



Miami Dolphins (10-3-1) 27, Green Bay Packers (4-8-2) 6  
Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> 1971 (at Miami)



# Devine Fuming Over 'Careless' Finale

## GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

### Point Parade



|                 |   |   |    |   |   |    |
|-----------------|---|---|----|---|---|----|
| Green Bay ..... | 3 | 0 | 3  | 0 | — | 6  |
| Miami .....     | 3 | 3 | 14 | 7 | — | 27 |

#### Packers 3, Dolphins 0

Webster kicked 14-yard field goal after Packers marched from own 28 to Miami's seven in eight plays following Carter's recovery of a Warfield fumble. 9:39 elapsed in first quarter.

#### Packers 3, Dolphins 3

Yepremian kicked 26-yard field goal after Dolphins marched 61 yards to Packer 19 in 12 plays following kickoff. 14:16 gone in first.

#### Dolphins 6, Packers 3

Yepremian kicked 27-yard field goal on second last scrimmage play of first half, concluding 42-yard Miami march from its own 38 in 11 plays.

#### Packers 6, Dolphins 6

Webster kicked 24-yard field goal with 6:30 elapsed in third period as Packers drove from their own 25 to the Dolphin 17 in 11 plays after second half kickoff.

#### Dolphins 13, Packers 6

Klick hit right end for one yard to finish 84-yard Miami drive in 10 plays after Packer kickoff. Yepremian converted with 12:27 gone in third.

#### Dolphins 20, Packers 6

Csonka scored over right side from yard out on third play after Miami recovered Anderson fumble at Packer 25. Yepremian toed extra point with 14:01 elapsed in third.

#### Dolphins 27, Packers 6

Curtis Johnson ran 47 yards with loose ball after blocked Webster's field goal try from Packer 46. Yepremian converted. 2:41 gone in last period.

(MIAMI) — "I'm just sitting here and fuming." Dan Devine, his coffee-colored eyes giving off sparks, was dressing with meticulous and deliberate care in a quiet corner of an Orange Bowl dressing room late Sunday afternoon as he spoke. The Packers had just closed out the 1971 season with their poorest record in 13 years (since a 1-10-1 mark in 1958) and the coach, previously an invariable throughout a 23-year high school and college coaching career, was finding the 4-8-2 tabulation an exceedingly bitter pill. "We had too many guys who played hard today to have it end this way," said Devine in unhappy summary of a 27-6 loss to the Miami Dolphins, who became Eastern Division champions of the American Football Conference in the process.

### BROCK SETS RECORD

"We had a few who didn't, but most of them really gave it an all-out effort...It's a shame they didn't have more to show for it. But we started out as a careless football team and we finished as a careless football team...And there are going to be some changes made. I don't mean in personnel, necessarily, but there will be some changes." Somewhat obscured in the losing shuffle, which found the Packers very much in contention until the Dolphins converted a third quarter Donny Anderson fumble into a 14-point lead, was John Brockington's rise to record pre-eminence. The bruising young fullback, whose jet-like acceleration and power running have quickly shot him to full-fledged stardom, became the first rookie in pro football history to rush for 1,100 yards.

### JUMPS OFFSIDE

Brockington, who only a week earlier had become only the fourth first year performer ever to crash, the 1,000-Yard Club, managed to frisk the tightfisted Dolphin defense for 73 yards in 16 carries to finish the season with 1,105. The old rookie record, 1,096, was set by Cookie Gilchrist for Buffalo of the American Football League in 1962. Devine, a man whose attention to detail ironically has become a hallmark, expounded upon the "carelessness" which he had found costly. "I haven't had a chance to check the film, but we had a guy jump offside three times today...We had a drill this season which was designed to help keep us on side but the players didn't seem to take it seriously. Maybe we also should have worked on the fumble drill, which I just put in the other day, a little more last week." His brow darkening, he warned, "We're not going to have people fumble the ball and jump offside next year, I can tell you that"

### CRISP TACKLE

The first reference pinpointed Anderson's third quarter bobble, triggered by Jim Riley's crisp tackle and recovered at the Green Bay 24 by linebacker Bob Matheson, which the Dolphins quickly parlayed into a 20-6 lead. Miami, which had just flown 84 yards in 10 plays to break a 6-6 tie, had it home in just three plays this time, including a 17-yard end around by Paul Warfield coupled with a personal foul penalty on Ray Nitschke. A mere 1:34 elapsed between the two touchdowns. "You can't fumble deep in your territory against the Dolphins and get away with it," Devine said. "When you do that, you're inviting them to break the game open...When you get down 20-6 against a good defensive team, they only need one break. And, on our only good drive in the second quarter, we jumped offside and that cost us a first down. We decided to go right at 'em at that time and we made a first down, then had a guy jumped offside...That is utterly inexcusable."

