



Green Bay Packers (4-5-1) 29, New Orleans Saints (3-7) 7  
Sunday November 17<sup>th</sup> 1968 (at Milwaukee)



# Packers Revamp Approach, Crush Saints, 29-7

## GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(MILWAUKEE) - It may not have been true northern hospitality, but the Packers weren't in a position to stand on ceremony. In arrears at halftime in each of their previous four appearances, from which they extracted a net of one tie and three defeats, the world champions drastically revamped their approach here Sunday afternoon with the grudging cooperation of the New Orleans Saints. Entertaining the southerners on Wisconsin soil for the first time, the Packers converted two Saint fumbles and an errant punt into an early 17-0 lead, thereby avoiding another traumatic afternoon in the drizzly gloom of County Stadium. Their point production trailed off somewhat thereafter but it was more than sufficient to scuttle a two-game losing streak with a 29-7 decision achieved with the aid of a 47-yard Bart Starr bomb to long ball specialist Carroll Dale in the second quarter. The workmanlike win, together with related events on other National League fronts, substantially improved the Packers still modest Central Division title hopes. Now possessors of a 4-5-1 record, they moved past the Detroit Lions, 13-6 victims of the Minnesota Vikings, into third place and trail the Bears, sabotaged by the lowly Atlanta Falcons, by only a half game with four to play. Minnesota, of course, remains a length and a half in front but the Vikings (6-4) must contend with the Baltimore Colts, Los Angeles Rams and San Francisco 49ers in the next three weeks, a somewhat formidable program. The Packers, who next face the Washington Redskins in the nation's capital, struck first with what this season has been their least dependable weapon, the foot. With third down and eight at the New Orleans 27, a point reached following Ron Kostelnik's recovery of a Saint fumble at the visitors' 47, Mike Mercer came on to toe a 35-yard field goal, his second in three attempts in Green Bay silks.

### **RAY BANISHED**

The home forces then employed the "big play," conspicuous by its absence in recent weeks, to forge that decisive early bulge. With the Saints operating from their own 20 following a 65-yard Donny Anderson punt into the end zone, Tom Brown scooped up a New Orleans fumble on the bounce at the 22 and was away. Escorted by Ray Nitschke, later to be banished for an altercation with the notoriously pugnacious Monte Stickles, Brown cruised into the end zone without enemy restraint. One exchange later, Brown fair caught Ronnie Lee South's 21-yard punt at the New Orleans 41 and the Packers scored in four plays, the major item a 33-yard Starr pass to Dale, who had one of the most productive afternoons of his nine-year pro career. That maneuver carried the Packers to the Saint one-yard-line and Anderson punched it over on the next play. Mercer's second conversion padded the lead to 17-0, although nearly two minutes remained in the first quarter. The Packers subsequently permitted the Saints a second period touchdown, triggered by a somewhat questionable interference ruling on Herb Adderley, charged with tripping Dave Parks at the 1-yard-line. Perhaps nettled by the Louisianians' effrontery, the Packers charged 77 yards to score in seven plays following the next kickoff, Starr's 47-yard strike to Dale providing the payoff.

### **OPPORTUNITY EVAPORATES**

Apparently a surprise to the Saints in a third-and-five situation, the coverage left the Pack's gifted flanker one-on-one with New Orleans' John Douglas and, charitably, it was no contest. The Packers had further opportunities, one of which evaporated when Jim Grabowski fumbled on the goal line and another when a 30-yard field goal attempt was blocked in the third quarter, but they weren't able to "cash" again until the middle of the last period. A Tom Brown interception, triggered by Dave Robinson's deflection, launched the Bays from their 37 and they were home in 11 plays. They included 13 and 14-yard Zeke Bratkowski passes to Dale, who caught 8 in all for 161 yards. Elijah Pitts churned the last four yards in two thrusts. Bratkowski had been summoned to relieve Starr when Mr. Quarterback was



shaken up on an 11-yard scramble to the New Orleans three shortly before Grabowski's fumble. The Packers readied for their Washington assignment by throttling the Saints with 136 yards, only 62 of them by passing. New Orleans' rookie quarterback, South, however, is not a reasonable facsimile of Sonny Jurgensen, it must be admitted.

