



Green Bay Packers (2-2) 38, Atlanta Falcons (0-4) 7
Sunday October 6th 1968 (at Atlanta)



Packers' Big Second Half Routs Falcons

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(ATLANTA) - Was this the day the title tide turned? A year ago at this approximate point, the Packers were sputtering perceptibly in pursuit of an unprecedented third straight NFL championship, despite a substantial 3-1-1 record. Coming off a 10-7 loss to the Minnesota Vikings, they recoiled to smother the New York Giants in Yankee Stadium, 48-21, and charged from there to the title. Sunday, the world champions cantered into misty Atlanta Stadium burdened by a two-game losing streak and a modicum of self-doubt.

PROBLEMS EVAPORATE

But their problems evaporated under Georgia's bleak, overcast skies as, alert and aggressive opportunists once again, they parlayed four interceptions and a fumble recovery into a bulging 38-7 victory over Atlanta's grudging Falcons after a somewhat tenuous start. The Falcons, admittedly, are not the undefeated Los Angeles Rams, who loom before the Packers in Milwaukee County Stadium next Sunday afternoon, but the highly efficient manner in which the invaders dispatched a team which had lost to the undefeated Baltimore Colts by a mere touchdown two weeks earlier suggests they may have rediscovered their success formula. This last remains to be seen, of course, but, for the present, the Packers have regained .500 respectability (2-2) and, tied with the Detroit Lions for second place, are just one game to the rear of Minnesota's Vikings in the NFL's Central Division.

AMASS 470 YARDS

This latest performance, a feast for the figure filberts, was the Bays' highest scoring effort of the season and their most productive afternoon since last Nov. 12 - eight games ago - when they erupted to bury the Cleveland Browns in Milwaukee, 55-7. Along the way, they amassed 470 yards under the calculating generalship of Bart Starr, who completed 21 of 31 passes - to eight different receivers - for 275 yards and three touchdowns. One of his scoring pitches, the first, was a 9-yard bullet to split end Boyd Dowler that provided the Packers with a 7-0 lead in the first quarter. Mr. Quarterback later confounded the Falcons by firing a fourth down, one-yard TD pass to tight end Marv Fleming and a 23-yard scoring strike to sophomore flanker Claudis James. James subsequently climaxed the Pack's production on a 9-yard option toss from halfback Donny Anderson, who thus recorded the first touchdown pass of his three-year Packer career in regular season play.

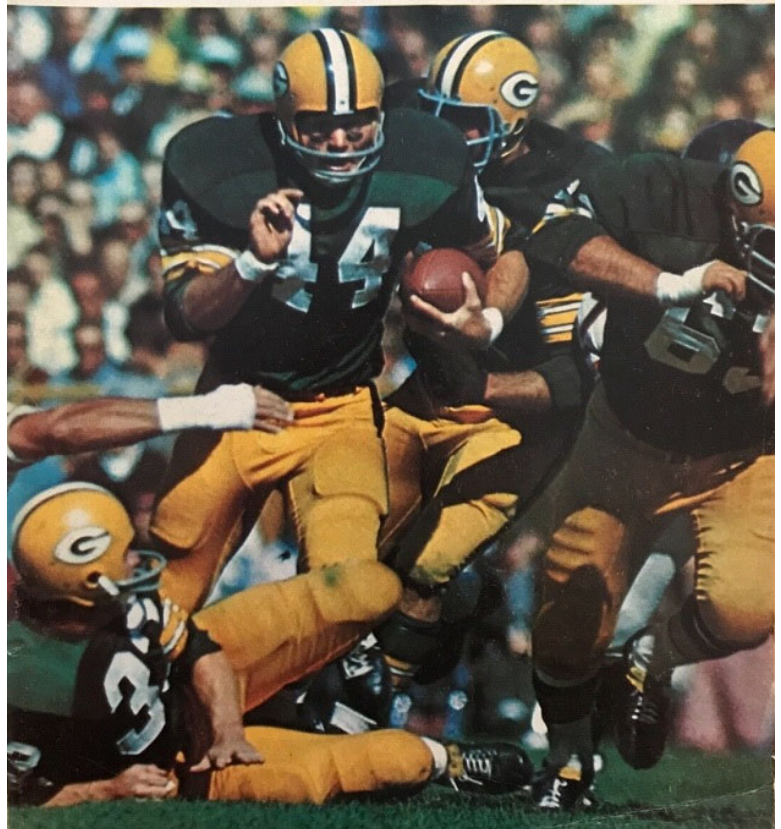
HITS CENTURY MARK

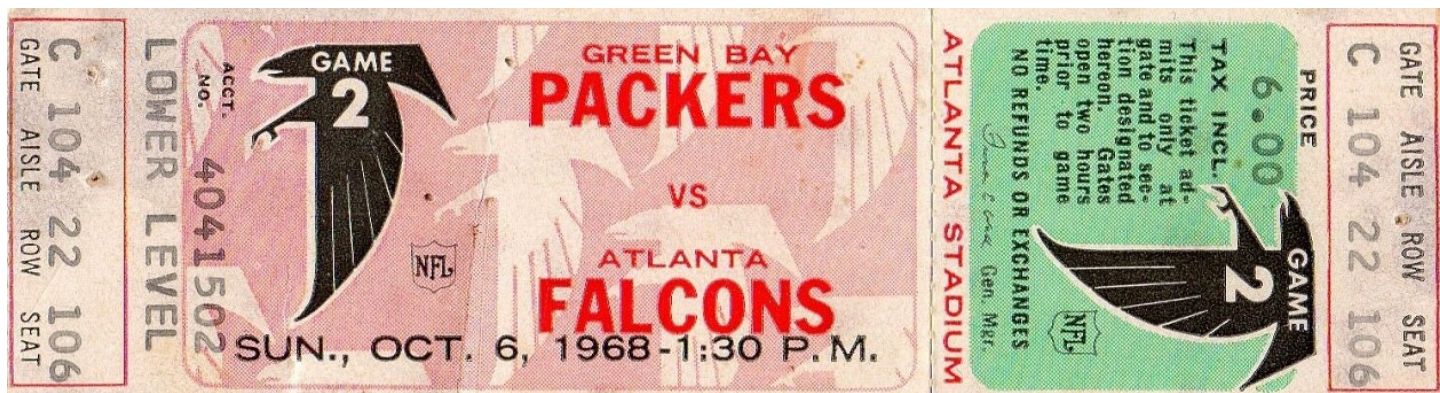
The Golden Palomino made it an even more memorable day for himself by rolling up 101 yards, his first "century" performance as a pro, in 15 attempts for a plush 6.7 average. Eleven of those yards came early in the third quarter when the multi-talented Texas Tech alumnus,

Falcons vs Packers

ATLANTA STADIUM / OCTOBER 6, 1968 / SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

NFL ILLUSTRATED





maneuvering deftly to daylight, bolted over the right side and into the end zone to climax an 85-yard push and mount a 16-7 lead. Two plays following the next kickoff, defensive tackle Henry Jordan emerged from a mountainous scramble with a fumble by Falcon quarterback Randy Johnson at the Atlanta 2-yard-line. Three successive stabs by Travis Williams produced a net of one yard but on fourth down, Starr foiled the massed Falcon defense by arching a short strike to Fleming in the left corner of the end zone and the Packers' losing streak, longest since mid-season of 1965, was all but officially a matter of history.

NOT AS AGREEABLE

The outlook had not been as agreeable, however, in the first half, which ended with the Packers nurturing an exceedingly precarious 10-7 lead. After that 7-0 bulge had been erected late in the first quarter, traceable in large part to the first of two Herb Adderley interceptions, circumstances began to bear an ominous resemblance to those recent and unhappy afternoons with the Vikings and Lions. For example, Jerry Kramer missed field goal attempts of 20 and 41 yards in the first 13 minutes. Then, shortly after the Pack's first TD, Willie Wood intercepted a Johnson pass and returned it 19 yards to Atlanta's 46, but the Packers were penalized for holding on first down and the opportunity was nullified. And, a few minutes later, Jim Grabowski fumbled at the Falcon 14 and Atlanta recovered at the 19, short circuiting another drive.

BOMBS TO LONG

To compound this misadventure, the Falcons flew from there to paydirt in six plays, the key items being successive 41 and 42-yard bombs to ex-Packer Bob Long, the last of which carried the Georgians to Green Bay's 2-yard-line. Opportunity knocked again seconds later when Williams, breaking away for the first time since the championship season began, wheeled 60 yards down the eastern sidelines with the Falcons' kickoff to the Atlanta 20 before being felled by Lee Calland. But Anderson lost a yard at right end, Starr's safety valve pass to Grabowski fell incomplete and Bart was dropped for a six-yard loss by Jerry Shay, bringing on Kramer for a third field goal attempt. This one, from the 34, also veered to the right of the uprights - like its two predecessors. The defense throttled the Falcons, however, and the Packers shortly had the ball back - at their own 22. They swept from there to the Atlanta 14 in seven plays, but only 10 seconds remained in the half, dictating another field goal try.

MERCEIN CONNECTS

This time, Coach Phil Bengtson called upon backup booter Chuck Mercein and he drilled it home from the 21 to give the Pack a modest 10-7 cushion at the intermission. The third quarter, the Packers' most productive of the season, was a delightful contrast to those early frustrations. The champions struck twice in less than three minutes - on Anderson's 11-yard maneuver and Starr's 1-yard pitch to Fleming - then added a third touchdown in the final minute of the period on Starr's pass to James. The latter, with a full step on defender Phil Spiller, gathered in the ball at the 3-yard-line and stepped into the end zone uncontested. Anderson closed out the day's scoring at 9:55 of the last quarter with a revival of the old "Hornung option." Sweeping to his left, the Texas southpaw found James in the left corner of the end zone.

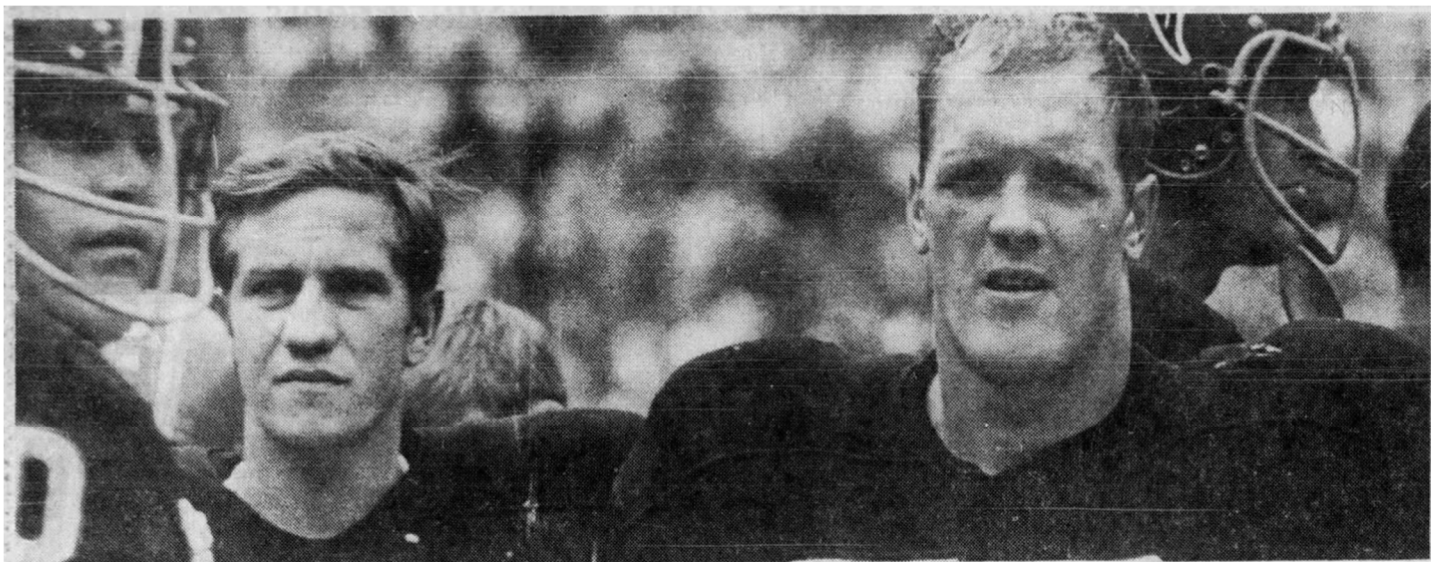
GREEN BAY - 7 3 21 7 - 38
ATLANTA - 0 7 0 0 - 7