### PLAYING TO WIN

Touching upon another key play, a 54-yard Tim Webster field goal attempt which abruptly blossomed into Miami's final touchdown, Devine explained. "We were still playing it for a win at that time. There were more than 12 minutes left in the game and we just wanted to get something on the board. We had the wind, plus the fact the ball goes pretty far off that artificial turf...And Webster had been kicking 'em from farther than that in practice before the game." Unhappily for the Packers, cornerback Lloyd Mumphord charged through to block the kick and teammate Curt Johnson, who had the ball bounce off his nose and into his arms, gathered it in while on the run and cruised 47 yards down the sidelines to score. This maneuver, though the product of a bizarre combination of circumstances, was no accident, Devine said.

# Final NFL Standings

| NATIONAL CONFERENCE       |    |    |   |      |      |                           |               |    |    |   | AMERICAN CONFERENCE |                           |     |                           |    |    |   |                           |     |     |                           |    |   |   |      |     |     |
|---------------------------|----|----|---|------|------|---------------------------|---------------|----|----|---|---------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------------------------|----|----|---|---------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------|----|---|---|------|-----|-----|
| Eastern Division          |    |    |   |      |      | Eastern Division          |               |    |    |   |                     | Central Division          |     |                           |    |    |   | Central Division          |     |     |                           |    |   |   |      |     |     |
|                           | W  | L  | T | Pct  | Pts. | OP                        |               | W  | L  | T | Pct                 | Pts                       | OP  |                           | W  | L  | T | Pct                       | Pts | OP  |                           | W  | L | T | Pct  | Pts | OP  |
| x-Dallas                  | 11 | 3  | 0 | .786 | 406  | 222                       | x-Miami       | 10 | 3  | 1 | .769                | 315                       | 174 | x-Cleveland               | 9  | 5  | 0 | .643                      | 285 | 273 | x-Kansas City             | 10 | 3 | 1 | .769 | 302 | 208 |
| w-Washington              | 9  | 4  | 1 | .692 | 276  | 190                       | w-Baltimore   | 10 | 4  | 0 | .714                | 313                       | 140 | Pittsburgh                | 6  | 8  | 0 | .429                      | 246 | 292 | Oakland                   | 8  | 4 | 2 | .667 | 344 | 278 |
| Philadelphia              | 6  | 7  | 1 | .462 | 221  | 302                       | New England   | 6  | 8  | 0 | .429                | 238                       | 325 | Houston                   | 4  | 9  | 1 | .308                      | 251 | 330 | San Diego                 | 6  | 8 | 0 | .429 | 311 | 341 |
| St. Louis                 | 4  | 9  | 1 | .308 | 231  | 279                       | New York Jets | 6  | 8  | 0 | .429                | 212                       | 299 | Cincinnati                | 4  | 10 | 0 | .286                      | 284 | 265 | Denver                    | 4  | 9 | 1 | .308 | 203 | 275 |
| New York Giants           | 4  | 10 | 0 | .286 | 228  | 362                       | Buffalo       | 1  | 13 | 0 | .071                | 184                       | 394 | x-clinched division title |    |    |   |                           |     |     | x-clinched division title |    |   |   |      |     |     |
| Central Division          |    |    |   |      |      | Central Division          |               |    |    |   |                     | Western Division          |     |                           |    |    |   | Western Division          |     |     |                           |    |   |   |      |     |     |
