



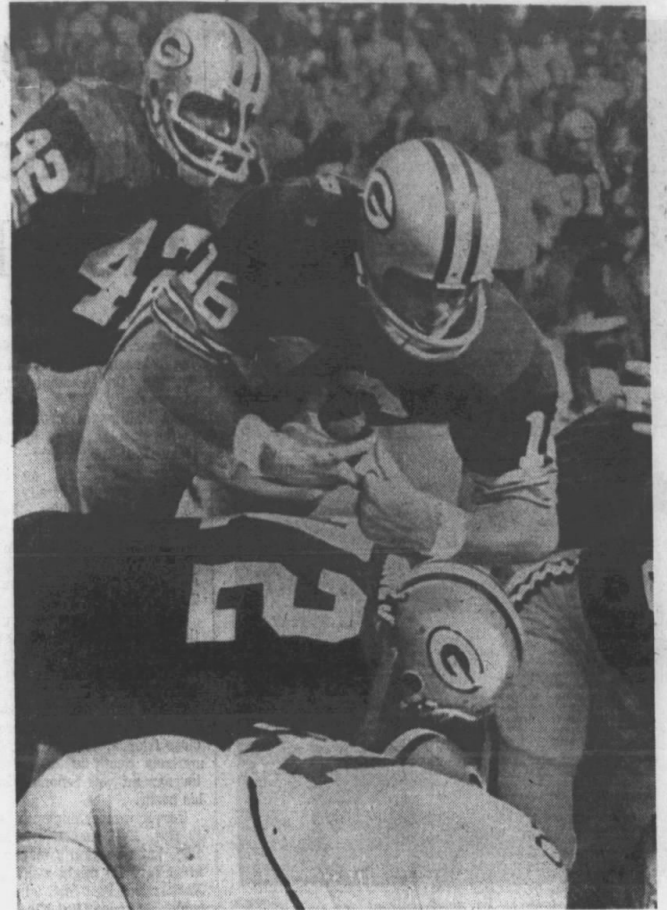
Green Bay Packers (10-4) 30, New Orleans Saints (2-11-1) 20
Sunday December 17th 1972 (at New Orleans)



Packers achieve best record since 1966

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(NEW ORLEANS) - Puffing rapturously on a victory cigar, Rollie Dotsch scanned the statistics sheet in his right hand and chuckled. "I'll bet Ray Nitschke never thought he'd be our leading receiver," the stocky offensive line coach said as the Packers' airport-bound bus pulled away from Tulane Stadium late Sunday afternoon. Across the aisle, Ron Widby shook his head and soberly pondered another statistic. "Five blocked kicks in one half," he said in disbelief. Widby couldn't have been much more incredulous than Redskin scout Wayne Millner here to appraise the Packers for next Sunday's playoff game in Washington, who would then have been hard put to diagram the "plays" which produced the Packers' first two touchdowns, key items in a 30-20 victory over the Saints. It was the kind of day "way down yonder in New Orleans," a day on which the bizarre was commonplace, as is so often the case when the pressure is off. The Packers, already assured of the NFC's Central Division championship, had little to prove. And the Saints, owners of a dreary 2-10-1 record at kickoff, had long since been eliminated in the NFC West. It was the kind of day on which the Packers converted a blocked Chester Marcol field goal attempt into their longest passing gain of the afternoon and a blocked New Orleans field goal attempt into an instant touchdown. A day, too, on which Jim Carter got into the act inadvertently, "blocking" a Widby punt that bloomed into the Saints' first touchdown. And, for good and poetic measure, a day on which a slightly inebriated fan from Chicago, brimming with good fellowship, invaded the Packers' huddle in the closing minutes to shake hands all around and inquire into the whereabouts of MacArthur Lane. Another buff, meanwhile, was sprinting up and down the field with a football, complete with handle, mounted upon a long stick when he endeavored to present to Saints Coach J.D. Smith, who promptly and firmly declined. "It was not my favorite kind of game to play - or watch," Dan Devine dryly conceded as he reviewed that eventful afternoon. But whatever else it may have been, it also was a day on which the Packers sealed their best season record in six years - since they won the second of three consecutive NFL titles in 1966. The green and gold closed out 1972's regular season exertions with a 10-4 record, just a shade off the 12-2 mark compiled by those 1966 champions. It also was a day on which the Packer defense tied the team record for fewest touchdown passes permitted in a season (seven in 1972), although the members of Dave Hanner's proud platoon would have been considerably happier about the figure under other circumstances. They had come into the game with only five such blots on their collective book, but were frisked for two TDs by Archie Manning, in company with Dave Parks and Bill Butler. The defense likewise emerged as the number one defensive team in the National Football Conference for the season after limiting the Saints to a mere 152 yards, including just 50 rushing. It, too, was a day on which John Brockington set a Packer single season record for rushing attempts, although he carried only five times for a net of five yards as Devine prudently elected to save him for the "big one." They gave him 274 rushes for the year, eclipsing the record of 272 established by Jim Taylor in 1962. It also was a day on which Chester Marcol came within one of matching the NFL's all-time season record for field goals, despite having his first two attempts blocked by the surprising Saints. "It was the type of football game," Devine said, striving to be objective, "Where at times both teams played really well and, other times, did not play very well. The Saints are an explosive ball club and they've gotten a lot of yards against everybody. It was a strange game in that in the first half, our defense played real well. You couldn't find any fault with it at all. Then, in the second half, our special teams did a great job and the offense was moving the ball - we ran the third quarter kickoff back to the 40 and drove 60 yards to score - and then our defense couldn't hold them. It was just a case of not putting everything together." Devine assured, however, that he had no quarrel with the quality of his athletes' desire. "It kind of a scrambled effort," he admitted, "but we had a good effort." At the same time, Devine did attribute the blocked kicks - two punts in addition to the two field goal



AP Wirephoto

Green Bay Quarterback Scott Hunter plunging over from 1-yard line yesterday to score against New Orleans in Packers 30-20 romp at Tulane Stadium. Interception by Ray Nitschke set up touchdown.

"but they wouldn't give it to us." Asked if this had made him unhappy, Chester nonchalantly replied, "We won, but I wouldn't have minded trying it."

GREEN BAY - 7 10 7 6 - 30
NEW ORLEANS - 0 7 6 7 - 20

	<u>GREEN BAY</u>	<u>NEW ORLEANS</u>
First downs	15	12
Rush-yards-TDs	43-178-2	21-50-0
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	15-6-75-0-0	24-14-142-2-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-9	4-40
Net Passing Yards	66	102
Total yards	244	152
Fumbles-lost	0-0	3-1
Turnovers	0	2
Yards Penalized	3-25	1-1

SCORING

2nd – GB – Scott Hunter, 1-yard run (Chester Marcol kick) GB 7-0

2nd – GB – Marcol, 34-yard field goal GB 10-0

2nd – GB – Willie Buchanon, 57-yard blocked field goal return (Marcol kick) GB 17-0

2nd – NO – Richard Neal recovered ball in end zone after Ron Widby's punt hit Jim Carter (Happy Feller kick) GB 17-7

3rd – GB – Jerry Tagge, 1-yard run (Marcol kick) GB 24-7

3rd – NO – Bill Butler, 9-yard pass from Archie Manning (Pass failed) GB 24-13

4th – GB – Marcol, 35-yard field goal GB 27-13

4th – GB – Marcol, 34-yard field goal GB 30-13

4th – NO – Dave Parks, 10-yard pass from Manning (Feller kick) GB 30-20

RUSHING

GREEN BAY – MacArthur Lane 11-84, Perry Williams 13-42, Bob Hudson 5-32, Dave Kopay 5-9, John Brockington 5-5, Jerry Tagge 3-5 1 TD, Scott Hunter 1-1 1 TD

NEW ORLEANS – James Ford 10-28, Bill Butler 5-14, Archie Manning 2-7, Bob Gresham 4-1

PASSING

GREEN BAY - Scott Hunter 8-4-28, Jerry Tagge 6-1-13, Ron Widby 1-1-34

NEW ORLEANS – Archie Manning 24-14-142 2 TD 1 INT

RECEIVING

GREEN BAY – MacArthur Lane 2-11, Ray Nitschke 1-34, Len Garrett 1-13, John Brockington 1-10, Leland Glass 1-7

NEW ORLEANS – Dave Parks 4-50 1 TD, Bob Newland 3-18, Bob Gresham 2-11, Bill Butler 2-10 1 TD, Margene Adkins 1-38, James Ford 1-9, Robert Brown 1-6

Here they are---1972 Central Division champions



The Green Bay Packers, who clinched the National Football Conference's Central Division title last Sunday, close their regular-season schedule today at New Orleans. Packers, left to right, in the front row are: Ken Bowman, Col Withrow, Bill Lueck, Dick Himes, Jim Hill, Ray Nitschke, Dave Robinson, Gale Gillingham, Al Matthews, Ken Ellis, Perry Williams, Dave Kopay and Fred Carr. Second row: Trainer Dominic Gentile, Assistant Trainer Dan Davis, Jerry Tagge, Ron Widby, Bob Brown, MacArthur Lane, Assistant Coaches Rollie Datsch, Red Cochran and Bart Starr, Head Coach Dan Devine, Assistant Coaches Dave Hanner, John Polonchek and Dan

Doll, Charlie Pittman, Charlie Napper, Bob Kroll, equipment manager "Dad" Braisher and assistant equipment manager Bob Noel. Third row: Len Garrett, Francis Peay, Rich McGeorge, Tommy Crutcher, Carroll Dale, Scott Hunter, Charlie Hall, John Brockington, Willie Buchanon, Larry Krause, Mike McCoy, Dave Davis, Jon Staggers and Ike Thomas. Back row: Al Roche, Malcolm Snider, Frank Patrick, Kevin Hunt, Vern Vanoy, Clarence Williams, Bill Hayhoe, Keith Wortman, Dave Purefory, Chester Marcol, Bob Hudson, Leland Glass, Larry Hefner and Jim Carter.

GIBSON ON, STAGGERS OFF

DEC 18 (New Orleans-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Packers activated Paul Gibson to replace Jon Stagers at wide receiver before Sunday's regular season finale against the Saints. Stagers, who had had an ankle problem, can be reactivated at any time. The Packers will have a total of four moves at their disposal for the duration of the playoff period - a span which includes the Dec. 31 conference playoffs as well as the Jan. 14 Super Bowl. Guard Keith Wortman suffered a leg injury during the game but Coach Dan Devine later was not sure what the rookie's physical status might be. "I don't know what Wortman's situation is," he said. "But, as far as I know, we had no significant injuries."

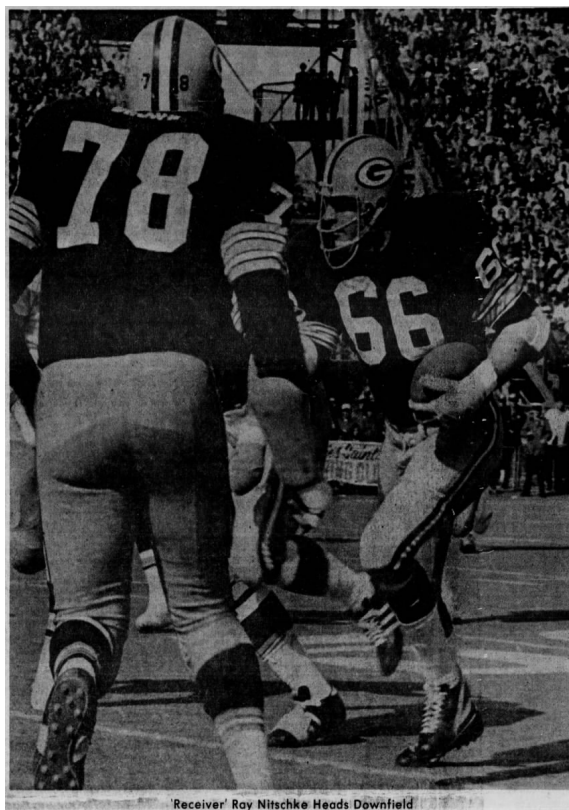
CONTRIBUTE' NITSCHKE'S CREDO

DEC 18 (New Orleans-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – It was a little like old times for Ray Nitschke ...Leisurely donning his street clothes in the steamy confines of a Tulane Stadium dressing room Sunday afternoon, the Packers' veteran middle linebacker was encircled by a knot of sportswriters. This hasn't happened to often of late - the highly combative, 15-year pro has seen little action - and Raymond was manifestly enjoying it, although more for what it signified than the attention itself. "Contribute" is the key work in Nitschke's vocabulary and this was his theme as he reflected upon his impromptu, 34-yard collaboration with "quarterback" Ron Widby which set up the Packers' first touchdown in a 30-20 victory over the Saints. "It was a big thrill," he admitted, a shy smile that would have done credit to a rookie creasing his rugged features. "You hope there's some way you can contribute and it's great to get the opportunity." ...PAYS TRIBUTE: Long one who has preached the "one-for-all and all-for-one" gospel, he had begun by paying tribute to the author of that unexpected pass, longest Packer completion of the afternoon. "It was an alert play by Ron Widby," Nitschke said. "He made the play. He was a quarterback at one time, of course. The pass? He threw a nice spiral out there." Widby, who only four weeks ago combined with Dave Davis on a 68-yard maneuver from a fake punt formation, returned the favor. "Ray made a heck of a catch," he said. "I think the pass was low." Widby, who had come up with the ball after a 48-yard Chester Marcol field goal attempt had been blocked, said Nitschke was one of five possible receivers on the play. "Dave Robinson is the other up back; Leonard Garrett is the right end," he recounted. And Aiden Roche is the left end. "Chester would have been eligible, too," he said with a smile, "but I didn't see him. He probably was buried somewhere, like I was on the first blocked field goal." Nitschke earlier had explained how he had come to be involved. "I'm the left up back on the field goal team - I'm outside of Clarence Williams. I report to the referee prior to the play in that situation, because I'm wearing a guard's number and lining up in the backfield. That makes me an eligible receiver..."

HEARD THUD OF BALL: "On this one today, I made my block and I heard the thud of the ball being blocked. I looked back to see where the ball was. When I saw Widby with the ball, the next thing for me to do was to get open. It's a reaction type of thing." Although Raymond is not quite as swift as he once was, the 35-year-old veteran impressed Saints defensive end Richard Neal. "That was some run by an old man," he said. Neal may not be aware of it, but Nitschke finds his age no burden. "I still feel I can play," he said. "I want to contribute in any way I can." Inevitably, he was asked about the possibility of retiring at the end of the season. "I don't know yet," he said. "I'm going to sit down with Coach Devine and discuss it after the season is over."

QUICK QUOTES: IT WAS TOUGH THINKING SAINTS

DEC 18 (New Orleans-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Quick Packer Saint quotes: Jim Carter: "I'm glad this game is out of the way. You can't help thinking about Washington. You want to win and keep your momentum, but it's tough." ...Dan Devine: "We're going to come out passing against the Redskins (chuckle). Did everyone get that?" Jerry Tagge: "I signaled time out with eight seconds left in the game and the official closest to me waved time out, but I ran toward the sidelines and I heard the gun go off. I knew Chester (Marcol) needed another field goal to tie the league record and I thought he wanted a chance." ...Bob Brown: "We're number one in defense in the NFC, and defense is the name of the game." ...Richard Neal, Saints: "The Packers have two chances against the Redskins, slim and none, if they make as many mistakes against them as the did against us." ...Al Matthews: "We were disappointed over not breaking the record for fewest touchdown passes in

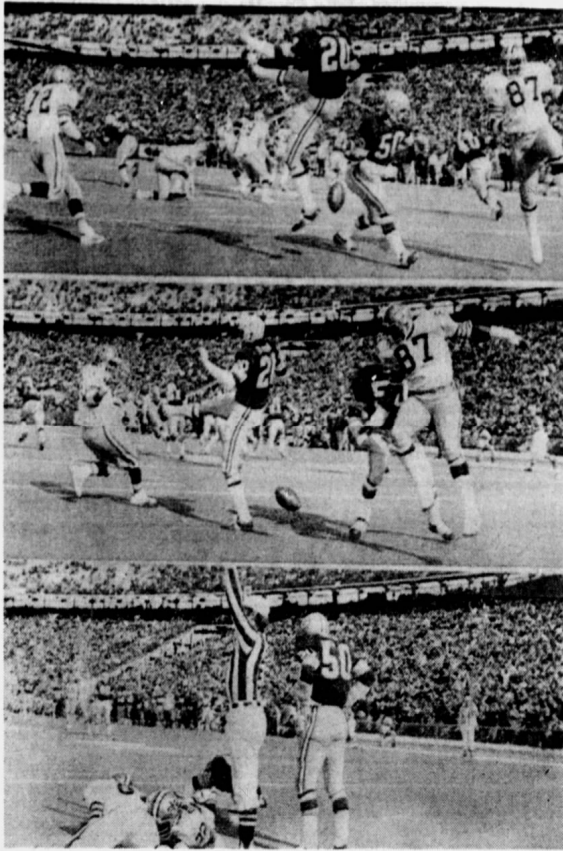


Receiver Roy Nitschke Heads Downfield



Photo by T-P Staff Photographer William F. Heber

GOES IN FOR TD : *New Orleans running back Bill Butler knifes past Packer defenders Jim Carter (50) and Ken Ellis (48) en route to a touchdown in the third quarter of Sunday's game. Green Bay lineman Alden Roche (87) is the distant spectator.*



a season, but we're 10-and-4. Records are fine, but there are other things more important. And there's always next year. It's just one of those things."...Ron Widby: "You can't blame Jim Carter for the punt that hit him. That end zone has quite a slant to it, so he was going downhill and I was going uphill. I only had 13 ½ yards drop back on that one and I didn't want to chop my steps because I wanted to get a good kick out of there. We (he and Carter) were just too close."...J. D. Roberts, Saints coach: "We blocked four kicks but one gained a bunch of yards for them, so I just don't know."...Dan Devine again: "It was part of a pre-game to play Dave Kopay, Perry Williams, Jerry Tagge and Bob Hudson quite a bit. That's our whole contingent of backs."...Dave Long, Saints: "I think we've played well all year but still the mistakes are killing us. Individually, we can just about hold our own with anybody in the league, but still the ones who play best together are winning."...Richard Neal again: "Those were both weird plays (the Ron Widby 'pass' to Ray Nitschke and Willie Buchanon's scoring run with a blocked field goal attempt). That lateral was questionable, though. It looked as if the play might have stopped already...Tagge again: "The line really blew 'em out of there on our touchdown drive at the start of the second half. I think I only threw one pass on that whole drive. But after that, it wasn't very good."...Archie Manning: "We started taking advantage of their zone more in the second half. Dave Parks ran some good routes on the first touchdown drive. He just stopped in the end zone and I spotted him there. The one to Bill Butler was a play action pass. Bob Gresham was the main receiver but Butler got open in there and that was a great job of catching."

