterson, the third "savior" to be hired by the Oilers in as many years, "but Bud Adams (Houston owner) probably will have me declared dead after a couple of years." The way the Oilers have been going, that might seem like an entirely acceptable alternative. But Peterson, whose athletes are 1-8 in the AFC's Central Division as they await Sunday's invasion by the Packers, says he does not consider this a present concern, despite the Adams track record. "Oh, no," he chuckled by telephone Wednesday, "I'm not worried about that. The game might kill me, but I'm not scared of Bud Adams. I suppose some people wouldn't mind getting out, but I don't want to go out that way. I want to win." And that, of course, is just what Peterson did before he came to the Oilers from Rice University last spring. He developed Florida State into a football power and took his teams to bowl games in four of his last seven collegiate seasons. "If we can keep our senses, I think we will win," he said. "I think we'll get there eventually. But I think we're a lot farther behind than Dan (Devine) was when he took over at Green Bay, although he has made some great moves." Lately, Peterson has been cheered somewhat by the acquisition of running backs Paul Robinson and Fred Willis in a trade with Cincinnati, he admitted. "I think they've helped our football team," he said. "They have provided a little leadership, as well as running ability. But we're a long ways off. The trouble with the Houston Oilers is that it's hard to convince them they can be a winning team, that they can win." And, he further noted, it also is not easy to convince the faithful to have forbearance. "In professional football, if you want to build the right way, the fans are impatient. They think you're a miracle man, but nobody's a miracle man. "The first thing you have is fine attitude. I think Vince Lombardi said losing is a habit, like winning. You have to think of yourself as a winner before you can win. You can't see yourself missing a ball, or missing a tackle, or making a mistake. To turn it around, you talk to

| NFL Statistics      |       |         |         |             |  |                     |         |         |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------|-------|---------|---------|-------------|--|---------------------|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| National Conference |       |         |         |             |  | American Conference |         |         |  |  |  |  |
| Team Offense        |       |         |         |             |  | Team Offense        |         |         |  |  |  |  |
|                     | Yards | Rushing | Passing |             |  | Yards               | Rushing | Passing |  |  |  |  |
| Dallas              | 3049  | 1352    | 1697    | New York    |  | 3180                | 1391    | 1789    |  |  |  |  |
| Washington          | 2918  | 1345    | 1573    | Miami       |  | 3103                | 1859    | 1244    |  |  |  |  |
| Minnesota           | 2810  | 1278    | 1532    | Oakland     |  | 2965                | 1468    | 1497    |  |  |  |  |
| New York            | 2774  | 1176    | 1598    | Denver      |  | 2882                | 1248    | 1634    |  |  |  |  |
| San Francisco       | 2732  | 961     | 1771    | Pittsburgh  |  | 2849                | 1674    | 1175    |  |  |  |  |
| Atlanta             | 2661  | 1466    | 1195    | Cincinnati  |  | 2785                | 1305    | 1480    |  |  |  |  |
| Detroit             | 2621  | 1338    | 1283    | Baltimore   |  | 2717                | 1161    | 1556    |  |  |  |  |
| Los Angeles         | 2583  | 1424    | 1159    | San Diego   |  | 2691                | 1269    | 1422    |  |  |  |  |
| Philadelphia        | 2490  | 982     | 1508    | Kansas City |  | 2630                | 1238    | 1392    |  |  |  |  |
| Chicago             | 2347  | 1651    | 696     | New England |  | 2389                | 942     | 1447    |  |  |  |  |
| New Orleans         | 2263  | 768     | 1495    | Cleveland   |  | 2340                | 1043    | 1297    |  |  |  |  |
| Green Bay           | 2219  | 1172    | 1047    | Buffalo     |  | 2337                | 1335    | 1002    |  |  |  |  |
| St. Louis           | 2030  | 791     | 1239    | Houston     |  | 2041                | 1061    | 980     |  |  |  |  |
| Team Defense        |       |         |         |             |  | Team Defense        |         |         |  |  |  |  |
| Minnesota           | 2239  | 1147    | 1092    | Miami       |  | 1973                | 1027    | 946     |  |  |  |  |
| Los Angeles         | 2329  | 1312    | 1017    | Cincinnati  |  | 2208                | 1166    | 1042    |  |  |  |  |
| Chicago             | 2346  | 1129    | 1217    | Denver      |  | 2480                | 1054    | 1426    |  |  |  |  |
| Atlanta             | 2376  | 1322    | 1054    | Kansas City |  | 2480                | 1114    | 1366    |  |  |  |  |
| Detroit             | 2435  | 1359    | 1076    | San Diego   |  | 2504                | 1140    | 1364    |  |  |  |  |
| Green Bay           | 2455  | 1140    | 1315    | Oakland     |  | 2513                | 1197    | 1316    |  |  |  |  |
| Washington          | 2461  | 966     | 1495    | Pittsburgh  |  | 2605                | 1176    | 1429    |  |  |  |  |
| San Francisco       | 2511  | 1143    | 1368    | Cleveland   |  | 2703                | 1415    | 1288    |  |  |  |  |
| Dallas              | 2547  | 903     | 1644    | Buffalo     |  | 2810                | 1547    | 1263    |  |  |  |  |
| Philadelphia        | 2943  | 1401    | 1542    | New York    |  | 2937                | 1097    | 1840    |  |  |  |  |
| New York            | 2949  | 1275    | 1674    | Baltimore   |  | 2989                | 1322    | 1667    |  |  |  |  |
| New Orleans         | 2996  | 1429    | 1567    | Houston     |  | 3193                | 1707    | 1486    |  |  |  |  |
| St. Louis           | 3051  | 1375    | 1676    | New England |  | 3373                | 1835    | 1538    |  |  |  |  |

| Passers          |      |     |      |      |     | Passers       |                |     |      |      |      |    |    |
|------------------|------|-----|------|------|-----|---------------|----------------|-----|------|------|------|----|----|
| Att              | Comp | Pct | Yds  | TD   | Int | Att           | Comp           | Pct | Yds  | TD   | Int  |    |    |
| Kilmer, Wash.    | 126  | 66  | 52.4 | 986  | 11  | Domres, Balt. | 105            | 58  | 55.2 | 711  | 3    | 0  |    |
| Berry, Atl.      | 166  | 94  | 56.6 | 1321 | 10  | Unites, Balt. | 153            | 85  | 55.6 | 1044 | 3    | 0  |    |
| Snead, N.Y.      | 216  | 136 | 63.0 | 1639 | 12  | 8             | Lamonica, Oak  | 182 | 91   | 50.0 | 1197 | 9  | 5  |
| Brodie, S.F.     | 95   | 60  | 63.2 | 740  | 7   | 6             | Dawson, K.C.   | 226 | 129  | 57.1 | 1440 | 8  | 9  |
| Tarkenton, Minn. | 222  | 134 | 60.4 | 1574 | 10  | 6             | Griese, Mia.   | 94  | 51   | 54.3 | 619  | 4  | 4  |
| Spurrier, S.F.   | 140  | 71  | 50.7 | 1119 | 10  | 10            | Johnson, Den.  | 138 | 74   | 53.6 | 978  | 6  | 10 |
| Morton, Dall.    | 236  | 133 | 56.4 | 1721 | 11  | 14            | Namath, N.Y.   | 193 | 93   | 48.2 | 1814 | 15 | 14 |
| Landry, Det.     | 164  | 80  | 48.8 | 1266 | 10  | 13            | Anderson, Cin. | 202 | 112  | 55.4 | 1219 | 5  | 18 |
| Liske, Phil.     | 132  | 68  | 51.5 | 941  | 3   | 6             | Hadl, S.D.     | 222 | 112  | 50.5 | 1461 | 11 | 18 |
| Hunter, G.B.     | 147  | 62  | 42.2 | 1047 | 6   | 7             | Shaw, Buff.    | 158 | 83   | 52.5 | 993  | 9  | 14 |