| x-Minnesota               | 11 | 3  | 0 | .786 | 245  | 139                       | x-Cleveland   | 9  | 5  | 0 | .643                | 285                       | 273 | x-Kansas City             | 10 | 3  | 1 | .769                      | 302 | 208 | Oakland                   | 8  | 4 | 2 | .667 | 344 | 278 |
| Detroit                   | 7  | 6  | 1 | .538 | 341  | 286                       | Pittsburgh    | 6  | 8  | 0 | .429                | 246                       | 292 | Houston                   | 4  | 9  | 1 | .308                      | 251 | 330 | San Diego                 | 6  | 8 | 0 | .429 | 311 | 341 |
| Chicago                   | 6  | 8  | 0 | .429 | 185  | 276                       | Houston       | 4  | 9  | 1 | .308                | 251                       | 330 | Cincinnati                | 4  | 10 | 0 | .286                      | 284 | 265 | Denver                    | 4  | 9 | 1 | .308 | 203 | 275 |
| Green Bay                 | 4  | 8  | 2 | .333 | 274  | 298                       | Cincinnati    | 4  | 10 | 0 | .286                | 284                       | 265 | x-clinched division title |    |    |   |                           |     |     | x-clinched division title |    |   |   |      |     |     |
| Western Division          |    |    |   |      |      | Western Division          |               |    |    |   |                     | Western Division          |     |                           |    |    |   | Western Division          |     |     |                           |    |   |   |      |     |     |
| x-San Francisco           | 9  | 5  | 0 | .643 | 300  | 216                       | x-Kansas City | 10 | 3  | 1 | .769                | 302                       | 208 | Oakland                   | 8  | 4  | 2 | .667                      | 344 | 278 | San Diego                 | 6  | 8 | 0 | .429 | 311 | 341 |
| Los Angeles               | 8  | 5  | 1 | .615 | 313  | 260                       | Oakland       | 8  | 4  | 2 | .667                | 344                       | 278 | San Diego                 | 6  | 8  | 0 | .429                      | 311 | 341 | Denver                    | 4  | 9 | 1 | .308 | 203 | 275 |
| Atlanta                   | 7  | 6  | 1 | .538 | 274  | 277                       | San Diego     | 6  | 8  | 0 | .429                | 311                       | 341 | Denver                    | 4  | 9  | 1 | .308                      | 203 | 275 | x-clinched division title |    |   |   |      |     |     |
| New Orleans               | 4  | 8  | 2 | .333 | 266  | 347                       | Denver        | 4  | 9  | 1 | .308                | 203                       | 275 | x-clinched division title |    |    |   |                           |     |     | x-clinched division title |    |   |   |      |     |     |
| x-clinched division title |    |    |   |      |      | x-clinched division title |               |    |    |   |                     | x-clinched division title |     |                           |    |    |   | x-clinched division title |     |     |                           |    |   |   |      |     |     |
| w-wild card playoff team  |    |    |   |      |      | w-wild card playoff team  |               |    |    |   |                     | w-wild card playoff team  |     |                           |    |    |   | w-wild card playoff team  |     |     |                           |    |   |   |      |     |     |

## The Playoffs

Dec. 25

Dallas at Minnesota

Miami at Kansas City

Dec. 26

Washington at  
San Francisco

Baltimore at  
Cleveland

## 10 MEN ON FIELD

"There was a breakdown on the play," he said, "It was as simple as one man being missing...Rich McGeorge was supposed to be there, but he wasn't. We kicked it with only 10 men on the field." McGeorge sheepishly corroborated Devine's report. "The coach was right - I was supposed to be out there," he said, "but I thought it was a punt. I had been downfield on a pass route on third down and I didn't hear anybody say anything about a field goal. The ball was at midfield and I thought it was a punting situation." Webster, whose 14 and 24-yard field goals had achieved a 6-6 tie with Miami's tiny Garo Yepremian prior to Miami's big third quarter push, volunteered to share the blame.