NO PRESSURE MADE IT FUN SUNDAY

DEC 18 (New Orleans-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – It was a fun game, right? No pressure. I mean when one of the kids walked in front of the

TV, did I scream at him? Naw. No pressure. See what I mean? Heck I could even miss a play or two while I strolled to the fridge for another suds in a bottle. What was the difference? No pressure. It was obvious the Pack was going to win. You knew that right from the start when Jim Hill stole Archie Manning's first pass. The ol' magic was still working. And even if the Pack had lost, so what? You think Washington is shook up because it lost to Buffalo? Forget it. Those Skins had just one thing on their mind: Green Bay. So they lost to Buffalo. Didn't cost 'em any money. If they lose to Green Bay, that will cost 'em money. So what game do you think those Redskins were thinking about? Same goes for the Pack. There wasn't any tension. So it was a fun game. It was fun, wasn't it, when Ron Widby turned that fouled up field goal into a first down by passing to Ray Nitschke and setting up a touchdown? Widby's by far the most effective passer in the league right now. I thought Dan might even give him a shot at quarterback late in the game. And wasn't it fun when Willie Buchanon blocked the field goal and then took that lateral from Clarence Williams and ran all the way for a touchdown? Gads, I haven't enjoyed anything so much since I started noticing girls. And all those quarterback sacks...by the end of the game, they were calling him Gunny Manning. When the game started, I wondered who the Packers were playing. Most of those Saints names sounded as familiar to me as the roster of the San Jose Teddy Bears. But I suppose a lot of non-Packer fans started thinking the same thing by the second quarter as DD began slipping in the subs...or backups, as the NFL prefers them to be known. It wasn't exactly an artistic afternoon, except for that Packer drive at the start of the second half, one of the slickest of the season for the Pack...and the Saints' retaliation drive right after that. But, shucks, it was even fun when Widby's punt was blocked by Jim Carter. I don't suppose Jim

Pro Playoffs

NEW YORK (AP) — The pairings for next weekend's National Football League divisional playoffs — (all times CST):

Saturday, Dec. 23
American Conference
 Oakland at Pittsburgh, noon.

National Conference
 Dallas at San Francisco, 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 24 National Conference
 Green Bay at Washington, 11 a.m.

American Conference
 Cleveland at Miami, 2 p.m.

thought it funny. But like I said, so what? Good time to wipe that sort of nonsense out of the game plan. It was unfortunate, however, that the defensive secondary lost its possible record for fewest touchdown passes allowed. I suspect the Saints

A BLOCKED PUNT gave New Orleans its only first half score against the Green Bay Packers Sunday. Richard Neal (87) of the Saints rushed punter Ron Widby (20), but blocker Jim Carter (50) got in the way and blocked the kick in the end zone. Neal pounced on the ball for the touchdown. (AP Wirephoto)

remained a mystery since the announcers apparently had no idea what it was the Packers were trying to do, though they

considered that a triumph of sorts. When you win only two games, you have to celebrate the little things. And it was unfortunate Chester Marcol didn't tie or break the NFL field goal record, particularly since the opportunities were there. We folks in viewer-land were left in total confusion at the end of the game when it was obvious the Packers wanted to call time out (and one official did signal for the clock to stop) to give Chester one more shot but somehow the time got away. How

Momentum Big Factor or Non-Factor in Playoff?

The Playoff Coaches



Packers
vs.
Redskins



GEORGE ALLEN



49ers
vs.
Cowboys



TOM LANDRY



Steelers
vs.
Raiders



JOHN MADDEN



Browns
vs.
Dolphins



DON SHULA

had referred to the possible record several times. But to cry over those incidents would be like weeping at a wedding. It was a fun day.

MOMENTUM BIG FACTOR OR NON-FACTOR IN PLAYOFF?

DEC 19 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) — The word "momentum," glibly tossed about by both coaches and the fourth estate, has become a weary cliché. Yet, despite its shopworn condition, it remains the best choice to describe the psychic state of a team moving into the playoffs, which are now upon us. Because said momentum is associated only with winning, an inevitable question is posed by the fact Washington has lost its last two regular season starts. That would not seem the proper kind of springboard for next Sunday's struggle with the Packers in the nation's capital. The green and gold, presumably, would have whatever psychological edge might exist, based upon a strong, three-victory finish to the regular season. But Dan Devine, not unexpectedly, Monday discounted the Redskins' consecutive losses to Dallas and Buffalo as a factor. And so, predictably, did the Redskins' resident genius, George Allen. Devine, who hardly could be expected to talk otherwise, insisted, "I don't think that will have any effect on the Redskins. They didn't play Larry Brown either, did they? "Every game is different, so what has happened in the last two weeks has nothing to do with what will happen in Washington Sunday. "Buffalo picked off a 43-yard interception late in the game to beat the Redskins," Devine pointed out, "and we might not do that. Also, some of the things that happened to them in that game aren't likely to happen again soon, just as we would anticipate some of the things that happened to us in New Orleans last Sunday wouldn't happen again. Not, at least, if I'm going to keep my sanity." His coaching rival was in general agreement, at least officially. "I don't think those two losses will be a factor," Allen said from his Washington office Monday evening. "We have a mature football team, with a lot of solid citizens. They know what it takes. "I repeat what I said Sunday after that loss to Buffalo. It's more important that we have everybody ready for the playoffs than it would be going down to the wire in the regular season." Earlier this month, however, he made a point of mentioning momentum - and its value. "Three years ago, when I was with the Rams, we lost our last three games after clinching the division championship," he said at that point. And then we lost to Minnesota in the playoff. So we want to win these last two games to keep our momentum." . The Packers Bob Brown, who twice has been through the playoff mill, also underscored the importance of a winning surge into the post-season scramble while discussing the subject Monday, although he was talking in terms of the Packers finish. "I think it was important that we won our last three games," he said, "because it's tough to turn it on and off. It's not like a car key.

Like Coach Lombardi used to say, you have to have a winning habit. You can't say, 'This week we'll slack off and next week we'll win.' It just doesn't work that way." Be that as it may, one thing was clearly evident on Lombardi Avenue Monday. The Packers had all but forgotten their regular season finale in New Orleans, a 30-20 success. "We're thinking so much of Washington," Devine confided, "that my evaluation of last Sunday's game wouldn't be much in depth because of substitutions." As might be expected, the Packer generalissimo was generous in his praise of the Redskins, 21-16 conquerors of the green and gold in a Nov. 26 meeting. "In general, I would say they have no weaknesses," he said. "They have a great offense, great defense and great special teams. And a great kicker in Curt Knight. So there's no area where they are not strong. And in most areas, not only are they good, but they're experienced." Taking Washington roster in hand, he scanned it and then announced, "If I read this right, they have only two men with one year of pro experience. We have ten. And, in two-year men, they don't have anybody on their roster and we have seven. So that's 17 to 2, Packers, in first and second year men." Touching upon the New Orleans game, Devine said, "I would say that probably our greatest fault was lack of consistency." He noted with satisfaction, however, that the offense had moved the ball well and often in the second half, which found Jerry Tagge at the throttle. "We had five possessions in all and the first time we got the ball, we scored," Devine said. "And the third time we got the ball, we also scored, and the fourth time. And the fifth time, we ran off

10 plays, moving from our 30 to their 39 when time ran out." Commenting on Tagge's performance, Devine said, "I thought Jerry did a good job. And I thought Scott did a good job, too." Then, addressing himself to what he knew to be a hot topic, DD declared, "To answer questions about the kicking game before they are asked, there isn't anything that happened in the area of our kicking game that can't be improved by hard work and better concentration." The allusion, of course, was to the fact that the Packers had two field goal attempts and two punts blocked – one of the latter by their own Jim Carter unintentionally – in New Orleans. "I don't really want to amplify much more than that," Devine said, "because there are so many details involved. "But you can be assured considerable attention will be given to the subject this week. That comes under the hard work part."...PACKER PATTERN: The Packers were scheduled to hold their only Green Bay practice of the week at noon today, shortly before departure for Winston-Salem, N.C. They will work out at Wake Forest, alma mater of Packer offensive backfield coach Red Cochran, in Winston-Salem for the balance of the week and fly in to Washington Saturday. Devine said a check of the casualty list revealed the Packers had emerged from the New Orleans match largely unscathed. "Keith Wortman got a little bruised knee," he said, "but he should be okay. He is probable and so is Tommy Joe Crutcher. Dave Davis would be doubtful at this point, but all of the rest should be ready to play."...Asked if he contemplated any personnel moves prior to Sunday's game, Devine replied, "I'm giving a lot of thought to it, but haven't reached any decisions yet. I'm planning to do pretty much like we have during the regular season - defer any such moves until just before the game. Jon Stagers, for example, could be reactivated at any time. In fact, he probably could have played Sunday."...Apologies to the 1966 Packers. They posted a 12-2 record in winning a second straight championship, not 11-3, as indicated in Monday's report of that 30-20 victory over New Orleans...Bob Bowser, the Redskins' assistant publicity director, reported Monday, "Our players took that loss to Buffalo real hard. They certainly weren't proud of their performance. But they all vowed it would be better next Sunday."...For comparative purposes, the temperature was below freezing in Washington Monday. "It was around 30 today," Bowser informed...New Orleans Leftover: A sign in a car window on a French Quarter street read: "Sell, Mecom, Sell!"

PACK HAD TOUGH SLATE

DEC 19 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Who had the easiest schedule in the NFL? Miami, hands down, considering the won-loss records of its opponents. Opponents of the first team to win 14 in a row during the regular season won just 70 games, lost 122 and tied four. The Dolphins played just two teams with winning records (Kansas City and the New York Giants, both 8-6) during its 14 games and did not face another division champion. Who had the toughest schedule? Houston. The Oilers' opponents won 117, lost 76 and tied three. Houston had five games against division champs and only three opponents (Denver 5-9, Philadelphia 2-11-1 and San Diego 4-9-1) had losing records. The Packers had the 10th toughest schedule in the league and the toughest among the eight playoff teams. Opponents won 97, lost 93 and tied seven. The Pack played three division champs. Their only opponents to lose more than they won were the Bears 4-9-1 (twice), Oilers 1-13 and Saints 2-11-1. The formula for figuring the toughest and weakest schedules is quite simple - just total the won-loss records of each team's opponents. It's not that accurate, though. For example, Miami's 14 wins makes their opponents' schedules tougher and the Dolphins' schedule weaker. But that won-loss formula is the same used before the season to determine who was supposed to have the easiest schedule. They totaled the opponents' won-loss records from the year before. The pre-season calculations had Cleveland with the easiest schedule. Last year, Browns opponents had won only 71, lost 118 and tied seven. At this season's end, the Browns had the fifth weakest schedule – opponents finishing 84-98-4. San Diego was considered to have the toughest slate going into the season with opponents totaling 110-75-11 the year before. As it turned out, the Chargers finished right behind Houston and tied with Buffalo for the second toughest schedule, opponents winning 113, losing 79 and tying four. Miami, by the way, was supposed to have the third easiest schedule going into the season. The Packers were supposed to have the fourth toughest. Only two teams finished where they were supposed to, according to the pre-season analysis. The New York Giants had the eighth toughest schedule to start the season and that is where they finished. The Lions tied for the 18th toughest in pre-season and that is where they ended up.

Ranking	Team	Opponents' Won-Loss	Pre-Season
1	Houston	117-76-3	18th-tie
2	San Diego	113-79-4	1st
	Buffalo	113-79-4	2nd
4	St. Louis	109-83-4	3rd
5	Minnesota	105-83-8	16th
6	Chicago	105-84-7	7th
7	New England	104-89-3	22nd
8	New York Giants	99-90-7	8th
9	Baltimore	98-93-5	21st
10	Green Bay	97-93-7	4th
11	Kansas City	97-93-6	12th
12	Philadelphia	97-94-5	9th
13	Dallas	96-93-7	20th
14	New Orleans	95-95-6	5th
15	New York Jets	94-97-5	10th
	Denver	94-97-5	6th
17	Cincinnati	93-100-3	13th
18	Detroit	90-100-6	18th-tie
19	Pittsburgh	88-104-4	17th
20	Washington	86-105-5	23rd
21	Oakland	85-106-5	25th
22	Cleveland	94-98-4	26th
23	Los Angeles	82-105-9	14th
24	Atlanta	82-106-8	11th
25	San Francisco	82-107-7	15th
26	Miami	70-122-4	24th

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NOTES AND NOTIONS

DEC 19 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - Though the Green Bay Packers were absent from the NFL playoffs for four years, no one was able to match their dazzling accomplishments of two straight Super Bowl titles (1967 and '68). Now, the Pack is back in the thick of it with a chance to protect or even add to the enviable record - Dallas is the only team in the 1972 playoffs with - a chance to equal Green Bay's 2-in-a row record, and if the Packers should meet the Cowboys in Ice Bowl II Dec. 31, they would be in a position personally to oust Dallas. And, if the Packers could maintain their momentum and win three more games, they'll become an unprecedented 3-time Super champion. Eight different teams have been in one or more of the six Super Bowls played to date...and this is the current standing of teams in that January classic: Green Bay, 2-0; Jets, 1-0; Baltimore, 1-1; Dallas, 1-1; Kansas City, 1-1; Miami, 0-1; Minnesota, 0-1; and Oakland, 0-1. Four of these elite eight - Green Bay, Dallas, Miami and Oakland - will be battling for encore appearances on Super Sunday...The current eight teams represent one of the more intriguing lineups in the 7-year history of 8-club playoffs. Besides the only 2-time champion and

the defending champion, the field includes Miami, which compiled the only perfect regular-season record in the NFL's post-war history. The sentimental favorites of "impartial" or "uncommitted" fans probably are Pittsburgh and Green Bay. The Steelers have just won their first division title in 40 years, and they are the only team among the quarter-finalists that has never been in the playoffs. The Packers, of course, have had a unique niche in pro football through the years with a magic name tantamount to that of Notre Dame in college football. Five of the playoff teams are repeaters from last year. They are Cleveland, Miami, San Francisco, Dallas and Washington. Three of the coaches will try to put an end to playoff frustrations. There's Miami's Don Shula, for example, who owns the NFL's best long-term coaching percentage, yet is also the only mentor with an 0-2 record (Baltimore and Miami) in the Super Bowl. George Allen has tried to get two good clubs (Los Angeles and Washington) into the Super Bowl but has yet to accomplish it. And San Francisco's Dick Nolan will try for the third straight year to reach Super status...Numbering the playoff teams 1 to 8, in the "most likely to succeed" order, Miami would probably get more No. 1 votes than any other team...and Cleveland looms as the likely No. 8 pick. I suspect that the teams rated closest to Miami would be Washington, Dallas and Pittsburgh. This would leave as "dark horse" possibilities Green Bay, Oakland and San Francisco...Since 1961, the Packers have won nine straight championship or playoff games - undoubtedly an all-time NFL record. If the current Packers extend that streak to 10 Sunday, they'll also put together a 4-game Green Bay win streak for the first time since 1967. The Packers have generated a lot of steam for the playoff run. After posting a 4-3 first half record to establish themselves as contenders, they roared down the stretch for a 6-1 mark and the division title. It would seem that the Bays have more momentum than anyone except Miami (14 straight wins) and Oakland (six consecutive wins). The big unknown factor is what effect a negative regular-season finish will have on Washington. The Redskins are the only one of the eight title seekers to lose their two most recent starts. Since the Redskins are such a well-seasoned team it's likely that this hard-to-pinpoint "momentum bit" won't affect them too much. Still, I believe it's preferable for a team to end the campaign on a winning note, as did the Packers - even though there were a few breakdowns (kicking game and pass defense)...I don't believe the pressure of their long win streak will have any adverse effect on the Dolphins, but they'll find the competition decidedly tougher than they've been used to. Miami's unbeaten record is noteworthy accomplishment to be sure...but I don't believe the Dolphins could have done it if they had Dolphins could have done it if they had played the schedule of some of the NFL teams. Miami didn't face a single one of the other seven playoff clubs during the regular season - and only two of its opponents (the Giants and the Chiefs) finished above .500. Admittedly, exhibition records aren't all that meaningful, but as an example of what a tougher schedule can mean, Miami lost to Detroit, Green Bay and Washington in pre-season action...However, in all fairness to the Dolphins, they had no choice about their regular-season slate and did everything the schedule-maker asked of them. I don't know if the Dolphins can go all the way - but I believe they'll get by their first playoff foe, Cleveland. In other quarter-finals games, I'll go with the Packers over the Redskins, the Steelers over the Raiders and the Cowboys over the 49ers. Not only have the Packers been an excellent "road" club (6-1) but they've been to Washington before and don't figure to be awed by the howling RFK Stadium crowd. Washington won the first meeting by only five points, and except for two unfortunate events (Dave Davis' dropping of a "sure" TD pass and Ken Ellis' injury), it could have gone either way. The Packers are at their peak, and the confidence they gained in the "must" wins over Detroit and Minnesota should help them immeasurably.

SKINS 4 ½ POINT PICK

DEC 19 (Stateline, NV) - Harrah's Tahoe Racebook listed the unbeaten Miami Dolphins Monday as 11-point favorites over Cleveland in one of the National Football League playoff openers next weekend. The Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers were rated even, while the Pittsburgh Steelers were made one-point favorites over the Oakland Raiders and the Washington Redskins were

made 412-point picks over the Green Bay Packers. Oakland is at Pittsburgh and Dallas at San Francisco in Saturday games. Green Bay goes to Washington and Cleveland is at Miami on Sunday.

CRACK DOWN ON SCALPERS

DEC 19 (Washington, DC) - The Washington Redskins plan to crack down on scalpers of tickets for Sunday's National Football Conference playoff game against Green Bay in RFK Stadium. Edward Bennett Williams, Redskins president, said the report of scalping-the selling of tickets for higher than face value - will be investigated thoroughly. Season ticket holders who engage in ticket scalping, he said, will lose the privilege of renewal for next year. Scalpers reportedly have received as much as \$100 for a ticket to a Redskins game this season. The local newspapers have run advertisements of people seeking to sell their tickets at higher than the normal \$7 to \$12. Official ticket prices for the playoff games will be \$10, \$12 and \$15.