| Scoring—Touchdowns  |      |     |     |     |                 | Scoring—Touchdowns |     |     |      |     |     |
|---------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|--------------------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| Tds                 | Rush | Rec | Pts | Tds | Rush            | Rec                | Pts | Tds | Rush | Rec | Pts |
| Brown, Wash.        | 9    | 6   | 3   | 54  | Boozar, N.Y.    | 13                 | 10  | 3   | 78   |     |     |
| G. Washington, S.F. | 9    | 0   | 9   | 54  | Morris, Mia.    | 9                  | 9   | 0   | 54   |     |     |
| Ron Johnson, N.Y.   | 8    | 4   | 4   | 48  | Little, Den.    | 9                  | 5   | 4   | 54   |     |     |
| Landry, Det.        | 7    | 7   | 0   | 42  | Caster, N.Y.    | 7                  | 0   | 7   | 42   |     |     |
| Brockington, G.B.   | 7    | 6   | 1   | 42  | Bradshaw, Pitt. | 6                  | 6   | 0   | 36   |     |     |
| Malone, Atl.        | 7    | 5   | 2   | 42  | Csonka, Mia.    | 6                  | 6   | 0   | 36   |     |     |
| Hill, Dall.         | 6    | 4   | 2   | 36  | Garrett, S.D.   | 6                  | 5   | 1   | 36   |     |     |
|                     |      |     |     |     | Harris, Pitt.   | 6                  | 5   | 1   | 36   |     |     |
|                     |      |     |     |     | Riggins, N.Y.   | 6                  | 5   | 1   | 36   |     |     |

| Scoring—Kicking |       |       |    |      |                 | Scoring—Kicking |       |      |      |    |    |
|-----------------|-------|-------|----|------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|------|------|----|----|
| EP-A            | FG-A  | LG    | Pt | EP-A | FG-A            | LG              | Pt    | EP-A | FG-A | LG | Pt |
| Marcol, G.B.    | 17-17 | 20-29 | 51 | 77   | Gerela, Pitt.   | 24-24           | 19-28 | 49   | 81   |    |    |
| Cox, Minn.      | 22-22 | 15-22 | 45 | 67   | Howfield, N.Y.  | 33-34           | 14-18 | 37   | 75   |    |    |
| Fritsch, Dall.  | 25-25 | 14-25 | 54 | 67   | Stenerud, K.C.  | 22-22           | 16-23 | 50   | 70   |    |    |
| Gossett, S.F.   | 28-28 | 12-20 | 50 | 64   | Yepremian, Mia. | 28-28           | 14-23 | 54   | 70   |    |    |
| Mann, Det.      | 23-24 | 13-18 | 51 | 62   | Muhlmann, Cin.  | 17-17           | 16-23 | 46   | 65   |    |    |
| Ray, L.A.       | 19-19 | 14-25 | 45 | 61   | J. Turner, Den. | 19-19           | 14-20 | 44   | 61   |    |    |
| Gogolak, N.Y.   | 21-24 | 13-18 | 43 | 60   | Blanda, Oak.    | 28-28           | 11-17 | 46   | 61   |    |    |
| Bell, Atl.      | 23-23 | 12-20 | 41 | 59   | Cockroft, Clev. | 18-18           | 12-15 | 57   | 54   |    |    |
| Knight, Wash.   | 27-28 | 8-20  | 42 | 51   | Lepoldt, Buff.  | 18-18           | 12-17 | 48   | 54   |    |    |

| Receivers           |     |     |      |     |    | Receivers         |     |      |      |    |     |     |      |     |
|---------------------|-----|-----|------|-----|----|-------------------|-----|------|------|----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| No                  | Yds | Avg | Long | TDs | No | Yds               | Avg | Long | TDs  | No | Yds | Avg | Long | TDs |
| Jackson, Phil.      | 45  | 755 | 16.8 | 59  | 3  | Taylor, K.C.      | 41  | 605  | 14.8 | 44 | 4   |     |      |     |
| G. Washington, S.F. | 33  | 602 | 18.2 | 62  | 9  | Biletnikoff, Oak. | 38  | 510  | 13.4 | 30 | 2   |     |      |     |
| Tucker, N.Y.        | 32  | 418 | 13.1 | 39  | 2  | Hill, Buff.       | 35  | 489  | 14.0 | 39 | 4   |     |      |     |
| Ron Johnson, N.Y.   | 31  | 347 | 11.2 | 39  | 4  | Trumpy, Cin.      | 35  | 381  | 10.9 | 29 | 2   |     |      |     |

continues to lead in punt returns with an 18.4 average and his 89-yard runback against the Bears. Ron Widby also averaged 74 yards per kick, taking over fifth place in punting with seven punts. When recovered, defensive tackle Bob Brown is planning to visit his son, a fan of the Chicago Bears, in Rockwood (Manitowoc County) fan, Gary LaViollette. The car that was stolen. We heard about your raccoon (it was found in the trunk of Brown's car). My dad said that if you come down to the house, it is in our freezer/ Your directions are at the bottom (of the letter). As a trencherman, said, "I won't be able to get over there

## GIBRON EXTRACTS MAXIMUM EFFORT FROM BEARS

NOV 17 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The announcement stirred outright laughter in some corners, mere chuckles in others and just set heads shaking in the rest. Abe Gibrón is the new head coach of the Chicago Bears. Abe Gibrón. He's been called Chicago Fats and a lot of other names not as complimentary. His physique is a can't miss target for wisecracks. Without a doubt, it was his appearance, rather on the blimpish side, that inspired the laughter, chuckles and head shaking. Nobody built like that could be a head coach of a pro football team. Never mind that he was an all-pro offensive guard. Forget that he was an assistant coach for 12 years. No way could Abe Gibrón be a head coach. But he was named head coach of the Bears anyway. And he took the job in a flurry of declarations that the Bears would be a snarling, fighting, tough football team. But none of his declarations were quoted accurately. Most still aren't. You just don't print most of Gibrón's language in a family newspaper. I guess his manner of speaking and his abundant size and his demand for caveman football makes him a colorful personality. But I don't know if that makes a good head coach. Certainly he has charged up his team. The Bears, whether they like to admit it or not, are not exactly talent-laden. But Gibrón has found a way to extract every bit of emotion and ability out of those players so that the Bears, despite their dwelling in the NFC Central, are not to be taken lightly by any opponent. Maybe it's because of this that I have come to admire Abe Gibrón. I like the way his team puts out. I like the way his team battles with every weapon, some corny and some highly sophisticated, available. But there's more that I have come to like about Abe Gibrón - and I can't say I really know the man. My impressions are from two post-game interviews with him. Listen to what he said after last Sunday's game against the Packers in Soldier Field: The mistakes that were made out there today were the coach's fault. Meaning me. Those players gave a great team effort." Someone suggested that Bobby Douglass' ill-fated decision to run instead of throwing the ball away inside the Packer 10 at the end of the first half could not be attributed to the coach. But Gibrón, his head hanging a bit but his voice loud and clear, answered, "He's my quarterback. If he made a mistake, it is my fault. I'm the coach." There were jeers when Abe Gibrón walked off the field with his team last Sunday. But Abe kept his head high in front of those fans and there was more than a trace of pride on his pudgy face. What he has said to his players since Sunday afternoon, I don't know. But in those moments just after the game, Gibrón showed me he was quite a coach...quite a man. And I suspect there are a few Green Bay people who might agree with that. For instance, there was the party of Packer fans which happened to be staying in the same hotel the Bears stayed in Saturday night. Enjoying themselves with a few drinks, they got the idea to invite Coach Gibrón to join them. Somehow, they managed to get their phone call through a screening process to Abe's room and offer the invitation. A short time later, Abe Gibrón knocked at the door and joined the festivities.

## PHIL OKAYED

NOV 18 (New York) - The National Football League said Friday there appeared no conflict of interest in the move of Phil Bengtson from a position with the San Diego Chargers to interim head coach of the New England Patriots for the remainder of the season. "You can't deny a man opportunity for employment and you can't legislate against possible happenstance," said Jim Kensil, executive director of the NFL. Bengtson, who succeeded the late Vince Lombardi as head coach of the Green Bay Packers when Lombardi left to take over the Washington Redskins in 1968, was named interim coach of the Patriots Monday after the resignation of John Mazur. Bengtson had been serving the San Diego Chargers as director of pro scouting this season. He joined the Chargers as defensive coordinator last year after being succeeded as head coach of the Packers by Dan Devine. "So far as we know, no written understanding between the Patriots and Chargers exists whereby Bengtson is bound to return to San Diego," Kensil said when questioned on the conflict of interest matter. "He's not being paid by two people. If it turns out that somebody is playing games, then we would investigate it, but Phil Bengtson has been in the league since 1938 and I doubt if he is going to change all of a sudden. As of now, he is not a San Diego employee, he's an employee of the Patriots and has been hired to win football games. If we thought any differently, he shouldn't be in the league."