## STARR IN. GAME PLAN

"I guess the fact that there were only 10 men out there was my fault," the rookie specialist said. "I'm supposed to count 'em before I get set to kick the ball...Guess you learn something every day." Devine, asked why he had employed quarterback Bart Starr over the route, replied, "because that was our game plan to go with him...I intended to go all the way with Bart today, barring injuries. It's unfortunate the way games go," he added. "Bart wasn't responsible for the fumble, for example, or for the offsides. He had nothing to do with those." Although he occasionally had trouble getting the ball to a receiver on a long pattern, Starr had his best overall passing day in three 1971 starts, completing 13 of 22 for 126 yards - without an interception. Mr. Quarterback, describing himself as "not satisfied at all" with his performance, said, "I just concentrated on trying to do what I could within my physical limitations...I wish my shoulder was stronger (following two late summer operations) but I feel I've made some progress. I'm disappointed we didn't put points on the board," appended Starr, who escorted the Pack to a field goal on its first possession with a deft and sure hand. "That's the name of the game. I honestly thought we were going to win this one. We had a great attitude coming into it, and I just wanted to hold up my end." Devine said the 16-year veteran had eschewed the "bomb" because "you can't throw deep against Miami...Their secondary is too quick, I can't think of anyone who has thrown deep successfully against the Dolphins." He dismissed the heat (the temperature was 75 degrees at kickoff, considerably warmer than the Packers are used to on the Green Bay tundra) as a factor. "We were well prepared physically," he said, an obviously allusion to the fact the Packers

had practiced in neighboring Fort Lauderdale all week to acclimatize themselves for Sunday's session. "The heat didn't bother us. We have no such excuses at all...And we were prepared mentally, too...We had a lot of people who were ready to play - but you can't fumble deep in your own territory." Don Shula, who now must send his athletes against Kansas City in the AFC playoffs next weekend, said the Dolphins "sort of ignited" in the second half. "We had good field position the first half but we couldn't do much with it (Yepremian's 26 and 27-yard field goals sent Miami into the intermission with a 6-3 lead).

## GOOD BALANCE

"We sort of ignited in the second half when we got the football. We put together a couple of drives, with a good pass-run balance, which this team is capable of. "Defensively, we kept Green Bay off the board, which we're always proud of...We hadn't played too well for a couple of weeks, you know." Devine, already looking to 1972, saw it as more than a meaningless finale...and a defeat. "This was a great test of people today," he said. "Some passed with flying colors and some flunked...I think I'll have to look at the film to see who flunked. I don't intend to be embarrassed again next year, I can tell you that...And we have some guys on this team who don't want to be embarrassed, either."

GREEN BAY - 3 0 3 0 - 6  
MIAMI - 3 3 14 7 - 27

|                    | GREEN BAY     | MIAMI         |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| First downs        | 14            | 17            |
| Rush-yards-TDs     | 30-137-0      | 36-155-2      |
| Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT | 22-13-126-0-0 | 21-13-122-0-0 |
| Sacked-Yards Lost  | 4-40          | 3-32          |
| Net Passing Yards  | 86            | 90            |
| Total yards        | 223           | 245           |
| Fumbles-lost       | 2-2           | 2-1           |
| Turnovers          | 2             | 1             |
| Yards Penalized    | 5-39          | 2-20          |

## SCORING

1<sup>st</sup> - GB - Tim Webster, 14-yard field goal GB 3-0

1<sup>st</sup> - MIA - Garo Yepremian, 26-yard field goal TIED 3-3

2<sup>nd</sup> – MIA – Yepremian, 27-yard field goal MIA 6-3  
3<sup>rd</sup> – GB – Webster, 24-yard field goal TIED 6-6  
3<sup>rd</sup> – MIA – Jim Kiick, 1-yard run (Yepremian kick) MIA 13-6  
3<sup>rd</sup> – MIA – Larry Csonka, 1-yard run (Yepremian kick) MIA 20-6  
4<sup>th</sup> – MIA – Curtis Johnson, 47-yard blocked field goal return (Yepremian kick) MIA 27-6

#### **RUSHING**

**GREEN BAY** – John Brockington 20-63 1 TD, Donny Anderson 13-38, Scott Hunter 3-13 1 TD, Perry Williams 1-3, Bart Starr 1-1 1 TD, Dave Hampton 5-(-3)

**CHICAGO** – Joe Moore 9-20, Cyril Pinder 4-16. Bobby Douglass 2-16, Bill Tucker 5-14, Jim Grabowski 1-0, Kent Nix 1-(-2), Jim Harrison 1-(-3)