ALLEN RAPS LOSER LABEL

DEC 20 (Winston-Salem, NC-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Despite a glittering career record, George Allen hasn't convinced the skeptics. This may seem passing strange, considering the Redskins' fast-dealing impresario has forged a 69-24-5 mark

NEW 1972

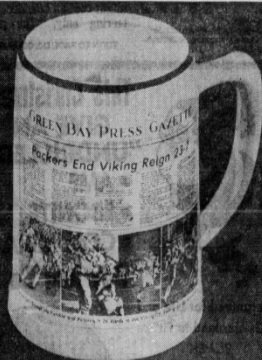
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RIVAL SIGNAL-CALLERS: Sunday's NFL divisional playoff game between the Washington Redskins and Green Bay Packers in Washington, D.C., pits the 'Skins' quarterback Billy Kilmer, top photos, against Green Bay's first string quarterback Scott Hunter, bottom photos. Kilmer is shown at top left barking signals, and at top right handing off to running back Larry Brown (43). Hunter, bottom left, gets off pass, while at right, he runs with ball. (AP Wirephoto)

in head coaching stints with Los Angeles and Washington. But his detractors continue to insist, "Allen can't win the big one." And, to this point in time, the record supports their contention. The former Bear aide, who makes his fourth playoff appearance in Sunday's NFC sawoff with the Packers, has yet to win in post-season competition. Allen, however, imperturbably dismisses the "loser" label. "We've always played tough teams in the playoffs," he said by telephone from his Washington office. "In 1967, for example, we played Green Bay (the Packers won the Western Conference showdown in Milwaukee, 28-7). "That year," George was quick to add, "We lost only one other game and we were 18-and-2 overall. The next year, we were 11-3 and we played Minnesota on the ice (in the Twin Cities). It was a great game and it could have gone either way (the Vikings won 23-20). Last year, we lost to San Francisco out there in another close game, 24-20." Apparently cheered by the knowledge Sunday's collision will occur in D.C. Stadium, Allen pointed out what he obviously considers to have been a factor in those three previous disappointments. "This is the first time I've had a team that has played at home in the playoffs," he noted. "I think that gives you a little edge to be playing at home." Allen, at least outwardly concerned, also suggested the Redskins' closing regular season losses to Dallas and Buffalo were entirely understandable. "I think every time you wrap up your division title early, like we did, there always is a letdown," he said. "Look at the case of Green Bay in '67. The Packers lost their last two games after clinching the title (and before meeting the Redskins in the playoff). I think the Dallas Cowboys witnessed that Sunday losing 23-3 to the Giants and gaining only 50 yards rushing. You just have to look at the records to see that this is what often happens." Allen, whose Redskins prevailed 21-16 in a regular season meeting just one month ago, indicated he has no particular apprehension about facing the Packers again. "This has happened before," he said. "We've played

different teams a second time. I would like to say to start with, however, that I think Dan Devine has done a fine job. It's unusual to take a team and turn it around from 4-8-2. That's quite a turnabout. Dan and his coaches have done a fine job." No amateur at 'PR,' Allen added, "One player who has impressed me over the years is Dave Robinson. I got to know him in the Pro Bowl. To see him come back after that Achilles operation he had is quite an achievement...He's doing a fine job. I think the Packer defense has improved overall, for that matter. I think they wound up number one on defense in our conference and we ended up number two, so that should be an interesting confrontation Sunday. MacArthur Lane has made a big difference for them on offense as a running mate for John Brockington. With that pair, the Packers probably have the best one-two running punch in the league. And Chester Marcol has improved their kicking game." Asked how much pause Marcol's imminent presence is giving him, Allen replied, "The fact he can kick 'em long has to be a concern. That kind of guy always scares you - the kind of guy who can get them three points from 50 yards. How good are the Packers? I think they're a sound football team. I analyze it this way: I go back to their defense. Their defensive line has been doing a fine job. They're big - you don't move them very much. Nobody has moved them very much. With Robinson, (Jim) Carter and (Fred) Carr, they have the best trio of linebackers we have faced this year. And, in the secondary, (Willie) Buchanon has come through for them." George, justly famed for his veneration of experience, candidly appended. "I've always felt a rookie couldn't necessarily play back there his first year, but he's done a good job. Their offense, with the addition of MacArthur Lane, has given them a very strong running game, and the offensive line has been doing the job. They don't do anything fancy - they just blow you out of there. I've always felt Carroll Dale is one of the best flankers in the league. I got to know Carroll in a couple of Pro Bowls. And Scott Hunter. for a second year man, has done a good job at quarterback. With the way their offensive line has been blocking and their backs have been running, they don't have to throw that much. Overall, the Packers have improved in all three areas, offense, defense and kicking. There's no question they are the best team in the Central Division. They've proven that." Conceding Sunday's rivals are quite comparable in approach, George said, "We're both pretty basic. We don't fool you. We try to work on execution and we're fairly simple on defense." Allen declined, understandably, to venture a prediction on the kind of contest he envisions. "I can't answer that," he said, "because playoff games have a way of being unpredictable. But I would think it would not be a high scoring game." ...PACKER PATTERN: Dan Devine said Tuesday that he brought his team to this furniture-making center to practice for the playoff "because I wanted to stay out of the Washington area. I feel it will help our concentration and there will be less interference," he said. The Packers, who flew here Tuesday night via United Airlines charter, will be working out at Wake Forest University here until Saturday, when they will enplane for Washington. Devine said he would have preferred to practice in Green Bay if the weather had been more promising. "We had a good workout on our own practice field today (Tuesday)," he said. "The field was in good shape, which makes you wonder why you're leaving. But, with the weather forecast the way it is, we couldn't take a chance. Sixty per cent chance of snow for Wednesday was the last forecast I had. We can't be getting up at 2 in the morning and looking out of the window to see what's happening." ...In keeping with the importance of the upcoming occasion,

there will be a tight 11 p.m. curfew for the balance of the week, Devine assured. He declined to specify what it might cost an offender, volunteering only, "The players know what it is. It's pretty high." The Packer leader also noted, "We will have more meetings than we normally do, more squad meetings. Part of that is because of the availability of the squad. You have them in the evening in this situation, when you normally wouldn't have. To further the togetherness theme, the squad will eat all of its meals together, DD reported, "although they might have one evening when we wouldn't eat together. That would depend on the availability of good eating places close to the hotel."...Asked if he felt having played the Redskins earlier this season was an advantage, Devine replied, "I think it is. I suppose they feel the same way, so it may balance out. But, if I had my choice, I would rather play a team in the playoffs that I had played once." Devine also admitted he has been stressing that 21-16 loss to the Redskins in preparations for the rematch. "It's the best thing you have," he pointed out...Discussing practice security while here, he said, "The Packer press will be welcome to watch our workouts, but the Washington press would be about as welcome as the Packer press would be at George Allen's practices."...Devine, appraising the Redskins, repeated what he had said earlier in the week. "They have no weaknesses - there's no place you can aim at." The Packers he assured, "will have to give the same kind of effort we had against Detroit and Minnesota late this season if we hope to win." Asked if he had heard from any Washington sportswriters, Devine said, "No, I haven't," then added with a sly smile, "And I haven't had any phone call from the President."...Four members of the Packer party - Bob Brown, Freddie Carr, John Brockington and Chester Marcol - were happily accepting congratulations Tuesday for their selection to the West squad for the Pro Bowl, to be held in Dallas Jan. 21. Marcol, the NFL's scoring champion, will be an "old married man" by that date. He plans to wed Barbara Pullan of Grand Rapids, Mich., either Dec. 26 or Dec. 30. "It depends," he said, "on what happens. If we win Sunday, Barbara and I will be married in Green Bay next Tuesday and Jerry Tagge will be my best man. If we lose, the wedding will be in Grand Rapids a week from Saturday."

MARCOL TIES 5-YEAR MARK

DEC 20 (Winston-Salem, NC-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – With apologies to some of the Faithful Few readers of this column, it is difficult in this playoff week to wander far from the Packers as a topic of conversation. Thus: Footnotes to You: Over the past five years, nine Packer field goal kickers made a total of 33 field goals. This year, Chester Marcol has 33 for himself. But what disturbs me is that he should have had a final shot at the league record of 34. Jerry Tagge says he asked for time out in the waning seconds of Sunday's game at New Orleans to give Chester just that opportunity. And Tagge, who was named a captain at the two minute warning, had the right to ask for timeout. In fact, one official appeared to very definitely wave his arms in the accepted clock stopping manner. But for some reason, the timekeeper let the clock run out. I haven't been able to find out just why this happened but Coach Dan Devine was obviously irked by this breach of rules...another in a long line of complaints about officiating of all sorts this year. The final Packer statistics show that this year's team has suffered only nine interceptions and lost just 10 fumbles while collecting 17 interceptions and 19 fumble recoveries for a turnover mark of plus-17. Last year's team had a turnover mark of minus-15. The 1971 Packers had 19 sacks and gave up 21 touchdown passes. The 1972 Packers had 29 sacks and surrendered just seven TD tosses. Kenny Ellis needed three punt returns against the Saints to qualify for the NFL statistics, which require at least 14. Thus Kenny caught one down inside the 10-yard line which he normally would have let bounce. And he wound up with a return average of 15.4 good enough to lead the National Conference. The Packers are underdogs again. At least four points and up to five in some areas. Seems like some folks just never get the faith. One of those who has been hard to convince is P-G colleague Jim Zima, who because of his lack of faith in Pack, plunged from first to last in the Press-Gazette Pickers final standings. Modesty forbids my revealing who was No.1. Could it be that the Redskins are going into one of those Allen swoons that turned off Ram fans for several years? Some of the vets that George brought with him to Washington from LA must be wondering about that. Were the 49ers confident last week? Well, they had hotel reservations made in Green Bay for the conference championship game even before winning the Western Division. A crew of repairmen was working on the lights at Lambeau Field Tuesday. They might be needed come New Year's Eve. If the NFC championship game is indeed played here (what do I mean, if?), it should be the second game of the TV doubleheader. Notice, however, I said should. The rotation and the fact that the AFC's first two priority sites are in the East would make Green Bay the late afternoon game. But the weather and the allegedly non-TV caliber lights may change all that. No decisions will be made until after Sunday's games. Watch for Nebraska's Bob Devaney to be listed among the possibilities for the New Orleans job when J.D. Roberts is fired...but only if there is a change in ownership first.

PERSONALITY PARADES (BOB BROWN)

DEC 20 (Winston-Salem, NC-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – What kind of a year was it? For mammoth Robert Eddie Brown, slightly unreal. Bob, now a senior member of the Packer defense, has found it one of bizarre extremes, beginning last March when he found himself in a Memphis hospital and worrying about his pro football future after being shot through the head. Today, just nine months later, he is once again in glowing health - as opposing quarterbacks have long since discovered - and happily girding for Sunday's playoff against the Washington Redskins. "At the time I was shot, I was very disturbed mentally," Brown remembers, "because I thought my career might be over. I was really torn up mentally. But I had some great doctors and they did a fine job of fixing me up. In fact, I had the best plastic surgeon in that area. I haven't had a bit of trouble since. When I first came up here to training camp in July, my helmet would cramp me so I had to take it off frequently, but that was only because I hadn't been able to do any neck exercises in the off-season that I would normally do." Priming for a playoff is hardly a new experience for the two-time 49er reject, who was a member of the Packers, first two Super Bowl titlists. "It's been a long time between championships," said Bob, massively resplendent in a black-and-brown checked "walking suit" that would have taxed the ingenuity of Omar the Tentmaker. "And this one couldn't have come at a better time. As I've said throughout the year, this is such a fantastic group of young players. They have really paid the

Pros Practice at Groves Stadium

Devine Wants Packers to Concentrate

Bart Starr (right), a former Green Bay quarterback, is now a member of the Packers' coaching staff and has been a big help to Scott Hunter, the current signal caller.

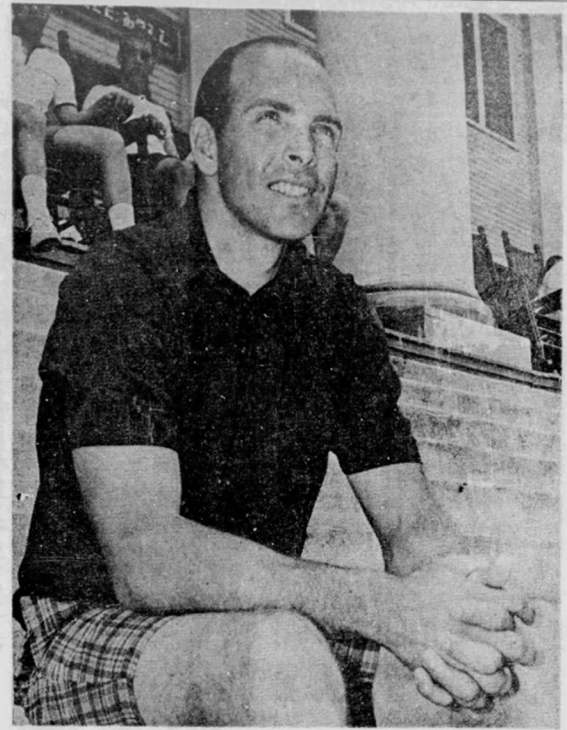


price and I think they deserve it." Attempting to assess what has wrought a turnabout from last year's 4-8-2 futility, Robert Eddie says, "Granted we've got some fine football players this year, but I thought we had a good team last year. This year, I think the big difference is that Coach Devine has really stressed turnovers and takeaways, and cutting down on our mistakes. "I think turnovers and takeovers is where we've really improved. We've cut down on our turnovers and we've really increased our takeaways. We've had good additions in personnel, like Willie Buchanon and Chester Marcol, but the big thing

is that Coach Devine has really been harping on mistakes." Enthused over the Packers recent response, Brown looked ahead and asserted, "I see nothing but steady progress for our team, week after week. Our attitude had just been tremendous. The only thing we talk about now is winning. I see us getting better every week, and so much so when we've had to win." Although a small scar immediately above the left cheekbone and another just below the right ear are his only visible souvenirs of the shooting, Brown admits the extra suet he is currently carrying is traceable to that nightmarish incident. "I'm playing heavier than I've ever played at Green Bay," he confirmed. "I don't think I've ever played at more than 270 before and I'm playing at about 280 now. The extra weight might have taken a step away from my pass rush," Bob concedes, "but I don't think it has taken away from my playing the run. And I feel stronger. The coaches would like me to get down in the area of 265, and I did play at 260 last year. But after I got shot and while I was getting well, I was sitting around and I put on a lot of weight. I have a terrible weight problem – I guess I have poor metabolism. And I can put on a lot if I just sit around for a couple of weeks." This is a heavy burden, for one who likes to "fuss around the kitchen," Brown mournfully admits. "I've probably got more publicity out of my cooking than I have out of my football playing," he adds. "Because of my cooking, I've got a sort of a fan club now among the guy on the team. I do a lot of cooking for them. We have some barbecued ribs or chicken, maybe 50 pounds at a time. They just get a thrill out of it. I've had as many as 38 or 39 players that I've cooked for at one time this year. My father and two of my uncles were chefs," Bob explained. "My dad could cook better than my mom."

PROS PRACTICE AT GROVES STADIUM: DEVINE WANTS PACKERS TO CONCENTRATE

DEC 20 (Winston-Salem Sentinel) – Few people outside of the National Football League area ever get a chance to see a professional team practice - and many Winston-Salem fans undoubtedly would like to see Green Bay Packers practice at Wake Forest's Groves Stadium between now and Saturday. But the Packers have a very important playoff game against the Redskins at Washington at 12 noon Sunday (CBS, Channel 2 will telecast the contest), so Coach Dan Devine says it will be "all business" for his Green Bay squad during its four-day stay in Winston-Salem. "The players will eat together and be together all time," Devine said after the Packers arrived early Tuesday night. "We decided to practice here because we can concentrate better in the Winston-Salem area than in the Washington area." When Devine says he wants his Packers to concentrate, he means that he doesn't want anyone or anything bothering his players. And he doesn't want any spectators in Groves Stadium. So, the gates will be locked and well guarded. Don't go to the stadium area with the idea of seeing the Packers practice. Devine says he wishes the Packers could have practiced in Green Bay. "But we can't take a chance with a weather forecast being what it is - 60 per cent chance of snow," said Devine. So, the Packers are in Winston-Salem – and they wish to be left alone. Today, the Packers are 1972's NFC Central Division champions, with a 10-4 record, preparing for their first post-experience since their 1967 team went on to be Super Bowl II champions. Let's investigate some of the reasons for this metamorphosis of the Packers from a team which has had one winning season since its glorious Vince Lombardi era of the early and mid-60s and now has visions of sugar plums dancing in the heads of the hardy residents of that small Wisconsin city. Last January, Devine, in his second year as Green Bay's coach came away from the draft with two youngsters destined for key roles in 1972 - cornerback Willie Buchanon (first round) and kicker Chester Marcol (second round). In February, running back MacArthur Lane was acquired from St. Louis. In April, free safety Jimmy Hill came from San Diego. And, two weeks before this season began in September, guard Malcolm Snider joined the Pack. This transaction gained importance when All-Pro guard Gale Gillingham was sidelined by knee surgery. Bart Starr retired and was added to the coaching staff, a move which aided the development of young quarterback Scott Hunter and provided the second-year signal-caller with a confidence factor on the sideline as Starr relayed each play to the field via a wide receiver shuttle. Things fell into place and first Green Bay won four of its five games. After dividing their next six games, the Packers were faced with their big challenge - victories in their next two games against Detroit and Minnesota could be part of a combination that would deliver the Central title. The Lions never had a chance. Green Bay forced six turnovers in the first half and turned four of them into a 23-0 halftime lead that cushioned a 33-7 victory. The same day, Minnesota lost. Two Sundays ago, the Vikings felt the same sting of the Green Bay opportunists. Trailing 0-7, the Packers took the second-half kickoff and moved in for the first of Marcol's three field goals. Then the defense and offense blended to virtual perfection. Linebacker Fred Carr ran a recovered fumble to the Minnesota 28. Six plays later, Hunter scored from the one. Buchanon returned an interception 25 yards to the Minnesota 24. Four plays later, Lane went three for the touchdown. Again, Buchanon intercepted. Eighteen



VETERAN PACKER! *Carroll Dale, one of the National Football League's finest pass receivers of all time, is in Winston-Salem practicing with the Green Bay Packers. Dale feels "close to home," because he is a former Virginia Tech star.*

Packers have a Wake Forest connection in John (Red) Cochran, a Green Bay assistant coach and former All-Southern halfback for the Deacons on Coach Peahead Walker's 1942 team. Cochran and Dr. Gene Hooks, Wake's athletic director, are good friends. Green Bay closed the regular season Sunday with a 30-20 win over New Orleans, finishing with three straight victories for a 10-4 record. Washington, 11-3, lost its last two games, 34-24 to Dallas and 24-17 to Buffalo. The Redskins beat the Packers at Washington 21-16 Nov. 26, and are favored in Sunday's playoff. Harrah's Tahoe Racebook has made Washington a 4 1/2-point favorite and Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder has given 5-1 odds on the Redskins winning the Super Bowl. He rates Green Bay at 8-1. Devine described the Redskins as "a team of great over-all balance. It will take at least the same effort we had against Detroit and Minnesota to beat Washington." After losing to Washington, the Packers rebounded by beating Detroit 33-7 and Minnesota 23-7, clinching their first division title since 1967. The Packers' opponents finished with a cumulative record of 78-71-5. Green Bay played 10 of its 14 games against teams with .500 or better records and won six. Washington's opponents showed only a 62-75-3 record. However, the Redskins played eight games against teams .500 or better and won seven.