## BROCKINGTON MAY NOT START

NOV 18 (Green Bay) - Green Bay Packer rushing leader John Brockington has been pronounced able to play at Houston Sunday, but whether he will start remained undecided after Friday's two hour workout. "Brockington certainly will be able to play, but I'm not prepared to say right now whether he will start," Coach Dan Devine said. Brockington incurred a charley horse in the Packers 23-17 National Football League victory at Chicago last Sunday and has participated in about only half of each workout this week. At least publicly, Devine remained undecided about his starting quarterback. Rookie Jerry Tagge was impressive last weekend in relief of Scott Hunter, who was knocked unconscious, and the two have shared the position in practice since. "The chances are very good Scott will be in at the start of the game, but I want to look at both players tomorrow," Devine said. The club planned to leave today and work out in the Astrodome in the afternoon. Devine also said offensive tackle Francis Peay, sidelined the past two games with a stomach disorder, would be withheld again. Bill Hayhoe

## The Packer Oiler individual comparison:

| RUSHING                 |      |      |      |     |    |  |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|-----|----|--|
|                         | Att. | Yds. | Ave. | L   | TD |  |
| Brockington, Pack ..    | 188  | 731  | 3.9  | 30† | 7  |  |
| Lane, Pack .....        | 103  | 389  | 3.8  | 35  | 0  |  |
| Willis, Oilers .....    | 78   | 311  | 4.0  | 43  | 0  |  |
| Robinson, Oilers .....  | 56   | 294  | 5.1  | 30† | 2  |  |
| Granger, Oilers .....   | 40   | 169  | 4.2  | 14  | 0  |  |
| Pastorini, Oilers ..... | 26   | 139  | 5.3  | 17  | 1  |  |

| PASSING                 |      |       |      |    |      |  |
|-------------------------|------|-------|------|----|------|--|
|                         | Att. | Comp. | Yds. | TD | Int. |  |
| Pastorini, Oilers ..... | 197  | 92    | 1119 | 6  | 10   |  |
| Hunter, Pack .....      | 147  | 62    | 1047 | 6  | 7    |  |
| Nix, Oilers .....       | 25   | 13    | 94   | 0  | 2    |  |
| Tagge, Pack .....       | 7    | 4     | 47   | 0  | 0    |  |

| RECEIVING               |     |      |      |     |    |  |
|-------------------------|-----|------|------|-----|----|--|
|                         | No. | Yds. | Ave. | L   | TD |  |
| Willis, Oilers .....    | 23  | 154  | 6.7  | 27  | 0  |  |
| Lane, Pack .....        | 18  | 233  | 12.9 | 49  | 0  |  |
| Smith, Oilers .....     | 18  | 185  | 10.3 | 25  | 0  |  |
| Granger, Oilers .....   | 14  | 69   | 4.9  | 20  | 0  |  |
| Brockington, Pack ..... | 12  | 192  | 16.0 | 48† | 1  |  |
| Dale, Pack .....        | 11  | 252  | 22.9 | 48  | 1  |  |
| Glass, Pack .....       | 11  | 193  | 17.5 | 31  | 1  |  |
| Burrough, Oilers .....  | 11  | 274  | 24.9 | 80† | 3  |  |
| Reed, Oilers .....      | 11  | 142  | 12.9 | 29  | 0  |  |

| INTERCEPTIONS         |     |      |      |    |    |  |
|-----------------------|-----|------|------|----|----|--|
|                       | No. | Yds. | Ave. | L  | TD |  |
| Hill, Pack .....      | 3   | 21   | 7.0  | 0  | 0  |  |
| Buchanan, Pack .....  | 2   | 37   | 18.5 | 26 | 0  |  |
| Matthews, Pack .....  | 2   | 8    | 4.0  | 8  | 0  |  |
| Charles, Oilers ..... | 2   | 6    | 3.0  | 6  | 0  |  |

| FIELD GOALS           |      |       |       |       |     |  |
|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|--|
|                       | 1-19 | 20-29 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50+ |  |
| Marcol, Pack .....    | 2-3  | 5-6   | 6-9   | 6-9   | 1-2 |  |
| Mosejev, Oilers ..... | 0-0  | 1-1   | 0-0   | 0-1   | 0-0 |  |
| Butler, Oilers .....  | 2-2  | 2-3   | 1-1   | 1-4   | 0-0 |  |

| KICKOFF RETURNS       |     |      |      |    |    |  |
|-----------------------|-----|------|------|----|----|--|
|                       | No. | Yds. | Ave. | L  | TD |  |
| Thomas, Pack .....    | 12  | 341  | 28.4 | 89 | 0  |  |
| Staggers, Pack .....  | 10  | 238  | 23.8 | 39 | 0  |  |
| Rodgers, Oilers ..... | 10  | 220  | 22.0 | 31 | 0  |  |

| PUNTING                 |     |      |      |    |    |  |
|-------------------------|-----|------|------|----|----|--|
|                         | No. | Yds. | Ave. | L  | Bk |  |
| Widby, Pack .....       | 47  | 1976 | 42.0 | 64 | 0  |  |
| Pastorini, Oilers ..... | 56  | 2318 | 41.4 | 63 | 1  |  |

| PUNT RETURNS          |     |      |      |     |    |  |
|-----------------------|-----|------|------|-----|----|--|
|                       | No. | Yds. | Ave. | L   | TD |  |
| Ellis, Pack .....     | 9   | 166  | 18.4 | 80† | 1  |  |
| Houston, Oilers ..... | 17  | 75   | 4.4  | 18  | 0  |  |

has been starting at the position and Kevin Hunt has taken Peay's place on the roster. Friday's workout in 30 degree temperatures was "good and sharp," Devine said. While the Packers lead the National Conference Central Division with a 6-3 record and Houston is 1-8, Devine was impressed with the Oilers when they upset Green Bay 20-3 in an exhibition Aug. 19. "If our players are thinking past Houston, we're going to get beat," said Devine, whose Packers' games with powerful Washington and division rivals Detroit and Minnesota the next three weeks probably will decide whether they make the playoffs.