	GREEN BAY	ATLANTA
First downs	26	7
Rush-yards-TDs	37-158-1	26-78-1
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	24-36-334-4-0	5-19-99-0-4
Sacked-yards	3-22	3-23
Net pass yards	312	76
Total yards	470	154
Fumbles-lost	2-1	1-1
Turnovers	1	5
Penalties-yards	5-36	3-15

SCORING

1st - GB - Dowler, 9-yard pass from Starr (Kramer kick) GREEN BAY 7-0

2nd - ATL - Perry Lee Dunn, 1-yard run (Bob Etter kick) TIED 7-7



Staff Photo—Charles Jackson

EXPRESSIONS ON FALCONS' BENCH RANGE FROM GLUM TO GRIM AS PACKERS INTERCEPT RANDY JOHNSON'S PASS
 Watching the Break Fall for the Packers Are (L-R) Jim Norton, Billy Lothridge, Jerry Shay and Bill Sandeman

- 2nd - GB - Mercein, 21-yard field goal GREEN BAY 10-7
- 3rd - GB - Anderson, 11-yard run (Mercein kick) GREEN BAY 17-7
- 3rd - GB - Fleming, 1-yard pass from Starr (Mercein kick) GREEN BAY 24-7
- 3rd - GB - James, 23-yard pass from Starr (Mercein kick) GREEN BAY 31-7
- 4th - GB - James, 12-yard pass from Anderson (Mercein kick) GREEN BAY 38-7

RUSHING

GREEN BAY - Donny Anderson 15-101 1 TD, Jim Grabowski 10-26, Claudis James 1-15, Elijah Pitts 2-11, Travis Williams 7-4, Chuck Mercein 2-1

ATLANTA - Cannonball Butler 8-32, Harmon Wages 5-17, Brendan McCarthy 5-16, Perry Lee Dunn 8-13 1 TD

PASSING

GREEN BAY - Bart Starr 31-21-275 3 TD, Zeke Bratkowski 4-2-47, Donny Anderson 1-1-12 1 TD

ATLANTA - Randy Johnson 14-4-94 3 INT, Bob Berry 5-1-5 1 INT

RECEIVING

GREEN BAY - Boyd Dowler 5-55 1 TD, Elijah Pitts 4-45, Jim Grabowski 3-64, Claudis James 3-55 2 TD, Travis Williams 3-28, Marv Fleming 3-26 1 TD, Carroll Dale 2-31, Donny Anderson 1-30

ATLANTA - Bob Long 2-83, Brendan McCarthy 1-6, Mike Donohoe 1-5, Jerry Simmons 1-5

Want To Prime Packers—Tell Them They're Old

WANT TO PRIME PACKERS-TELL THEM THEY'RE OLD

OCT 7 (Atlanta-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Want to prime the Packers for a big challenge...a big game? Tell them they're getting too old. It's like driving a fire truck in front of a herd of bulls. The age talk was flowing like Niagara Falls this past week after the world champions had stumbled to two straight defeats and a 13 record. Some of it even showed up in the Atlanta newspapers...which, for the Falcons benefit, could have been more judiciously edited. Ray Nitschke, bald, blind and toothless...but not old...took it to heart and roared up and down the sidelines here Sunday extolling his fellow defenders to prove that they weren't too old. He had a lot of time to get in his extolling too because his defensive mates helped him to stage a magnificent show of stubbornness. Only once in eight series did Atlanta get past its own 27 in the first half...though that once was for a touchdown via two Bob Long masterpieces. In the second half, they got past the 50 only once in six series and that was on their last try of the game. As a matter of fact, if it hadn't been for the combined kicking efforts of Billy Lothridge and Jerry Kramer, the score might have been 38-7 at the half. It was like old times with the defense turning in a spectacular and the offense taking advantage of it. This is known as the Big Play and this is what had been the Packers' missing ingredient up to the halfway point of the fracas here Sunday. But the Big Play, which has been the key to Packers' success in the sixties, was back in the script Sunday. The pass interception...the fumble...nailing the Quarterback at a vital time...the third down success. Once the Packers began to manufacture the BP again they produced them in assembly line style. And it restored ball control...76 plays to 48. Ah, but it wasn't only the Big Play. The Little Play had something to do with this game too. As a matter of fact, the LP appeared to be the magic formula that ended 148 minutes of frustration. With two minutes left in the first half, the Packers got the ball on their own 22. And Bart Starr went to the Little Play...the short sideline pass...the flare pass...the shortie over the middle. He completed six straight tosses in this manner and Chuck Mercein made it all worthwhile with the 21-yard field goal that gave the Bays a 10-7 lead. Those six straight pass completions WERE Bart Starr, if you know what I mean. He wound up with 21 of 31 but his record on this day was even better when

you consider he connected on only four of his first 10...meaning he completed 17 of his last 21. It should have been 18 but Donny Anderson...Oh, and how about Anderson? What a day. Sure Bart threw three TDs but Andy collected 101 yards in 15 carries, caught one pass for 30 yards (and that was a third down screen on which he ran for almost all of the 30), he threw a touchdown pass on his only aerial try of the day and he punted three times for a 39.7 average with not a yard of return. There were a lot of heroes in this game. The interceptors, the offensive line which blocked exceedingly well at times, the entire defense, the backs, the receivers...everybody, including the coaches and particularly Phil Bengtson. The Atlanta papers warned the Dixie populace all week that the Packers were coming down mad. They had lost two straight...almost unheard of. They would be looking for Rebel scalps. But to Bengtson's credit...and whatever psychology he employed...the Packers' weren't mad except for Nitschke and a few of the other older (pardon me) players. They arrived at the beautiful Marriott Motor Inn with a largely carefree attitude. They were loose. They laughed at the schedule board in the hotel saying the Packers would be "tapped" at 10 o'clock Sunday morning. And they maintained this attitude right up to game time, which, after two defeats, was probably a lot healthier for them than getting too serious, too determined. They played magnificently. But...it's an undeniable fact that who-ever-heard-of guys like Jim Simon, Errol Linden, Harmon Wages, Carlton Dabney, Ralph Heck, Lee Calland and Phil Spiller are not the Los Angeles Rams.

PACK CONFIDENCE RESTORED: PHIL

OCT 7 (Atlanta-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Phil Bengtson is not the emotional type. But there was an expression of unmistakable contentment on his clean-cut features as he held forth in his commodious Atlanta Stadium "office" here late Sunday afternoon in the wake of the Packers' 38-7 thumping of the Atlanta Falcons, a performance which emphatically ended a rare 2-game losing streak. "This game restored our confidence in ourselves," the Packers' tall, articulate headmaster declared. "They know they're capable of making the big play - on both offense and defense." He had obvious reference to four interceptions and a fumble recovery engineered by the Bay's renascent defense and three touchdown passes by Bart Starr, among other pleasant items...SECRET TO GAME: "You've got to have the big play," he added by way of emphasis. "It's the whole secret to this game. Playing it strictly offense against defense - trying to move it up and down the field for 80 yards - it's tough to win. You have to have the big play." "Fortunately, we got 'em today, although," he admitted, "not too many in the first half. The biggest difference between this game and the last two (successive losses to Minnesota and Detroit) is that this time we got the breaks - the interceptions and the fumbles. This team is used to getting the breaks as a result of aggressive play and the fact that we haven't been getting them has tended to make us overly cautious...LITTLE TOO CAUTIOUS: "I think maybe we were a little too cautious today in the first half...I think this has been our problem all year. We've tried to be too cautious and it's been taking away our aggressiveness." "The interception," he appended with understandable fervor, "is a great play. We haven't had our share of them. Today we had more of them, playing our aggressive game. You've got to have 'em. If we had gotten one against Minnesota or Detroit, who knows..." Taking note of another victory contribution, Bengtson observed, "Having Bob Brown in there helped a little bit, too." Brown, reactivated only Saturday after sitting out for more than two months with a broken arm, started at right defensive end in place of the injured Lionel Aldridge and played virtually the entire game. "Bob did a good job," Bengtson said, "particularly when you consider he hasn't worked much at that position. Lionel started the second half but played only one series. By that time we had scored again, so we decided not to play him. He was all right, but he was noticeably limping."...NO KICKING CHANGE: The Packers' field leader also took pleasure in the 60-yard kickoff runback by Travis Williams, his first long burst of the season. "That was kind of an interesting one," he said. "It was a squib and we were up for the onside kick." On another subject, Bengtson said his decision to use Chuck Mercein on field goal attempts after Jerry Kramer missed three first half tries does not mean there will be a change in this assignment. "We've had this in mind all the way along, that Mercein would be used as a secondary kicker, particularly in the late stages of a game, where Jerry plays a lot and is liable to be tired. And Jerry wasn't feeling too well this morning - he was bothered with a cold and I'm sure it affected his kicking. The reason I decided to replace him wasn't so much that I was thinking in terms of his having missed those kicks but the fact that he wasn't feeling well...DALE BRUISES RIBS: "I got a kick out of it one time when Mercein was going in to kick," Phil added. "Jerry had injured his thumb and I said, 'How does it feel?'" He said, "It's sore, but that's not going to affect my blocking." The only other Packer casualty, Bengtson revealed, was flanker Carroll Dale, who suffered bruised ribs. Dale played after incurring the injury but later was replaced by Claudis James, author of two touchdown catches during the afternoon, as a precautionary measure. Assessing the enemy, the Packer strategist opined, "They're got a good defensive club...they're not a bad ball

National Football League

National League Eastern Conference Capitol Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Dallas	4	0	0	1.000	159	43
New York	4	0	0	1.000	154	87
Washington	2	2	0	.500	93	127
Philadelphia	0	4	0	.000	65	126

Century Division

Cleveland	2	2	0	.500	68	86
New Orleans	1	3	0	.250	88	100
St. Louis	1	3	0	.250	61	106
Pittsburgh	0	4	0	.000	61	151

Western Conference Coastal Division

Baltimore	4	0	0	1.000	124	44
Los Angeles	4	0	0	1.000	117	39
San Francisco	2	2	0	.500	83	81
Atlanta	0	4	0	.000	47	141

Central Division

Minnesota	3	1	0	.750	114	57
Detroit	2	2	0	.500	98	100
Green Bay	2	2	0	.500	98	79
Chicago	1	3	0	.250	62	125

Saturday's Result

Cleveland 31, Pittsburgh 24

Sunday's Results

Baltimore 28, Chicago 7
Dallas 27, St. Louis 10
Minnesota 24, Detroit 10
Green Bay 38, Atlanta 7
New York 38, New Orleans 21
Washington 17, Philadelphia 14
Los Angeles 24, San Francisco 10

Sunday's Games

Baltimore at San Francisco
Detroit at Chicago
Los Angeles vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee
Minnesota at New Orleans
New York at Atlanta
Philadelphia at Dallas
Pittsburgh at Washington
St. Louis at Cleveland

By The Associated Press American League Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New York	3	1	0	.750	125	107
Boston	2	2	0	.500	77	112
Miami	1	3	0	.250	58	126
Houston	1	4	0	.200	81	114
Buffalo	1	4	0	.200	80	151

Western Division

Oakland	4	0	0	1.000	160	52
Kansas City	4	1	0	.800	145	53
San Diego	3	1	0	.750	110	60
Cincinnati	2	3	0	.400	88	103
Denver	1	3	0	.250	39	85

Saturday's Results

New York 23, San Diego 20

Kansas City 18, Buffalo 7

Sunday's Results

Oakland 41, Boston 10
Denver 10, Cincinnati 7
Miami 24, Houston 7

Saturday's Game

Buffalo at Miami, night

Sunday's Games

Cincinnati at Kansas City
Denver at New York
Houston at Boston
San Diego at Oakland

club. The witness of it was the way they were in there against both the Colts (29-20) and 49ers (28-13) the last two weeks. They gave us a good battle - all we bargained for."