TV BLACKOUT SUIT DISMISSED

DEC 20 (Washington) – A U.S. district court judge today dismissed a lawsuit that would have forced lifting a television blackout in the Washington area of Sunday's National Football League playoff game between the Redskins and the Green Bay Packers. Judge Joseph Waddy said he couldn't hear the case because the Columbia Broadcasting System, not named in the suit, was "an indispensable party."

PACK GETTING KICKS

DEC 21 (Winston-Salem, NC-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – It was a little like "Me and My Shadow" for Ron Widby and Hank Kuhlman here Wednesday. Kuhlman, the Packers' special teams coach, was right at Widby's elbow as he practiced his punting in a sunny corner of Groves Stadium, autumn home of the Wake Forest University Deacons. Kuhlman, Coach Dan Devine later confirmed, was attempting to forestall a repeat of the embarrassments suffered in New Orleans last Sunday, when Widby had two punts blocked - one by teammate Jim Carter. "Hank is working on a number of things with Ron," Devine said, adding, "There are 10 different ways of punting the football. "It's not the first time he's worked with Widby," the Packer headmaster dryly asserted. "It's just noticeable now because of what happened last Sunday." Kuhlman, aware the Redskins already have seen and studied the New Orleans game film with interest, appeared to be encouraging the ex-Cowboy specialist to cut down on his steps and speed up the timing of his "launch." Later, the Packers closed out the crisp spirited session by working on another area of concern - field goal protection. Chester Marcol, who had two attempts blocked by the Saints, kicked repeatedly against a "live" rush. Devine, running a tight, well ordered ship, had his athletes on the field for an hour and 50 minutes under generally sunny skies in near-60 degree temperatures. He later expressed satisfaction with the results. "We had a good workout," he said, "and the facilities are certainly excellent. Moving around like we have been lately isn't good but, under the conditions, I thought today's practice was quite good." Devine admitted, "It doesn't bother you to see a few people standing on rooftops around the stadium while we are practicing "There always is

players later, Marcol got three more points from the 42. Cornerback Ken Ellis ran back an intercepted pass to Minnesota's 35. In seven plays, the Packers got a 10-yard Marcol field goal. Five second-half possessions. Five second-half scores. These are some of the reasons Green Bay is the NFC Central champion...The Packers' last practice in Winston-Salem will be Saturday morning. Then they will board an airliner and head for Washington. The Redskins beat the Packers 21-16 at Washington on Nov. 26 - and Washington is rated a slight favorite to win Sunday's game...A member of the Green Bay coaching staff is John (Red) Cochran, who was an All-Southern halfback for Wake Forest in 1942. Cochran and Gene Hooks, the Wake Forest athletic director, are good friends.

PACKERS WORK HERE TODAY IN SECRECY FOR PLAYOFF GAME

DEC 20 (Winston-Salem Journal) – The Green Bay Packers, champions of the Central Division, arrived here at 7 p.m. yesterday and will begin a tightly-controlled four days of practice today for the National Football League playoffs. The Packers will meet the Redskins Sunday at Washington's Robert F. Kennedy Stadium, and plan to leave Winston-Salem after a Saturday morning workout. All practices will be held at Groves Stadium and will be closed to the public. Coach Dan Devine said the club went through a "good workout" before leaving Green Bay and that he would operate "a tight ship" while in Winston-Salem. "The players together and be together all week," he said. "It's better for concentration in Winston-Salem than in the Washington area. The practice field here is in pretty good shape. I'd really like to stay in Green Bay, but we can't take a chance with a weather forecast being what it is – 60 per cent chance of snow." The Minnesota Vikings also used Wake Forest University's facilities before their 1968 playoff game at Baltimore and the Buffalo Bills trained here twice in preparation for AFL playoff games. The

the possibility enemy agents are about, but I don't know what you can do about it. We're fortunate to have as good a place as this to practice." A miniature of Green Bay's Lambeau Field, before the end zones were filled in, Groves Stadium is a model for its size, with a modern, enclosed three-tier press box that would do credit to "Lambeau," and metal-backed seats for all spectators. A well-manicured green hedge border gives it a pleasant, residential look. Devine, who said he has not decided whether Redskin preparations will end Friday or Saturday, noted, "We worked a little longer today than usual on Wednesday. If we work longer Thursday, we may not practice Saturday. We don't want to leave our game here. We do so little on Saturday, anyway," he added. "Sometimes just not getting your ankles taped for a day is as good for a player as coming out to practice."...PACKER PATTERN: Devine, discoursing for local and Washington scribes at an evening press conference, attributed the Packers' defensive turnabout this season to changes in tactics and a more pronounced yen for contact. "We're doing a lot of things defensively that Green Bay has never done before," he said. "Like the blitz, playing zone defenses, and using 5-2 spacing, but we were forced to do it. The great Green Bay teams of the past used to sit in the 4-3 and tell you where they were going to be. We tried to do it last year and we found we couldn't do it. The big thing we've done that we didn't do last year, however, is hitting. We're flying around and hitting people. Last year we talked about it. We also have eliminated a lot of mistakes - we made a lot of mistakes last year. And," he noted with the trace of a smile. "we've eliminated a lot of talk."...Offensive linemen found themselves starting over Wednesday. They were required to hit the blocking sled, an exercise they hadn't performed in some time, with line coach Rollie Dotsch "riding" the sled...Larry Krause, now allowed to rejoin the squad for practice although he is still on the injured reserve list, portrayed Redskin receiver Charlie Taylor for the scout team. Gale Gillingham, also on injured reserve, strolled around the perimeter of the field in sweat clothes. Gillingham, who underwent knee surgery, was walking with only a slight limp...Beattie Feathers, a former Chicago Bear star who lives in the area, was a practice guest. Feathers became pro football's first 1,000-yard rusher for the Bruins in 1934.

PERSONALITY PARADE (JIM CARTER)

DEC 21 (Winston-Salem, NC-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – There can be little doubt that Jim Carter, nocturnal throwback to the Paul Hornung-Max McGee era, is his own man. Unlike most of his pro football colleagues, the Packers freewheeling middle linebacker seldom designs to be diplomatic. He is by nature committed to telling it like it is. Not unexpectedly, Carter was right in character here Wednesday as he candidly appraised both the Packers and Redskins while priming for Sunday's critical playoff with George Allen's NFC Eastern Division champions in Washington. "I don't like to be boastful," quoth Carter following Wednesday's workout in Wake Forest University's Groves Stadium. "But I think the difference between our 4-8-2 record last year and 10-4 this year is our defense. I think the defense has won a lot of our games for us this season. And I think the reason our defense has done so much better has been the improvement in our secondary with the addition of Jim Hill and Willie Buchanon. Obviously, our linebackers have played better," said Carter, who learned shortly after arrival here that he had been announced as a second team all-pro choice, "And we've gotten a better rush from the front four, but the big thing has been the improvement in the secondary. I have to give a lot of credit for that to Don Doll for the coaching job he has done with those people back there. I think he's done a real good job, and each one of the guys in the secondary says the same thing. There's good communication and rapport there." Although Carter calls Washington's offense the best the Packers have faced this season, the former high school hockey star is confident he and his fellow defenders can cope with the talented likes of Larry Brown, Charlie Harraway, Roy Jefferson and Charlie Taylor, not to mention Bill Kilmer. "All of us (he presumably was including the offense) realize we can beat the Redskins," he said, after having played them. "I think we all realize it can be done. Defensively, I think if we can contain Larry Brown like we did in our first game (the NFC rushing champion was held to 69 yards in 25 carries), and we do a little better job against Harraway than we did the first time, we should be all right. By holding down their running game, we forced them to throw in that first game, and I would like to see that happen again. I can't believe Kilmer can be as successful as he was last time. He was 14-for-21 and that's .667 per cent, which is quite a percentage. I think our cornerbacks can cover anybody one-on-one. Willie Buchanon and Kenny Ellis can cover anybody. So I'd like to see them forced to throw. If they start putting that ball in the air, we should be able to pick off one or two." Carter indicated the Packers are not likely to alter their approach to bring this about. "Actually, we don't change much," he said. "There's the popular idea that if you try to stop one runner, like Brown, the other one will have a big day. But, if we do well against one runner, we should do well against both if we're not overreacting or leaving home (the basic area of individual responsibility). The thing about Brown, of course, is that he can cut and dart through there so fast. He's really quick. As far as Harraway is concerned, he had such a good game against us the first time because we missed tackles and didn't take a good shot at him. We've got to stay with it. One reason we had such good success against Brown, of course, was that we caught the Redskins coming off a Monday night game against Atlanta, and he probably still hadn't recovered from all the bumps and bruises. The reports are that he has been bunged up again, but they've let him rest for a couple weeks, so he probably is feeling pretty good by now. As far as Kilmer is concerned, his big attribute has always been his leadership ability. They claim all the players like him, and that the team rallies around him, that he charges it up." Though confident, Carter doesn't minimize the task ahead. "The Redskins probably are not as physical as the teams in our division," he said, "but they execute very well. They don't try to fool you too much - they just come out and try to get things done. For personnel, Detroit should be the best offense in the league, but as far as playing well and getting things done, I would have to say Washington is. Plus they're poised and they're patient. They feel if they keep at it, something will break, which is kind of the way our team is becoming." The fact that the Redskins' faithful are uncommonly vocal is not a concern, Carter insisted. "We've been through playing in front of that Washington crowd," he said, "so that won't bother us. The ex-University of Minnesota fullback is quick to admit he would prefer practicing at home for Sunday's confrontation, but he also concedes the wisdom of moving here for playoff preparations. "It's just to have good

NATIONAL CONFERENCE Offense

WIDE RECEIVERS — John Gilliam, Minnesota; Harold Jackson, Philadelphia; Charley Taylor, Washington; Gene Washington, San Francisco.

TIGHT ENDS — Ted Kwalick, San Francisco; Jim Mitchell, Atlanta.

TACKLES — Rocky Freitas, Detroit; Rayfield Wright, Dallas; Ron Yarb, Minnesota.

GUARDS — Tom Mack, Los Angeles; John Niland, Dallas; Woody Peoples, San Francisco.

CENTERS — Forrest Blue, San Francisco; Len Hauss, Washington.

QUARTERBACKS — Billy Kilmer, Washington; Norm Snead, New York.

RUNNING BACKS — Larry Brown, Washington; John Brockington, Green Bay; Calvin Hill, Dallas; Ron Johnson, New York.

PUNTER — Dave Chapelle, Los Angeles.

PLACEKICKER — Chester Marcol, Green Bay.

KICK RETURNER — Ron Smith, Chicago.

Defense

ENDS — Jack Gregory, New York; Coy Bacon, Los Angeles; Claude Humphrey, Atlanta.

TACKLES — Bob Lilly, Dallas; Bob Brown, Green Bay; Merlin Olsen, Los Angeles.

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS — Fred Carr, Green Bay; Chris Hanburger, Washington; Dave Wilcox, San Francisco.

MIDDLE LINEBACKERS — Dick Butkus, Chicago; Tommy Nobis, Atlanta.

CORNERBACKS — Lem Barney, Detroit; Jim Johnson, San Francisco; Mel Renfro, Dallas.

SAFETIES — Bill Bradley, Philadelphia; Cornell Green, Dallas; Paul Krause, Minnesota.

footing to work out on, so we can get things done. I don't like living in a hotel (the Packers are headquartering at the Winston-Salem Sheraton) but it's what you have to do to get the work done." Carter, an unabashed and self-confessed swinger, added with a sly smile, "It's tough for me, this curfew stuff (the Packers are required to retire by 11 p.m., under penalty of a heavy fine). It's hard to get out of the streets. But it's not bad for me, as far as food is concerned. I eat better here than I would be eating if I were home in Green Bay and fending for myself. I have to agree with Coach Devine. He says we came here to get ready for the game and whether everything doesn't agree with everybody really doesn't matter."

1,000 YARDERS HEAD NFC SQUAD

DEC 21 (New York) — Four members of the 1,000-yard rushers' club head the National Football Conference team named Wednesday to meet the American Conference in the National Football League's Pro Bowl game at Texas Stadium Jan. 21. Larry Brown of the Washington Redskins and Green Bay's John Brockington will start in the backfield with Dallas' Calvin Hill and Ron Johnson of the New York Giants in reserve. All went over the 1,000-yard rushing plateau this season. Calling the signals for the NFC will be two veteran quarterbacks, Washington's Billy Kilmer and Norm Snead of the Giants. Kilmer, 32, led the Redskins to the NFC's Eastern title and was named to the Pro Bowl squad for the first time in his career. Snead, 33, was the top passer in the conference and will be making his third Pro Bowl appearance and first since 1966. The 40-man squad, chosen in a vote by conference head coaches, has San Francisco's Gene Washington and John Gilliam of Minnesota starting at the two wide receiver spots, with Philadelphia's Harold Jackson and Charley Taylor of Washington named as the backups.

MARIE LOMBARDI REMEMBERS, BUT PULLS FOR 'SKINS

DEC 21 (New York) — Marie Lombardi will be pulling for the Redskins but a pinch of her heart will be following the Packers in Sunday's first round playoff game in the National Football League. "I have a warm spot for Green Bay, naturally, because we were there for so many years, but I have to root for Washington. After all, I am an officer of the team," the widow of one of football's most famous coaches said today. "After Vince passed away in 1970, they made me an officer. I think the theory was that there couldn't be a National Football League without a Lombardi." Mrs. Lombardi, blonde, blue-eyed and vivacious, is in New York promoting the Vince Lombardi Trophy, a 45-pound block of granite which will be presented Jan. 18 in Houston to college football's outstanding lineman. The award is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Houston with proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. The list of candidates has been reduced to four — Rich Glover of Nebraska, Jerry Sisemore of Texas, Tom Brahane of Oklahoma and John Hannah of Alabama. "The Vince Lombardi Trophy will be more famous than the Heisman Trophy," the coach's widow said. "It's time people began to recognize defensive play. Besides, everybody in football will remember Vince Lombardi." Mrs. Lombardi, an avid fan who missed only two games in 12 years when her husband coached the Packers and who never misses a home game at Washington, said that only a complete could prevent the Redskins from making the Super Bowl. "At the start of the season, I predicted the three best teams in the league would be Miami, Washington and San Francisco," she added. "I believe it will be Miami and Washington in the Super Bowl, but don't ask me to pick that one." Mrs. Lombardi said her husband would have been concerned about the Redskins, who let down and lost two games after clinching their division title. "They didn't use their best players. But I remember 1968 at Green Bay the Packers lost to the Los Angeles Rams and Pittsburgh at the end of the season but went on to win the Super Bowl," she said. "The Redskins are so hungry now — the fans and players alike — that I don't think there's any way for them to lose their momentum."

Marie Lombardi, who lives on the Potomac in the Washington area, has maintained close contact with the sport that was her husband's life. "It's difficult for me to be partial to any one team," she said. "There is always a player, a coach or another personality who had some association with Vince. I never saw a football player I didn't like." The lady vividly recalled



UPI Telephoto

MARIE LOMBARDI, widow of Coach Vince Lombardi, shows the trophy that will be presented to nation's outstanding college lineman.

her life with the stern disciplinarian whom many regard as the greatest of all coaches. "Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were the toughest days for Vince — not the day of the game," she said. "Monday was the day for looking at the game film and grading the players, Tuesday was the day for setting up the game plan and Wednesday was the day to sell — Vince

believed he had to sell the team on their chances of victory. He was a salesman. I don't think there ever was a better salesman." Mrs. Lombardi said Vince's reactions after a game were always predictable. "If the team played sloppy and we still won, he was beside himself," she added. "If the team played to the best of its ability and still lost, he was content. It's quite true that he made great demands on his men, but they were not excessive and the men loved him for it. If a team started getting cocky or overconfident, Vince had a way of bringing the men back to earth. He would scream and yell and raise Cain. Usually the player who played best got the most Hell. Mrs. Lombardi said one of her husband's tenets was that it was just as easy to cultivate a losing habit as a winning habit, but she sees fire when someone brings up the Lombardi quote: "Winning isn't everything - it's the only thing." Some people have interpreted that to mean that Vince would have sold his mother to win a football game," she said. "That's not true. But it is true that he put great emphasis on winning. It was the spirit of winning that built this country. "If you go into football and don't want to win, you might as well forget it. That's what it's all about. "

MARCOL ON WRITERS' ALL-PRO

DEC 22 (Denver) – Chester Marcol was the only rookie and only Green Bay Packer named to the All-Pro team of the Professional Football Writers of America announced Thursday. Packer cornerback Ken Ellis was named to the group's second defensive team.

FILE SUIT AGAINST BLACKOUT

DEC 22 (Washington) - Football fans in the nation's capital who are unable to get a Baltimore television station on their sets get another chance today to view Sunday's National Football League playoff game between the Green Bay Packers and the Washington Redskins. U.S. District Judge Joseph C. Waddy was to hear arguments in a lawsuit calling for the NFL to rescind its local television blackout of Sunday's contest. Judge Waddy dismissed a similar case Thursday because the Columbia Broadcasting System, which has a contract to televise NFL games, had been left out of the complaint. "How can I grant relief when an indispensable party isn't here?" Waddy asked. Later Thursday, CBS was added to the complaint and the suit was refiled. The suit was brought by Robin Ficker, a suburban Silver Spring, Md., lawyer and president of a Washington Redskins fan club, and two District of Columbia members of the club, Connie Stephens and her daughter, Delores Henheghan. Thursday's lawsuit named WTOP-TV, the network's Washington affiliate; the Redskins, the NFL, the District of Columbia and Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton. Ellis Rubin of Miami, Fla., representing the plaintiffs, argued that because only 411 playoff tickets were made available to the public, the blackout discriminates against the average fan who lives in the D.C area. The game is a sell-out.

LANE PACKERS' MVP?