**NEW ORLEANS - 0 7 0 0 - 7**  
**GREEN BAY - 17 6 0 6 - 29**

|                    | <u>NEW ORLEANS</u> | <u>GREEN BAY</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| First downs        | 11                 | 18               |
| Rush-yards-TDs     | 27-74-1            | 35-132-2         |
| Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT | 8-26-75-0-2        | 13-22-208-1-0    |
| Sacked-yards       | 2-13               | 5-51             |
| Net pass yards     | 62                 | 157              |
| Total yards        | 136                | 289              |
| Fumbles-lost       | 3-2                | 2-2              |
| Turnovers          | 4                  | 2                |
| Penalties-yards    | 3-27               | 4-53             |

### **SCORING**

1st - GB - Mercer, 35-yard field goal GREEN BAY 3-0

1st - GB - Tom Brown, 22-yard fumble return (Mike Mercer kick) GREEN BAY 10-0

1st - GB - Donny Anderson, 1-yard run (Mercer kick) GREEN BAY 17-0

2nd - NO - Don McCall, 11-yard run (Charlie Durkee kick) GREEN BAY 17-7

2nd - GB - Carroll Dale, 47-yard pass from Bart Starr (Kick failed) GREEN BAY 23-7

4th - GB - Elijah Pitts, 2-yard run (Kick failed) GREEN BAY 29-7

### **RUSHING**

GREEN BAY - Jim Grabowski 10-50, Donny Anderson 10-39 1 TD, Chuck Mercein 8-21, Elijah Pitts 5-13 1 TD, Bart Starr 2-9

NEW ORLEANS - Don McCall 10-40 1 TD, Ernie Wheelwright 7-30, Randy Schultz 1-3, Ronnie Lee South 2-3, Tony Lorick 2-4, Tom Barrington 3-(-4)

### **PASSING**

GREEN BAY - Bart Starr 14-9-167 1 TD, Zeke Bratkowski 7-4-41, Donny Anderson 1-0-0

NEW ORLEANS - Karl Sweetan 5-1-6, Ronnie Lee South 21-7-69 2 INT

### **RECEIVING**

GREEN BAY - Carroll Dale 8-161 1 TD, Marv Fleming 2-15, Boyd Dowler 2-14, Donny Anderson 1-18

NEW ORLEANS - Don McCall 4-34, Dave Parks 1-15, Jimmy Hester 1-13, Danny Abramowicz 1-13, John Gilliam 1-0

## ***Pack Has Same Material But Not Same Drive: Fears***

### **PACK HAS SAME MATERIAL BUT NOT SAME DRIVE: FEARS**

NOV 18 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - While Tom Fears was mulling over the New Orleans Saints' dismal showing against Green Bay at Milwaukee County Stadium Sunday, he couldn't avoid making mention of the "new" Packers that had just defeated his club, 29-7. "They don't have the same drive," said Fears, who might refer to his three years as Packer assistant coach (including the championship year of 1965) as his qualification for making such a statement. "It's the same material, but not the same drive," he repeated. "Yet," the former all-pro end appeared obligated to add, "they just ran all over us." ...KEY FACTORS: The soft-spoken leader of the NFL's newest expansion franchise was quick to suggest injuries as key factors in the Packer's performance so far, but beckoned to his own crippled charges, saying "we're hurt. Sweetan has a bad ankle and didn't practice all week, and our two guards, Kupp (Jake) and Williams (Del) have been hurt." But Fears paid special tribute to the Packer passing attack which "seemed to complete an awful lot of passes out there. Of course, we had a rookie (Elijah Nevett) and a second year man (Gene Howard) back there for them to work on." Had there been any turning point, one New Orleans scribe asked? "If there was, it was Brown's touchdown on the fumble recovery. It didn't alter our game plan but we got so far behind so fast," said Fears...ANKLE INJURY: Fears commented that the switch from starting quarterback Karl Sweetan to Ronnie South was prompted by an ankle injury which prevented Sweetan from going at full strength. South also did the Saints punting and his boots were none too impressive. Said Fears: "We don't have a kicker. I thought when we called up South we could incorporate both his passing and kicking so we could keep Kilmer on the roster." Fears was none too pleased with the field condition and referred to the turf as "slushy" and claimed that "there were some mighty big divots out there. It looked good at the start but it became pretty loose." End Dave Parks also took issue with the County Stadium playing field. "It was too loose and I wasn't able to make my cuts quickly."...INTERFERENCE CALL: Parks was largely non-committal when questioned on the interference call against Herb Adderley that gave the Saints a first down on the Packer one-yard-line and led to the lone New Orleans touchdown in the second period. "I ran an outside pattern and the ball was well-thrown. I thought I would be able to catch it but we hit. I'll have to wait to see the films to see what happened. Adderley's a fine defensive back but not the best," Parks jibed about his longtime rival. Across the room, a dejected South