#### CHET LUKEWARM ON DOME

NOV 18 (Houston-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Ordinarily, a placekicker is at the mercy of the elements and field conditions. Which suggests he would welcome the chance to ply his trade indoors, where such things can be controlled. But, surprisingly enough, Chester Marcol does not regard his imminent return to the Astrodome as an unmixed blessing. "It's much easier to kick field goals in the Astrodome," says the Packers' rookie marvel, who will have an unexampled opportunity to pad his team season field goal record in Sunday's match with the Oilers, "because you have no winds to compensate for. But it's harder to get off long kickoffs for the same reason - because there is no wind. The ball doesn't carry well." The Astrodome's giant air conditioning system, which spews forth 250,000 cubic feet of air per minute, maintains constant "wind" conditions of one mile per hour in all directions. Marcol has no such reservations, however, about kicking off on artificial turf for the second week in a row. "Whenever you have the Astroturf," he said, "it doesn't make any difference where you are. All kickers like to kick off artificial turf. The big reason is that the ball doesn't sink in. In some places where they have natural turf, like Milwaukee County Stadium, the grass is real high. It's terrible to kick out of. Plus, if it's wet or raining, it's hard to find a place to set the ball down that isn't muddy." Marcol, who now has made 20 of 29 field goal attempts, added, "I still think Lambeau Field is the best grass field I've ever played on." Chester, successful in his last six efforts, over three games, had to be encouraged by the Astrodome performance of bulky Tom Dempsey, who hit on six of seven field goal attempts to account for all of the Eagles' points in an 18-17 victory over the Oilers last Sunday. "Dempsey actually should have had seven-for-seven," Chester said. "The one he missed was a 22-yarder." For whatever it may be taken, the 22-year-old Hillsdale alumnus has had a dazzling week in practice - with one slightly embarrassing exception. Marcol, who had a rare perfect day in Wednesday's workout, explained, "My leg isn't bothering me now, and that's a big plus. It was a little stiff last week and in Sunday's game against the Bears." Things were a little different Thursday. Chester, zeroing in on his first practice attempt, slipped and fell flat on his back - to his startled discomfiture and the amusement of special teams coach Hank Kuhlmann. "It was a little hard ground that I was kicking from and my spikes were too short," he said. "I couldn't get good footing. But it didn't bother me. I just changed to longer spikes. The same thing happened to me once before, in my sophomore year at Hillsdale," Chester confided. "On the first kick in warmup before our NAIA playoff game that season, I slipped and fell. Then, in the game, I missed seven field goal attempts in a row. But it didn't matter," he reported with a grin. "We lost 42-0, anyway." Although he has a chance to better the NFL season record for field goals (34 by Jim Turner of the New York Jets in 1968), Marcol insists he is not giving such matters so much as a passing thought. "Why put extra pressure on yourself," he logically reasons. "When it comes, it comes. If it doesn't, so what?"...PACKER PATTERN: There is a possibility John Brockington will not start against the Oilers, Coach Dan Devine indicated following Friday's practice, last home workout of the week. "Brockington is going to play," he said, "but I'm not prepared to say he's going to start." The sophomore fullback, No. 2 rusher in the National Football Conference with 731 yards in 188 attempts, has been troubled by a hamstring pull...Devine also reported, "Chances are very good Scott Hunter will start at quarterback, but we're going to look at both boys (Hunter and rookie Jerry Tagge) tomorrow in practice at Houston. "Overall, there will be no personnel changes. Francis Peay will be off the regular roster one more week. He could come back this week, because he has missed the required two games since being placed on the move list, but he will stay off for another week."...Although Fred Willis has been with the Oilers only three weeks, he already has become their No. 1 rusher for the season with 311 yards in 78 carries. Paul Robinson, also acquired in a mid-season trade with Cincinnati, is second with 294 yards in 56 carries. Skip Butler, the ex-Packer, is now the Oilers' placekicking specialist. He has made six of 10 field goal attempts to date, including four of five from inside the 30. Running back MacArthur Lane continues to lead Packer pass receivers with 18 catches for 233 yards and a 12.9-yard average. Fellow rusher John Brockington is next up with 12 receptions for 192 yards.

#### OILERS 'TORN APART' - PRITCHARD

NOV 18 (Cincinnati) - The Cincinnati Bengals' newly acquired linebacker, Ron Pritchard, says his former team, the Houston Oilers, is being "torn apart" by an "egomaniac." Pritchard, however, declined to name the person he was talking about. Pritchard, who came to Cincinnati in a four-player trade, had been asked at the Bengals Boosters luncheon Friday to compare Cincinnati with his previous team. "It's tremendous here," Pritchard said. "Houston had four coaches in the four years I was there. Here everything is exact and proceeds on schedule. It's disciplined. "At our meetings during the halftime here, we go over a lot of things and it's very poised. (The Bengals have lost their last two games). At Houston, people would



# Oilers 'Torn Apart'--Pritchard

be running around and peeking through doors. My experiences with Houston were terrible. It's a tough thing to play a ball game there. They didn't know if they were coming or going. I left some outstanding men who are playing their hearts out. I miss the players, and they are fine people," Pritchard said. Then, Pritchard, looking thoughtful, said, "He's an egomaniac, and he's tearing the team apart." Then realizing he hadn't identified the person he was talking about, Pritchard said. "You don't know if I'm talking about the coach or the owner or the general manager, do you?" He then declined to say who it was. "The Bengals have a great organization," Pritchard continued. "Paul Brown has weeded out people not putting out 100 percent on every play. They prepare themselves individually for a football game, and I never saw that in Houston."

## IMPRESSIVE PACK BACK TO PLAY OILERS FOR REAL

NOV 19 (Houston Post) - They're off to their best start since 1967 when they won their last National Football League title. They've got a roster including 10 number one draft choices, the NFC's leading scorer and a defensive secondary that has permitted only two touchdown passes this year. Their 6-3 record leads the NFC Central Division by one full game. How then did the Houston Oilers ever beat Green Bay in the exhibition season, 20-3? "I found out in preseason the veterans aren't always as intense and you're not up against as many different situations, especially pass coverages," says Bill Peterson, whose Oilers give the Pack a 1 p.m. Astrodome rematch Sunday. "There's a big difference all right - this isn't the same Green Bay team we played before." Indeed a different Pack is back in search of its sixth win in the last eight games. Behind an

offensive line regarded as premier stock, John Brockington and MacArthur Lane have rushed for 731 and 389 yards, respectively. Although Scott Hunter, under the tutelage of Bart Starr, has completed 62 passes for 1,047 yards and six touchdowns, Green Bay relies heavily on its two-pronged rushing game. Against Chicago last week, for instance, the Pack didn't throw a pass in the first half in winning. 23-17. "Those two backs are just outstanding, they really keep the pressure on you - but that's not all they've got," Peterson stresses. "They play with great intensity and have the best kicking game we've faced all year. There's no doubt about that." Ike Thomas is averaging 28.4 on kickoff returns, Ken Ellis has nine punt returns for an 18.4 mean including an 80-yard TD effort - and then there's Chester Marcol. The Packer rookie is the NFC's scoring leader with 77 points compiled with 20 field goals and 17 consecutive extra points. Last week Marcol, from Opole, Poland, kicked field goals of 21, 21 and 51 yards to make the difference in a fourth Green Bay win. Defensively, the Packers man the front with Clarence Williams, Mike McCoy, Bob Brown and Alden Roche and start linebackers Dave Robinson, Jim Carter and Fred Carr. Saddled with six straight losses, the Oilers must have a defensive effort similar to their last Packer meeting when Brockington gained just 47 yards and Lane 11. Only score came on Marcol's 18 yard field goal. If the Oilers are to win they undoubtedly must better a scoring average that has sagged to a mere 11.5 points per game. The only consistency on offense has come from Fred Willis and Paul Robinson, newest additions to the Oiler backfield. In the 18-17 loss to Philadelphia Willis gained 119 yards while Robinson added 80 including a 30-yard touchdown run. "There's no way we can be overconfident," says Dan Devine, Packer coach. "Houston's playing just a hair away from winning. True, Green Bay's undefeated on the road in league play but don't forget Houston beat us down there in pre-season."

## NOTES AND NOTIONS

NOV 19 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - Packer freshman Chester Marcol and sophomore John Brockington already are record holders and likely will establish more standards. Marcol, currently the most productive field goal kicker in the league, already owns the Packer 1-season record of 20 three pointers. He's also within one-yard of the club record for length. Ted Fritsch and Paul Hornung (on a free kick) share the 52-yard record, while Marcol has one of 51. Hornung's maximum field goal total for one season was 15 (in 1960 and '61). Brockington, who last year gained more yards rushing than any other NFL rookie in history, now can become the first player ever to rush for 1,000 yards in each of his first two pro seasons. When Larry Brown goes over the 1,000 mark Monday night, he'll become the third NFL player ever to reach that level within just 10 games. The others were Jim Brown and Jim Taylor...If there are any more "head hunting" incidents against Marcol, as occurred in the last Bear game, we hope the Packers will take care of the culprit as they handled "the Hammer" Williamson in the first Super Bowl. There's no excuse for a team to try deliberately - under the guise of legal blocking - to put a key player out of circulation... A fit of temper by George Halas, Jr., last Sunday nearly caused a serious injury. When the Packers' Willie Buchanon knocked a potential touchdown pass away from George Farmer, Halas pounded the wall of his private booth in the Soldier Field press box so hard that a TV set fell off a shelf in the adjoining booth and hit writer Ed Sainsbury on the head. The UPI representative escaped rather luckily even though he did require some stitches in his



**PALSY CHAIRMAN:** Packer head coach and general manager Dan Devine, named last week to serve again as honorary state campaign chairman for United Cerebral Palsy visits with Ginger Beuk, 4, Fond du Lac, recently named poster child by the organization. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Beuk Sr., Ginger was born with cerebral palsy and took her first steps a year ago. (Green Bay Press-Gazette Photo)

scalp...Don Shula must be rated among pro football's top three or four coaches of the last two decades. But Vince Lombardi continues to be No. 1. Shula would probably trade a good share of his first 100 wins (in 10 seasons) for one Super Bowl title. Lombardi, in only nine seasons, picked up 89 regular-season wins and nine more in championship playoff games. Of course he won five world titles, the last two under the Super Bowl format.