DEC 22 (Winston-Salem, NC-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Logically enough, a defensive player is prone to view his violent world in defensive terms. He is more inclined to dwell upon the individual or collective contributions of the defense to team success than upon those of the offense, which is entirely human. It thus was a little surprising to hear Ray Nitschke say, "If you were to pick a most valuable player on this team, McArthur Lane would have to be a serious contender." Although No. 66 wasn't making a formal nomination, it was an intriguing point, considering that several of his teammates have informally indicated strong "support" for Chester Marcol, whose placekicking points this season are the most amassed by a Packer since Paul Hornung's palmiest days in the early '60s. Nitschke, relaxing in the Sheraton Inn dining room Thursday following a mid-afternoon meeting of the defense, proceeded to document his case as the clock ticked toward Sunday's NFC playoff in Washington. "McArthur's performance speaks for itself," he said. "He's been a tremendous ball player for the Packers this year. He reminds me of both Hornung and Jim Taylor - he's a complete football player. I think that with his great desire, he inspires his teammates by the way he plays football. Jim Taylor, to me, was that kind of football player. Mac gives it 100 per cent every minute he's out there. And he's a blocker, a receiver and a runner, plus his great leadership. He's just a super football player." High praise, indeed, from a man who himself is one of the most talented all-around athletes in recent Packer history. Nitschke, who has been in many a money game over a distinguished 15-year career, sees "a big role" for Lane in Sunday's momentous match with the Redskins. "He's played a big role in all of our games this year," Ray said. "And I don't think Sunday will be any different. I think Mac will play a key role in our drive for the Championship. His value to the team is just unbelievable, some football players can run, some can catch, some can block. But Mac has it all. He can even kick - he's the backup kicker for Chester. I think he'd make a heckuva linebacker, too. He played linebacker in college (at Utah State) and he would make a good one, the way he likes to hit. He looks for contact. He'd make a heckuva middle linebacker." Nitschke, who as defensive co-captain may better appreciate the value of a leader than some others, feels the ex-Cardinal has contributed as much to the Packers off the field as on. And that is a substantial statement, considering Lane emerged from the regular season as the team's leading pass receiver and its No. 2 rusher, in addition to serving as a devastating blocker for running mate John Brockington. "Mac has added to this team everywhere," Nitschke said. You can't say enough nice things about MacArthur Lane. He's been an outstanding leader for the young people - for all the players, for that matter. He's the kind of person you need on a ball club to win. He is a very likeable, a very warm individual. He's just a real fine person. I'm glad he's on our team."

First Team Offense

TE—Bob Tucker, New York Giants
OT—Bob Brown, Oakland
OT—Rayfield Wright, Dallas
G—Larry Little, Miami
G—Gene Upshaw, Oakland
C—Forrest Blue, San Francisco
QB—Joe Namath, New York Jets
RB—Larry Brown, Washington
RB—O. J. Simpson, Buffalo
WR—Gene Washington, San Francisco
WR—Otis Taylor, Kansas City
PK—Chester Marcol, Green Bay

First Team Defense

DE—Claude Humphrey, Atlanta
DE—Jack Gregory, New York Giants
DT—Joe Greene, Pittsburgh
DT—Mike Reid, Cincinnati
OLB—Chris Hanburger, Washington
OLB—Dave Wilcox, San Francisco
MLB—Dick Butkus, Chicago
CB—Willie Brown, Oakland
CB—Jim Johnson, San Francisco
S—Bill Bradley, Philadelphia
S—Dick Anderson, Miami
P—Jerrell Wilson, Kansas City

Second Team Offense

TE—Ted Kwalick, San Francisco
OT—Ron Yary, Minnesota
OT—Winston Hill, New York Jets
G—John Niland, Dallas
G—Bruce Van Dyke, Pittsburgh
C—Len Hauss, Washington
QB—Daryle Lamonica, Oakland
RB—Larry Csonka, Miami
RB—Ron Johnson, New York Giants
WR—Fred Biletnikoff, Oakland
WR—Harold Jackson, Philadelphia
PK—Ray Gerela, Pittsburgh

Second Team Defense

DE—Coy Bacon, Los Angeles
DE—Verlon Biggs, Washington
DT—Alan Page, Minnesota
DT—Bob Lilly, Dallas
OLB—Andy Russell, Pittsburgh
OLB—Jack Ham, Pittsburgh
MLB—Nick Buoniconti, Miami
CB—Mel Renfro, Dallas
CB—Ken Ellis, Green Bay
S—Jake Scott, Miami
S—Ken Houston, Houston
P—Dave Chapelle, Los Angeles

Packer and Redskin comparisons

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Comparative 14 game statistics of the Green Bay Packers and Washington Redskins:

Offense		G.B. Wash.	
First downs		195	235
Total yards		3,540	4,275
Avg. per game		252.8	305.4
Rushing yards		2,127	2,082
Avg. per game		151.9	148.7
Passing yards		1,412	2,193
Avg. per game		100.9	156.6
Avg. per rush		3.9	4.1
Passes attempted		237	284
Passes completed		101	159
Per cent completed		42.6	56.0
Passer tackled-yds lost		17-124	11-88
Had intercepted		9	15
Punts		65-41.8	59-38.5
Punt returns		25	34
Avg. return		14.6	4.7
Kickoff returns		49	48
Avg. return		23.3	23.6
Penalties-yds		63-610	78-721
Fumbles-lost		22-10	27-11
Opponents fumbles-lost		35-19	28-15
Touchdowns		29	42
TD rushing		17	17
TD passing		7	21
TD returns		5	4
Field goal-attempts		33-48	14-30
Points		304	336
Defense		G.B. Wash.	
Opponents points		226	3,595
Opponents first downs		209	223
Opponents yards		3,474	3,595
Avg. per game		248.1	256.8
Opponents rushing		1,517	1,733
Avg. per game		108.4	123.8
Opponents passing		1,957	1,862
Avg. per game		139.8	133.0
Opponents rush avg.		3.4	4.1
Opponents passes		340	367
Completed		174	186
Per cent completed		51.2	50.7
Passer tackled-yds lost		29-252	35-268
Intercepted by		17	17
Opponents punt ret-yds		32-7.0	19-2.1
Opponents kickoff ret.		46	53
Avg. return		20.3	22.5
Opponents TD		26	23
Opponents TD rushing		14	12
Opponents TD passing		7	10
Opponents TD returns		5	1

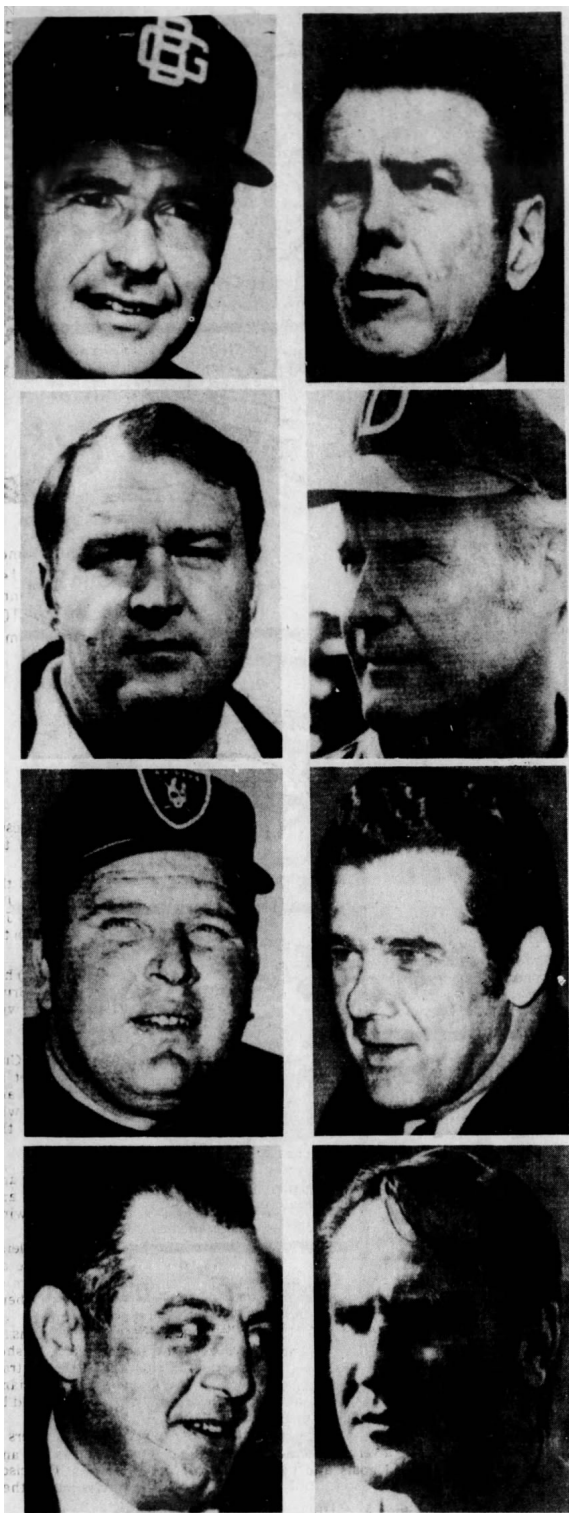
NO QUESTION AT QB

DEC 22 (Winston-Salem, NC-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Coach Dan Devine, shedding his rain gear after spending two hours in a cold, practice-long drizzle on the turf of Wake Forest University's Groves Stadium, made one point "perfectly clear," Thursday. "There is no question that Scott Hunter will start at quarterback," said Devine, replying to recollections that Jerry Tagge had relieved Hunter in the second quarter of a 21-16 loss to the Redskins in Washington Nov. 26. "We made a move last time," he explained, "because it was something that was building up over a period of two, three or four weeks. It was no big deal - it was a unanimous decision of five coaches, who probably represent 100 years of coaching experience - to make the move...But I have no intention of making any early move at all Sunday. I guess what I'm saying is the same set of circumstances aren't present now." Although he did not mention it Thursday, Devine in the past had noted Tagge was throwing better in practice than Hunter prior to the Nov. 26 game. Thus, when Hunter was having trouble reaching receivers, Devine made the change. Harking back to that contest, Devine pointed out, "In fairness to Tagge, he took over the ball club when we were on our own 10-yard line and behind 14-3. He moved us into contention at 14-13. And, had we been able to hold Washington there in the fourth quarter, I felt Jerry would have gotten back down there and gotten a touchdown or at least three points. What killed us was that long drive." Asked what kind of score he anticipates, Devine said, "A little bit depends on the weather. If they pick up a fumble and run it back for a touchdown, for example, in other words if they get the touchdowns you don't expect them to get, it would take more. So much depends on what you give up." I'm glad we got that practice in before it rained," he quipped, then added in the same facetious vein, "we were hoping we would get some rain so we could get used to it in case it rains in Washington Sunday. Actually, it wasn't that bad. The footing was good. When you don't slip and slide around, you're in pretty good shape. I thought we had a good workout. A lot of players," he added with a sly smile, "wanted to stay out longer. No, nobody said anything, but I could tell." Serious once again, Devine confided, "having gotten these two workouts in, I wouldn't mind of we were forced inside tomorrow. If this rain should continue for 24 hours, we owe something to Wake Forest not to ruin their field. But we have a couple of good spots in mind - the Coliseum here or Wake Forest's gymnasium. So we won't have trouble finding a place to work out." The Packers, whose kicking game suffered some indignities at New Orleans' hands in last Sunday's regular season finale, capped Thursday's practice with a session on protecting the punter. Ron Widby, who had two punts blocked by the Saints, kicked against a "live" rush for 10 minutes. Devine said there is "a possibility" of one or two roster changes prior to the playoffs, but did not elaborate. Noting they would "not necessarily be made for special teams only," he said no personnel moves would be made before Sunday morning. Asked if he felt his "young team" might be fresher than

Washington's "Over The Hill Gang" at this point Devine parried the question by asserting, "I have to feel that George Allen knows what he's doing by resting Larry Brown the last two weeks, for example. "He's been in the league a lot longer than I have. He knows what he's doing, just as I feel I know exactly what I'm doing. "George is too good a coach to bring his team to the playoff tired."

PERSONALITY PARADE

DEC 22 (Winston-Salem, NC-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - It was early evening and Dan Devine, lolling back on a bed in his crowded Sheraton Inn suite, was discoursing upon "the construction of a Champion" at a highly informal press gathering. His off-the-cuff analysis had been prompted by questions from local and Washington press, covering the Packers pre-playoff stay here. They were trying to ascertain how the Central Division champions got this way - after going 4-8-2 in 1971, a record which hardly suggested 1972's resounding success was imminent. "The first thing," Devine said, "is that this season we had a team that was as carefully selected as it could be in two years' time, considering the limitations of the draft and what it was possible to get in the way of trades. And we practiced like a winning football team as far back as July, even though we weren't a winning football team." One Washington writer, harking back to Devine's arrival upon the Green Bay scene from the University of Missouri campus, pursued the "college-to-pro" transition. "How," he wanted to know, "do you feel the players accepted you?" "I was accepted right away by 95 per cent of them," Devine replied, although after due consideration he later reduced that figure to 90 and then to 75 per cent with an impish grin. "I was accepted right away by players like Carroll Dale, Ray Nitschke, Zeke Bratkowski, Willie Wood, Doug Hart, Gale Gillingham...If I miss mentioning somebody, it doesn't mean he was not one of them. There were some, of course, who didn't buy me. But that would be the case anywhere. I remember I put three veterans on waivers and all of them had tears in their eyes. One of them said 'why me? I believed in you from the beginning. You never had to sell me on your program.' Pausing only momentarily to reflect. Devine added, "I didn't have nearly the problems being accepted that people envision. But I don't like to put that much emphasis on me. The change has been in the team, from last year to this. "This," he pointed out, "is my 25th year in coaching. You get smarter as time goes on - you better get smarter. Not many coaches survive that long without being fired." Prompted to philosophize by the last, Devine continued, "there are a lot of different ways to get to the top. I used to



PLAYOFF STRATEGISTS: *These coaches will lead their teams into the NFL playoffs this weekend. Shown in the top row are Green Bay's Dan Devine (left) and Washington's George Allen; second from top, Pittsburgh's Chuck Noll (left) and Dallas' Tom Landry; third row from top, Oakland's John Madden (left) and San Francisco's Dick Nolan; bottom row, Cleveland's Nick Skorich (left) and Miami's Don Shula.*

be a screamer and a yeller." Although he did not elaborate, the suggestion was that he no longer feels it necessary to use that approach, although he has been known to lower the vocal boom upon a luckless Packer when the occasion demanded. Taking issue with a recent appraisal of his manner, Devine volunteered, "Joe Falls (of the Detroit Free Press) wrote a complimentary column about me recently, but he said I was aloof and reserved." Intimating he did not consider this to be entirely accurate, he explained, "I'm more reserved because 95 per cent of what I said was misinterpreted. I miss trying to be honest and objective, which I thought was part of my job. I used to have a reputation for saying nothing and I'm sliding back into that, I guess. I'm just trying to say things that will not be misinterpreted." A Washington writer interposed, "It's considerate of you to set aside an hour for the press to interview you, but I suppose it must make your day longer. I'm sure there are other things you could be doing now. It does add to my day and there are other things I could be doing," Devine replied, "but I consider it to be part of my job. And I think I put in as much time on my job," he said, "as any coach in America."

VOTE FOR GILLINGHAM NOT UNUSUAL

DEC 22 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The United Press International National Football League National Football Conference All-Star Football Team, revealed to a readership quivering with anticipation this week, once again proved just how much of a farce this sort of thing can become. Gale Gillingham, who played two games with the Packers this year - as a defensive tackle - was given honorable mention at offensive guard. Stories like this pop up regularly when "all" teams are picked. And I certainly am not referring only to the UPI team. The Associated Press team will be bursting upon us shortly the Pro Football Writers of America team. In fact, I voted in the latter two and I still don't know why. I guess I voted in the AP selections because several years ago I protested the manner in which the Packer interests were being served on that particular team. Each pro football city gets three votes, one presumably from the AP sports editor in that area and the other two from selected writers regularly covering the team. Well, at the time, the selected writers and so with were both from Milwaukee papers and I felt that since the Packers belong to Green Bay, someone in Our Town ought to have a vote. It was given to me. I voted in the Pro Football Writers selections because I was sent a ballot, even though I haven't paid any dues to the organization for several years. Normally, I consult at length with Lee Remmel on the voting. This year, how ever, Lee was out of town when the Pro Football Writers ballot was due and so I consulted with Cliff Christl. Besides, Lee had his own ballot. Wednesday, I was taking a day off from work (well deserved, I might add) when I was notified that I was supposed to get my AP votes into Milwaukee immediately. Not wishing to take the entire blame alone, I called for my almost-13-year-old son and consulted with him...suspecting all along that he knows more about the NFL and its players than Lee, Cliff and myself put together. Together we came up with a first and second All-NFL team including kickers (both conferences together), a coach of the year, a most valuable player, a defensive rookie of the year, an offensive rookie of the year, an outstanding offensive player of the year and an outstanding defensive player of the year. We did so despite the fact that it is impossible to do the job with competence. I ask you, with 26 teams in the league and our concentration tipping very definitely toward the Packers, how are we to judge the merits of Larry Little as opposed to Tom Mack, or Rich Caster to Ted Kwalick or even O.J. Simpson to Ron Johnson? There is no way unless you have unlimited access to the complete films of all the teams and 36 hours a day for a month to study them. And even then there is

bound to be a question or two or three Thus my ballots were loaded with Packers. Why not? I saw more of them and I know how well some of them played. I have no personal knowledge that anybody in the league played any better. If somebody wants my votes, I'll give them but only with the understanding that the choices are made largely from hearsay evidence colored by politics and prejudice and the knowledge that every other voter's ballots are made out in similar fashion. From

the Packers, I came up with five players for the defensive team and two for the offensive team. Packers also dominated my ballots in the special rookie of the year and coach of the year categories. No, I'm not going to tell you exactly who I voted for. The ones I left off are too big for me. But I will tell you that I didn't vote for Gillie. Ahhh, this year, that is.