#### **PASSING**

**GREEN BAY** – Scott Hunter 12-6-169 1 TD 1 INT, Bart Starr 1-1-13, Donny Anderson 1-0-0

**CHICAGO** – Kent Nix 18-7-149 1 TD 1 INT, Bobby Douglass 11-4-51

#### **RECEIVING**

**GREEN BAY** – Dave Davis 3-46, John Brockington 2-34, Carroll Dale 1-77 1 TD, Rich McGeorge 1-25

**CHICAGO** – Dick Gordon 3-80, George Farmer 2-45 1 TD, Joe Moore 2-22, Jim Seymour 1-21, Bob Wallace 1-19, Bill Tucker 1-7, Jim Harrison 1-

# *Starr Now Uncertain*



#### **STARR NOW UNCERTAIN**

DEC 20 (Miami-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Bart Starr, who had just closed out a record 16th season in Packer colors, admitted he is uncertain about his football future. I just don't know whether I'll retire or not," he said in the wake of Sunday's 27-6 loss to the Miami Dolphins, a game in which he went the distance at quarterback. Another of the Pack's senior citizens, defensive captain Willie Wood, expressed himself in similar terms. As he had indicated earlier, Starr said, "I want to have a long discussion with Coach Devine and then make a decision." Starr, who underwent two shoulder operations last summer and has had chronic arm problems since 1968, also presumably would want to consult medical advisors before deciding. Mr. Quarterback added by way of explanation, "I said last week that I was just going to concentrate on this last game and get as ready as possible to do the best job I could. And I did that. As a result, I really had very little time to think about my future." Coach Dan Devine fended off all questions about Starr's possible

retirement by mildly informing, "I think you ought to get that from him. But I'm sure we'll sit back and evaluate things, now that the season is over. I'm sure we'll discuss it - we really haven't done that yet." Devine admitted to reporters, "I know it's a hard question for you to ask...and it's a hard one for me to answer." In reply to a question, the Packer coach said, he is "very pleased with what Scott Hunter has done this year as a rookie...I told him that after the game." Wood, meanwhile, took a realistic look at his situation. "If the coach felt I could come back next year and contribute to the ball club, I'd be happy to come back," the 12-year veteran assured. "But when a guy has been around as long as I have, you can't feel that you're one of the guys they're counting on for the future. As I said, I'd be happy to come back. But, if it doesn't work out that way, there will be no hard feelings...I can certainly appreciate the position the coach is in."

#### **MARK FOR BROCK, NOT HAMP**

DEC 20 (Miami-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - John Brockington should have been happy...He had just set an all-time pro football rushing record for rookies and become only the second player in the Packers' half century history to gain more than 1,100 yards in a single season. But the brawny ex-Buckeye, fitting a colorful tie under his shirt collar in a somber Packer dressing room, was glum. "Losing took some of the edge off the record," he said sadly. "And we didn't just lose - we got stomped on (27-6, by Miami's Dolphins). They took off on us in the second half...LOSING CONTAGIOUS?: "That's a good team," he noted, adding, "All I want to do is win some. This losing can get to be contagious...I don't know what happened today. We played good football until we fumbled there in the third quarter and gave them their third touchdown. And then they blocked the kick (a 54-yard field goal attempt by Tim Webster, which Curt Johnson recovered and returned 47 yards for a touchdown) and it was all over then...They knew we had to start passing." Despite how such strategy affects the running game, Brockington was able to roll up 73 yards in 16 carries to finish his freshman season with 1,105 yards - or nine more than Cookie Gilchrist gained for Buffalo in 1962 to set the previous all-time rookie record. He finished second overall in the NFL, 28 yards behind Denver's Floyd Little, who had 1,133...EXCLUSIVE CLUB: In the process, Brockington joined Jim Taylor in the Packers' exclusive "1,100-Yard Club." Taylor became the first to accomplish that feat in 1960, when