# National Football League

## Eastern Conference

|              | W | L  | T | Pct. | Pts. | OP  |
|--------------|---|----|---|------|------|-----|
| Dallas       | 8 | 2  | 0 | .800 | 312  | 146 |
| New York     | 7 | 3  | 0 | .700 | 232  | 200 |
| Washington   | 4 | 6  | 0 | .400 | 187  | 275 |
| Philadelphia | 0 | 10 | 0 | .000 | 131  | 263 |

## Century Division

|             | W | L | T | Pct. | Pts. | OP  |
|-------------|---|---|---|------|------|-----|
| Cleveland   | 7 | 3 | 0 | .700 | 262  | 202 |
| St. Louis   | 5 | 4 | 1 | .556 | 233  | 230 |
| New Orleans | 3 | 7 | 0 | .300 | 168  | 241 |
| Pittsburgh  | 2 | 7 | 1 | .222 | 185  | 280 |

## Western Conference

### Coastal Division

|               | W | L | T | Pct. | Pts. | OP  |
|---------------|---|---|---|------|------|-----|
| Baltimore     | 9 | 1 | 0 | .900 | 293  | 108 |
| Los Angeles   | 8 | 1 | 1 | .889 | 217  | 131 |
| San Francisco | 4 | 5 | 1 | .444 | 197  | 220 |
| Atlanta       | 2 | 8 | 0 | .200 | 139  | 290 |

### Central Division

|           | W | L | T | Pct. | Pts. | OP  |
|-----------|---|---|---|------|------|-----|
| Minnesota | 6 | 4 | 0 | .600 | 216  | 153 |
| Chicago   | 5 | 5 | 0 | .500 | 180  | 238 |
| Green Bay | 4 | 5 | 1 | .444 | 203  | 150 |
| Detroit   | 3 | 6 | 1 | .333 | 160  | 188 |

## Sunday's Results

Cleveland 45, Pittsburgh 24  
 Dallas 44, Washington 24  
 Minnesota 13, Detroit 6  
 Los Angeles 20, San Francisco 20, tie  
 New York 7, Philadelphia 6  
 Atlanta 16, Chicago 13  
 Green Bay 29, New Orleans 7  
 Baltimore 27, St. Louis 0

## Sunday's Games

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

By The Associated Press

## American League

### Eastern Division

|          | W | L | T | Pct. | Pts. | OP  |
|----------|---|---|---|------|------|-----|
| New York | 7 | 3 | 0 | .700 | 289  | 227 |
| Houston  | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 213  | 221 |
| Miami    | 3 | 6 | 1 | .333 | 180  | 272 |
| Boston   | 3 | 7 | 0 | .300 | 162  | 275 |
| Buffalo  | 1 | 9 | 1 | .100 | 151  | 285 |

### Western Division

|             | W | L | T | Pct. | Pts. | OP  |
|-------------|---|---|---|------|------|-----|
| Kansas City | 9 | 2 | 0 | .818 | 277  | 150 |
| Oakland     | 8 | 2 | 0 | .800 | 339  | 169 |
| San Diego   | 8 | 2 | 0 | .800 | 290  | 176 |
| Denver      | 4 | 6 | 0 | .400 | 164  | 262 |
| Cincinnati  | 3 | 8 | 0 | .273 | 187  | 235 |

## Sunday's Results

Houston 38, Denver 17  
 Cincinnati 38, Miami 21  
 Kansas City 31, Boston 17  
 Oakland 43, New York 32  
 San Diego 21, Buffalo 6

## Sunday's Games

Buffalo at Denver  
 Miami at Boston  
 New York at San Diego  
 Oakland at Cincinnati  
 Only games scheduled

was painfully reviewing his first big assignment as a pro. "I thought I was ready and I felt good, but I guess I was wrong. The rain didn't bother me at all. You just never know what's going to happen."