EX-W-S CATCHER COACHES PACKERS' SPECIALTY TEAMS

DEC 22 (Winston-Salem Sentinel) - HANK KUHLMANN was a catcher for the Winston-Salem Cardinals in 1959. He started the season by getting hit on the head in practice before the opening Carolina League game. He ended the year with a reputation as a solid catcher, but he was a .227 hitter. Now, Kuhlmann, a bit heavier and his hair a bit longer, is an assistant coach with the Green Bay Packers. His assignment is making the specialty teams something special. Specialty teams are those players who are on the field when the team kicks off, receives the kick off, punts, receives a punt, kicks a field goal or extra point. Some players look on them as suicide squads or spots for players who can't do anything else. That's not the way it is with Green Bay. "We had trouble with our specialty teams last year," said Kuhlmann. "So, when I came in this year, I tried to make the players realize that they had an important job to do and that they can help the team win. We've tried to build spirit. I want the specialty-team players to know that the game can be turned around by the job they do. For example, Detroit was leading us 17-0. We kicked a field goal. That made it 17-3. We ran a punt back for a touchdown. That made it 17-10. We were back in the game and we had the momentum. We went on to win 24-23. That punt return was what turned the game around." Kuhlmann was not too happy with his specialists in Green Bay's 30-20 win over New Orleans Sunday. The Packers had a field goal and a punt blocked. But, says Hank, the blocked field goal brought some quick thinking. "It was a high snap from center," said Kuhlmann. "Ron Widby recovered the ball and passed to Ray Nitschke, who was playing tight end. Nitschke gained 34 yards. And the big thing was that he (Widby) thought to yell 'fire.' That's a signal for the linemen to stay on the line." If the linemen had gone downfield, there would have been a penalty. Kuhlmann feels that Chester Marcol's kicking has been a big factor in the Packers' success. A lot has been written about Marcol's field goals and extra points, but his kicking-off ability has been important, too. "He often kicks it so deep that there can't be a return," said Kuhlmann. "Field position is important. It's a lot harder on the offense if they have to move the ball 80 yards."...KUHLMANN PLAYED three more years of pro baseball after he left Winston-Salem and then decided to quit. He had played football and baseball at the University of Missouri, so he went back there. "I needed only 15 hours to complete my masters degree," said Kuhlmann. "And Coach (Dan) Devine hired me as a freshman assistant. In 1966, I became the offensive backfield coach and I stayed there until this year when I joined Green Bay." Kuhlmann said he had had no trouble adjusting to the pros. "I thought I might have trouble since I hadn't played pro football," he said. "But it's not that different. You have to drive college kids. Pros know what to do. If you have to yell at them or if you can't communicate, they're not doing the job. There's no problem now to get them to concentrate." Washington beat the Packers 21-16 in a regular-season game. Kuhlmann feels the young Packers made a lot of mistakes in that game and he says they want a chance to redeem themselves. "Larry Brown (the Redskins' fine runner) didn't hurt us much in the first game," said Kuhlmann. "But he is really a fine runner. He's quick and strong, a good blocker and pass receiver. The Redskins run him and throw the quick out pass. They have the threat of the long pass, so our backs can't come up too quickly. Billy Kilmer doesn't throw as deep as Sonny Jurgensen does. He throws the short pass five and six yards. He has good receivers on the quick out pass. Our running game is strong with (John) Brockington and (McArthur) Lane. Lane has helped Brockington. Lane is a great blocker."...DEVINE HAS acquired 31 new players over two years, according to Kuhlmann, and is getting "his type of players. Coach Devine has to have players who believe in him." Kuhlmann obviously believes in Devine, "He can reach the players," said Kuhlmann. "He demands perfection from his coaches and players - and this carries over to the games. He is tough, but he has a good sense of working with people. He is willing to listen to a reasonable gripe." Kuhlmann thinks minor league baseball is fading. "I think the pros will have to put their money in college summer baseball programs to develop the talent," he said...MOST COLLEGE COACHES don't enjoy recruiting players, but Kuhlmann did. He misses it. "I recruited in my home town, St. Louis, and I really enjoyed it," he said. He made a trip to North Carolina a few years ago to recruit Stahle Vincent, a fine back from Greensboro Dudley. He invited Vincent to visit Missouri, Vincent flew to Chicago and Kuhlmann met him. They were driving back to Columbia, Mo., in a very heavy snowstorm. A car coming the other way skidded, crossed the median and smashed into Kuhlmann's car, wrecking the car and injuring Vincent slightly. Vincent completed his visit and flew back to Greensboro. "I called him when he got home," said Kuhlmann, "and he told me the plane had 'developed engine trouble and had a forced landing at Charlotte. Vincent said he thought someone was trying to tell him something." Vincent decided to accept a scholarship at Rice University in Houston, Tex.

FANS APPEAL TV BLACKOUT

DEC 23 (Washington, DC) - Washington's chances of seeing Sunday's National Football League playoff game between the Redskins and the Green Bay Packers on television have been snuffed out twice, but a third chance comes today. U.S. District Judge Joseph C. Waddy Friday ruled for the second straight day against Robin Ficker and two District of Columbia residents who seek to have the local TV blackout lifted. Ficker, a suburban Silver Spring, Md., lawyer, immediately appealed Waddy's decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals, which will hear arguments today. Waddy ruled the three Redskins fans had shown "no irreparable injury" would be done them if the blackout were not lifted. On Thursday, the judge dismissed a similar suit because the Columbia Broadcasting System network was not included among the defendants. Waddy's ruling came after two hours of hearings in which lawyers for the Redskin fans and Pittsburgh Mayor Peter F. Flaherty argued that the NFL blackout was unconstitutionally discriminatory. Although the suit specifically referred to Sunday's game in Washington, Flaherty said he appeared in the hope that a favorable ruling by Waddy would be useful in trying to lift the local blackout of the Pittsburgh Steelers' game today against the Oakland Raiders. Ficker's lawyer, Ellis Rubin of Miami, Fla., argued that the blackout would discriminate against those Washington area viewers who cannot receive Baltimore's Channel 2, which

Packers Need Fierce Defensive Charge

will telecast the game. The NFL and CBS, Rubin said, are acting arbitrarily and are actually violating their own blackout restriction since the game will be telecast by a Baltimore station, WMAR-TV, which is only 40 miles from Washington, well within the 75-mile radius the league normally uses to black out games. NFL lawyer James C. McKay argued that the only issue is whether anyone has a "constitutional right to view a football game in their own home for free while others have paid for tickets."

PACKERS NEED FIERCE DEFENSIVE CHARGE

DEC 23 (Winston-Salem, NC-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Erupting out of his stance, Clarence Williams threw aside Redskin tackle Walter Rock, zeroed in on quarterback Bill Kilmer and buried him in the turf on RFK Stadium for a nine-yard loss. That solo performance occurred just before the third quarter expired in the Packers' Nov. 26 invasion of Washington and it was a memorable coup for two reasons. It forced a Redskin punt and Ken Ellis, back to receive it, was interfered with by Ted Vactor as he essayed a fair catch. Ellis suffered a shoulder dislocation when engulfed by the burgundy-and-gold marauders of George Allen's punt coverage team. The injured cornerback was replaced by Ike Thomas, later to be victimized four times by Kilmer passes en route to what became Washington's winning touchdown. Williams' maneuver also was noteworthy because it was the only time the Packers' were able to ensnare Kilmer while he was directing Allen's ancient troops to a 21-16 victory that unhappy afternoon. But that, the NFL's final figures disclose, was a considerable accomplishment. Kilmer and Sonny Jurgensen, earlier shelved for the season by a torn Achilles tendon, were sacked on just 10 other occasions during the 1972 season. To put that statistic in proper perspective, only the New York Giants were more vigilant in protecting the passer. They permitted Norm Snead and Randy Johnson to be felled 10 times, low for the league. Dave Robinson, who well knows containment of Kilmer will have high Packer priority in Sunday's struggle with the Redskins, analyzed Washington's imposing success in this area as the green and gold continued playoff preparation here at Wake Forest University's Groves Stadium. Robinson, second only to Williams among Packer sack artists with five, explained, "It's a combination of things. First of all, Kilmer gets rid of the ball quick, which doesn't give you much time to get to him. He also was a tailback in college and a running back his first year or two in the league, so he's active back there. Plus he has a real good offensive line in front of him. It doesn't get beat very often. So it's a combination of a good line, an agile quarterback and a quick release." Although Kilmer's detractors contend he is not one of the NFL's better throwers, Robinson emphatically disagrees, as might be expected. "He probably was one of the most effective passers to play against us this season," he insisted. "He completed 14 out of 21, so I'd say he's a good passer." Understandably, the 10-year veteran is reluctant to assess the Packers' chances of reaching Kilmer with sufficient regularity to carry the day. "I think our pass rush is capable of getting to anybody a couple of times a game," he said, adding cautiously, "But that doesn't mean that we will be able to do that Sunday afternoon." The task, he is only too well aware, is complicated by the Redskins' offensive balance. "I think their running attack is probably the best we've faced this year," he said in obvious reference to the presence of Larry Brown and Charlie Harraway. "They also have to have one of the top two or three passing attacks we've faced with (Charlie Taylor, Roy Jefferson and Jackie Smith available as Kilmer's prime targets.) And, overall, theirs has to be among the top two or three offenses in the league." At the same time, Robinson has to be encouraged by the recent dominance the Packer defense has displayed en route to successive showdown victories over the Lions and Vikings. I don't think anybody knows how good our defense is," he said, not ready to place the stamp of greatness upon it at this point for obvious reasons. "It's getting better as time goes on. It's outstanding now and it potentially could be great. If it ever plays up to its potential, it's going to be awesome." If motivation is the key, Sunday could be that day. "It's either play ball this Sunday or go home," Robinson declared. "The game is enough in itself to inspire you. This one is bigger than either the Minnesota or Detroit games."...PACKER PATTERN: Dan Devine may or may not be superstitious, but he obviously doesn't believe in tempting fate. Following Friday's workout here, which ended under a surprisingly benevolent December sun, he declared there would be no Saturday practice. His announcement came as no great surprise, since the Packers also did not work out on the Saturday prior to their second games with Detroit and Minnesota, both of which they won handily to clinch the NFC's Central Division championship...Asked if he felt his team was where he wanted it at that pre-playoff point, Devine replied, "You're never where you want it. But you can only do so much. But we did have a good workout today," said the Packer headmaster of the one-hour and two-minute session conducted in sweat clothes. "There was a lot of hustle and tension...I think it was our best workout of the week. And the weather was just terrific." He made no reference to the condition of Wake Forest University's Groves Stadium field, which was more than somewhat soggy in the wake of a day-long rain Thursday, causing the athletes to take a few muddy spills and a number of slips...Devine himself had just recovered from an overnight siege of intestinal flu. Pronouncing himself "a lot better," he said, "I just hope the players don't get it. They can get along without me, but I can't get along without them. But I'm not going to miss this one. So, far, Scott Hunter is the only player who has had it, and he had it a couple of days ago. He's okay now."...Although all physical preparations were completed by Friday noon, classroom work remained. Noting that a meeting was scheduled for the afternoon, Devine explained, "We're going to look at film and have a talk. It will be repetition today - a lot of film," he conceded, "But we're trying to leave no stone unturned. There will be no meeting tonight, however. There's a good movie in town and some of the players have been talking about taking it in. They haven't had a night off, you know."...The squad has been more or less incommunicado at its Sheraton Inn headquarters for the last three days, Devine revealed. "All telephone calls to the players rooms were cut off Thursday," he said. "They were getting too many. In fact, I shut mine off, too, limiting incoming calls to just my family and the Packer office. "But," he chuckled, "Dick Gordon (of the Minneapolis

Brockington on 'Skins: Hanburger, Pardee, Fischer Hold Key



Fullback John Brockington of Green Bay Packers has gained more than 1,000 yards in each of his first two seasons in NFL.

Star) got through to me last night. He said, "I told the switchboard girl I was family. I hope you don't mind."...Commenting on the team's somewhat monastic life here, Devine quipped, "I've even heard some of the players say, 'When are we going back to Duluth?'" The Packers trained in Duluth prior to a pre-season game in 1971 and the players were not overly enchanted with its quiet, remote atmosphere...Discussing possible personnel changes, Devine reported, "I almost would have to guess right now that we would move up Staggars, if we activate anybody. Tommy Joe (Crutcher) is trying - how he's trying, he's really punishing himself but I don't know if he's going to make it." Crutcher has been troubled with a pulled hamstring muscle. Devine smiled and added, "Tommy Joe is just as excited about this game as some of the guys who never have been in a playoff. I think Ray (Nitschke) is, too...But that's a competitor."...Allan Owen, proprietor of the Sheraton Inn here, surprised Devine Friday night when, following the team meal, he wheeled in a huge cake in honor of the Packer leader's 48th birthday, which actually occurs today. Owen got the idea when he saw a sign during the telecast of the regular season finale with the Saints at New Orleans last Sunday. It said "Happy Birthday, Dan." Friday night's cake carried a more elaborate and significant message. It read, "Happy Birthday and Best of Luck on the 23rd and 24th." The Packers enplaned at 10:30 this morning for Washington, where they will headquarter at the Crystal City Marriott Hotel.

RALLY PLANNED FOR PACKERS

DEC 23 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Chamber of Commerce is planning a welcome home "Win or Lose" for the Green Bay Packers Sunday night at Austin Straubel Field. The time of arrival will be announced on city radio stations as soon as it is known. Bill Kramer from the chamber asks that fans attending the welcome home festivities refrain from smoking in the airport.

BROCKINGTON ON 'SKINS: HANBURGER, PARDEE, FISCHER HOLD KEY

DEC 23 (Winston-Salem Sentinel) - AUTOGRAPH SEEKERS have more success against John Brockington than do National Football League defenses. "They've kinda slowed me down here," admitted the big Green Bay back with a grin as he ploughed slowly through the motel lobby, picking up more kids with every step. He was referring to the Packers' four day visit to Winston-Salem which ended this morning, when the team flew to Washington, D.C. "In Green Bay, kids wanting autographs don't stop me anymore. I've already signed them all."

Brockington has done a lot of other things, too, in his short career with the Packers, like becoming the first back in the league's long history to rush for over 1,000 yards in each of his first two seasons -- 1,105 yards last year, 1,027 this season. Not even Jimmy Brown, considered the best NFL runner of all time, did that. "As a kid growing up in Brooklyn I remember watching Brown on TV, waltzing through the whole league," said Brockington, dropping his 225 pounds into a chair at the Sheraton Motor Inn yesterday afternoon. "I also remember Bobby Mitchell...Charley Taylor...Johnny Unitas...and Gayle (Sayers) when he broke in. Like everybody else I watched the offensive backs. Nobody watches linemen. I do remember Gene (Big Daddy) Lipscomb, though."...TODAY THE 24-year-old Brockington pays a lot more attention to defenses-particularly linebackers. "They're the ones that are taking shots at me all the time. It's been a lot harder for me to rush this year. Last year I kinda caught them by surprise, I guess. This year they're keying on me. And we're passing less this year, too, which makes it a little tougher." At the moment, when Brockington talks about defenses, mental pictures of Chris Hanburger, Jack Pardee and Pat Fischer flash across his mind. They are what he calls "the key people" for the Washington Redskins, the team the Packers face tomorrow at 12 noon in RFK Stadium in the first round of the NFL Playoffs. "They'll be trying to stop our running game first," said Brockington. "I didn't do too well in our first game with them - 42 yards in about 16 carries." The Redskins defeated the Packers 21-16 in that game, played Nov. 26 at Washington. I think it is a plus for us that we played them, especially in Washington. Now it's not like going into a lion's den in the dark this Sunday. We have a feel for their stadium...we've experienced their crowd noise before. We know their defensive tendencies."...COACH DAN DEVINE and Brockington arrived on the Green Bay scene simultaneously just a little over a year ago. Devine was the new coach, hired away from the University of Missouri, where he had spent 13 seasons turning out Big Eight powerhouse teams. As Devine arrived from Columbia, Mo., Brockington came to Wisconsin from Columbus, Ohio, where he had distinguished himself as probably the best fullback ever to play for Ohio State Coach Woody Hayes, a man who has had more good fullbacks than the Post Office has stamps. Despite his success with the Buckeyes, Brockington was often overshadowed by his own teammates, people like Rex Kern, Jim Otis, Jim Stillwagon and Jack Tatum. Otis, a class ahead of Brockington, actually kept the big Brooklyn tank on the sidelines much of the 1968 and 69 seasons, That's why it surprised some people when the Packers made Brockington their No. 1 draft choice, when there were more glamorous names available. These were people who didn't know Brockington well, just as there were people who didn't know Devine well. For even more surprise was registered over the hiring of Devine, gentlemanly college coach many felt would not cut it in the pros. If these doubting Thomases had been right, the Pack would not be back, as it is today...DEVINE HAS re-instilled that old Lombardi pride in the Packers. Like Vincent he has made his green and yellow army feel it is a little tougher than the other teams in the league. A lot of it has to do with Green Bay's rugged climate, which

Lombardi always capitalized on. We play in the roughest division in football," Brockington echoed. "The Central is the cold weather division...the black and blue division. The elements make our games a lot more physical. At Minnesota a couple of weeks ago the ground was like concrete. And the weather at Chicago and Detroit and our place is no better. It's really too cold for football." Translated: if you have to play in below-zero temperatures, you had better win ... because that's the only thing that will warm you up...SINCE BROCKINGTON's business is to know the people who play against him and since he also studies other backs to pick up tips for his own game, you might be interested in how he rates the defenders and running backs he plays against. First, John Brockington's All-Opponents Defensive Team: ends - Carl Eller (Vikings) and Willie Holman (Bears); tackles - Bob Lilly (Cowboys) and Alan Page (Vikings); linebackers - Dick Butkus (Bears), Doug Buffone (Bears) and Dave Wilcox (49ers); cornerbacks - Lem Barney (Lions) and Jimmy Johnson (49ers); and safeties - Cornell Green (Cowboys) and Pat Krause (Vikings). Brockington emphasized these are the best he has played against, that there are many he hasn't seen....ON RUNNING BACKS, the Packer plunger had this to say: "I respect Larry Brown because once he makes up his mind to go through a hole, he goes right in. He sticks to his decision, doesn't second-guess himself. This is very important, because if you are indecisive you may find all your alternatives have closed up. But a lot of credit for what Brown has done should also go to Charley Harraway (Brown's running mate in the Washington backfield). If Charley misses his block, Larry doesn't go anywhere. That's why Mac (MacArthur Lane) and I also have had a good year. We work together. You have to. He splits the defensive thinking between him and myself. Mac could've had 1,000 yards, too, if he'd carried the ball more early in the season. One game he only touched the ball twice." Brockington said Buffalo's O. J. Simpson makes the best use of speed and quickness, Miami's Larry Csonka the best use of brute strength. "I guess I fall somewhere in between them," said Brockington. "One of my best assets - my legs. I've never been injured." John Brockington knocked on wood, then fell silent, perhaps thinking of Hanburger, Pardee and Fischer."

RECORD SELL-OUT CROWD FOR BAYS-SKINS DUEL

DEC 24 (Washington, DC) - The National Football League playoff game Sunday between the Washington Redskins and the Green Bay Packers was assured of a record sell-out crowd of 53,160 when the remaining 411 tickets were sold Thursday. The 411 tickets were the only ones unclaimed by Redskin season-ticket holders, who had first crack at some 51,000 playoff tickets. The stadium normally holds 53,039, but a few additional seats were added for the playoff contest.

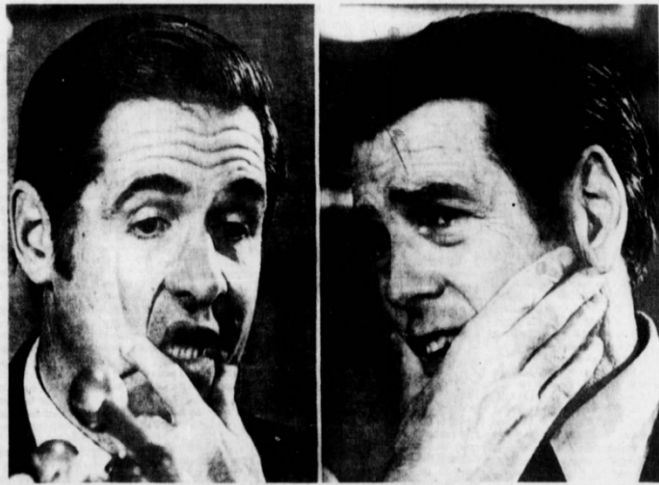
IN WASHINGTON: COURT REFUSES TO LIFT BLACKOUT

DEC 24 (Washington, DC) - A three-man U.S. Court of Appeals refused Saturday to lift the television blackout in Washington for Sunday's Redskin-Green Bay Packers National Football League playoff game. And the man who brought the suit, Robin Ficker, a suburban Silver Spring, Md., lawyer, said he planned an appeal to the Supreme Court, probably through Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, who supervises the Washington area federal courts. But Ficker said he was having difficulty locating a justice, with the court closed for the weekend. Appellate Judges George E. MacKinnon, Carl McGowan and Malcolm R. Wilkey agreed unanimously with U.S. District Judge Joseph C. Waddy that the blackout is constitutional. The court, refusing to make a summary reversal of Waddy's ruling cited a 1962 ruling in a similar case in New York which said that lifting the blackout would have to be made by Congress rather than the courts. Many Washington area fans can view the game through Baltimore's Channel 2 but thousands of others are unable to pick up the station.