KRAMER MYSTIFIED; WAYWARD KICKS ALL TOO FAR RIGHT

OCT 7 (Atlanta-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – If the average Packer fanatic was mystified over Jerry Kramer's placekicking problems here Sunday afternoon, he (or she) had nothing on the object of their puzzlement. Kramer, who made the first four field goals he attempted this young NFL season, now has missed four straight - two of them from 20 yards out and three of them in Sunday's 38-7 conquest of the Atlanta Falcons. Shrugging his shoulders as he attempted to analyze the problem, Kramer confided, "I was kicking the ball to the right - and the same distance to the right each time. I was hitting the ball well, but they were all exactly the same distance to the right." Shaking his head, the massive guardian angel added reflectively, "I don't know the reason...I really don't know. I wasn't hitting the ball that bad and I wasn't nervous. Maybe I'm stepping to the right, I don't know."...LONG LAYOFF: In another corner of the dressing room, Chuck Mercein was saying "I can hardly remember the last time I kicked in a regular season game. It must have been in my rookie year with the Giants - I know I did some kicking in exhibition games for them after that." Mercein, of course, was summoned to stand in for Kramer late in the second quarter and responded with a 21-yard field goal which forged a 10-7 halftime lead for the Packers. The former Yale star, who kicked the Pack's last four extra points and also missed a 45-yard attempt in the second half, admitted "I was a little bit



—AP Wirephoto
OW! THAT HURT! — Green Bay Packer back Travis Williams caught a pass from Bart Starr but he couldn't hold it when he was hit hard by Falcons' Ken Reeves. Packers caught fire in third quarter to win 38-7.

nervous when coach Bengtson called on me." "But then, in the huddle," he reported, "Forrest Gregg said, 'just remember the last few seconds of the Dallas game last December.'" "So," Mercein smiled, "I just kicked the ball." Gregg had reference to Mercein's clutch performance - including a 19-yard pass reception and 8-yard run which ate up 27 of the last 30 yards - en route to the Packers' winning touchdown in the NFL Championship game at Lambeau Field. "I wish I could have made that last one I tried in the fourth quarter," Chuck said. "It was so close - it just missed by four inches."

LONG ENJOYS NEW HERO STATUS

OCT 7 (Atlanta-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Bob Long is a hero in Atlanta like he never was in Green Bay. "It was never like this in Green Bay," he said with the familiar boyish grin breaking across face as he turned from his locker in the spacious Atlanta dressing room to face a crowd of nine reporters and one photographer. But it was something of a bittersweet moment for him. He acknowledged the fact that he had caught lengthy passes of 39 and 42 yards to set up the Falcons first and only touchdown in their history against the Packers. Just as quickly, however, he declared "We didn't win the game. And I hate to lose. They taught me that up there." While the attention in the wake of Green Bay's 38-7 win left him with some mixed emotions, it was not a new feeling for him. Before the game, while pulling on his Falcon uniform, Long admitted "I'm really nervous." And the statement was barely audible, testifying to its truth. After the game, he amplified that...WANTED TO WIN: "I was sick. Terribly sick all last night and this morning. This was quite an experience. I knew all those guys so well. I wanted to have a good ball game...and I wanted to win." At the final gun, a number of his former teammates had hurried across the field to shake Long's hand but that was far from the only conversation he had

with them." "We were talking out there all day long. About a lot of things, not all football," he said. One discussion in particular came to mind. In the second half, Randy Johnson had aimed a long pass at Long but Willie Wood leaped in front of the slightly underthrown missile and had an interception for the asking. But just as he grabbed the ball, Long hooked his arm and it appeared there was a chance of offensive interference being called...PREVENT INTERCEPTION: "That was my job, to prevent the interception. But Willie started to cry a little and I just told him to quit crying since they had intercepted enough already," Long recalled. Despite playing with the ring and little fingers of his left hand in a cast, Long carried considerable Falcon confidence with him on the second of his long distance receptions. He was the only receiver sent out on the play, he confided. It was a maximum protection, play action pass and Long ran a fly pattern to snare the ball inside the five and then slid on the wet grass. But even though he experienced fair personal success against his old teammates, Long insisted that the Packers "still have a great ball club." From a now non-partisan observer, h's remarks were interesting. "The last couple games they looked like they weren't hungry. But I think we shook them into reality and in the last two minutes of the first half, I think they returned to the kind of Green Bay team I knew. And then, of course, they really put it to us in the second half."

POETIC JUSTICE: ADDERLEY BALANCES BOOKS WITH THEFTS

OCT 7 (Atlanta-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – It was poetic justice. Herb Adderley put it another way, but that is what it was. "The ball bounces awful funny," the Packers All-NFL left cornerback mused following Sunday's 38-7 triumph over the Atlanta Falcons. "You can

have two touchdowns scored on you one week and come back and make two interceptions the next." This last, of course, is just what the 29-year-old Pennsylvanian did here Sunday after being frisked for two TD catches by the Detroit Lions' Billy Gambrell seven days earlier. His initial theft, which triggered the Packers first touchdown, "came on a quick slant," Adderley reported. "Robbie (Dave Robinson) tipped the ball just as Bob Long made his move. If he hadn't tipped it, Long would have caught it." "On the second one, Long ran a deep turnout and the quarterback rolled my way," Herb explained. "I just stayed back until the ball was thrown. When I first saw it, I knew I could knock it down, but I thought I might as well intercept it if I could, so I went after it." This maneuver was not as fruitful as his first. The Packers reached the Atlanta 38 but had to settle for a 45-yard field goal attempt by Chuck Mercein, which was a shade to the right. Henry Jordan, author of another big play, chuckled over his contribution. Jordan, who recovered a fumble at the Atlanta 2 which led to the Pack's third touchdown, informed, "I was rushing the passer and Kos (Ron Kostelnik) made the tackle. "I saw the ball fluttering around on the ground but I missed - I had to go back to get it. I couldn't pick it up. If I could have picked it up, I could have fallen into the end zone," Henry noted in mild disgust. Lofty Boyd Dowler, who registered the world champions' first touchdown on a 9-yard Bart Starr pass following Adderley's interception, reported, "It was a quick post off a play-pass. It's the same play we scored against Dallas on in the championship game last December. It starts out faking a weakside slant to the fullback. "The safety stood there so I got in front of him and he hit me." He smiled, then added, "I almost was bounced on my head in the end zone. I hit there more often than anywhere else." Fellow receiver Marv Fleming, recipient of Starr's 1-yard scoring pitch after Jordan's fumble recovery, grinned when passing coach Bob Schnelker, quipped, "Is that the shortest pass you've ever caught, Marvin?" "How many yards was it?" Fleming asked. "One," he was told. Laughing again, he rejoined, "Is that all?" Pleased nonetheless, Marvelous Marv confided, "It was my time to make a big play, and I wanted to make a big play."

Wiry Claudis James, who caught two TD passes in the second half, reported, "the first one was a post...No, I wasn't nervous about it because I knew I was wide open. It was a good pass - Bart laid it right in there. The second one was a slant-in-and-out." James was almost as pleased over his 15-yard success on a reverse. "That's the first time I've ever run one," the former Jackson, Miss., State quarterback revealed. "If I'd got a couple of good blocks, I'd have been gone." Quietly relishing his first 100-yard day, Donny Anderson dryly observed, "I just barely got it (101 yards in 15 attempts). Reconstructing his 11-yard touchdown run in the third quarter, Andy explained, "I made a couple of moves, one in and one out - then one back. I don't think anybody touched me... We had great blocking today, good holes." Bob Brown, who figured prominently in the Pack's effective rush upon Falcon quarterback Randy Johnson although coming off a two-week injury "vacation," happily reported, "I was in better shape than I thought I was. I figured to be dragging but I wasn't. I had to wear a half-inch rubber cast and it was little bit heavy on the arm (broken July 27), but I didn't have any pain."

"I got in there on Johnson once," he added with satisfaction. "I should have had him another time, but I couldn't wrap my arms around him when I got there. Of course, I've got some sharpening up to do. I haven't played in 10 weeks." He had no psychological problem over the arm? The giant Arkansan shook his head, explaining, "I tried to keep my mind off my arm as much as I could." Speedball Travis Williams was not entirely happy, although he had engineered his first breakaway of the season, a 60-yard kickoff return. "It was another one of those almosts," he said wryly, pointing out he had not gone the distance. "The kick was a squibber," he noted, "and we didn't have our wedge so I took it to the outside. The middle was pretty well blocked up. It was a matter of judgment as far as going all the way is concerned. I had a blocker ahead of me on the last man, so it was a matter of waiting for him to throw the block or taking a chance on the pursuit catching up with me. I made my move and got tackled, of course, so I won't know until I see the movies whether I did the right thing or not." "The way I played today," the Road Runner sadly concluded, "I think it was the wrong move. Everything else was wrong."

VAN BROCKLIN ALL SMILES DESPITE LOSING

OCT 7 (Atlanta-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The way Norm Van Brocklin walked up to the cluster of newsmen waiting for him after his first venture as coach of the Atlanta Falcons, there was some doubt about who won and who lost the game. Marching into a meeting room just off the main Falcon dressing room, the normally fiery Dutchman displayed an ear-to-ear smile and had a distinctly jaunty air about him. Offered a seat by several reporters, he declined and chuckled, "You guys sit down. You're the ones who have to work." He then proceeded to shake hands with everyone in the room and volunteer his interpretation of the 38-7 "licking," as he called it, and of his new team. "If we had completed one of those long passes in the first half (Ogden was overthrown while far in the clear and Jerry Simmons dropped one deep and wide open) and Butler (Jim) hadn't stepped out of bounds, we'd have had them fighting for their lives," he



Jim Grabowski (33), fullback for the Green Bay Packers, gained 30 yards on this play after receiving a pass from Bart Starr in the first quarter of Sunday's game with the Atlanta Falcons at Atlanta. Throwing a block is Gale Gillingham (68) Green Bay guard.

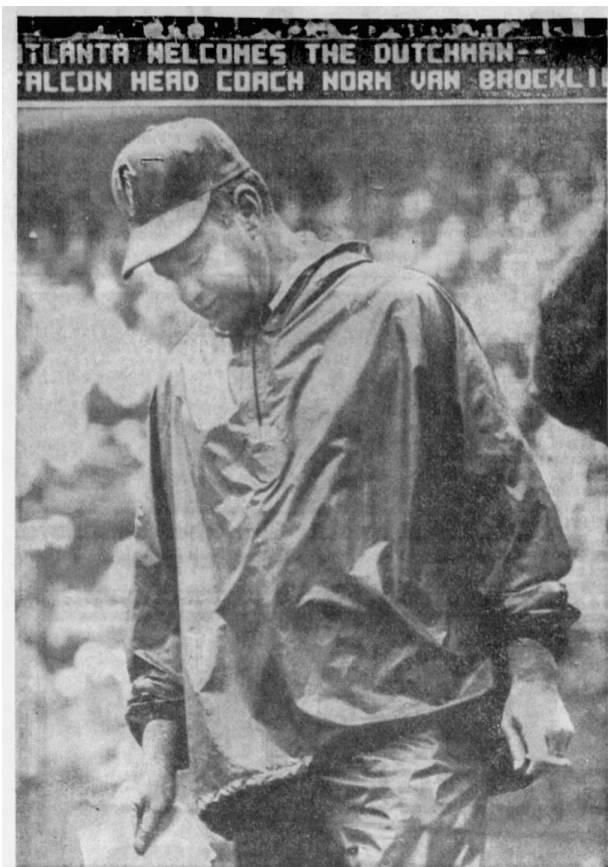
Falcons include Marion Rushing (52), Claude Humphrey (87) and Tommy Nobis (60). The Packers scored a 38-7 victory and snapped a 2-game National Football League losing streak. (AP Wirephoto)

exclaimed...APPARENT TOUCHDOWN: The reference to Butler concerned his apparent touchdown return of a Packer kickoff only to have been ruled out of bounds on his own 42. But a realist on this day, largely because of his role primarily as an observer rather than a coach who could actually have seriously influenced the game after taking over the team less than a week before, Van Brocklin noted: "They had the psychology on their side. Green Bay...the world champion...had its back to the wall. They had to win. And they showed their championship class. Now they're back in the race." But there was a touch of obvious pride in his voice when he added, "But we stayed with them very, very well. I thought our special teams were excellent. They were as good as anyone in pro football." The former Minnesota Viking strategist had some more praise for his team, noting, "I love this team's enthusiasm. They have great desire. It's up to the coaching staff to give them the tools. We hope we will get better execution."...BACK TO BASICS: With this in mind, Van Brocklin said he was taking his team "back to basics" Tuesday. "We've got to get some basic things going so we don't have to depend so much on the home run. We're going to have to advance the ball on the ground. That's what I told our quarterback in the last three or four minutes of the game. I told him we might as well start a coaching clinic right now." Stating that this team was "very comparable" to his first team at Minnesota, the voluble Dutchman continued, "This club is awfully young. But we've got a fine young line. Randy Johnson is going to be a great pro quarterback. Tom Nobis is a great player. Our wide receivers are real fine. We can win with the wide receivers we have at all three positions."...Johnson was as lavish in his praise of Van Brocklin as the coach was of Johnson. "In just this week, I've

learned more about football than in my whole career before this," he said. Explaining, he added, "Look, he's a quarterback. Nobody ever told me how to play quarterback before."