## EJECTION 'MY FIRST AND LAST:' NITSCHKE

NOV 18 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Although a man of violence by profession, Ray Nitschke takes pride in adapting his reactions to football's rules. He thus was openly unhappy over being ejected from the Packers exchange with the Saints here Sunday afternoon over a brush with New Orleans tight end Monte Stickles. "That was the first time I've ever been thrown out of a ball game, the 11-year veteran said, "and my last." Reconstructing the incident, he reported, "I got hit after the play and I just instinctively hit him back." "I just hit him once," Nitschke continued, then ruefully added, "I never should have." The official just said, "You're out of the game." I didn't think I did anything to warrant that kind of a ruling. (The Packers also were penalized 18 yards on the play)." In the 49er dressing room, a less gracious Stickles offered the stock reply, "I'll have to wait to see the films before I say anything. I learned that when I got into some trouble with Fortunato (Joe of the Bears) a couple years ago. I've had a clean record for two years now." Although Stickles was inclined to be noncommittal, Saint Coach Tom Fears was not...TOOK IT PERSONALLY: "It happened right in front of us," he said. "Stickles came back to block on the play and apparently Nitschke took it personally. Nitschke took a swing at him. You know the way Nitschke likes to swing (Fears gestured with his arm.) The referee was right in front of the play." "I can't remember when any of our guys were thrown out of a game," Packer Coach Phil Bengtson said, "I kept asking the official what happened but he never did tell me." Although it had been an unpleasant experience for the Packers veteran middle linebacker, his dismissal provided rookie Fred Carr with his first major opportunity to play and he obviously enjoyed it. Carr, who stepped in at right linebacker while LeeRoy Caffey moved to the middle, confided with a shy smile, "It was a pretty nice feeling."...WASN'T NERVOUS: "No, I wasn't really nervous," he added. "I didn't want to do anything big. I was just trying to take care of my job - just trying to be aggressive." In the course of pursuing this objective, Freddie had a "misunderstanding" of his own with Saints tackle Jerry Jones. "We ran into each other on a kickoff," Car explained, "and we started retaliating...We had about two or three of those, but it didn't amount to anything. I just try to keep a cool head." Bengtson said he was "real pleased" with Carr's performance.

## HARD RUNNING PERKS UP ATTACK: BENGTSON

NOV 18 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Phil Bengtson was a little itchy to look his gift victory in the mouth but decided to take it at scoreboard value. "It was a real thrill...a real thrill," he smiled at the 29 points his Green Bay Packers collected against the almost hapless New Orleans Saints in County Stadium here Sunday. "I was disappointed that we didn't cash in on the other opportunities we had," he added with reference to their being stopped by a fumble at the Saints 2, on downs at the Saints 5 and a blocked field goal attempt from the 30. But after scoring only 10 points in losing to Minnesota a week ago and only 13 in losing to Chicago the week before, the Bay strategist thought that the fact that "Our backs ran a little harder" probably was the major offensive difference. It was pointed out that Carroll Dale also caught eight passes against the Saints after being blanked against the Vikings. "It was just the way the defense played. He was the open man today," Bengtson explained. "They double teamed him last week but this team blitzes a lot and that left him one on one." The Saints' blitzes had caused considerable trouble early in the game as the visitors nailed Bart Starr four times for 41 yards in losses during the first half but added just one for 10 yards in the second half...BETTER EXECUTION: "It was just better execution," the coach said of the improved pass protection. "We just picked up the blitz and blocked better." Bengtson also felt that his defense "played well." He acknowledged that the Saints were hampered by having to use a rookie quarterback, Ronnie South, who was just activated from the taxi squad two weeks ago, but he pointed out "That didn't affect their running game. And they have run pretty well on some other clubs. But I was very satisfied with our running defense." In connection with this, the coach was veritably delighted with the play of Phil Vandersea in his first action at defensive end. Just switched to that sport from tight end this week because of the injury bug that infected his Packer front line, Vandersea saw a lot of action after the decision was assured and displayed a

driving rush and some solid tackling. "He played very well. He's a good football player. Every time he gets into a game he plays very well. We just haven't been able to get him in as much as we'd like to."...CONTINUED TO PLAY: Bengtson also praised Bart Starr for his play despite injured ribs. The coach said Starr had hurt them early in the game but continued to play until he was tackled on a scramble to the 3-yard line in the fourth quarter. Just how bad Starr's ribs are, Bengtson didn't know...but he added, "no rib injury is ever good." While Bengtson was a generally relaxed citizen, having woven his way through the locker room to congratulate each player individually after



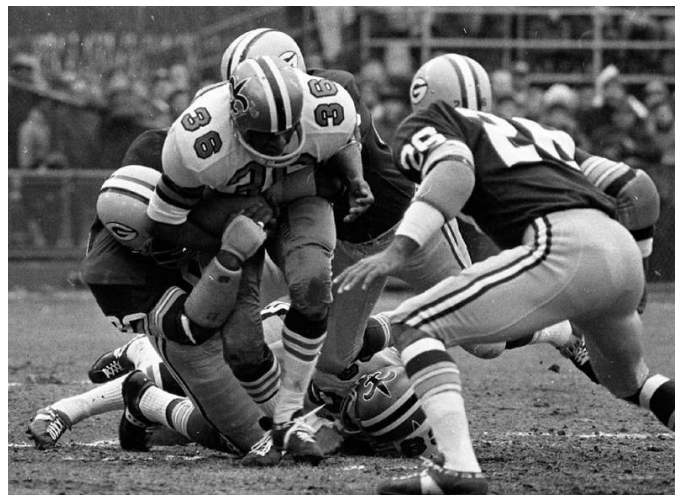
the game, he tensed just slightly when the kicking game was brought up...DEEP CONCERN: Though highly pleased with Donny Anderson's punting, he frankly admitted that the place kicking was still a source of deep concern. Mike Mercer, after drilling home a field goal in the first quarter, had another FG attempt blocked, missed an extra point by bouncing the ball off an upright and had another conversion attempt blocked. "I thought the kicks were low," Bengtson opined. "They forced our line back a little but I don't think anybody broke through." It was wondered by one reporter if the Packers, under the circumstances, were continuing their quest for a kicker. Bengtson indicated this was not the case and he noted that "We can always call on Jerry Kramer. He kicked off real well today."