NOTES AND NOTIONS

DEC 24 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - Dan Devine's Dandies have it in their power to make a Merry Christmas in Packerland even merrier. A playoff win in the Washington, D.C. showdown would represent a superb bonus from Santa. Even a defeat (perish the thought), could do little to detract from what already has been a memorable season since, three months ago, 99.44 per cent of the fans and experts expected to see the playoffs go on without the Packers. But, one cannot escape the feeling that the young and "hungry" Packers are just as anxious to work on the day of New Year's Eve as they are today - on Christmas Eve. Though Washington is still being favored, the odds-makers are a little less sure than they were a week ago. From five points, the odd spread has shrunk to three -and there's no telling what it will be by kickoff time. A surprising number of "non-gambling" experts have also jumped on the Devine bandwagon and have picked the Packers to win. For those seeking historical encouragement, it can certainly be found. The last time Green Bay met a George Allen-coached team in the playoffs, the 1967 Packers beat Allen's Rams, 28-7, in the first stop on the road to the Super Bowl. The Redskins proved to be good prophets four weeks ago, as some of them predicted the Packers would be back in RFK stadium for the playoffs. After shaking off that 21-16 loss to Washington, the Packers brushed aside Detroit and Minnesota, by a collective margin of 56-14, to clinch the division title. That same type of Packer performance will be needed today if the Bays are to prevail over the talented, experienced Redskins...Packer fans hope that Billy Kilmer is proven wrong about another post game statement of a month ago. He said that the only Packer weakness is in their quarterbacking. Scott Hunter's adrenaline will really be flowing today as he attempts to make Kilmer and assorted national scribes eat their words. After a bad start in the first Washington game - and relinquishing the duties to Jerry Tagge for much of the contest - Hunter has thrown better in the last three games...though not vet up to his potential. Devine has played down Hunter's relatively low completion percentage (43.2) and has pointed out that there are other ways to measure a QB's value. The big thing, he says, is to put more points on the board than the opposition - and when a man like Hunter leads his team to a 10-4 season, he must be doing something Fight...The only regular NFC passer with a lower percentage than Hunter's this season was Chicago's Bobby Douglass' whose 37.9 per cent reportedly is the lowest mark in NFL history. Douglass', 968 rushing yards, however, must rank as one of the greatest feats of the season. The Bears no doubt will mull these statistics in trying to arrive at a "QB or running-back" decision on Douglass for 1973...As a fan, I would certainly favor a wipe-out of the black-out on televised pro football games. But, as a realist, I find myself agreeing that Pete Rozelle has some pretty good arguments for continuing the ban. Pete's turn-down of President Nixon's personal request for a lifting of the blackout underscores how

Devine, Allen Trade Quips



PONDERING STRATEGY: Coaches Dan Devine, left, of Green Bay and George Allen of Washington talk of today's playoff game between the Packers and Redskins. Both said roster changes may be made shortly before gametime.

charged to Earl Morrall. Now, I don't begrudge anyone being "wined and dined" by the 1,000-yard club (Howard Cosell was so impressed by the hospitality here that he brought up the subject three or four times on national TV this season)...but I don't think it's fair to the other runners who came close to 1,000-yard. Dave Hampton, for instance, missed by only five yards (after having exceeded the 1,000 - then suffering a loss on a pitchout) and maybe a review of game films would reveal some inaccuracy there, too. After all, the NFL reported, in the case of the Packer-Raider officiating boo-boo that no retroactive action could be taken.

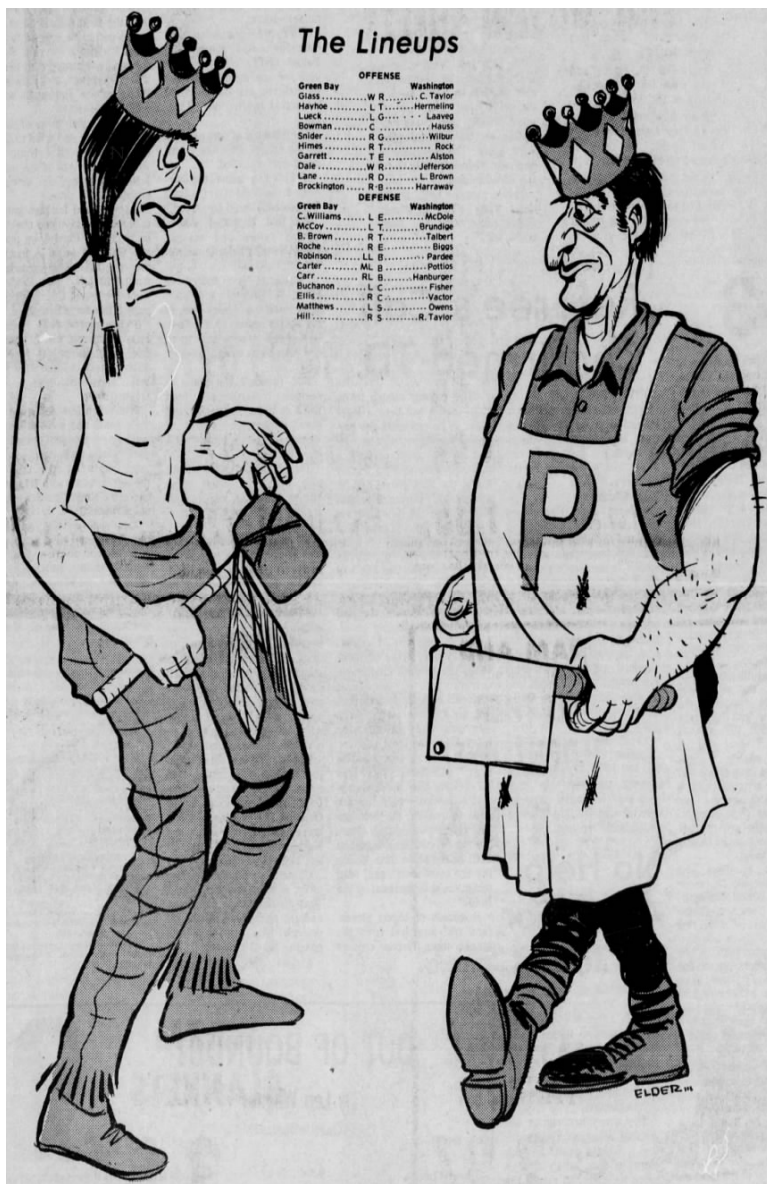
GRID WRITERS HONOR DEVINE

DEC 24 (Denver) - Dan Devine brought the Pack back in just his second year as a professional football coach. Miami was already there but their coach, Don Shula, took no chances and kept them there by winning every game on the Dolphins' 1972 regular season schedule. The coaching feats earned the two Coach of the Year honors in voting by members of the Professional Football Writers of America. Shula, who was the American Conference coach of the year in 1971 as well, guided his young club to an unprecedented 14 straight victories as the Dolphins moved toward what Shula hopes is another chance in the Super Bowl. Devine, who saw Green Bay slip to 4-8-2, their worst record in more than a dozen seasons in his first year in the pros, traded and drafted astutely and saw the Packers win the Central Division title and a playoff berth in 1972.

DEVINE, ALLEN TRADE QUIPS

DEC 24 (Washington, DC-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - It was Playoff Eve but Dan Devine, ever quick with a quip in less critical circumstances, was surprisingly loose and light. And even George Allen, something of a walking computer, exhibited flashes of both humor and humanity here Saturday afternoon. The rival coaches, who match wits in today's NFC first round playoff between the Packers and the Redskins in RFK Stadium, were holding forth at separate press conferences conducted in Twin Bridges Marriot Hotel. Devine, who followed Allen to the podium by a half-hour, was informed by one writer that "Coach Allen was here earlier and he said he is concerned with his team's momentum because of those last two regular season losses." Smirking, the Packer coach said, "Yes, I see the halo over here." Then, lest he be misunderstood, DD added, "George is a good friend of mine and I have tremendous respect for him." The Packers, one scribe noted, should have built up substantial momentum by winning six of their last seven games. "I wasn't aware we'd won six of our last seven," Devine replied, "until somebody mentioned it the other day." He couldn't resist quipping, "I always get a luckier feeling winning six of our last seven, instead of losing six of our last seven, I'll say that." At another point, Devine was asked if he expected Allen to spring any surprises. "George is not only a great football coach, but he's also very smart," Dan rejoined, triggering a collective chuckle from the press corps when he tongue-and-cheekily appended, "and regardless of what you guys may think, those two things go together." Asked why he had chosen Winston-Salem as a practice site this week, Devine explained, "The weather conditions were much like we expected them to be in Washington for the game." "The facilities were excellent...and we had hot water," he slyly added. "The last time we were in Washington, we took cold showers after the game." Kidding on the square about the forecast, Devine asserted, "It looks like ideal weather for the Redskins. We'd like to be playing in Green Bay. It's supposed to be mild and 50 degrees here tomorrow." Allen, who has had notoriously erratic relations with Washington's press, surprised by adopting a conciliatory tone as he stepped to the microphone. "I know I've been a little hard to get along with this year," he said with what was obviously intended to be a genial smile, "so first of all I'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." Later, in a more business-like

strongly he feels about the subject. In essence, Rozelle points out: (1) Six of the last 10 conference championship games haven't been sold out; (2) On two recent Sundays in Kansas City and New York, more than 50,000 fans who had purchased tickets did not attend the two games; (3) Even if a stadium is sold out, when thousands fail to show up for the game, revenue losses in parking and concessions are sustained; and (4) If pro football becomes a "Studio Show" (with only half the stands occupied) some of the color and flavor of NFL play will be lost...Six of the 10 NFL 1,000-yard rushers for 1972 will be eligible for the first time to attend the annual "bash" of the 1,000-Yard Club Foundation in the Fox Cities. They are Calvin Hil, O. J. Simpson, Marv Hubbard, Franco Harris, Mike Garrett (who had previously made it in the AFL but never under the NFL banner) and Mercury Morris. The latter case is a bit of a "borderline," to say the least. You'll recall that despite having to play virtually on one leg in the regular season finale, Morris missed the magic mark by nine yards. However, someone conveniently remembered a 9-yard loss for which he had been given responsibility last October - and the loss has now been



vein, he dismissed the question of his team's momentum. "I think we've had great practices this week. We've had the best concentration of the year. If you can't concentrate, you can't play good football. "I believe you can make your own momentum if you have good practices during the week." Allen, who makes ice cream his only dessert because he doesn't want mastication to interfere with his meditation on football, unveiled a rarely seen sense of humor when he ended his appearance. "We have all of our last draft choices for 1976, jested the man who insists "The Future is Now" and documents his philosophy by trading draft choices for veterans at every opportunity. "Anybody who wants a '76 pick, we've got it 1 through 17."

'THE FUTURE IS NOW'

DEC 24 (Washington, DC-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "The future," George Allen has been saying here this week, "is Sunday." That "future" suddenly has become the present for both the ascendant Packers and Allen's venerable but vital Redskins, Central and Eastern Division champions, respectively, of the National Football Conference. Whether there is a tomorrow for either of them, competitively speaking, will be decided on the choppy turf of R.F.K. Stadium today (11 a.m., WNFL, Channel 2). The survivor will advance to the NFC finale one week hence against the Dallas Cowboys, with the winner of that confrontation graduating to pro football's annual classic, the Super Bowl, against the winner of the companion AFC playoffs. The wise men who quote the odds obviously like the Redskins' chances. They unanimously have put their money on the "Over the Hill Gang" by spreads ranging up to 5 ½ points. Jimmy the Greek, acknowledged leader of the bookmaking pack, is slightly more conservative than some of his colleagues but even he favors the Redskins by four. It must be remembered, however, that he is the same oracle who predicted the Packers would win only three games this season. The odds are somewhat surprising,

considering the Packers won their last three regular season starts decisively, including back-to-back matchups with Detroit and Minnesota which they had to win, while the Redskins were decelerating by dropping their last two to Dallas and lowly Buffalo. But the crafty citizens who quote them apparently are basing their figures on the Redskins' 21-16 victory over the Packers here Nov. 26, and Washington's massive bulge in collective experience. They presumably are discounting the intangible of momentum on the assumption the Redskins faltered in the stretch only because wheelhorse Larry Brown and linebacker Jack Pardee were rested for those two final games. Obviously overlooked in this appraisal is the fact that injuries to Jim Hill and Ken Ellis decimated the Packers secondary in their November visit, paving the way for a clinching, 78-yard drive by the Redskins which saw quarterback Bill Kilmer exploit the inexperience of Ellis' fourth quarter replacement, Ike Thomas. Although the Redskins' edge in experience cannot be dismissed, defensive Co-Captain Ray Nitschke is convinced the youthful Packers will not be afflicted with stage fright. "This is the first time a lot of these young men have been in a playoff," he admits, "But I think they will react very well to the pressure. They already have, unbelievably, in the big games we've had to play down the stretch. Despite being as young as they are, this is a mature team." There also is what Dan Devine might call "a hidden statistic" which should comfort the Packers going into action. Only once in their two years under Devine's direction have they failed to defeat an opponent the second time around. That was in their 1971 rematch with the Vikings, in which they soundly outplayed the Purple Gang before surrendering a 3-0 decision. Unless Allen should suddenly alter his customary game plan, he will rely upon the running of Brown, the NFC's rushing champion, and the underrated Charlie Harraway to open up the air lanes for Kilmer, who has some of football's most talented receivers at his disposal in Charlie Taylor, Roy Jefferson and Jerry Smith. That is precisely what the Packers hope he will do. Possessed of a smothering defense which emerged as No. 1 in the NFC's final figures, they are convinced they can throttle the Redskin running game - Brown was limited to just 69 yards in 26 carries in their first meeting - and equally sure that their gifted young secondary will come up with a critical "takeaway" or two that will turn the tide. They are privately certain that Kilmer will not be able to match the hot hand he exhibited five weeks ago, when he completed 14 of 21 attempts, including five-for-five on the decisive Washington drive. The Redskins, of course, also have great confidence in their defense, which bowed only to

the Packers statistically in the NFC this season. They have not forgotten that it was a Pat Fischer interception of a Scott Hunter pass which led to their first touchdown in that November victory. There is a possibility that Allen, who is very large on experience, will make a change or two in his tightfisted platoon. Myron Pottios, a 12-year veteran, well could move in for four-year man Harold McClinton at middle linebacker and Manny Sistrunk could replace Bill Brundidage as the starting left tackle. Although Hunter has reason to remember those Redskin defenders, he insists the trauma of his first visit has been forgotten. "There's been a lot of water under the bridge since then," he declared. "We've played and beaten Detroit and Minnesota since then. It doesn't mean a thing. "I had a little biceps problem going into that game," he says in offhand explanation of his passing problems on that occasion, which led to his replacement by Jerry Tagge in the second quarter. "It probably was more in my head than in my arm. Physically there were no excuses. But I feel better now. I'm raring to go." Although his throwing has improved in the interim, the Packers undoubtedly will follow the same basic formula that brought them the Central Division title, insistent pounding by John Brockington and MacArthur Lane, who amassed more than 1,800 yards rushing between them. Hunter may elect to "dump" the ball to this pair frequently, since they also emerged as the Packers leading receivers, although the fluid Carroll Dale and rookie Leland Glass have become more consistent targets of late. When all is said and done, however the power of decision may very well rest on the seldom-erring toe of Chester Marcol, who not only led the NFL in scoring but fell only one field goal short of tying the league's all-time single season record. Marcol demonstrated his already fabled footwork to the Redskins' satisfaction in their first meeting, rebounding to kick three successive field goals from 37, 51 and 39 yards after having his first attempt blocked. Allen, who has yet to win a playoff after three attempts, has pointed out all of those defeats came on the road. Playing at home, he says, "Should give us a little edge." Devine, making his pro playoff debut although he forged a 4-2 record in bowl competition as a college coach, says, "We're going to be very technically prepared. But once the ball is snapped, it depends on what you do. Once the game starts, if we don't block and tackle and pursue..." He didn't finish the sentence, but it was hardly necessary.

'The Future is Now'

Not Even Lombardi Matched Devine Record



Carroll Dale (84), Scott Hunter (16) and John Brockington (42) form an escort as Coach Dan Devine is carried off the field following the Packers' title clincher.