LEW CARPENTER QUILTS AS FALCON COACHING AIDE

OCT 7 (Atlanta Journal) – It wasn't a surprise that Lew Carpenter resigned as offensive coach of the Atlanta Falcons after Sunday's 38-7 loss to the Green Bay Packers, although the word had been last week when Norm Van Brocklin took over as head coach that all assistants had agreed to remain this year. Carpenter and Van Brocklin had worked together before at Minnesota, from 1964-67 when Carpenter was receiver coach under Van Brocklin, and the association had not been the most agreeable then. When Van Brocklin came here last week, it was almost assumed that Carpenter would leave. But in the interest of preparing the team for another adjustment, Carpenter, along with the other aides, agreed to stay. Monday, Carpenter said he had changed his mind after the Packers game, again in the best interest of the team. "I think it's something that will just be better for everyone," he said. "I won't elaborate on it. It's just the kind of thing that happens in football sometimes." Van Brocklin, reached at his office Monday morning, said there would be no immediate replacement for Carpenter. "I have no comment to make about his leaving," he said. "The work he was doing will be taken over by myself and Red Phillips (receiver coach.)." Carpenter, who will be paid for the rest of this season, it was learned, is planning to get back into football coaching whenever possible. He has been considered possible head-coaching timber, and there is at least one head coaching job that may open up next season. "Of course, I want to coach," he said, "and I will be looking over any opportunities I get." Carpenter was in his second season with the Falcons. He came here as receiver coach last year after leaving the Vikings shortly before Van Brocklin left that team following the Fran Tarkenton "trade me" incident. Carpenter took over this



QUITE A DAY—New head coach of the Atlanta Falcons, Norm Van Brocklin, was welcomed to his first game yesterday by a packed house, a lighted sign board, rain and a 38-7 defeat by Green Bay. Van Brocklin, above, didn't seem too pleased with the Packer welcome. —United Press International Telephoto

season as head offensive coach, replacing Bill Crutchfield who left the Falcons to go to Georgia Tech's staff. Carpenter, a 10-year playing veteran in the NFL, was on NFL championship teams at Green Bay (1961, 1962), and Detroit (1953) and in the NFL championship playoff with Cleveland (1957). He played receiver, running back and defensive back. Carpenter had worked long hours with Atlanta's offense this season but had not come close to the goals he sought, hampered from the beginning by lack of personnel at running positions. To his coaching credit was the conversion of rookie free agent Harmon Wages from quarterback into a serviceable, if not polished, running back.

PHIL FEARED 'FRONT FOUR'

OCT 7 (Atlanta Journal) - Easy-going Phil Bengtson, the man who stepped into the Green Bay pressure cooker behind not so easy-going Vince Lombardi puffed on a cigarette and relaxed a little Sunday afternoon after a 38-7 win broke a two-game Packer losing streak. "Maybe I had to be a little nuts to take this job in the first place," Bengtson grinned, indicating he enjoys his work a lot. "And don't think I wasn't worried about this one today. We knew Atlanta was likely to be all hopped up over the events of last week (the coaching change), but it was more than that. We couldn't help but notice watching films of Atlanta's Baltimore and San Francisco games that the Falcons have a really fine front four. Those guys rush you about as hard as anyone. And then we knew Randy Johnson was perfectly capable of having a real hot day." "For another thing," he continued, "things just haven't bounced right for us lately. We had a lot of things go against

us losing to Detroit and to Minnesota. So we needed this one, obviously." As a coach, Bengtson is much more relaxed than Lombardi. But in his new role as general manager only, Lombardi was even more relaxed than Bengtson. "What's been wrong with the Packers?" he repeated a question from his press box seat at halftime when the Packers led, 10-7, barely. "Nothing's wrong except what you've seen out there today," he explained, waving his arms back and forth. "We go up and down the field but we can't seem to put things together for points on the scoreboard." However, he quickly amended that statement. "I still think we'll win the championship," he said. "Well, that's what we're in the race for," agreed Bengtson, who did not deny he felt pressure from everyone, except possibly Lombardi. "You worry when you aren't able to punch across for touchdowns," he said, "and we certainly didn't do that in the first half." He also has worries about his field goal kicking, especially after Jerry Kramer missed three. He thinks he may have found his man in Chuck Mercein, who came on later to bat 1.000 on three and one-pointers. As for the old-pro quarterbacks, they just go on and on. "It's year-to-year for me now," said Zeke Bratkowski, who relieved Bart Starr in the fourth period, sticking mostly to the ground since the Packers were not anxious to run up a bigger score.

NORB HECKER STAYS HOME, BUT STILL CHEERS FOR FALCONS

OCT 7 (Atlanta Journal) - Norb Hecker is now a coaching alumnus of both the Green Bay Packers and the Atlanta Falcons. So who would you guess he was rooting for Sunday afternoon when he spent his first day at home in almost 10 years? "The Falcons," Hecker said. "After all, I know a lot more people in Atlanta than I know in Green Bay now. You don't stay around a bunch of people as long as I did with the Falcons and not make some real close relationships." Hecker, who was head coaching the Falcons a week ago in San Francisco, and in fact through Tuesday's practice, stayed home Sunday "just to relax and be with my family." However, he plans to be back in Atlanta Stadium real soon. Probably next week for the Giants-Falcons game. "And I'll be cheering for the Falcons all the way," he said.

PACKER GAME LEADS TO PROTEST AT MASS

OCT 7 (Milwaukee) - Anti-war demonstrators remained standing during services at a Roman Catholic church Sunday in protest of a priest's elimination of a sermon, a decision he said was influenced by the Green Bay Packers. About 50 protesters were scattered among an estimated 700 worshipers for Mass at Christ King Church in suburban Wauwatosa. They said they had been told there would be three minutes of silent prayer "for the victims of the Vietnam war."...SERMON ELIMINATED: But the Mass celebrant, Father William T. Maloney, said he knew of no agreement concerning the prayer, did not call for the prayer and offered no sermon. He said that to accommodate worshipers who want to get home to their television sets, he usually cuts short the early afternoon service by eliminating his sermon "when the Packers are playing out East." The NFL club was host of the Atlanta Falcons Sunday. Protesters, including three nuns and two priests, rose to their feet when it became apparent there would be no sermon, and remained standing...REMAINED, PRAYED: After worshipers had left, the demonstrators knelt in prayer. The demonstrators wore red armbands on which was lettered: "Milwaukee 14." The phrase has become a sympathy slogan for 14 persons, many of them clergymen, arrested on state and federal charges after draft records were taken from a Milwaukee Selective Service office Sept. 24 and were burned on a lawn.

BITTERSWEET: PHIL IMPRESSED BY PACK, RAMS

OCT 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Monday was something of a bittersweet day for Phil Bengtson. The greater portion of it, as per custom, was spent in the projection room at 1265 Lombardi Avenue scrutinizing the game just past and the opponent immediately ahead. The former, obviously was particularly agreeable viewing for the Packer coach even though the world champions' 38-7 bruising of the Atlanta Falcons then was less than 24 hours old. "It looked pretty good," Bengtson amiably admitted after the morning showing "although we realize we didn't beat a real good team."...DOUBLE FEATURE: The second half of the coaching staff's weekly double feature was equally interesting but somewhat less enjoyable, considering the problems it represents for the Packer field leader and his aides, not to mention the champions themselves. It was the film of the Los Angeles Rams' 24-6 victory over the Cleveland Browns a week earlier, a performance which Bengtson labeled "very impressive." The undefeated Angelenos who confront the Packers in Milwaukee County Stadium Sunday afternoon, "have got a phenomenal pass rush with those four linemen (Dave Jones, Merlin Olsen, Roger Brown and Lamar Lundy)," he pointed out...GREAT JOB BY BASS: "I can't remember the statistics but I think Ryan (Frank) completed only four passes against them and had a couple intercepted. I thought Bass (Dick) did a great job of running too, and Gabriel (quarterback Roman) is big and strong and hard to get to. They're real sound offensively. They don't do a lot of fancy things, but they have a good offensive line and they protect the passer well. And Gabriel's got the strength to stand in there and throw the long ball." This, then, looms as the Packers' biggest test of the season? Nodding, Bengtson replied, "I would say it certainly will be our biggest to date. They're the team everybody has got figured to go all the way this year. I guess they didn't overpower the 49ers (24-10 Ram victims Sunday) but they kept working and working in a workmanlike fashion and wore 'em down...OVERPOWER OPPONENTS: "They intent to overpower the opposing team defensively, which they have been able to do pretty well." On a more pleasant subject, the Pack's resounding performance in Atlanta, Bengtson noted that while the Falcons are not one of the NFL's more formidable clubs, "they have a good defensive team and



Staff Photo—Billy Downs
HERE'S HOW VINCE LOMBARDI WATCHES PACKERS NOW
Packs Up His Glasses After 37-7 Rout of Atlanta



Green Bay Packers players on sidelines bench during game vs Atlanta Falcons (Photo by Lynn Pelham /Sports Illustrated via Getty Images)



Donny Anderson (44) in action (Photo by Lynn Pelham /Sports Illustrated via Getty Images)

a helluva linebacker. "That Nobis (Tommy)," he said, shaking his head in wonder, "was all over the field. It's surprising we gained as many yards as we did considering not handling him the way we did. "Gregg (Forrest) had a tremendous day," Bengtson continued. "He did a real good job on Humphrey (Falcon defensive end Claude) and Humphrey is a good man...GREAT BLOCK ON NOBIS: "On Donny Anderson's touchdown run, a trap play, Forrest made a great block on Nobis...He did just an outstanding job. And, of course, Donny did some nice running, which was obvious...The screen pass he had also was more of a running play than a passing play. He did a good job on that - it came at a crucial time." And the defense? "It was a little more aggressive than it had been," Phil confirmed with satisfaction. "They were going after 'em a little bit more...Of course, the interception (the Packers had four) is the type of thing that gives a team a psychological lift. We hadn't been getting that. That was a big difference." Assessing the victory as a whole, Bengtson conceded, "I thought it came at a real good time for the morale and confidence of the team." Did he consider it, in the wake of a two-game losing streak, an indication of better things to come. "I sure hope," he fervently rejoined, "it's a springboard to better performances."...PACKER PATTERN: Although Carroll Dale and Jerry Kramer emerged from the Atlanta match with bruised rib cartilage and a thumb injury, respectively, both are expected to be ready for the Rams, Packer Publicity Director Chuck Lane reported today...Donny Anderson now owns a glossy 5.7 ball carrying average after his 100-yard day, the first of his pro career, against the Falcons. He has rolled up 287 yards in 50 attempts...Boyd Dowler, who caught five passes in Atlanta, now has 15 receptions in four appearances, only one less than leader Dale...Bart Starr's 21-for-31 performance padded his passing percentage to 63.8 - based on 58 for 91 overall... Starr, Falcon Coach Norm Van Brocklin said Monday, ruined the Atlantans with his arm, then killed them with kindness. Mr. Quarterback, he noted, observed the Falcons' secondary "sometimes ignored some of the Packer receivers." The Dutchman added, "Starr is a real gentleman. He wouldn't come right out and say what he really thought of our pass defense."