**JOHN BROCKINGTON**

he amassed 1,101 yards, and he turned the trick three more times - in 1961 with 1,307, in '62 with 1,474, the all-time Packer single season record, and in '64, with 1,169. During the course of the afternoon, Brockington passed Tony Canadeo's sixth-ranking 1,052 aggregate of 1949 - the Gray Ghost became the Pack's first 1,000-yarder that season - and now owns the fourth highest one-season total in Green Bay history. His 216 attempts, for an imposing 5.2-yard average, also put him in select Packer company. Only Taylor, who ranged from 230 to 272 tries during his five consecutive 1,000-yard years from 1960 through 1964, has carried the ball more often over a season. Canadeo previously had been runnerup in this category with 208 attempts during his 1,000-yard season. But Brockington wasn't thinking of statistics, gratifying as they may be to him personally, when he said, "It's got to be better next year...FANTASTIC FRESHMAN: "I'm going to have to work hard during the winter and get down to it right from the start next season." The fantastic freshman wasn't the only Packer in pursuit of a record here Sunday afternoon. His sometime running mate, Dave Hampton, just missed joining Brockington in NFL archives. Hampton totaled 82 yards on four runbacks to fall only three yards short of the league's all-time season record for kickoff return yardage. It was set by Bobby Jancik of Houston in 1963, when he rolled up 1,317 yards by that somewhat hazardous method. The Dolphins could have been more cooperative, Hampton admitted. "They were trying to kick it out of the end zone when they had the wind and they were squibbing the kicks when they were kicking into the wind. They were trying to keep the ball away from me," said the former Wyoming star, who was the league's fourth-ranking returner going into action. "Three of the fourth that I caught were pretty deep in the end zone." Hampton conceded that he had been conscious that he was on the verge of a record. "It

would have been a nice record to have," he said. "In fact, when I first looked at the statistics after the game, I thought I had it. I thought I read where I had 1,240 yards going in." Officially, he had been credited with 1,232, and thus finished with 1,314. Happy in his risky role, the three-year veteran explained, "I like running back kickoffs because of the fact that it has breakaway potential. It's a challenge to get as many yards as you can. And, if you can get a good return, it's of value to the offensive team...It gives you good field position."

#### **PACKERS DON'T CHANGE SCRIPT IN FINAL GAME**

DEC 20 (Miami-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Green Bay Philanthropists, who in four months time have made Rockefeller look like a miser, concluded their season in style Sunday by donating two more touchdowns to the enemy cause and absorbing a 27-6 defeat in Miami. Donny Anderson fumbled on his own 25 and in three plays the Dolphins scored a touchdown. The Packers, eight plays after the kickoff, tried a long distance field goal, had it blocked because they had only 10 men on the field and watched as Curtis Johnson raced 47 yards with the gift to bank the victory. Not that these two touchdowns decided the game as such. The Packers were already in arrears 13-7 when Andy made his contribution. But the Pack was playing a pretty decent ball game up to that juncture and, indeed, were still very much in contention. In fact, a string of compliments were already forming in my mind. After all, the Packers were battling hard for what was for them a meaningless game. There were times, I thought the Packers showed more hustle and determination than the Dolphins. Perhaps the compliments are still deserved...but, unfortunately, the Packer generosity knows no bounds, though this game was no worse than others. Going into the contest, the Packers had averaged four turnovers a game by interception, fumble and blocked kicks. They had four more Sunday...plus some key penalties, again...There are some picky things we could go into about Sunday's game, but they are not important, really, when you consider that Coach Dan Devine admittedly was spending most of the past week with an eye-and-a-half on next year. But one thing does bother me. From the time the Dolphins claimed their 27-6 lead and the outcome of the game was about as obvious as the approach of Christmas, the Packers ran off 19 more offensive plays. John Brockington carried the ball on only three of them. Here was a guy concluding a really sensational rookie season by fighting for the league rushing championship and rookie-of-the-year honors. Why not give him the ball? If the reason was a lingering hope of still coming back to win, it still made sense to give him the ball a few more times. After all, he is averaging over five yards a carry for the season and was doing almost as well for the game. He was as much of a breakaway threat as Starr's weakened arm. If Devine had gone exclusively to reserves in those final minutes, there would be less reason to complain. But the regulars remained on the scene. And on the Pack's last series, Anderson and Hampton were the running backs with Brock watching from the sidelines...with Perry Williams and Larry Krause. As it turned out, Brock did get 73 yards for the game and set a rushing record for rookies of 1,106 yards in a season. But Floyd Little beat him out for the league championship by 28 yards...one good run by Brockington standards.