DEC 30 (The Sporting News) – The squat memory of Vince Lombardi, the most dynamic coach the Green Bay Packers ever had, greeted Dan Devine at Austine-Straubel airport when he arrived in Green Bay to take over the job of coaching the Packers in January of 1971. It has taken two seasons, but Devine-and the legions of fans who kept saying that nobody could replace Lombardi, and then hounded Phil Bengtson into helping them prove it - came to terms with that memory this fall. Lombardi had resigned as Packer coach in the spring of 1968, and resigned as Packer general manager in 1969, leaving each job in its turn to his long-time lieutenant, Bengtson. And then, in the fall of 1970, after a single season as coach of the Washington Redskins, Lombardi died. His achievement in Green Bay remained fresh in their memory. The shock of his passing froze his accomplishments at their glittering height and committed Bengtson to three years of unfavorable comparisons. And then Devine arrived, fresh from a remarkable era of achievement of his own at the University of Missouri. But the comparisons didn't stop. They merely were transferred. Lombardi, a short man, created an aura of power and strength with his barrel chest and booming voice. Devine speaks softly, almost gently, and the only indication of dedication he allowed

himself was a quick hardness of the eyes in moments of stress. Devine must have been aware of the comparisons. He must have known, as his 1971 team staggered through a morass of mistakes to a 4-8-2 record (the worst, it was inevitably pointed out, since the year before Lombardi took over in 1959), that he was coming off second best. But he was moving, usually without fanfare. He was learning about his team and learning about the National Football League. He was moving, in some cases, in the face of decisions taken by Lombardi. It became clear quite early that Devine meant to be judged on his own terms, not on any others'. And at last, the comparisons began to swing away from the lost greatness of the past to the budding greatness of the present. For now Devine is proprietor of the ranking surprise team of the National Football League. Now he has made the playoffs in his second year of trying, and not even Lombardi did better than that. Moreover, Devine's second team has done better this year than Lombardi's second team did in 1960 - a 10-4 record for Devine, an 8-4 record for Lombardi. It has been a long time, but at last Devine felt sure enough of his footing to pick a path through the sticky area of Lombardi. Asked if he had felt the weight of "The Lombardi Thing," Devine replied, "Oh, sure, the same way Ara Parseghian has to live with Knute Rockne at Notre Dame. But you wouldn't want it any other way. He's part of our tradition, even though he isn't with us any more. People have built that into something that's entirely wrong. I've always felt Lombardi should help our team be a part of our success." Lombardi would probably be delighted. For Devine's team this year, saddled with the kind of schedule that would flatten many contenders in the NFL, rode through it with astonishing success. He did it by meeting (and quite often beating) the best pro football had to offer. Green Bay is one of the four teams in the National Conference playoffs. The Packers have met them all. And of the four teams in the American Conference playoffs, the Packers met Oakland and Cleveland in the regular season and Miami in the preseason. This Green Bay team is well tempered by fire - it beat Miami in an exhibition, beat Cleveland in a regular season game and lost to Oakland on a play later determined by the league office to be illegal. It beat San Francisco and Dallas in the regular season and lost to its first-round playoff opponent, Washington, 21-16. It is a good team and, to an extent, astonishing in so short a time. It is Devine's. Lombardi's legacy to Wisconsin, aside from a hardware store full of trophies, was the construction of the Packer backfield of the future. While Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor were running the ball for the Packers in the 1960s and Bart Starr was passing, Lombardi sprinkled first draft choices upon the waters, getting Donny Anderson in 1965, Jim Grabowski in 1966, Don Horn in 1967 - two running backs and a quarterback, all quality. Now, where else do we need help? Now all are gone. Horn was shipped off to Denver in 1971 for a defensive end named Alden Roche and a swap with the Broncos for a first-round draft position. The Packers moved up two notches, just ahead of the Chicago Bears, and picked John Brockington. Grabowski, his career ruined by a knee injury, was cut that summer. And Anderson, the Golden Palomino, the all-purpose back who had become the highest-paid rookie in all of pro football history (\$600,000), was shipped off to St. Louis in the spring of 1972 for MacArthur Lane. "People wondered why we went to Miami for a week before our last game last year," Devine recalled. "We had a 4-7-2 record and we certainly weren't going anywhere. But that was the most beneficial week of the season for me. You really can evaluate a person's pride in a situation like that, find out who is willing to practice and who wants to play. It didn't give us all the answers, but it gave some of them." The answers were turned into dividends this

year. Green Bay had no kicker. Devine spent a No. 2 draft choice for Chester Marcol of Hillsdale, and Marcol set a new NFC record for field goals with 33. Green Bay had a shaky pass defense (it gave up more touchdown passes than 24 of the 25 other NFL teams in 1971) and a shakier outlook for one when Willie Wood retired to become an assistant coach in San Diego, leaving the free safety position to other hands. So Devine and Dave Hanner and Don Doll, the assistants working in that area, used a No. 1 draft choice to get cornerback Willie Buchanon, traded defensive end Lionel Aldridge to get safetyman Jim Hill (remember the extra defensive lineman picked up in the Horn deal the year before?), and built a defensive backfield that has been the stingiest in the league in surrendering only seven touchdown passes. Green Bay and Devine concluded the best help he could give a 1,000-yard runner was a blocker, and found a ferocious one in Lane. Devine decided, as he said, "As long as Brockington and Lane are healthy, Dave Hampton won't be playing," and sent Hampton to Atlanta for guard Mal Snider. Hampton promptly took off in the general direction of 1,000 yards, but with the good wishes of the Packers. For two weeks after Snider reported, All-Pro guard Gale Gillingham, getting started on a new career on defense, was injured and lost for the season, making Snider's presence the kind of lucky occurrence only careful planning makes possible. "There have been a heck of a lot of heartaches, and a lot of hard work, that have gone into this season," Devine said. "I'm not ready to look back and be satisfied yet, but we'd be less than human if we didn't take some satisfaction in what we've achieved. "We've done it without giving away our future, too. George Allen said, 'The future is now,' and I certainly can't say he's wrong, trading away draft choices for players, because he's been successful. But we couldn't do that. We already had a veteran team when I got to Green Bay and it wasn't winning. We had to do something else." And what he did, with an impressive blend of organization, exhortation and diplomacy, was to build a young team that could believe in itself, and offer proof the beliefs were not misplaced. And now a quite astonishing series of coincidences open to the 1972 Packers, who seek to do what no Packer team has done since 1967. That team was Lombardi's last and the one that applied the first jewel to his triple crown of NFL championships and won the second of his Super Bowls. It started by beating a team coached by George Allen, it moved on by winning the NFL championship against Dallas in Green Bay on December 31. And it beat Oakland in the Super Bowl on January 14. The calendar has constructed the possibility of a remarkable return. Again, the Packers will begin their playoff against George Allen's team, the Redskins, in Washington on Christmas Eve. Again, success in that game would be followed by the NFC title game, again in Green Bay and again on December 31. And the Cowboys are certainly a strong possibility to reach that level. And again, the survivor of the NFC title game will advance to the Super Bowl. It is almost redundant to point out that the Super Bowl is scheduled for January 14, or that Oakland is an AFC candidate for a place in it. All that, though, is a bit esoteric for Devine right now. "You lost me right after the Washington game," he said. But he may have cause to resurrect the subject later, for he and his brash young athletes have begun to think that nothing is beyond them this year, and they may be right. "The odds on us winning this thing were 100-1," said linebacker Dave Robinson, one of the team's veterans. "But whoever set those odds never stood in one of our huddles."

Brockington, Lane—Bad News for Packer Foes

DEC 30 (The Sporting News) — Several weeks ago, John Brockington of the Green Bay Packers slanted through the left side of the San Francisco 49ers' defensive line. MacArthur Lane led the way through the hole, but the pursuit caught up and the Green Bay Packers had to settle for a two-yard gain. Just another play? Well, not quite. For with that short run, certainly one of the least of the 500 or so runs Brockington has made in his two years in the National Football League, the Packer star started on his second mile of real estate. He is more than a third of the way to that goal by now, of course, and where he will stop is anybody's guess. He gained 1,105 yards as a rookie in 1971, most ever by a first-year man, and he cleared 1,000 yards this season to become the first man in the more than half a century of pro football to gain 1,000 yards in each of his first two years. This time, he vaulted over the 1,000-yard mark at the most propitious time possible. He did it with 114 yards against the Minnesota Vikings as the Packers won the Central Division championship. They wrested the crown back from the Vikings, who had worn it since taking it from another Packer team in 1968. It was Brockington's second highest yardage total of the season. It gave him 1,022 yards for the year, and an astonishing 2,127 yards for his first 27 pro games. His first big achievement of the season, surpassing the 1,760 yards that make up a mile, passed almost completely unnoticed. And even his breaking of the 1,000 barrier took second billing to the Packer championship. But Brockington didn't mind. "We had to take it to them and we did that," he said of the Viking game. "The 1,000 yards don't mean anywhere near as much to me as the title. But it's an important milestone-like a 20-game winner or a .300 hitter." Few .300 hitters hit like Brockington, but then few running backs do, either. One who does is the man who shares the Packer back field with him, MacArthur Lane, a hard man acquired from the St. Louis Cardinals in the off-season and in many ways the symbol of this determined football team. "It's the old mule and the young mule together," said Lane. "All we gotta do is run with that thing." And run they have for a combined 197 yards against San Francisco, 175 yards against Houston, and finally a season high of 213 against the Vikings. "Ninety-nine yards I got," Lane said. "How about that? And Brock, what'd he get? 114? Not bad for a day's work. George Allen goes for the old ones. We got the young ones." And chief among the young ones is Brockington, the spearhead of a Green Bay ground attack that has been among the very best in the game for two seasons this year despite the loss of guard Gale Gillingham and tight end Rich McGeorge, two strong blockers, for all but the first two games because of injury. Brockington and Lane are a fearsome twosome, and as pleased with each other's contributions as with their own. "We like each other. That's what makes it work so well," Lane said. Countered Brockington, "I couldn't have got the 1,000 without Mac." In the second game against the Chicago Bears, Lane turned in a game to remember. The Packers were attempting to capitalize on a fumble by Bear punter Bobby Joe Green, who had failed to pick

up a bad pass from center and wound up with an 18-yard loss. On first down, Brockington got the ball and followed Lane through the hole. Brockington didn't stop to watch the fun, but he could have. For Lane first hit middle linebacker Dick Butkus hard enough to knock him over backward. Then Mac neutralized two other Bears with popping blocks. The trade with the Cardinals was justified right there. Brockington had long since justified the trade that brought the Packers his services. The first deal made under Dan Devine's aegis, it occurred on the day of the 1971 draft, when quarterback Don Horn was shipped to Denver, in exchange for defensive end Alden Roche and a small rider. The rider was an exchange of first-round draft positions, and it was important because the Bears had-unwisely, as it turned out, let it be known that they hoped to get Brockington. Before the Horn trade, the Packers were due to draft just after the Bears. After the deal, Green Bay was positioned just in front of Chicago. So Brockington headed for Green Bay and for stardom. And now, for the playoffs as well.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

PASSING

(Minimum of 140 Attempts)

(FINAL)

	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yards Gained	TD. Pass	Long	Int.	Pct. Int.	Avg. Yd.
Kilmer, Washington	225	120	53.3	1648	19	89	11	4.9	7.32
Snead, New York	325	196	60.3	2307	17	94	12	3.7	7.10
Berry, Atlanta	277	154	55.6	2158	13	57	12	4.3	7.79
Tarkenton, Minnesota	371	215	58.0	2651	18	76	13	3.5	7.15
Spurrier, San Francisco	269	147	54.6	1983	18	81	16	5.9	7.37
Morton, Dallas	339	185	54.6	2396	15	46	21	6.2	7.07
Landry, Detroit	268	134	50.0	2066	18	82	17	6.3	7.71
Manning, New Orleans	448	230	51.3	2781	18	66	21	4.7	6.21
Gabriel, Los Angeles	323	165	51.1	2027	12	57	15	4.6	6.28
Hunter, Green Bay	199	86	43.2	1252	6	49	9	4.5	6.29
Douglass, Chicago	198	75	37.9	1246	9	85	12	6.1	6.29
Reaves, Philadelphia	224	108	48.2	1508	7	77	12	5.4	6.73
Cuzzo, St. Louis	158	69	43.7	897	5	68	11	7.0	5.68

SCORERS—TOUCHDOWNS

	Tot.	Rush	Pass	Ret.	Pts.	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs.
Ron Johnson, New York	14	9	5	0	84	245	1036	4.2	6
Brown, Washington	12	8	4	0	72	274	1027	3.7	8
G. Washington, San F.	12	0	12	0	72	230	995	4.3	6
Malone, Atlanta	10	8	2	0	60	141	968	6.9	8
Garrison, Dallas	10	8	3	0	60	177	821	4.6	3
Landry, Detroit	9	9	0	0	54	180	798	4.4	8
Brockington, Green Bay	9	8	1	0	54	167	784	4.7	7
Hill, Dallas	9	6	3	0	54	170	764	4.5	5
Kwalick, San Francisco	9	0	9	0	54				

PUNTING

SCORERS—KICKING				No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	
	XP—XPA	FG—FGA	Pts.					
Marcol, Green Bay	29—29	33—48	128	Chapple, Los Angeles	53	2344	44.2	70
Ray, Los Angeles	31—31	24—41	103	Eischeid, Minnesota	62	2651	42.8	61
Fritsch, Dallas	36—36	21—36	99	James, Atlanta	61	2609	42.8	59
Mann, Detroit	38—39	20—29	98	Blanchard, New York	47	2006	42.7	58
Gogolak, New York	34—38	21—31	97	Widby, Green Bay	65	2714	41.8	64
Cox, Minnesota	34—34	21—33	97	Green, Chicago	67	2758	41.2	58
Gossett, San Francisco	41—42	18—29	95	Fagan, New Orleans	71	2899	40.8	71
				H. Weaver, Detroit	43	1734	40.3	55
				Bradley, Philadelphia	56	2250	40.2	60
				McCann, San Francisco	64	2542	39.7	63

PASS RECEIVING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs.	PUNT RETURNS				
					No.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs.	
Jackson, Philadelphia	62	1048	16.9	4	Ellis, Green Bay	14	215	15.4	1
Tucker, New York	55	764	13.9	4	Bertelsen, Los Angeles	16	232	14.5	0
Malone, Atlanta	50	585	11.7	2	McGill, San Francisco	22	219	10.0	0
C. Taylor, Washington	49	673	13.7	7	Barney, Detroit	15	108	7.2	0
Gilliam, Minnesota	47	1035	22.0	7	Bradley, Philadelphia	22	155	7.0	0
Newland, New Orleans	47	579	12.3	2	B. Taylor, San Fran.	21	145	6.9	0
G. Washington, San F.	46	918	20.0	12	West, Minnesota	16	111	6.9	0
Ron Johnson, New York	45	451	10.0	5	Belton, Atlanta	17	110	6.5	0
V. Washington, San F.	43	393	9.1	1	Smith, Chicago	26	163	6.3	0
Hill, Dallas	43	364	8.5	3					

INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Long	TDs.	KICKOFF RETURNS				
Bradley, Philadelphia	9	73	21	0		No.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs.
Ford, Chicago	7	104	43	0	Smith, Chicago	30	924	30.8	1
Nettles, Los Angeles	6	168	43	0	Nelson, Philadelphia	25	728	29.1	0
Waters, Dallas	6	132	56	1	V. Washington, San F.	27	771	28.6	1
Krause, Minnesota	6	109	35	1	Thompson, New York	29	821	28.3	1
Hayes, Atlanta	5	10	8	0					

RUSHING

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs.		Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs.
Brown, Washington	285	1216	4.3	8	Ellison, Los Angeles	14	345	24.6	0
Ron Johnson, New York	298	1182	4.0	9	Jessie, Detroit	23	558	24.3	0
					Duncan, Washington	15	364	24.3	0

1972 GREEN BAY PACKERS											
(FINAL 14 GAME STATISTICS 10 - 4)											
RESULTS & ATTENDANCE		OPP.		SCORES BY QUARTERS							
GB				ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	TOTAL			
(w) 26	Browns at Cleveland (75,771)	10									
(1) 14	Raiders at Green Bay (56,263)	20	GB.	80	95	63	66	304			
(w) 16	Cowboys at Mil. (47,103)	13	OPP.	37	61	56	72	226			
(w) 20	Bears at Green Bay (56,263)	17									
(w) 24	Lions at Detroit (54,418)	23	RUSHING		ATT.	YDS.	AVE.	LONG	TD.		
(1) 9	Falcons at Mil. (47,967)	10	Brockington	274	1027	3.7	30t	8			
(1) 13	Vikings at Green Bay (56,263)	27	Lane	177	821	4.6	41	3			
(w) 34	49-ers at Mil. (47,897)	24	Williams	33	139	4.2	14	0			
(w) 23	Bears at Chicago (55,701)	17	Hunter	22	37	1.7	12	5			
(w) 23	Oilers at Houston (41,752)	10	Hudson	14	59	4.2	17	0			
(1) 16	Redskins at Wash. (53,039)	21	Kopay	10	39	3.9	20	0			
(w) 33	Lions at Green Bay (56,263)	7	OTHERS:		Glass	2/13;	Davis	2/0			
(w) 23	Vikings at Minn. (49,784)	7			Staggers	1/-8;	Tagge				
(w) 30	Saints at New Orleans (65,881)	20			8/-3;	Hudson	1/3				
TEAM STATISTICS				GB	OPP.	GB TOTAL	544	1218	3.9	41	17
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS				195	209	OPP.TOTAL	446	1517	3.4	26	14
By Rushing				109	85	RECEIVING	NO.	YDS.	AVE.	LONG	TD.
By Passing				72	109	Lane	26	285	11.0	49	0
By Penalty				14	16	Brockington	19	243	12.8	48t	1
Third Down Efficiency				66/187	72/181	Dale	16	311	21.5	48	1
TOTAL NET YARDS				3540	3474	Glass	15	261	17.4	31	1
Total Off. Plays				787	813	Staggers	8	123	16.3	48	1
Ave. Gain Per Play				4.4	4.3	Garrett	4	66	16.5	21	0
NET YARDS RUSHING				2128	1517	McGeorge	5	50	10.0	23t	2
Total Rushing Plays				544	446	Davis	4	119	29.8	68t	1
Ave. Gain Per Rush				3.9	3.4	Kopay	3	18	6.0	8	0
NET YARDS PASSING				1412	1957	Nitschke	1	34	34.0	34	0
Lost Attempting to Pass				17/104	29/252	Lammons	1	19	19.0	19	0
Gross Yards Passing				1529	2182	GB TOTAL	101	1529	15.1	68t	7
Attempts/Completions				137/101	341/174	OPP.TOTAL	174	2172	12.4	62t	7
Had Intercepted				9	17	PUNTING	NO.	YDS.	AVE.	LONG	BLK
Ave Net Passing Per Game				100.9	139.8	Widby	65	2714	41.8	64	2
PUNTS/YDS.				65/2714	66/2732	GB TOTAL	65	2714	41.8	64	2
PUNT RETURNS/YDS.				25/364	32/225	OPP.TOTAL	66	2732	41.4	61	0
KICKOFF RETURNS/YDS.				49/1145	46/832	INTERCEP.	NO.	YDS.	AVE.	LONG	TD.
MISC. RETURNS/YDS.				7/135	11/204	Ellis	4	106	26.5	40	1
INTERCEPTIONS/YDS.				17/223	9/69	Buchanan	4	62	15.5	26	0
PENALTIES/YDS.				63/610	50/446	Hill	4	37	9.3	21	0
FUMBLES/BALL LOST				22/10	35/19	Robinson	2	10	5.0	7	0
TOTAL POINTS				304	226	Matthews	2	8	4.0	8	0
Ave Points Per Game				21.7	16.1	Carter	1	0	0.0	0	0
Touchdowns				29	26	GB TOTAL	17	223	13.2	40	1
by Rushing				17	14	OPP.TOTAL	9	69	7.7	32	2
by Passing				7	7	K.O.RET.	NO.	YDS.	AVE.	LONG	TD.
by Returns				5	5	Thomas	21	572	27.2	89	0
Field Goals				33/48	15/24	Staggers	11	260	23.6	39	0
Conversions				29/29	25/26	Hudson	11	247	22.5	55	0
						OTHERS:		Robinson	1/25;	Garrett	
FIELD GOALS (Good, b=blocked):								1/0;	Williams	1/9;	
Marcol: (51, 42b, 41, 19, 49, 17) (44)								Kroll	1/23;	Wortman	1/0
(16, 27b, 26, 41, 22) (											