#### **SOUTH'S PUNTING NO FLUKE...HE IS THAT BAD**

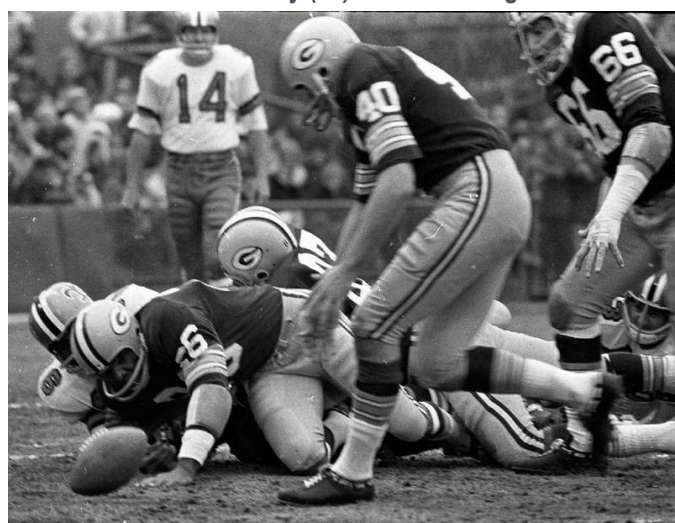
NOV 18 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – It turns out that Ronnie Lee South's punting is no fluke. A week ago, South punted seven times for the New Orleans Saints and averaged a stunning 31.7 yards per boot. Stunning because no one expected a NFL punter to be so inadequate. But Sunday, South proved that he really is that inadequate...even lousy. He punted seven times and averaged 23.4 yards per. And he managed that average only because just before the half one of his peak over peak boomers bounced about 15 yards to give him a massive 34 yarder. When South puts his toe into the ball, he uses the little piggy that cried all the way home. Despite this, however, there is no asterisk in the Saints press book where it lists South as a quarterback and "kicking specialist." Presumably he specializes in place kicking. As a matter of fact, when he was a junior at Arkansas University, he was second in the nation in place kicking with 42 of 44 extra point conversions and six of 10 field goal attempts. Notably, however, he did not punt for Arkansas. On, he did punt for the Arkansas freshman team when he was a member of that squad and he says he averaged 40 yards a try. But he hasn't punted since then...until two years ago when he was activated from the taxi squad to replace the injured Billy Kilmer. There are some who might say he hasn't really punted in the last two weeks either. Pulling on a gold colored shirt in the Saints dressing room after the game here Sunday, South was feeling down. He had not been exactly sparkling in any department of play...though he was hardly any worse than the team as a whole. Both had been virtually inept on this day...So much so that they would have been underdogs at the University of Wisconsin. But even Ronnie Lee had to smile when he was asked about his punting problems. "I guess I'm not dropping the ball well. I'm not being consistent," the solid, sandy-haired rookie grinned. "Actually, I didn't even practice punting before I was brought up two weeks ago. So I'm not dropping it right. And I'm holding the ball way in here (close to his body) instead of out here. And I'm kicking it like this (with a bent knee) instead of like this. Yeah, I guess you could say I'm just not being very consistent. I've done a little better in practice...though, really not much better." South wore number 11 in the game. But there was a number 25 who was punting pretty well by comparison. The only trouble was that 25 was in the Punt, Pass, and Kick contest and not eligible for the Saints. South's official distances were 21, 27, 21, 29, 34, 32 and 21 yards. They provided comic relief in a game that was as exciting as a serutan commercial. "One of them was so short I think we missed it, didn't we?" Packer Coach Phil Bengtson, offering no sympathy for former comrade Tom Fears' kicking problems, asked. And, indeed Willie Wood did fumble it but when Tony Lorick fumbled the ball right back to Ron Kostelnik, the Packers turned it into a field goal. That was one of the two times the Packers capitalized on the beautiful field position offered by the generous South. The other time came moments later when the Pack took 41 and wheeled to a touchdown. But, frankly, the Packers failed to take advantage of position on their own 43 and on the Saints' 47 and 42. That, however, comes under the "so what" category in this game.