MAYBE LONG WAS EXPENDABLE

OCT 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The party line brought a bit of blush to Packer Publicist Chuck Lane's handsome face last weekend. Seems everywhere he went in Atlanta while spreading the Packer gospel for several days before the clash with the Falcons, Lane was asked about the Leo Carroll for Bob Long trade. The Atlantans were convinced they had pulled a fast one on the sharpies from the North. But Lane defended the deal as his position dictated he should. Then came the news...Bob Brown was activated for the Falcon game. And removed from the Packer roster was Leo Carroll...HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS: It appeared that the sharpies from the North were beginning to have some second thoughts too. As a matter of fact, it was difficult last weekend to find anybody, friend or foe, who could speak well of the deal. And when Long continued in the starring role he had assumed almost on his arrival in Dixie by catching two long passes to set up the Falcons' lone touchdown, the trade continued to cause head wagging. But then, from off the Packer bench, arriving like the U.S. Cavalry, came Claudis James. And just what does he have to do with the Long-Carroll deal? Well, he caught three passes for 55 yards and two touchdowns in his short stint. And the performance recalled the clutch catch he made against the Lions the previous week. Which means that no matter how much we hated to see Bob Long go...the fact is he became expendable...CLAUDIS JAMES READY: Virtually everybody likes Long. He's just a likeable sort of guy. And everybody agrees he has the talent to be an NFL standout. But he wasn't going to beat out Boyd Dowler or Carroll Dale for a job this year. And the Packers needed some defensive line help, what with the injuries and all. Besides, what the traders probably knew, even though not all of us did, was that James was ready for a top reserve role. Whether Carroll was

the man the Packers needed, however, is something else. Judging by recent developments, he was not the answer to the problem but was the best talent available in the moment of the crises. So maybe the Rebs did win the trade...the Packers do have a few legs to stand on in its defense. Many southern reporters had their first crack at Phil Bengtson after Sunday's game and the conversation rapidly turned to the pressure he accepted when he was named Packer coach to succeed Vince Lombardi. Bengtson, grinning after the satisfying win, acknowledged that "nobody lets me forget about it either." And in response to another question along the same line, he added that his acceptance of the job took "either a lot of guts or no brains."

NEWS AND NOTIONS

OCT 8 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - For the first time in three weeks, Packer fans were spared the Monday morning "blahs" yesterday. However, the 31-point win over Atlanta didn't spawn unbridled elation. Joy was tempered by the sobering realization that the Rams are the first of five straight "un-Falcon-like" opponents directly ahead. Though the Packers didn't beat a Super Bowl contender Sunday, they are now far more ready to meet an opponent of the Rams' caliber than they were after last week's Detroit game. When things start falling into place against any league opponent - even of the lower echelon - it's got to be a lift for a team, like Green Bay, which didn't quite know what went wrong in two straight losses...but something obviously had gone wrong. The Bays' second-half performance was like a golfer regaining his touch after inexplicably being plagued by drives that

won't stay on the fairway and putts that won't drop. Though the Packers displayed some of their exasperating 1968 sputtering in the first half - they put points on the board on only two of the first five or six trips into scoring territory - they did a lot of things right thereafter. Bright spots included these: 1. They were a strong second-half team, like the Packers of old. 2. They reversed the "minus" interception ratio of the first three games by picking off four while not giving up any. 3. Bart Starr not only returned to a fancy passing percentage, but he injected some roll-out maneuvers into the attack - to give Ram scouts something to think about. 4. Bob Brown's return strengthened the defensive corps. 5. Donny Anderson's continued strong running helped keep defense honest. 6. Claudis James, with his sparkling play, proved the Packers have three talented wide receivers. 7. Chuck Mercein's placekicking accuracy couldn't have come at a better time, in view of Jerry Kramer's sudden slump...The Rams' TV appearance Sunday reaffirmed that they are a formidable club, indeed. The awesome LA defense - especially the front 4 - continues to be the key to Ram-success, just as defense has been the watchword through so much of the Packer championship era. The 49ers, however, gave LA some anxious moments, and John Brodie and Clifton McNeil proved that the Ram pass defense can be punctured. You can bet Starr and his assortment of receivers will exploit the secondary as much as possible...Injuries to key players could soon affect the various division title races in the NFL. Some of the high-powered machines may be slowed down on the road to the Super Bowl by excessive pit stops (for medical attention.) Among those who have been hurt are John Unitas, Jack Concannon, Gary Cuozzo and Dan Reeves and Les Josephson. LA's Dick Bass and Lamar Lundy were hurt Sunday, but there is no definite word on their status for the Packer game...Dallas remains at the top of our Super Bowl index, with a rating of 95 (out of a possible 100). LA and Baltimore are just a notch behind, at 90, in their over-all performance and potential. The Minnesota Vikings and the unbeaten Giants are rated at 85, while the Packers move up five points to 80. In the AFL, Oakland is still well ahead as the choice for a Super Bowl berth, with a 95 rating. Kansas City and the Jets are next, at 85.

DEACON JONES CLAIMS RAMS' DEFENSE NOW BETTER THAN YEAR AGO

OCT 8 (Los Angeles) - "I key on anything that moves," explains David "Deacon" Jones of his quick reactions to enemy offensives. "It may sound ridiculous, but that's what I do. I never key to the ball, I key to movement." Jones, a 250-pound all-NFL defensive end, performs with the Los Angeles Rams group known as the Fearsome Foursome. He figures they're better this year than last, and so far the Rams are undefeated in four NFL outings. They're scheduled to battle at Milwaukee on Sunday against Green Bay. The Packers whipped them for the Western title a year ago. "I think our defense is better this year than last," Jones told the Southern California Football Writers which honored him on Monday as the top performer when the Rams toppled San Francisco's 49ers 24-10...NEW SYSTEM: "This is our third year under a new system" Jones explained. "You know Dallas has the multiple offense. We have a multiple defense. You don't have time to think about it. You have to react to it. We know our defenses without thinking and can react on the field, off the field, or even in the shower room. I know our unit will improve. Everything we do is a team effort. I enjoy playing with this team and would gladly sacrifice anything to win. All of us feel the same way and if we can continue with this philosophy, we'll win." With Jones on the front four are Lamar Lundy, 250, at the opposite end, Roger Brown, 295, and Merlin Olsen, 270, at the tackles. San Francisco had a first down at the Rams'



Staff Photo—Marion Crowe

OUT OF BOUNDS

The Falcons Jim (Cannonball) Butler steps out of bounds at 42-yard line during runback of second-half kickoff Sunday against Green Bay. Butler continued for what looked like

a 100-yard return, but an official spotted what Dan Grimm (67) saw and the play was called back. The Falcons were trailing 10-7 after the first half.

two on Sunday and ran three plays into the line. They gained about a yard and one half and settled for a field goal...STRENGTH SHOWN: The strength of the defenders is shown by the fact they stopped 232-pound fullback Ken Willard once and 226-pound Bill Tucker twice. Teams often keep their tight ends on blocking assignments to have additional help trying to keep Jones away from the passer. He admits he likes the going better when the tight ends are not working on him. "However, when they don't put the end in the pattern, they're weakening their offense, but I'm taking the punishment...sacrificing my body." In the Western playoff game when Green Bay won 28-7, offensive tackle Forrest Gregg and tight end Marv Fleming double teamed Jones. "They jammed me at the line," he recalled, I think this year we might work out something for that."

Rams Agree With Pro Grid Experts: This Is Their Year

TEAM OFFENSE			
	Yards	Rushing	Passing
Dallas	1603	695	908
Baltimore	1470	563	907
Green Bay	1414	553	861
New York	1341	607	734
Detroit	1309	467	842
Washington	1261	378	883
Los Angeles	1255	550	705
New Orleans	1211	459	752
San Francisco	1199	466	733
Minnesota	1190	603	587
Chicago	1117	649	468
Cleveland	1091	490	601
Philadelphia	1088	415	673
Pittsburgh	1064	351	713
St. Louis	942	380	562
Atlanta	865	316	549

TEAM DEFENSE			
	Yards	Rushing	Passing
Los Angeles	786	259	527
Baltimore	960	363	597
Green Bay	1017	446	571
Dallas	1021	273	748
New Orleans	1046	451	595
San Francisco	1076	458	618
Minnesota	1126	537	589
Cleveland	1190	592	598
St. Louis	1253	576	677
Washington	1275	577	698
Detroit	1298	462	836
New York	1340	525	815
Pittsburgh	1359	559	800
Philadelphia	1493	647	846
Chicago	1544	559	985
Atlanta	1636	658	978

RAMS AGREE WITH PRO GRID EXPERTS: THIS IS THEIR YEAR

OCT 9 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Los Angeles Rams were the experts' pre-season choice to supplant the Packers as world champions of professional football this year. The Rams have been of that persuasion themselves, of course, ever since the close of the 1967 season and, off to a perfect 4-0 start, apparently have found little reason to alter their assessment. This, at least, was the central impression gleaned from Tuesday's Mike & Pen Sports Club luncheon at the Beaumont Motor Inn, during which Jack Geyer, assistant Ram publicity director, briefed the local fourth estate in connection with the Californians' upcoming challenge of the NFL's reigning royalty in Milwaukee Sunday. Do the Rams feel, he was asked, that this is their year? "I think they do," he replied, appending with coachly caution. "Of course, they felt that way last year, too. They feel they have a real good team and have a good chance to go all the way."...ALMOST SAME TEAM: How do the current Rams compare with their '67 club? "We're the same team," Geyer informed, "except we don't have Josie (running back Les Josephson) on offense. He was our leading ground gainer. He could make the big play, break for that 25-yard gain, which is something we don't have with Tommy Mason, who has replaced him. Jones (defensive end Deacon) thinks our defense is better than it was last year. He says it was a difficult defense to learn, because there are a lot of multiple defenses involved, so he feels the unit is improved because of another year of experience. Offensively, as I said, we don't have Josie. Whether a year of experience generally is enough to compensate for his loss is hard to say...JUST GETTING BY: "I do know we aren't scoring as many points - we're just getting by. We always seem to be in trouble. Like in the Cleveland game a week ago. The Browns only got

past the 50 once and we dominated the game, but we're leading by only 10-6 late in the game. We feel we're much the better team, but one bomb at that point will beat us." The Angelenos' defense, Geyer noted, "is keeping us alive." This potent platoon is spearheaded, of course, by its awesome front four - Merlin Olsen, Roger Brown, Lamar Lundy and Jones - and its achievements to date are impressive indeed... GABE HITS 54.5: Thus far, the Ram defenders have permitted their four opponents to complete only 50 of 115 passes, an exceedingly mediocre 43.5 percentage, and have registered 18 quarterback traps for a total of 143 yards. They also have been devastating against the run, confining the enemy to a collective net of 259 yards rushing - an average of less than 65 per game. Significantly, in contrast, Ram quarterback Roman Gabriel has been felled only three times en route to a 54.5 per cent efficiency record, based on 55 completions in 101 attempts for 696 yards and 7 touchdowns. His favorite target, Bernie Casey, has settled for 10 catches to date, Geyer noted, but pointed out, "four of them have been for touchdowns." Although three key performers suffered injuries in last weekend's 24-10 decision over the arch rival San Francisco 49ers, the Rams are expected to be full strength for Sunday's collision, Geyer said. "Dick Bass has a slight hamstring pull and so does offensive tackle Charlie Cowan," he reported, "but I'm sure both will be ready to play. Lamar Lundy sprained a knee - the same one he sprained in Cleveland the week before - but he also should be ready."... PACKER PATTERN: Former Packer Ken Iman "is doing a fine job" at center for the Rams, Geyer reported. "He's a key guy in that offensive line. People say he doesn't have the size for offensive center, but he does a helluva job for us"...Ex-Viking Mason also "has been doing very well," he said, "but he's not entirely happy with himself. He only has had one less carry than Bass but Bass is averaging 4.6 per attempt compared to 3.7 for Mason. But Tommy's blocking very well. I think he's mad at himself because he's not running as well as he feels he should be and he's taking it out on the other team"...Nary a rookie made the Ram roster this year, although two players, former Whitewater (Wis.) State star Vilnis Ezerins moved up after two years on the taxi squad and running back Mike Dennis, taxied by the Rams in '66 and by the Packers last season, also crashed the final 40...The trade which sent quarterback Bill Munson apparently has not been an unqualified success. Flanker Pat Studstill, acquired from the Lions along with quarterback Milt Plum and running back Tom Watkins, has caught only one pass to date and Watkins is back on the Rams' taxi squad - after being traded to Pittsburgh and having had a tryout with the San Diego Chargers. Plum has seen little action backing up Gabriel, LA's generously proportioned field general. The Rams also will receive the Lions' No. 1 choice in the upcoming collegiate draft, however. They likewise will acquire the Washington Redskins' top pick as a result of the Gary Beban trade, which, of course, means Coach George Allen will have three first choices next

January...The Packers continued their Ram preparations Tuesday with a long meeting, followed by a brief but brisk practice session, followed in turn by a scouting report from Wally Cruise.