#### **MARV FLEMING ANXIOUS FOR ANOTHER SUPER BOWL CHANCE**

DEC 20 (Miami-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Don Shula, the youthful and highly successful head coach of the Miami Dolphins, is outwardly philosophical about drawing the awesome Kansas City Chiefs as an opening opponent in the American Football Conference playoffs next weekend. "Our attitude is that we're going to have to meet somebody some time," he said following Sunday's 27-6 victory over the Packers. "Our big test just comes early." Shula characterized the Chiefs as a team without a weakness. "They are big and strong," he said, "and they seem to have it all, including one of the greatest receivers in the game (Otis Taylor). I think in Taylor and our Paul Warfield, people will be seeing perhaps the two best receivers in the game...And their Lenny Dawson has been one of the premier quarterbacks in the league for a long time." One of Shula's key performers, former Packer Marv Fleming, admitted, "It's a long way to the Super Bowl...but I've



Kiick's One-Yard Burst Accounts for 13-6 Lead . . .



Matheson (53) Gets Ball Right Back on Fumble Recovery . . .

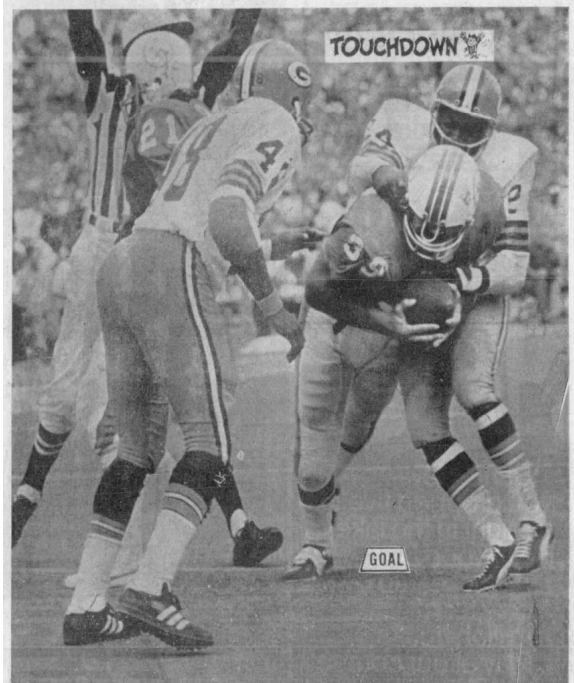
been there before." He added, "I don't care who we play." Fleming, whose blocking at tight end has been given much of the credit for the Dolphins' potent running game, pronounced himself "very happy the decision was made for me to come down here." The former University of Utah athlete was traded to the Dolphins prior to the 1970 season by then Packer coach Phil Bengtson for wide receiver Jack Clancy. Clancy, released by the Packers earlier this season, now is on the Dolphin's taxi squad. Fleming insisted that reports Baltimore was losing to New England, received during the course of Sunday's game, had nothing to do with the Dolphins' second half surge. "No, we just wanted to play ball," he said. "We had to get it together in the second half." Whatever the case, the Dolphins emerged with the AFC's Eastern Division title - following the Patriots' 21-17 upset of the Colts. Marvelous Marv indicated he bore no malice toward Packer linebacker Freddie Carr, penalized for delivering a forearm to Fleming during the first half. "That was aggressive football," Marv said with a slight smile. "I don't mind aggressive football." Hadn't it seemed strange to be looking into his old teammates' eyes across the line of scrimmage, a Miami scribe wanted to know. "I'm not a Green Bay Packer anymore," Fleming reminded...Bob Brown (on Larry Csonka's 28-yard burst which set up Miami's first touchdown): "Jim Carter called an 'outside' defense on the play. It was a give play and I took an inside move. Csonka went just off my right shoulder. The end normally is supposed to get the runner on that kind of play, but I'm not sure what happened."...Rich McGeorge (on first quarter pass only yard 'short' of touchdown): "I guess Bart thought somebody was blitzing. I didn't expect him to dump the ball that quick. I was trying to get into the end zone. I guess the ball must have hit the ground behind me because it didn't hit me."