**TD RUN JUST MATTER OF PICKING UP BALL: BROWN**

NOV 18 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) –Tom Brown's touchdown run with a New Orleans fumble, a major maneuver in the Packers' 29-7 victory here Sunday afternoon, was a three-man project. So, at least, says the principal. "Herb Adderley and Dave Robinson hit McCall (Don) high and low," he said. "It was just a matter of picking up the ball." Reflecting for a moment, the Packers ball hawking strong safety observed, "A lot of times you'll fumble one like that (he scooped up the ball on the Saints' 22 while it was still bouncing.)" "It's funny," he continued, "in the Bear game two weeks ago there were so many fumbles and I was always in the wrong place." Commenting on his fourth quarter interception, which led to the Packers final touchdown, Brown again gave credit to a colleague.

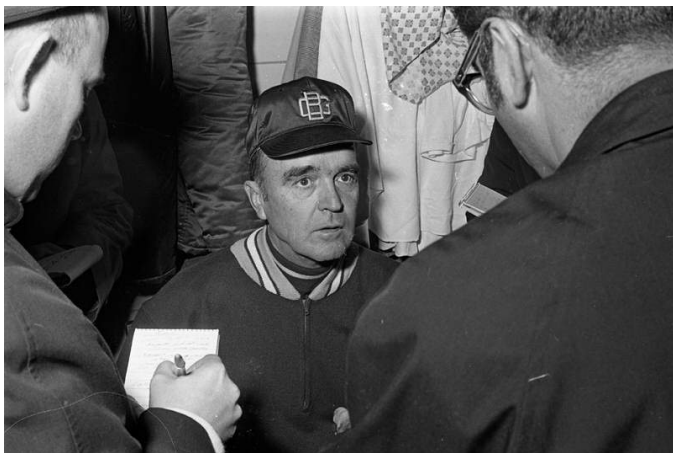


*Dave Robinson is about strip the ball from New Orleans Saints running back Don McCall during the first quarter. Herb Adderley (26) watches at right.*



*Tom Brown (40) is about to pick up a fumble by New Orleans Saints running back Don McCall (36) and return it 22 yards for a touchdown.*





**Phil Bengtson talking with the press after the win**



**Fred Carr dresses after a 29-7 victory over the New Orleans Saints**

"Robinson deflected it," he said. "There again it was just a matter of being in the right place at the right time." Reporting on another fumble, recovered by the Saints in the New Orleans end zone, Jim Grabowski said, "I don't think I ever had the ball...I don't know. I never got the handle on it, I guess." Grabo, the Packers' leading ground gainer for the second week in a row after giving way to Elijah Pitts at fullback for two games, admitted, "It feels good to be running again (he has had 139 yards in 18 attempts over the last two weeks.) I just hope it continues."...Mike Mercer, who missed an extra point and had a field goal and conversion attempt blocked, philosophically noted, "It was a good day not to do well." Mercer, who started the day auspiciously by drilling home a 35-yard-field goal, said matter-of-factly, "I really don't know what happened on the ones that were blocked. I'm trying to keep my head down. On the extra point I missed, I didn't keep my head down and I rushed my kick. Everything was perfect but me. I didn't have the rhythm today that I should have – it was just one of those days."...Elsewhere, Bart Starr quietly reported, "I hurt my ribs a little...I'm back in the snakebit, I guess." Starr, who left the game in favor of Bratkowski after being jarred in the wake of an 11-yard scramble to the Saint 3-yard-line, explained, "I hurt 'em earlier in the ball game and they just kept getting worse and worse. When he spun me around down near the goal line, I guess it strained 'em." "The Brat," discoursing on the 14-yard pitch to Carroll Dale which set up the Packers final score, reported, "The defenders both came up head on head on Boyd and Carroll, so I got out of whatever I called. I don't remember what it was. Instead of breaking outside, Carroll went inside and we hit him over the middle.".. Bob Jeter, who like Herb Adderley had had a highly successful afternoon, was good-naturedly lamenting what might have been. "That pass Freddie (Carr) knocked down in the flat late in the third quarter had touchdown written all over it," he said, a little sadly. "I was right in line with it ... It was perfect."...Travis Williams, ribbed about his devastating collision with the Saints' Steve Stonebreaker on the opening kickoff of the second half, had an apt description. "That," he grinned, "was just one of those stop-right-heres."