RAM DEFENSE OUTDOING ITSELF

OCT 9 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – How much greater can a great defense become? Ask the Los Angeles Rams, who are out-doing even their own Ram-size greatness while dominating the NFL's defensive statistics almost from top to bottom. Here's a capsule checkoff as the unbeaten Rams prepare for their Sunday showdown in Milwaukee with the champion Green Bay Packers, the only team to beat them in their last 14 games (28-7 in last year's Western Conference Championship):

- Fewest points allowed - Rams first with 39
- Fewest yards allowed - Rams first with 196.5 per game
- Fewest yards rushing allowed - Rams first with 64.8 per game
- Fewest yards allowed per rushing play - Rams first with 2.8
- Fewest yards passing allowed - Rams first with 131.8 per game
- Lowest completion percentage allowed - Rams first with 43.5
- Most times opposing passer tackled - Rams first with 18
- Most yards opposing passer thrown - Rams first with 143
- Fewest touchdowns allowed - Rams first with four

All this from a team that at one stage of the pre-season lost back-to-back games to Dallas and San Diego by margins of 32 and 22 points and in six pre-season games surrendered 151 points - or only 47 fewer than they had in the entire 14-game NFL regular season schedule in 1967. "Never fear," said David (Deacon) Jones at the time. "We'll be ready in time." The all-pro defensive end and his defensive teammates have kept their word. In allowing no more than one touchdown in any game, the Rams defeated St. Louis 24-13, Pittsburgh 45-10 and Cleveland 24-6 before stopping the San Francisco 49ers 24-10 last Sunday. One series in the San Francisco game indicated as well as any the way the Los Angeles defense can intimidate the opposition and turn a game around. In the third quarter, Rams leading 14-7, John Brodie led the 49ers on a drive that took them from their own 22 to a first down on the Los Angeles 12. On first down, Brodie threw to Clifton McNeil for 7 yards to the 5. On second down, San Francisco fullback Ken Willard gained one yard up the middle. On third and two at the 4, the Rams were offside and the half-the-distance penalty gave the 49ers another first down, this time at the 2. The next three plays tell the story. First down - Willard stopped for no gain by Maxie Baughan, Eddie Meador and Irv Cross. Second down - Bill Tucker, replacing Willard (who was shaken up on the previous play) gained one yard up the middle, tackled by Jack Pardee and Merlin Olsen. Third down - Tucker again hits the middle, tackled for no gain at the one by Jones, who knifed behind the blocking on a spectacular play. Fourth down - The 49ers settle for a 7-yard field goal by Tommy Davis, leaving the Rams with the lead at 14-10 instead of being tied. The Los Angeles offense promptly took the ball 65 yards for a 21-10 lead and the defense came back to apply the clincher, an interception by Baughan setting up a 19-yard field goal by Bruce Gossett. "Without any doubt," said Coach George Allen, "that goal line stand was the turning point." The 49er offense, limited to 158 yards overall, had no further chances. In fact, the 49er score was set up by the defense - Clark Miller running to the Ram 3 with a fumble.

MASON REMEMBERS PACKERS

OCT 9 (Los Angeles) – Veteran running back Tommy Mason of the Los Angeles Rams has more than one reason to look forward to Sunday's game against the Green Bay Packers in Milwaukee. In 1965, Mason played for the Minnesota Vikings against Green Bay. "I ran for 99 yards against the Packers and scored one touchdown," the ex-Tulane star recalled Wednesday. "But I wrecked my knee in the fourth quarter and had to undergo surgery, and I haven't had much chance to run since - until this season." Mason and his suspect knee came to the Rams prior to the start of the 1967 season. The Rams had planned on Tommy as a starter but Lester Josephson blossomed into stardom and Mason had to ride the bench for the most part. Josephson is through for the season, and Mason filled the gap. In four games he has rushed for 198 yards. If he keeps it up he could challenge his best year when he gained 763 yards and earned unanimous 1963 all-pro honors. Mason did have some bright moments in 1967, however. One was a 51-yard touchdown pass he threw to Bernie Casey against the Chicago Bears. In two run-pass options this year Tommy still has to succeed - but the play is in the Ram books. Mason said he finds blocking for Ram quarterback Roman Gabriel much less demanding than when he tried to block for Fran Tarkenton of the Vikes. "Trying to block for Fran was brutal," Mason observed with a smile. "I never knew where he was going to be. Gabe makes it easy by staying in the pocket."

BUSY SUNDAY FOR FLANIGAN

OCT 9 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Jim Flanigan, a serious young athlete of 22, is in superb physical condition - a longtime Packer requisite. But the muscular Pennsylvanian, a dedicated weightlifter, admits he was puffing ever so slightly at the beginning of the fourth quarter in last Sunday's highly successful (38-7) invasion of Atlanta. "That was a long third quarter," sighed the second year middle linebacker, obvious and eventual successor to the incomparable Ray Nitschke but presently a card-carrying member of the Packers' special teams for the most part. "We sure did a lot of running." "There were a lot of extra points and a lot of kickoffs," Flanigan explained. "You'd run in on the extra point, then run off, then run back in on the kickoff. Then the defense would stop the Falcons in three plays and you're back in to cover a punt. The whole game was that way, as a matter of fact. There also were a lot of field goal attempts, too, and I had to run in on those, of course...A FULL AFTERNOON: "The whole game was that way, as a matter of fact. There also were a lot of field goal attempts, too, and I had to run in on those, of course." It thus turned out to be a rather full afternoon for the former University of

Pittsburgh luminary, who also played the entire fourth quarter in relief of Nitschke. But Flanigan, who says he now feels considerably more comfortable at his position than he did as a rookie, was hardly complaining. He understandably welcomed the opportunity to participate in what he rates as the world champions' best defensive performance of the season to date. "We have had better execution, over short periods of time," he admitted. "I thought our first quarter against Detroit was excellent. But we haven't played as consistently over a full game as we did Sunday. We made very few mistakes - we had hardly any penalties and we were well prepared. And we had to win..."NOT THAT LITTLE EXTRA": "Before, everybody was doing his job, but there wasn't that little extra. The opposition was making first downs by inches or a foot. A lot of times, a runner would roll off for that extra inch because the second man wasn't there to help. "This game we had it," Jim observed with quiet satisfaction. "There weren't any individual tackles - on almost every one there were at least three guys making the tackle." The rapidly developing sophomore credits much of his improvement to Nitschke. "Ray gives me an awful lot of help," he says. "When he comes off the field, he tells me what defense we're using, what the center is doing, etc. He's a great teacher. Of course, he's the best in the league, there isn't any question about it. I can learn more from watching him than anything else. He does everything well. He covers the pass well and he reads the run - he's always in the hole." Does Flanigan feel the Atlanta performance indicates the long vaunted Packer defense has returned to its miserly form?...RAM GAME WILL TELL: "I certainly hope so," Jim replied with pensive fervor. "I think this game coming up against the Rams in Milwaukee Sunday will tell. I think we'll be up - we have to win. And I'm sure the Rams will. They have to win to prove they're the best team around. And we have to prove what people have been saying isn't true - that we're slowing down and getting too old." A native of West Mifflin, Pa., where he set the Pennsylvania shot put record as a prep athlete, the personable young Irishman has decided to make Green Bay his year-around home. "I like the cold weather and I like good hunting and fishing," he explains. "This is right up my alley."

TARKENTON HAS PASSING LEAD, STARR SIXTH

OCT 9 (New York) - Fran Tarkenton of New York and Bill Munson of Detroit have knocked Dallas' Don Meredith out of the lead as the NFL's top passer. Tarkenton, who has completed 46 of 80 tosses for 803 yards and eight touchdowns, took over first in the standings based on completions, touchdowns, percentage of interceptions and average gain. Munson was second with 43 of 63 for 669 yards and six touchdowns, while Meredith slipped to third with 52 of 78 for 740 yards and eight TDs. Other leaders were Chicago's Gale Sayers, rushing (361 yards in 58 carries); Minnesota's Bill Brown, scoring (48 points on eight touchdowns); San Francisco's Clifton McNeil, pass receiving (22 for 317 yards); Washington's Mike Bragg, punting (19 for 46.6 average); Philadelphia's Alvin Haymond, punt returns (7 for 26.9 average), and Los Angeles' Ron Smith, kickoff returns (6 for 38.7 average). Donny Anderson, the Packers' top ground gainer to date, has covered 287 yards in 50 carries, an average of 5.7 yards a trip. That puts him No. 3 in the standings, with Chicago's Gale Sayers out front, averaging 6.2 yards on 58 carries. Bart Starr, Packer quarterback, is sixth among league passers. He has completed 58 of 90 passes for 898 yards. One of his favorite receivers, Carroll Dale, is sixth among NFL receivers, having caught 16 tosses for 357 yards.

BOWMAN'S LIFE ALTERED WHEN INJURY COST HIM STARTING JOB

OCT 10 (Green Bay) - Monday is a day off for the Green Bay Packers, but 235-pound center Ken Bowman spends most of his working for Christ. Monday, after the Packers meet the undefeated Los Angeles Rams in Milwaukee, Bowman will be the featured speaker at a luncheon of the Milwaukee Christian Business Men's committee. Green Bay's No. 1 center thinks it's a "thrilling experience" to talk, especially to young people, about Christ. "I spoke to three fraternities at Madison this past Monday and the response was tremendous," the five-year pro said Wednesday. "So many people have been preached at and to, I just tell them to give it (Christianity) a swing."

Bowman said the big change in his life came in 1966, the year a shoulder injury hurt him, and he lost his starting spot to Bill Curry, now with Baltimore. "Anytime before 1966, I had more or less given up on myself," he said. "I had a 'Let 'er rip, anything goes' philosophy." "Bill Curry's the one who got me interested in Christ," Bowman said. "Everyone knew that Bill was a Christian. They used to call him 'Reverend' and tease him about it." Bowman, who lives in De Pere, said he asked Curry about the teasing. "He told me that it didn't bother him a bit. And he said he was proud that the rest of the players thought of him as a Christian. I could see he was a lot stronger in his faith than I was," Bowman continued. "We got together and he counseled me." That was Curry's last season with Green Bay. "Either Bill or I were to be put on the expansion list," Bowman said. "For some reason, Coach (Vince) Lombardi decided to keep me." "I don't want to portray the image that I'm walking around with a halo on my head," Bowman said. "But I don't have a 'Let 'er rip' philosophy any more. I have a let it happen philosophy. I know that everything that happens, even setbacks, are according to His big plan."