## DEVINE HOPES PACKERS ARE RUNNING SCARED

NOV 19 (Houston-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Dan Devine is running scared. So, he hopes, are the Packers. The Houston Oilers have not won since Oct. 1, when they surprised Joe Namath and the New York Jets, 26-20, the week after Joe Willie had frisked the Baltimore Colt defense for 496 yards passing. That means the Oilers will be carrying a six-game losing streak into this afternoon's encounter with the Packers, which is expected to attract little more than 40,000 fans to the storied Astrodome. The "Dome" being a 50,000-seat facility, this reflects how Oiler buffs are reacting to the Texans dismal 1-8 record, as well as their pessimism about today's outcome in the first regular season meeting even between the two teams. The Packers, understandably, are 10-point favorites to win their third straight and preserve a one-game lead over the Minnesota Vikings and Detroit Lions in the NFC Central, easily the tightest race in the National Football League at this late season point. And that is precisely what worries Devine. He is acutely aware all of those familiar "given day" elements are present, the kind of which upsets are and have been made. As a result, he was consistently irritable on the field throughout the practice week, although normally the most amiable of men, and particularly so when it was suggested the Packers might be looking past the Oilers to next week's invasion of Washington. "I'm sensitive about that," he says, somewhat apologetically, "probably because that's exactly what I'm worried about." Reaching back for a venerable coaching tenet, Devine insists, "Records don't mean a thing once the whistle blows. What we've done and what they've done doesn't count. You don't get any points for what you've done in the past. They only lost to Philadelphia last week, I might add, when Skip Butler missed a point-blank field goal with 20 seconds to play." Devine is hoping the memory of a 20-3 embarrassment at Oiler hands on these same premises in August will elicit a properly respectful response from the Packers, whose playoff hopes have begun to burgeon. The film of the Oilers' loss to the Eagles also should have impressed his troops ever so slightly. Houston amassed 256 yards rushing, a figure the Packers have yet to attain themselves this season with a vaunted ground game, the recently acquired Fred Willis leading the Houston charge on 119 yards in 21 attempts. Willis and Paul Robinson, scored from the Cincinnati Bengals in a mid season swap, have revitalized a previously punchless running attack, a development which obviously cannot help but enhance the potential of Dan Pastorini's passes to such receivers as speedball Ken Burrough, Dave Smith and Alvin Reed, the Oilers' talented tight end. It was Pastorini, the Packers' painfully recall, who hit Reed for a touchdown on a protracted scramble in their pre-season match here to mount an early 10-0 lead which carried the Oilers to victory. The invaders will have one potent weapon going for them which they made only parttime use of in that first meeting. Chester Marcol, who later produced the Packers' only points of the game with a third quarter field goal, sat out the first half while Devine gave Tim Webster a final test. It proved immediately revealing as Linzy Cole ran back Webster's short opening kick 76 yards, setting up a Mark Mosely field goal after Leland Glass had saved a touchdown by felling Cole from behind at the Packer 21. Marcol, of course, since has not only firmly entrenched himself as Green Bay's resident placekicker but also as a strong contender for NFL rookie of the year honors. The Polish-born booter already has broken the Packers' all-time season record for field goals and comes into the game leading the National Football Conference in scoring with 77 points, and with a string of six consecutive field goal successes. Although Devine has indicated he is likely to go with the same format that opened against the Bears last week, there is the possibility of a change or two in the starting backfield. Perry Williams could start at fullback in place of John Brockington, who has been receiving treatment for a hamstring pull, and there is some chance Jerry Tagge will be accorded his first major league start at quarterback. Tagge impressed in his regular season debut last Sunday, completing four of seven passes and escorting the Packers to a decisive third quarter field goal after starter Scott Hunter was kayoed on a second quarter scramble.

| Probable Starting Lineups: |           |             |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| GREEN BAY                  | OFFENSE   | HOUSTON     |
| Glass .....                | WR .....  | Smith       |
| Hayhoe .....               | LT .....  | Funchess    |
| Lueck .....                | LG .....  | Regner      |
| Bowman .....               | C .....   | C. Hunt     |
| Snider .....               | RG .....  | Saul        |
| Himes .....                | RT .....  | L. Carr     |
| Garrett .....              | TE .....  | Reed        |
| Dale .....                 | WR .....  | Burrough    |
| Hunter .....               | QB .....  | Pastorini   |
| Lane .....                 | RB .....  | P. Robinson |
| Brockington .....          | RB .....  | Willis      |
| DEFENSE                    |           |             |
| C. Williams .....          | LE .....  | Holmes      |
| McCoy .....                | LT .....  | Tilleman    |
| Brown .....                | RT .....  | Brooks      |
| Roche .....                | RE .....  | Betha       |
| D. Robinson .....          | LLB ..... | Rice        |
| Carter .....               | MLB ..... | Boyette     |
| F. Carr .....              | RLB ..... | Croyie      |
| Buchanon .....             | LCB ..... | Alexander   |
| Ellis .....                | RCB ..... | Moore       |
| Matthews .....             | LS .....  | Houston     |
| Hill .....                 | RS .....  | Charles     |

| AMERICAN CONFERENCE                   |   |   |   |       |      |     |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------|------|-----|
| Eastern Division                      |   |   |   |       |      |     |
|                                       | W | L | T | Pct.  | Pts. | OP  |
| Miami .....                           | 9 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 250  | 103 |
| N.Y. Jets .....                       | 6 | 3 | 0 | .667  | 279  | 192 |
| Buffalo .....                         | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222  | 168  | 253 |
| Baltimore .....                       | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222  | 139  | 186 |
| New England .....                     | 2 | 7 | 0 | .222  | 109  | 296 |
| Central Division                      |   |   |   |       |      |     |
|                                       | W | L | T | Pct.  | Pts. | OP  |
| Pittsburgh .....                      | 7 | 2 | 0 | .778  | 233  | 134 |
| Cleveland .....                       | 6 | 3 | 0 | .667  | 162  | 151 |
| Cincinnati .....                      | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 169  | 152 |
| Houston .....                         | 1 | 8 | 0 | .111  | 104  | 233 |
| Western Division                      |   |   |   |       |      |     |
|                                       | W | L | T | Pct.  | Pts. | OP  |
| Oakland .....                         | 5 | 3 | 1 | .611  | 229  | 169 |
| Kansas City .....                     | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 202  | 156 |
| Denver .....                          | 3 | 6 | 0 | .333  | 181  | 223 |
| San Diego .....                       | 2 | 6 | 1 | .278  | 169  | 224 |
| NATIONAL CONFERENCE                   |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| Eastern Division                      |   |   |   |       |      |     |
|                                       | W | L | T | Pct.  | Pts. | OP  |
| Washington .....                      | 8 | 1 | 0 | .889  | 227  | 124 |
| Dallas .....                          | 7 | 2 | 0 | .778  | 217  | 149 |
| N.Y. Giants .....                     | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 210  | 191 |
| St. Louis .....                       | 2 | 6 | 1 | .278  | 122  | 195 |
| Philadelphia .....                    | 2 | 6 | 1 | .278  | 86   | 194 |
| Central Division                      |   |   |   |       |      |     |
|                                       | W | L | T | Pct.  | Pts. | OP  |
| Green Bay .....                       | 6 | 3 | 0 | .667  | 179  | 161 |
| Detroit .....                         | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 213  | 185 |
| Minnesota .....                       | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 199  | 135 |
| Chicago .....                         | 3 | 5 | 1 | .389  | 149  | 165 |
| Western Division                      |   |   |   |       |      |     |
|                                       | W | L | T | Pct.  | Pts. | OP  |
| Los Angeles .....                     | 5 | 3 | 1 | .611  | 178  | 148 |
| Atlanta .....                         | 5 | 4 | 0 | .556  | 199  | 183 |
| San Francisco .....                   | 4 | 4 | 1 | .500  | 232  | 175 |
| New Orleans .....                     | 1 | 7 | 1 | .167  | 135  | 253 |
| TODAY'S GAMES                         |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| Green Bay at Houston, 1 p.m.          |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| Baltimore at Cincinnati, noon         |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| Buffalo at New England, noon          |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| Dallas at Philadelphia, noon          |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| New Orleans at Detroit, noon          |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| New York Giants at St. Louis, 1 p.m.  |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| New York Jets at Miami, noon          |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| Oakland at Denver, 1 p.m.             |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| Pittsburgh at Cleveland, noon         |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| San Diego at Kansas City, 1 p.m.      |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| San Francisco at Chicago, 1 p.m.      |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| Minnesota at Los Angeles, 3 p.m.      |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| MONDAY'S GAME                         |   |   |   |       |      |     |
| Atlanta at Washington, 8 p.m., TV-Ch. |   |   |   |       |      |     |