#### **DALE CREDITS QBS FOR SUCCESS**

NOV 18 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The secret of pass receiving success? One of them, says that phantom flanker, Carroll Dale, is "good calls by the quarterbacks." And another, "timing between the quarterback and the receiver." Dale, who collaborated with Bart Starr and Zeke Bratkowski to present a dazzling demonstration for 49,624 customers and the slightly bewildered New Orleans Saints in County Stadium Sunday afternoon, explained, "The quarterback has to anticipate at what point the receiver is going to square out, for example." Carroll, the recipient of 8 passes for 161 yards and his eighth touchdown of the season, documented his observation: "On the one which took us down to the two-yard-line before our second touchdown. Bart laid the ball perfectly over someone on the inside, maybe the linebacker." The ability to adjust, he somewhat sheepishly suggested, is also important. "On the pass to the 4-yard line, which set up our last touchdown, it was more or less an audible. We had called another pass. "Actually, I did the opposite of what I was supposed to do," he smiled, "I was supposed to go outside and I went inside. Zeke called a square out and I didn't hear it - I ran a trail across the inside. Zeke did a good job of finding me." "As far as the touchdown play is concerned, I don't know whether the safety was supposed to be with the halfback on that one or if they just messed it up. I think the halfback thought he had help inside but apparently he didn't. Of course, that was third-and-five and the weak safety was playing up tight." Dale occasionally rubbed a spot on his thigh as he talked, explaining. "I got it in practice a week ago Friday and I pulled it a little on the touchdown pass. That was the only time it bothered me – I had to get on my horse to get it...It's a minor thing."

#### **PITTS POPULARITY COMPLICATES CIVIL SUIT FOR PLAINTIFF**

NOV 19 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Judge Max Raskin was having little difficulty Monday finding jurors who were familiar with the defendant, Elijah Pitts of the Green Bay Packers. Raskin told Circuit Court jurors who would be hearing a civil action not to ask Pitts for an autograph. An attorney for the couple which had filed suit against Pitts remarked: "I'd much rather try this case in Chicago." Pitts, who scored a touchdown for his NFL team in a game Sunday in Milwaukee, is accused in the suit of breach of contract. The plaintiffs said Pitts had agreed in 1966 to buy a home in Muskego, then changed his mind, costing them \$4,811. However, Pitts maintained the agreement was subject to financing. Raskin asked the panel being selected for jury duty if anyone knew the defendant. "I know Elijah

Pitts," a man said. "He's a Packer." Raskin asked the man if he had any opinions about "his play." "I'm not critical of any Packer," the man replied.

#### **EX-PACKER BECKER DIES**

NOV 19 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Warren Becker, 58, a former Green Bay East football star and one-time Packer, died in Dallas, Texas, Monday after a short illness. Becker, employed by a Dallas cold storage firm for more than 20 years, starred under former Packer great Eddie Kotal at Stevens Point State Teachers College after graduating from East. He later played professional football with the Packers and, after returning from World War II service, with the Phoenix, Ariz., entry in the old Pacific Coast Conference. Becker also was a 200-average, major league bowler in Dallas for a number of years. He is survived by his wife, Florine; one sister, Mrs. Ralph (Dale) Strehlow, Green Bay; and four brothers, Eldon and Albert, Green Bay; Wayland, Lena, and Clarence, Milwaukee. Two sisters preceded him in death. Funeral services will be held in Dallas Wednesday morning.