PASS PROTECTION VITAL TO BEATING RAMS: GREGG

OCT 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers will need a superior performance, it long since has been generally accepted, to subdue the prepossessing Los Angeles Rams in Milwaukee Sunday. There also is little question about what will constitute the key to victory over the Angelenos, who have smothered the St. Louis Cardinals, Pittsburgh Steelers, Cleveland Browns and San Francisco 49ers to claim a share of the NFL's Coastal Division lead. That is, of course, "containment" of the Rams' already legendary Fearsome

LEADING GROUND GAINERS				
	Att.	Yds	Gain	TDS
Sayers, Chi	58	361	6.2	2
Kelly, Cle	69	342	5.0	2
Anderson, GB	50	287	5.7	1
Brown, Minn	62	277	4.5	7
Woodeshick, Phil	50	266	5.3	1
Bass, LA	54	252	4.7	1
McCall, NO	39	229	5.9	2
Willard, SS	67	225	3.4	1
Lewis, SF	51	213	4.2	0
Sarr, Det	57	207	3.6	1

LEADING PASSERS				
	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TDS Gain
Tarkenton, N	80	46	803	8 10.04
Munson, Det	63	43	669	6 10.62
Meredith, Dal	78	52	740	8 9.49
Jurgensen, Wash	114	74	914	9 8.02
Morrall, Balt	101	60	968	10 9.58
Starr, GB	90	58	898	8 9.98
Brodie, SF	104	66	763	7 7.34
Gabriel, LA	101	55	696	7 6.89
Kapp, Minn	70	39	507	3 7.24
Kilmer, NO	120	70	786	6 6.55

LEADING PASS RECEIVERS				
	Recd.	Yds.	Gain	TDS
McNeil, SF	22	317	14.4	3
Taylor, Wash	21	248	11.8	1
Williams, StL	18	237	13.2	1
Hawkins, Phil	17	385	22.6	2
Abramowicz, NO	17	371	18.9	3
Dale, GB	16	357	22.3	5
McCullough, Det	16	353	22.1	3
Jefferson, Pitt	16	279	17.4	2
Hayes, Dal	16	252	15.8	2
Washington, Minn	15	242	16.1	1
Smith, StL	15	211	14.1	1

LEADING SCORERS				
	TDS	FG	Pat	TP
Brown, Minn	80	0	48	
Gogolak, NY	0	7	19	40
M. Clark, Dal	0	4	21	33
Reeves, Dal	5	0	0	30
Richter, Wash	5	0	0	30
Cox, Minn	0	5	13	28
Durkee, NO	0	6	10	28
Michaels, Balt	0	4	16	28
Gossett, LA	0	4	15	27

Foursome, a devastating quartet which has contributed mightily to the Californians' perfect getaway...HARROWING AFTERNOON: If Dave Jones, Merlin Olsen, Roger Brown and Lamar Lundy should be permitted to continue their recent depredations against the world champions, it obviously could be a harrowing afternoon for the home forces. Heavy responsibility thus will fall to the Packer offensive line - tackles Bob Skoronski and Forrest Gregg, guards Gale Gillingham and Jerry Kramer and center Ken Bowman, all of whom, fortunately, are accustomed to such challenges. And that, Gregg freely admits, is what lies ahead of Green Bay's front wall. "Being able to protect your passer (in this case, quarterback Bart Starr) is, of course, the biggest job," said 1967's NFL Offensive Lineman of the Year. And we have to get our running game going. One, of course, will help the other." Assessing the problem, Gregg conceded, "It's going to be another big job for us. After our game in Milwaukee last year (the Packers' 28-7 conquest of the Rams in the Western Conference playoff) they will have a lot of added incentive. And probably their front four will have a special incentive." Ever one to take the positive approach, he added, "We're just going to have to come up with a repeat performance." Touching upon his personal challenge, a duel with the Rams' all-NFL end, Dave Jones, Gregg opined, "He's a great football player...It's going to be a long day for me. He has great speed and quickness. He has real good moves rushing the passers - he can go inside or outside. And he can beat you around the corner. He can get hold of you and pull you one way and go the other." Although Jones and his fellow Ram forwards are individually and collectively powerful, sheer physical strength is not the only secret of their success, Gregg explained. "You meet a lot of defensive lines which are big and real strong," he said, "and sometimes they will have quickness and real speed. This group is huge and very, very agile. All of them have very good speed and they are very quick. And when you're facing a group like this, you can't point for one, or you let another one get away." The claim has been made, it was noted, that the Fearsome Foursome is even better than it was a year ago. Gregg, fresh from studying the enemy on film, said, "It's hard to say. They were a great defensive line last year. Maybe they're playing a little better together as a unit. "Jones and Olsen and Lundy have been together for several years, of course, but Brown came in there last year. This could be the thing right here." "But I don't know if they're any stronger than they were," he said, appending with a wry chuckle, "it would be hard to improve on what they did last year." Does he feel Sunday's assignment will shed significant light on the Packers' chances of winning a record fourth consecutive NFL title? "It's certainly a big game for us," was the careful reply, "and it's going to be a big game for them, too. I don't want to lose this ball game, by any means, but I don't think the outcome of this game will decide whether or not we are going to win the championship. But we don't need another loss. That would give us three and you don't want to get too far behind." There may be some question about the outcome, but one thing is certain, Gregg admitted. "We won't have any trouble getting up for this one," he said dryly. "It's a matter of survival. If you don't get up for it, you won't survive."...PACKER PATTERN: The Packers, getting down to heavy work for the Rams, were sartorially resplendent for Wednesday's practice. They appeared in new emerald green (offense) and gleaming white (defense) jerseys, all bearing their correct numbers. In the past, the world champions have drilled in old game jerseys, which did not correspond to the numbers they wear on Sunday...The session, climaxed by a defensive drill against the Ram offense, was preceded by a lengthy meeting, the second in as many days and a significant indication of the task at hand.

BENGTSON GIVES KRAMER, THE KICKER, VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

OCT 11 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Packer Coach Phil Bengtson gave Jerry Kramer a vote of confidence Thursday. Jerry Kramer, placekicker, that is. There was no need, of course, to issue one for Jerry Kramer, offensive guard, because the 32-year-old Careful Drive resident has been having one of his greatest years in that role. But, Kramer, who inherited the Packers field goal and extra point duties this season following the retirement of Don Chandler, has been having a few troubles with the toe of late - after a perfect 4-for-4 start...BENGTSON NOT SHAKEN: His misfortunes have not shaken Bengtson's faith in Jerry's competence, however, the Packer headmaster indicated following Thursday's practice. Asked if he had decided who will kick against the Los Angeles Rams in Sunday's key struggle at Milwaukee, Phil replied without a trace of hesitation, "Jerry Kramer." "We think he can correct his problem," he noted, adding, "The situation may come up that we may put Chuck Mercein in there - for one reason or another." Such a circumstance, Bengtson said, would be "if Jerry is in there on a long drive, or it's late in the game and he is likely to be tired."...PROBLEMS BEGAN: Kramer's problems began in the second quarter of the Packers' 23-17 loss to the Lions here when he missed a 21-yard field goal attempt. He since had been off target on four more in succession, although one of them was from 52 yards out, a distance at which any placement artist's success ratio is exceedingly modest. Three of these came in last Sunday's 38-7 bombing of the Atlanta Falcons and 1967's NFL Blocker of the Year was replaced by Mercein, who was successful on a 20-yard effort and later narrowly missed a 45-yard attempt...ACROSS THE BALL: Following the game, Bengtson explained, "Jerry wasn't feeling too well...He was bothered with a cold and I'm sure it affected his kicking.



Hart-43

Defensive Halfback — Arlington State

Height 6-1, Weight 190

Born in Handley, Texas, June 3, 1939

Fifth year in pro ball . . . Signed by St. Louis as free agent for 1963 season . . . Picked up on waivers by Packers during pre-season . . . Played on taxi squad 1963 and made squad in 1964 . . . Started at right corner in 1965 . . . Selected on the All-Texas college team of 1962 . . . Pre-Law student . . . Returned 1 interception for 40 yard TD against Atlanta in 1966 . . . 4 interceptions in 1965 for 29 yds. . . . Scored on fumble recovery and run against Vikings in 1965 . . . Excellent speed. Residence: Green Bay, Wis.



Dale—84

Flanker—Virginia Polytechnical Institute
Height 6-2, Weight 200
Born in Wise, Va., on April 24, 1938

Ninth year in pro ball . . .
Drafted eighth round by Rams
in 1960 . . . Look All-American
team and NEA Player of the
Year in Southern Conference in
1959 . . . Education Major . . .
Came to Packers from Rams
prior to '65 season for lineback-
er Dan Currie . . . Enjoyed most
productive year of career in
1966 with 37 catches for 23.7
yard average and 7 TDs . . .
per catch average second high-
est in league . . . Caught 47
yard TD pass vs. Browns in '65
title game and 51 yard TD bomb
against Dallas in '66 . . . 4 catch-
es for 59 yards against Kansas
City and 4 for 43 vs. Oakland in
AFL-NFL Title games. Resi-
dence: Bristol, Tenn.

the entire year." Although pro defenses already are impressively intricate, the Ram colossus predicts they will become even more specialized in the future. The trend, Merlin observes, is toward five defensive backs even in relatively short yardage situations. "Where it used to be the fifth back would come in on a third-and-15 situation," he says, "he may be used now on second- and -12, in some spots. It's a complicated game."

MASON EAGER TO GET AT PACKERS

OCT 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) — It is hardly a secret that the Los Angeles Rams, who have distressing memories of their 28-7 thumping on this same turf last December, are impatient to have at the Packers in County Stadium Sunday afternoon. But none of the Angelenos is more eagerly awaiting the confrontation than Tommy Mason, the transplanted Minnesota Viking who has been a highly adequate replacement for injured Les Josephson in the Ram backfield. Mason shared in the Californians' playoff comeuppance here,

The reason I decided to replace him wasn't so much that I was thinking in terms of his having missed those kicks but the fact that he wasn't feeling too well." In Thursday's analysis of the 11-year veteran's recent difficulties, the Packer strategist said, "Jerry has the feeling he has been coming across the ball a little bit - as a result of the step he has been taking just ahead of the kick." "All of them have been pretty close - there haven't been any complete fizzles," he pointed out, "so it looks like it should be pretty simple to correct." Although he has been kicking better in practice this week, Kramer confided, "I'm not happy with it ... I wish I could spend eight hours out there." "If my leg didn't fall off," Jerry dryly observed, "maybe I would find something else."...PACKER PATTEN: Although everyone was wearing sweat clothes and the defensive linemen were sporting the customary arm pads, there was some impressive contact in Thursday's practice, suggesting the world champions are beginning to acquire an edge for Sunday's match...The Packers, who staged their final home drill of the week today, leave by bus at 9:30 Saturday morning for Milwaukee, where they will work out at County Stadium before establishing headquarters at the Hotel Pfister....Lindsey Nelson, who has replaced Ray Scott as the Packers TV voice, apparently feels "his" team has little chance of repeating its title triumphs of the last three years. Nelson, appearing on Giant quarterback Fran Tarkenton's television show in New York last week, reportedly declaimed, "The Packers are old, over the hill and are not going to make it."

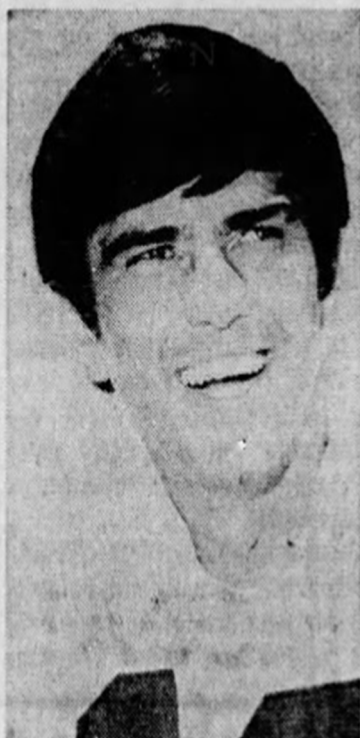
PRO LINEMEN BRAINY, TOO

OCT 11 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) — The pro quarterback, as best exemplified by such as Bart Starr and Frank Ryan, has come to be renowned for his intellect. And with good reason. His, unquestionably, is the most demanding job in the game, requiring him to know among other things, every play in the team's customarily voluminous repertoire as well as all of his teammates' assignments on each. In addition he must continually make split second decisions on selection. But he has more than a little company in the matter of cranial capacity these days, which find professional football becoming increasingly complex with each passing year. A notable case in point is Merlin Olsen, the huge, all-NFL defensive tackle of the Los Angeles Rams, who will pose a formidable problem for a fellow all-league selection, Packer guard Jerry Kramer, in Milwaukee Sunday afternoon. Olsen spends his Sabbaths mistreating the aforementioned quarterbacks and his leisure time writing a master's thesis in economics. These, obviously, are not allied pursuits but his contrasting occupations indicate the kind of intelligence which is required to play the game today. Olsen, who is working toward an economics degree at Utah State, recently discoursed upon this point at some length for the benefit of Jack Teele, Ram publicity director...OVER HUNDRED PAGES: Taking the Rams' then upcoming game against San Francisco, he explained, "To begin with, we have this game plan for the 49ers. It's a thick book of over a hundred mimeographed pages telling everything about their offense and how all their players react. We have to learn it in four days. "But defense, like offense, is a game of audibles. Some games Maxie Baughan, who handles our defensive signals, may call audibles (a late change of signal) two out of three plays. "Besides Maxie's calls, we in the Front Four have our own system of audibles that any one of us may call to get better execution." That, it develops, is not all. Olsen and Deacon Jones, who plays next to him on the left side, also have set up additional audibles just for the two of them. There have been situations, Merlin told Teele, when all three sets of audibles have been called by and for the linemen on a single play within seconds of the time the action begins. "It requires supreme mental agility and alertness," Teele points out, "for each lineman must keep in mind at the same time the moves of the opposing player, the tendencies of the quarterback and (on a running play) the style of the runner."... 'CAN STILL IMPROVE': Olsen believes he and his fellow members of the Rams' devastating Fearsome Foursome (Roger Brown, Lamar Lundy and Jones) are playing better football now than they were a year ago. "But," he says, "we think we can still improve. Our objective is to hold our yards per rush average under 3 (it is a remarkable 2.8 at this juncture) for