# Devine cautions Packers about Oilers

## Packer Statistics

1972 GREEN BAY PACKERS  
(9 GAME STATISTICS 6 - 3)

| RESULTS ATTENDANCE                       |  | OPP.    | SCORES BY QUARTERS |                        |       |                        |          |             |
|------------------------------------------|--|---------|--------------------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|----------|-------------|
| GB                                       |  |         | ONE                | TWO                    | THREE | FOUR                   | TOTAL    |             |
| (w) 26 Browns at Cleveland (75,771)      |  | 10      |                    |                        |       |                        |          |             |
| (l) 14 Raiders at Green Bay (56,263)     |  | 20      | GB. 61             | 54                     | 32    | 32                     | 179      |             |
| (w) 16 Cowboys at Mil. (47,103)          |  | 13      | OPP. 37            | 33                     | 43    | 48                     | 161      |             |
| (w) 20 Bears at Green Bay (56,263)       |  | 17      |                    |                        |       |                        |          |             |
| (w) 24 Lions at Detroit (54,418)         |  | 23      | RUSHING            | ATT                    | YDS.  | AVE.                   | LONG TD. |             |
| (l) 10 Falcons at Mil. (47,967)          |  | 9       | Brockington        | 188                    | 731   | 3.9                    | 30t 6    |             |
| (l) 13 Vikings at Green Bay (56,263)     |  | 27      | Lane               | 103                    | 389   | 3.8                    | 35 0     |             |
| (w) 34 49'ers at Mil. (47,897)           |  | 24      | Hudson             | 9                      | 27    | 3.0                    | 17 0     |             |
| (w) 23 Bears at Chicago (55,701)         |  | 17      | Williams           | 4                      | 13    | 3.3                    | 7 0      |             |
| 11/19 OILERS AT HOUSTON                  |  |         | Hunter             | 15                     | 18    | 1.2                    | 6 2      |             |
| 11/26 Redskins at Washington             |  |         | OTHERS:            | Glass 1/13; Davis 1/-7 |       |                        |          |             |
| 12/3 Lions at Green Bay                  |  |         |                    | Staggers 1/-8; Tagge   |       |                        |          |             |
| 12/10 Vikings at Minnesota               |  |         |                    | 4/-8                   |       |                        |          |             |
| 12/17 Saints at New Orleans              |  |         | GB TOTAL           | 326                    | 1172  | 3.6                    | 35 8     |             |
|                                          |  |         | OPP. TOTAL         | 326                    | 1132  | 3.5                    | 26 11    |             |
| TEAM STATISTICS                          |  | GB      | OPP.               |                        |       |                        |          |             |
| TOTAL FIRST DOWNS                        |  | 117     | 150                | RECEIVING              |       |                        |          |             |
| By Rushing                               |  | 59      | 67                 | Lane                   |       | 18                     | 233      | 12.9 49 0   |
| By Passing                               |  | 51      | 70                 | Brockington            |       | 12                     | 192      | 16.0 48t 1  |
| By Penalty                               |  | 7       | 13                 | Dale                   |       | 11                     | 252      | 22.9 48 1   |
| Third Down Efficiency                    |  | 29/107  | 48/123             | Glass                  |       | 11                     | 193      | 17.5 31 1   |
| TOTAL NET YARDS                          |  | 2219    | 2433               | Staggers               |       | 6                      | 104      | 17.3 48 1   |
| Total Off. Plays                         |  | 481     | 562                | McGeorge               |       | 5                      | 50       | 10.0 23t 2  |
| Ave. Gain Per Play                       |  | 4.6     | 4.3                | Garrett                |       | 3                      | 53       | 17.7 21 0   |
| NET YARDS RUSHING                        |  | 1172    | 1132               | OTHERS:                |       | Davis 1/11; Kopay 1/8  |          |             |
| Total Rushing Plays                      |  | 326     | 326                | GB TOTAL               |       | 67                     | 1110     | 16.6 49 6   |
| Ave. Gain Per Rush                       |  | 3.6     | 3.5                | OPP. TOTAL             |       | 110                    | 1430     | 13.0 62 2   |
| NET YARDS PASSING                        |  | 1047    | 1301               | PUNTING                |       |                        |          |             |
| Lost Attempting to Pass                  |  | 7/56    | 16/129             | Widby                  |       | 47                     | 1976     | 42.0 64 0   |
| Gross Yards Passing                      |  | 1110    | 1430               | GB TOTAL               |       | 47                     | 1976     | 42.0 64 0   |
| Attempts/Completions                     |  | 159/67  | 223/110            | OPP. TOTAL             |       | 42                     | 1782     | 42.4 61 0   |
| Percent Completed                        |  | .421    | .493               | INTERCEP.              |       |                        |          |             |
| Had Intercepted                          |  | 7       | 10                 | Hill                   |       | 3                      | 21       | 7.0 0 0     |
| Ave Net Passing Per Game                 |  | 115.5   | 144.6              | Buchanan               |       | 2                      | 37       | 18.5 26 0   |
| PUNTS/YDS.                               |  | 47/1976 | 42/1782            | Matthews               |       | 2                      | 8        | 4.0 8 0     |
| PUNT RETURNS/YDS.                        |  | 14/176  | 24/153             | Ellis                  |       | 1                      | 35       | 35.0 35t 1  |
| KICKOFF RETURNS/YDS.                     |  | 36/852  | 25/517             | Robinson               |       | 1                      | 7        | 7.0 7 0     |
| MISC. RETURNS/YDS.                       |  | 4/48    | 6/191              | Carter                 |       | 1                      | 0        | 0.0 0 0     |
| INTERCEPTIONS/YDS.                       |  | 10/101  | 7/58               | GB TOTAL               |       | 10                     | 101      | 10.1 35t 1  |
| PENALTIES/YDS.                           |  | 42/391  | 37/345             | OPP. TOTAL             |       | 7                      | 58       | 8.3 32 2    |
| FUMBLES/BALL LOST                        |  | 17/8    | 22/13              | K.O. RET.              |       |                        |          |             |
| TOTAL POINTS                             |  | 179     | 161                | Thomas                 |       | 12                     | 341      | 28.4 89 0   |
| Ave Points Per Game                      |  | 19.9    | 17.9               | Staggers               |       | 10                     | 238      | 23.8 39 0   |
| Touchdowns                               |  | 17      | 17                 | Hudson                 |       | 10                     | 230      | 23.0 55 0   |
| by Rushing                               |  | 8       | 11                 | OTHERS:                |       | Robinson 1/25; Garrett |          |             |
| by Passing                               |  | 6       | 2                  |                        |       | 1/0; Williams 1/9;     |          |             |
| by Returns                               |  | 3       | 4                  |                        |       | Wortman 1/0            |          |             |
| Field Goals                              |  | 20/29   | 14/20              | GB TOTAL               |       | 36                     | 852      | 23.7 89 0   |
| Conversions                              |  | 17/17   | 17/17              | OPP. TOTAL             |       | 25                     | 517      | 20.7 37 0   |
| FIELD GOALS (Good, b=blocked):           |  |         |                    | F.G.                   |       |                        |          |             |
| Marcol: 51, 42b, 41, 19, 49, 17; 44, 16, |  |         |                    | 1-19                   |       | 20-29                  | 30-39    | 40-49 50+   |
| 27b, 26, 41, 22; 26, 34, 37; 36, 34;     |  |         |                    | Marcol                 |       | 2-3                    | 5-6      | 6-9 1-2     |
| 32, 44, 35, 39; 41, 34, 43; 30, 40;      |  |         |                    | OP TOTAL               |       | 4-4                    | 3-3      | 2-3 3-8 2-2 |
| 51, 21, 21                               |  |         |                    |                        |       |                        |          |             |