#### **DOLPHINS ARE 'SUPER,' SAYS PACKERS' STARR**

DEC 20 (Miami Herald) - The Dolphins are a championship team with a solid chance to advance to the Super Bowl. This evaluation came from Bart Starr, losing quarterback in the Packers 27-6 donnybrook with the Dolphins Sunday. Starr is an authority on the subject of championship teams. He directed the Packers to five National Football League crowns and Super Bowl victories in 1967 and 1968. He was named the most valuable player in both of the Super Bowl triumphs. "I've always said true championship teams must have outstanding defenses," Starr commented. "Everybody knows Miami has a good offense...their defense is great. They're quick, young, alert and they hit hard. You won't find a harder tackling secondary. And, you can't complete long passes against them. They just don't give you an easy touchdown." The Dolphins, Starr mused, could go all the way, "if they execute like they did against us." There was a not-so-happy chapter for Starr in the Dolphin rise to the American Football Conference



Warfield Sprints 17 Yards to Packer Seven on Reverse . . .



And Csonka Carries Willie Wood Final Yard for 20-6 Cushion



—Harold Staff Photo by MIKE D'BRYON  
Triumphant Coach Don Shula Congratulates Two 1,000-Yard Backs  
... Packers' rookie standout John Brockington and Dolphins' Larry Csonka

## *Dolphins Ride Dazzling Coach Into the Circle of Champions*

"We have no excuses. We were well prepared mentally and physically. The heat didn't bother us. You can't fumble deep in your own territory and make it up against a team as strong defensively as the Dolphins," Devine said. "We continued to make the same little mistakes we have all season," he added. "For example we were trailing, 6-3, and had our only good drive of the second half under way when we jump offsides. Instead of a first down, we have a five-yard loss. If we get a touchdown, it's a different ball game." Devine lauded the Packer defense and the running of rookie John Brockington. "I'm no authority because I wasn't around when some of the great runners broke into the NFL," Devine said, "But Brockington looks like the best I've ever seen." Brockington gained 73 yards in 16 carries to pass Cookie Gilchrist's pro football first-year record at Buffalo. Brockington had 1,105 to Gilchrist's 1,097, and Brockington became the first NFL rookie to go over 1,000 yards. "I'm not looking back at this season," Brockington declared. "I'm going to work out at Ohio State from now until time to report to the Packers in July. I have a couple of quarterback friends who I'm going to ask to pass to me. I want to become a better receiver, then I'll be a more complete player. The Dolphins are great on defense...good readers. You can't run straight at them. On the other hand, you can't run wide on them either." Brockington paused a second, then added, "They're a darned tough football team."

East title. The 76,812 Orange Bowl fans may have seen Starr play his last game. After 16 tough pro years, the ex-Alabama passer is considering retiring. "Any decision about that is up to Bart," Packer Coach Dan Devine said. "I'm not sure about the future," Starr remarked. "I'm glad he (Devine) gave me the opportunity to play the whole game. A personal test? Well, in a way. I was anxious to see how my arm would hold up. I was pleased. The operation obviously was a success. I thought I threw well and there was no pain." Starr completed 13 of 22 for 126 yards, but he never threw deep. "Our plan was not to throw deep," Starr declared, denying his arm isn't what it used to be. "I think you'll find most teams have trouble throwing deep against Miami." He added, "I'm as disappointed as anyone that we lost, probably more so. When you're the quarterback you're the leader, and it's your job to put points on the board. I didn't and I feel empty." This was Starr's first route-going effort of the season after undergoing shoulder surgery in August. Packer trainer Don Gentile, close to Starr, called Bart "at about 75 per cent efficiency." "I got a little tired in the fourth quarter," admitted Starr, who will be 38 on Jan. 9. "But that's normal when you haven't been playing." One of Starr's best throws was a zinger to the end zone that hit unsuspecting tight end Rich McGeorge in the back. "It was a busted assignment," Starr said. "That wasn't the worst one, although it cost a touchdown. I didn't get rid of the ball a few times and had to take big losses. There aren't many plays designed for second-and-25." Devine said he "was looking at a lot of players with thoughts of evaluating for next year." He offered no alibis.