RUSHING					
	Att.	Yds.	Ave.	L	TD
Anderson, Pack.	50	287	5.7	42	1
Bass, Rams	54	252	4.6	20	1
Mason, Rams	53	198	3.7	19	2
Grabowski, Pack.	39	136	3.5	9	1
Pitts, Pack	16	71	4.9	12	0

PASSING					
	Att.	C.	Yds.	Int.	TD
Starr, Pack.	91	58	898	4	8
Gabriel, Rams	101	55	696	2	7

RECEIVING					
	No.	Yds.	Ave.	L	TD
Dale, Pack.	16	357	22.3	63	4
Dowler, Pack.	15	218	14.5	55	2
Truax, Rams	14	163	11.6	22	0
Snow, Rams	12	144	12.0	26	1
Casey, Rams	10	229	22.9	55	4
Bass, Rams	9	84	9.3	28	2
Mason, Rams	9	82	9.1	24	0
Fleming, Pack.	7	79	11.3	18	1
Pitts, Pack.	7	71	10.1	19	0
Anderson, Pack.	6	54	9.0	30	0
James, Pack.	4	77	19.3	23	2
Williams, Pack.	4	37	9.3	17	0



ROMAN GABRIEL
The Mod Look

primarily as a spectator, he has an additional incentive. The former Tulane athlete has had more than a modicum of success against the Packers during his eight-year NFL career, a factor which has heightened his anticipation of Sunday's encounter. Mason has amassed 473 yards as a runner and pass receiver in nine appearances against the Pack, all of them as a Viking. Discouraging upon this point earlier in the week, the 29-year-old veteran noted, "Back in 1965 I ran for 99 yards (it was 101) against them and scored one touchdown. But I wrecked my knee in the fourth quarter and had to undergo surgery, and I haven't had much chance to run since, until this season." Although he had had operations on both knees when he joined the Rams prior to the 1967 season, Mason was expected to be a starter at running back until Josephson made such a pre-season impression that he couldn't be kept out of the lineup. As a result, the one-time Viking languished on the Los Angeles bench for most of the season, except for a few cameo appearances, such as in a game against the Bears when he fired a 51-yard pass to Bernie Casey. "I have been throwing more off the option pass since I've been with the Rams than I ever did with Minnesota," Mason reports. "The Vikings didn't use the play much. I was kept busy running the sweeps." Mason, who has been averaging nearly four yards per carry to date, says his knees are completely sound now, although he still plays with both legs wrapped in three pounds of tape from ankles to thighs. "It has cost me a step or two in speed, but I believe I'm a more dependable player today," he feels. "I'm a better blocker and receiver than I was in Minnesota and by playing regularly I'm getting my timing back. I'm not an elusive runner, but I start fast and I think I am hitting the holes better." ...PACKER

PATTER: Mason currently is the Rams' No. 2 rusher with 198 yards in 53 attempts. He also has caught 9 passes for 82 yards. Dick Bass is the Angelenos' top ground gainer with 252 yards in 54 tries, a 4.6 average. Tight end Billy Truax is the Rams' leading pass receiver - in number of catches - with 14, but the accomplished Bernie Casey has been the most effective. He has caught 10 for 229 yards, a fat 22.9 average, and 4 touchdowns...The Packers' Donny Anderson, who vaulted into third place in the NFL last week with a 101-yard day against the Falcons, has the best rushing average on either team, 5.7. It is based on 287 yards in 50 thrusts. Carroll Dale, scheduled to start Sunday despite bruised ribs, paces Packer receivers on 16 catches for 357 yards, 22.3 average.

OLSEN SAYS PACKERS WILL COLLIDE WITH MULTIPLE STARS IN RAM CLASH

OCT 13 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "There have been a lot of great teams in football, and over the years there have been a lot of stars. But I doubt if any other team ever had so many different men making the kind of plays that you only expect of stars." If it were not that they are inclined to modesty, it might have been one of the 1967 (or 1965 or 1966) Packers talking. But it wasn't. The speaker was Merlin Olsen, the Los Angeles Rams' mastodonic left defensive tackle, extolling his teammates' talents via the Los Angeles Times, in the wake of last Sunday's

24-10 disposal of the San Francisco 49ers. "Thirty or 35 different Rams made at least one big play in that game," Olsen insisted. "We're looking for big plays now from each other - counting on them - and we're beginning to make the league nervous because when you play the Rams, you never know where serious trouble is coming from next. We can shoot them down with a big play from any position on offense or defense or the special teams."...IF APPRAISAL ACCURATE: If his appraisal is only reasonably accurate, it eloquently underscores the kind of challenge which unquestionably awaits the Packers in County Stadium, before a standing room house of more than 47,000 customers, at 1 o'clock this afternoon (WNFL). No one is more aware of it than Phil Bengtson, the scholarly Scandinavian who fondly hopes to bring Green Bay a fourth consecutive NFL championship. Asked if he felt his athletes were ready to forge a superior performance, the Packer head man soberly replied, "That's what it'll take, I know that."...RATED EVEN: Although the Rams are unbeaten and the world champions own an inconsistent 2-2 record, including a 38-7 breeze over the Atlanta Falcons last time out, the game is rated even by the oddsmakers. The Rams' are fearful that running back Dick Bass, defensive end Lamar Lundy and offensive tackle Charlie Cowan are doubtful participants but because earlier in the week the Rams had announced that all three were expected to play the Packers are assuming they will be in evidence this afternoon. The Packers obviously have a powerful incentive, since a third defeat at this point would seriously impair their title hopes, but so have the Rams. They will be spurred by the memory of a 28-7 thumping in the Western Conference playoff on this same sod last December, a development which knocked them out of the NFL title game and into the considerably less lucrative and prestigious Runnerup Bowl. The Angelenos, who share the Coastal Division lead with likewise unbeaten

Probable Starting Lineups:			
OFFENSE		GREEN BAY	
LOS ANGELES			
Snow	SE	Dowler	
Carollo	LT	Skoronski	
Mack	LG	Gillingham	
Iman	C	Bowman	
Scibell	RG	Kramer	
Cowan	RT	Gregg	
Truax	TE	Fleming	
Gabriel	QB	Starr	
Casey	FL	Dale	
Mason	RB	Anderson	
Bass	RB	Grabowski	
DEFENSE			
Jones	LE	Davis	
Olsen	LT	Kostechnik	
Brown	RT	Jordan	
Lundy	RE	Aldridge	
Pardee	LLB	Robinson	
Pottios	MLB	Nitschke	
Baughan	RLB	Caffey	
C. Williams	LH	Adderley	
Cross	RH	Jeter	
Smith	LS	T. Brown	
Meador	RS	Wood	
Packer-Ram Series			
Packers won 18, Rams 25, 1 tied.			
Points—Packers 961, Rams 1,255.			

Baltimore, also have the confidence and momentum born of a perfect (4-0) getaway in the 1968 race...PROBLEM CLEAR: If the Packers are to slow the Ram charge, the nature of their problem is abundantly clear. Offensively, they must fend off the assault of the westerners' Fearsome Foursome, the huge front four of Dave Jones (6-5 and 250), Brown (6-5 and 279), Lunday (6-7 and 250) and Olsen (6-5 and 270) long enough to permit quarterback Bart Starr at least minimum passing time...RAMS' STRONGBOY: And, simultaneously, Messrs. Bob Skoronski, Gale Gillingham, Ken Bowman, Jerry Kramer and Forrest Gregg will have to move those substantial citizens sufficiently to provide such as Donny Anderson, Jim Grabowski and Elijah Pitts with a modicum of daylight. Defensively, the Packer front wall will be required to shackle towering Roman Gabriel, the Rams' strongboy quarterback who has been known to launch a pass with the enemy awkwardly draped about his anatomy.

ACTION ON **WNFL**

TODAY
1:00 P.M.

Green Bay
PACKERS

vs.
Los Angeles
RAMS

PACKER WARMUP 11:30
PRO PREDICTIONS 12:30
PACKER PROFILES 12:40
PACKER PREVIEW 12:45

Following the Game

Pro Football Scoreboard

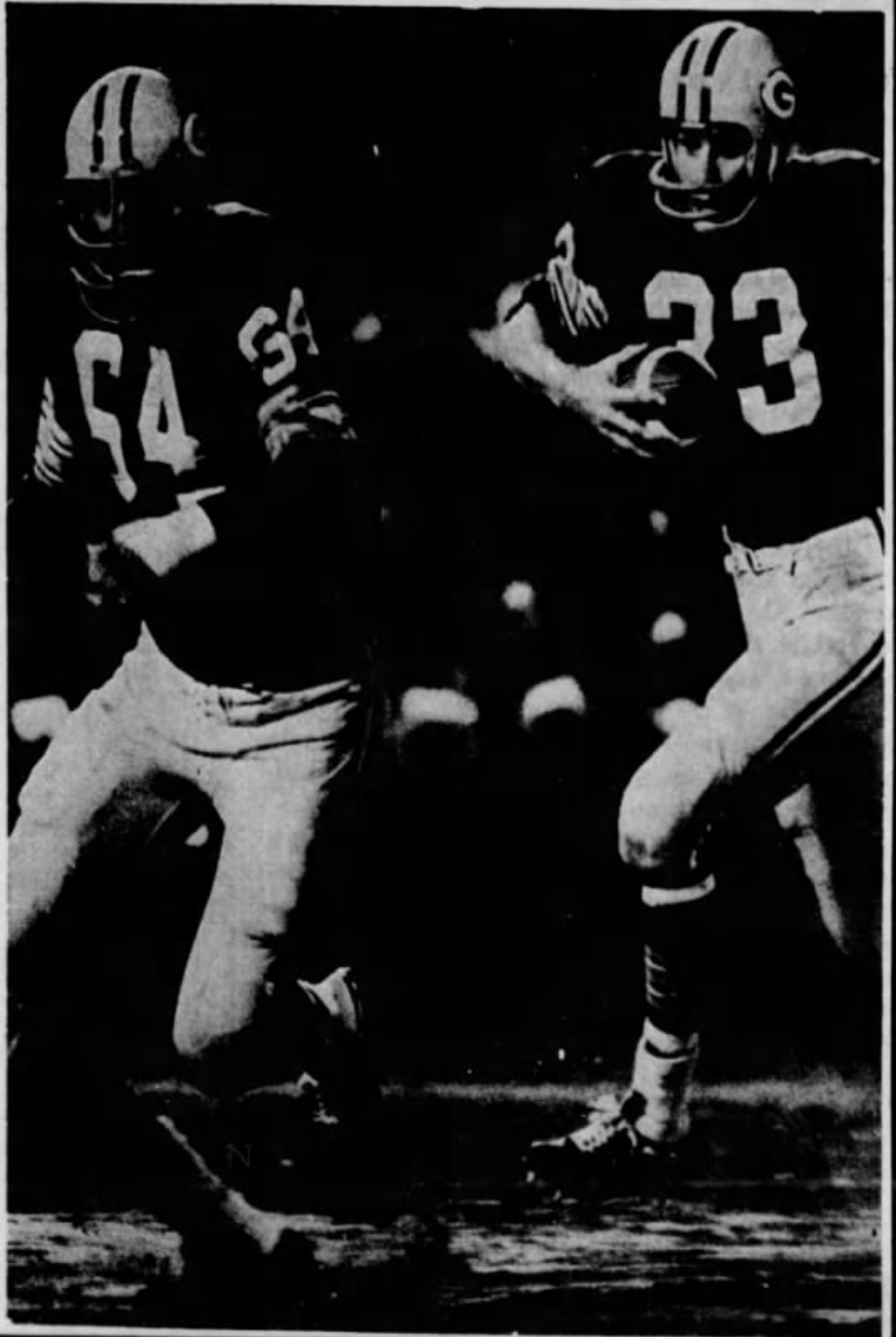
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