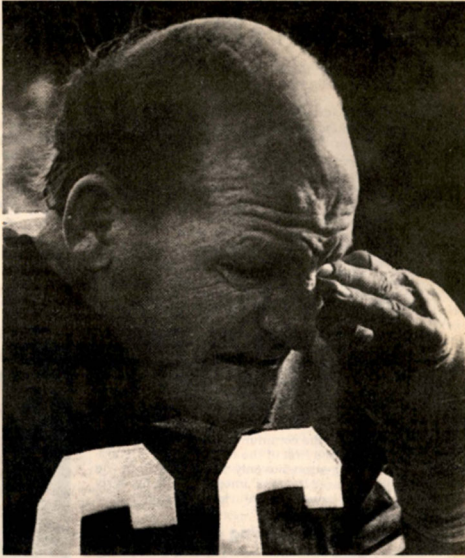
| SCORING     | TDR | TDP | TDRt | FG.   | PAT.  | TOTAL |
|-------------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Marcol      | 0   | 0   | 0    | 20/29 | 17/17 | 77    |
| Brockington | 6   | 1   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 42    |
| McGeorge    | 0   | 2   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 12    |
| Ellis       | 0   | 0   | 2    | 0     | 0     | 12    |
| Hunter      | 2   | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 12    |
| Staggers    | 0   | 1   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 6     |
| Glass       | 0   | 1   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 6     |
| C. Williams | 0   | 0   | 1    | 0     | 0     | 6     |
| Dale        | 0   | 1   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 6     |
| GB TOTAL    | 8   | 6   | 3    | 20/29 | 17/17 | 179   |
| OPP. TOTAL  | 11  | 2   | 4    | 14/20 | 17/17 | 161   |

| PUNT RETURNS | NO. | F.C. | YDS. | AVE. | LONG | TD. |
|--------------|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|
| Ellis        | 9   | 1    | 166  | 18.4 | 80t  | 1   |
| Staggers     | 4   | 13   | 10   | 2.5  | 10   | 0   |
| Hudson       | 1   | 1    | 0    | 0.0  | 0    | 0   |
| GB TOTAL     | 14  | 15   | 176  | 12.6 | 80t  | 1   |
| OPP. TOTAL   | 24  | 4    | 153  | 6.4  | 33   | 0   |

| PASSING    | ATT. | COMP. | YDS. | PCT. | AVE/ATT | TD. | PCT  | LG. | INT. | INT. | LOST/ATT. |
|------------|------|-------|------|------|---------|-----|------|-----|------|------|-----------|
| Hunter     | 147  | 62    | 1047 | 42.2 | 7.1     | 6   | .041 | 49  | 7    | .048 | 6/45      |
| Patrick    | 4    | 1     | 9    | 25.0 | 2.5     | 0   | .000 | 9   | 0    | .000 | 1/11      |
| Tagge      | 7    | 4     | 47   | 57.1 | 6.7     | 0   | .000 | 14  | 0    | .000 | 0/0       |
| Staggers   | 1    | 0     | 0    | 0.0  | 0       | 0   | .000 | 0   | 0    | .000 | 0         |
| GB TOTAL   | 159  | 67    | 1137 | 42.1 | 7.2     | 6   | .038 | 49  | 7    | .044 | 7/56      |
| OPP. TOTAL | 224  | 110   | 1323 | 49.1 | 5.9     | 2   | .009 | 62t | 10   | .045 | 16/129    |

QB TACKLES: Vanoy 4; C. Williams 4; Brown 3; Robinson 3; McCoy 1; Roche 1

# Nitschke Spans Time Gap From Old Packers to New



**RAY NITSCHKE** wipes a tear from his eye during ceremonies honoring the Packer great in 1971.



**RAY NITSCHKE . . .** The defense never relaxes.

## **NITSCHKE SPANS TIME GAP FROM OLD PACKERS TO NEW**

NOV 25 (The Sporting News) - A short quiz: Q - What one player is left from Vince Lombardi's first team at Green Bay? A -Ray Nitschke, who actually was at Packertown in 1957, two years before Lombardi arrived. Lombardi and Nitschke - the names speak of a glorious past - as do Taylor, Davis, Hornung, Thurston, Kramer, Starr - in what might have been the most dynamic decade in 53 years of professional football. While these other Packer greats have gone on to such things as broadcasting, coaching, owning restaurants and authoring books, Nitschke fights to keep the sun from setting on his career. "I've played here 15 years and I've had a great career. I've been on championship teams and I've played with great players," said Nitschke. "But I'm not still playing just because I'm the oldest Packer. I have pride and I think I can still offer the game something. I don't think of myself as a free loader."...A BENCHWARMER NOW: Nitschke will be 36 on December 29. His best years are behind him -he's not blind to this - and he does little these days but sit on the bench. Coach Dan Devine has built his program, a good one, around youth. "I'm not playing at all, except on special teams," said Nitschke. "They play (Jim) Carter all the time. But I have no bad feelings. The game has been too good to me. I don't know how well I can play, because you have to prove it on the field. Down deep, I know I can. Other 35-year-olds are playing." Unfortunately, most of them are quarterbacks and kickers,

not middle linebackers. This is the kind of season that once brought out the best in Nitschke. The Packers were involved in a title fight as the season turned into the home stretch. Green Bay, under Lombardi and with Nitschke, won National Football League championships in 1961-62-65-66-67 as well as the first two Super Bowls. Nitschke was all-league from 1964-66 and was voted the best linebacker in the NFL in 1967 by his fellow players. He feared no one. He went into action with his upper front teeth out, which only added to his image as a savage hitter. Nitschke also was bald at a young age and TV crews loved those sideline shots of him with his helmet off. When the Oakland Raiders played in Super Bowl II, the man they feared most was Nitschke. And he justified those fears with nine tackles...YIELDED TO CARTER: Then Nitschke ran into an opponent he couldn't tackle - Father Time, who began to take away his best skills. In 1971, Devine's first year, Nitschke was replaced in the middle by Carter, a former fullback at Minnesota, as Nitschke had been at Illinois. Carter is 24. "All of the Packers had grown old together and retired, so when I took over the club, there was a void in quality talent," said Devine. "We decided to build with youth, and now, 37 of the 47 players on our squad have three years or less experience. Ray hasn't played a great deal, but he keeps himself in tremendous shape, and he's available if we need him. He's a great guy to have on the squad." Dick Nolan, the head coach at San Francisco, was an assistant at Dallas when the Cowboys lost twice in succession to Green Bay for the NFL title. "Nitschke was a good, fiery guy - a very tough individual," Nolan said. "Carter plays a lot like him, backing off the line and filling the holes quickly. You can see Nitschke's influence." The 49ers met the Packers on November 5 in Milwaukee and Devine decided to start Nitschke for the first time since December 12, 1971 - which was Ray Nitschke Day in Green Bay. When Nitschke was introduced before the 49er game, he received, by far, the loudest ovation of any Packer. On the game's first play, Vic Washington tried to sweep his left end and Nitschke, as he used to do, roared over and banged him down for no gain. But by the end of the quarter he had retired to the bench for the day and Carter was back in the middle. Nitschke said the present Packers compare with those he played with in his first few years under Lombardi...TALENT WAS THERE: "It's the people who make the program, and Lombardi had some great football players in Starr, Taylor, Jordan, Davis and others. This team has some excellent people in Brockington, Gillingham, McCoy, Carr," he pointed out. "It's just a matter of time. This team is

some excellent people in Brockington, Gillingham, McCoy, Carr," he pointed out. "It's just a matter of time. This team is

# NFC central

By JERRY GREEN



similar in ability with the old Packers. But attitude is the thing that remains to be seen. Do they want it bad enough? You have to have character and we'll have to show it because we have a heckuva schedule down the stretch. But anything can happen. We won a championship in our second year under Lombardi." Nitschke, although he isn't playing much, has become a fan of Dan Devine. "I've been impressed with him," Ray said. "This is a building year for him and he's got the team in contention. He's a better coach this year than his first year. Like I said, it's the people, not the game, and the people here are different than what you coach in college." Why does Nitschke continue to play? What more can he prove? "I've always felt I owe the game so much, and I wish I could repay it - this is why I come back. I also train hard all year round," he declared. "The people coming into the league these days," he said, on another subject, "are better coached and more exposed to the game of football. "But they're individualists, maybe too much. They're more interested in their cars and clothes than rookies were when I first came into the league. These kids should have more pride in their team. I'm from the old school, where if you were part of a team, you learned about that team's history, its heritage and tradition." Nitschke and his wife just this month adopted their third child. Except for speaking engagements, Ray has no job outside football, although he could get a coaching position in a minute. Is he about to consider that? "I'll wait until after the season before I decide what I'll do," he replied. "I want to see how the rest of the year turns out."

## ENEMIES SHAKE HANDS

NOV 25 (The Sporting News) - A monument should be erected in the vicinity of midfield at Tiger Stadium, for history was indeed created there. The malevolent Richard Butkus - author, Shakespearian scholar, Chicago enforcer and arch enemy of all Detroit Lions - stuck out a beefy paw. Ed Flanagan - antagonist of the Bears and Villain No. 2 of Butkus' epic "Stop Action" - responded by sticking out his own hand. The two hands grasped and they shook after the Lions had beaten the Bears, 14-0, in what was hardly a classical football game. The rapprochement between Butkus and Flanagan occurred after a decade of angry combat, originating back in their collegiate careers. Ever since 1962, when Butkus was at Illinois and Flanagan at rival Purdue, they had been trying to mangle each other. It was Flanagan's job to try to block Butkus to protect the quarterback and runner. It was Butkus' job to destroy Flanagan's block and get the quarterback and runner. So their enmity ripened through the years of ranting, screaming, hitting and vituperative writing and issuance of hate-quotes. And then at midfield in midafternoon on November 5, 1972, they shook hands with as much feeling as president Nixon and Chou Enlai in their China meeting. "This was the first time that we shook hands in about eight years," said Flanagan, of the historical event. "I think we were getting pretty tired of thin stuff. I went to get the game ball and he stuck out his hand, so I shook it." "Good game," said Butkus, known without affection as Igor among the Lions. "Good game," echoed Flanagan...BUTKUS RAPPED FLANAGAN: In his book, Butkus had made extra-special mention of Flanagan when he continuously referred to the Lions as a bunch of jerks. Last year at Chicago, Butkus and Flanagan nearly engaged in a fistfight BEFORE THE GAME, during the warmups. They've been captains of their respective teams. But they never have shaken hands as is traditional at the pregame coinflip ceremonies. They had adjoining lockers during the week-long practices at the Pro Bowl the last two years. They never uttered a syllable to one another. "Maybe it's over now," said Flanagan, adding with a twinkle, "till next year." Early in the game, when Flanagan was snapping for an extra point try, Butkus was charged with unnecessary roughness. It seemed he was over-violent in use of his forearm on Flanagan. Alas, the suddenly diplomatic Butkus did not locate Lions' Villain No. 1 in his book, Mike Lucci, for a postgame handshake. Lucci said he was not particularly affronted by the snub...MINNESOTA: The Vikings, who had a nine-game winning streak over the Lions, were charging that Detroit had possession of their super-secret playbook. "I'm sure they've got our playbook," said Coach Bud Grant. Accused in this playbook connection was Al Randolph, a safetyman the Lions snatched off the Vikings' taxi squad. The Randolph caper started when he called the needy Lions and asked if they want somebody to fill in during their shortage at safety. The Lions grabbed for Randolph - even though he was working with the enemy Vikings and has to be returned to Minnesota next year. He has signed a 1973 contract with the Vikings...WHO NEEDS PLAYBOOK?: Randolph left the Twin Cities in such haste he neglected to inform the Vikings he was joining the Lions for the nonce...and he failed to turn back his playbook. When Grant's accusation reached Detroit, Joe Schmidt, the Lions' coach, interrogated Randolph. "There's no Minnesota playbook here," said Schmidt. "I left it at the place I stayed in Minnesota," said Randolph. "Who needs a playbook?" Which is a good question. The Lions snickered at the entire cloak-and-dagger thing. They know exactly how the Vikings' defense plays - heavy pass rush and deep zones with few alterations - and they've had little success trying to cope with it for years. A week after Randolph left, the Vikings recovered their precious playbook-right where Randolph said he'd left it...GREEN BAY: There have been four guys who ran for admittance into the elite 1,000-Yard Club as pro rookies. Beattie Feathers of the Bears was first in 1934. Then Cookie Gilchrist, who'd played in Canada, did it at Buffalo in '62. Then Paul Robinson at Cincinnati and finally John Brockington at Green Bay last year...BROCK HEADS FOR FIRST: But never in pro history has there been a runner who gained 1,000 yards in each of his first two seasons. Brock intends to be the first. "I'm on a 1,000-yard pace," said Brockington, "but you need a couple of 100-yard games to give you that cushion. You can't count on getting that 72 yards a game." Seventy-two yards is the average needed over 14 games for a 1,000-yard season. So after his commentary, Brockington went out and gained 133 yards against the 49ers. "I don't



**John Brockington . . . Two 1,000-yard Seasons?**

think there's any such thing as a sophomore jinx," said Brockington. "If you're ready to play, if you put everything you have into what you're doing, you shouldn't have to worry about it - unless you get an injury that's going to slow you." Brock says he was obsessed with the figure 1,000 last year, but now that he is a veteran his outlook is different. "I made that mistake last year," Brockington said. "It got so toward the end of the season I was looking back to the line on my way to the huddle to see what I gained. To hell with that."...CHICAGO: George Halas, the curmudgeon who controls the Bears at age 76, admittedly had to meddle last year because he disliked Jim Dooley's coaching method. But now the Papa Bear is ecstatic with the work done by rookie head coach Abe Gibrón, Dooley's successor. "Abe is no fluke," said Halas. "He has fulfilled my game plan for a coach." "By game plan," Halas explained, "first he had to be a disciplinarian. Second, he had to be an organizer. Third, he had to be a leader of men. And fourth, he had to have knowledge of the game. I suppose you're surprised I rate knowledge only fourth. But without the first three qualities, knowledge doesn't mean a damn thing. Abe Gibrón has fulfilled all four of these qualities."...DETROIT: Much has been made of George Allen's press restrictions in Washington this year. But Allen, despite the greater publicity given to his bans, is a Johnny-Come-Lately compared to Joe Schmidt. Schmidt has closed all but the inconsequential practices of Tuesday and Saturday to the press since last year...LIONS RESTRICT PRESS: Each year the Lions heap on more restrictions. Their latest move is to prevent reporters

from even entering Tiger Stadium - a building the Lions rent from the Tigers - before practice starts. Likewise, they are barred from entering this structure and remaining out of sight of practice. Guards are at the two gates to the stadium. Finally, when practice is over the press, if it still cares to, is granted permission to enter the park and attempt to obtain fleeting interviews in dark corridors. Commissioner Pete Rozelle prefers to give the clubs sovereignty in such matters. But since Rozelle's sport-business was built to popularity by media exposure and enjoys a spiffy Madison Avenue image, perhaps individual club press relations are something he should be advise to scrutinize before that image gets too tarnished.