#### **VICTORY GIVES PACK 'NEEDED REASSURANCE'**

NOV 19 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Phil Bengtson would be the first to admit the Packers conquest of the Saints, decisive though it may have been, was not a total artistic success. But the 29-7 triumph, which snipped a two-game losing streak, made "pretty good" viewing in the world champions' projection room Monday, he discovered. "When you play a team like that, some of it looks a little sloppy because of their failure to execute," the Packers rangy field leader pointed out. "Overall, there were some pretty good things." The victory also served a psychological as well as practical purpose, he observed...NEEDED REASSURANCE: "The players needed a little reassurance," Bengtson said, "about some of the things they've been doing. A big factor, of course, is that we got off to a good start...I don't think they got a first down until the second quarter, did they? And we picked up a fumble right away and scored. So we got off to a good start, in contrast to the Minnesota game (the Packers fell behind 14-3 in the second quarter) and some of the others we've lost." The veteran strategist went on to list several pleasing developments, among them the baptismal performances of Phil Vandersea and Dick Himes, former tight end and offensive tackle, respectively, on defense...VANDERSEA ON DEFENSE: Vandersea "did all right," Bengtson said. "It is very likely he will stay on defense...We (he and his staff) haven't had too much chance to discuss it yet. That's one of the decisions we'll have to make." Himes also turned in a creditable job, Phil reported. "He had a little trouble shedding blockers on the pass rush, but that will come. He hasn't learned to use his hands well, but that will come with experience." Bengtson likewise was pleased to note another sterling effort by fullback Jim Grabowski, who has regained his 1967 form in recent weeks...GOOD POWER: "Grabowski took off well and had good power," he said, subsequently elevating his eyebrows when informed the former University of Illinois luminary has averaged a glossy 7.7 yards per carry over the last two games. Grabowski's relatively slow start was largely traceable to an injury, Bengtson explained. "He was having trouble with the knee," he revealed. "He would get fluid on it. But it's apparently fine now." On a less happy subject, the condition of quarterback Bart Starr, Bengtson said, "Bart has bruised ribs and you never know how severe the bruise is and how quickly it's going to heal. So we don't know the answer to that one at this point."...NO NEW INJURIES: Starr's injury, suffered early in the afternoon, was aggravated when he was spun to the ground on an 11-yard scramble to the New Orleans 3-yard-line in the third quarter. For an agreeable change Bengtson said, "We didn't get any reports of any new injuries today. Everybody who checked in at the training room had been there before." Looking ahead to Sunday afternoon's assignment in Washington, the Packer headmaster evaluated the Redskins on the basis of a game film he had "scouted."...ENORMOUS LINE: "They've got a real passing attack with some fine receivers (Sonny Jurgensen, Bobby Mitchell, Jerry Smith and Pat Richter). And they have that one good runner, Allen (Gerry). Of course, their quarterback has been hurt a little. Defensively, they've got an enormous line...Gee, they're big." Bengtson then paused to assess the NFL's Central Division race, in which the Packers presently find themselves 1 ½ games behind the pace setting Minnesota Vikings with four to go, before returning to a strategy conference. Noting that weekend developments had aided the champions' cause, he concluded, "We keep getting little bits of encouragement."

#### **NOTES AND NOTATIONS**

NOV 19 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - For the first time in many weeks, each division of the NFL has an undisputed leader. But, Baltimore, Minnesota, Dallas and Cleveland can't yet afford to start preparing for the NFL playoffs, which are only about a month away. Each of the current leaders has one serious challenger to shake off before the fog lifts on the road to the Super Bowl. The Rams are the closest challengers - running only one-half game behind the Colts. The Cowboys have a 1-game edge over New York. Cleveland is outrunning St. Louis by 1 ½ lengths. The Vikings have a 1 ½-game bulge on the third-place Packers, who loom a stronger threat than second-place Chicago - which trails Minnesota by only a game. Dallas and Cleveland now appear to have the easiest roads to the NFL playoffs. The Giants, for example, not only have to make up a 1-game deficit but face this stiff 4-week schedule: Los Angeles, Cleveland, St. Louis and Dallas. Baltimore still rates as the strongest NFL team at the moment - and its Super Bowl index rating stands at 92 (out of a possible 100 points). The Colts' shutout of a good offensive team - St. Louis - underscores their present might. Dallas remains at 90, while the



*The final resting place of Warren Becker (Packers, 1935) - Laurel Land Memorial Park, Dallas (Source: Findagrave.com)*





The Packers' Carroll Dale is about to haul in a 47-yard scoring pass from Bart Starr during Sunday's National Football League game in Milwaukee. Dale caught eight passes in all, as Green Bay whipped New Orleans, 29-7.



Green Bay's Jim Grabowski blasts for a 10-yard gain against New Orleans Sunday in Milwaukee. Defenders include Dave Whitsell (23) and Ted Davis (35). The Packers' Forrest Gregg is No. 75.

target in the AFL playoff game... From the standpoint of the Packers thin title hopes, Sunday's set of three games involving Central Division teams came out just about "right." The Packers won - which, of course, they'll have to keep on doing to stay in there. The Bears lost - quite unexpectedly - and this enabled Green Bay to move close to them. On paper, at least, the Vikings' win over Detroit was a bigger help to the Packer cause than a Lion win would have been. The Lions have a fairly soft schedule for the final four weeks of the season - and, if they could have beaten Minnesota, they likely would have had so much momentum going that it would have been "gangbusters" the rest of the way. (And, of course, if Green Bay and Detroit were to finish even in the standings, the Lions would get the playoff berth because they outscored the Packers by six points in their personal rivalry. Minnesota, on the other hand, still must face Baltimore, LA and San Francisco on the heels of its rugged game at Detroit), and it's certainly within the realm of possibility that the Vikings could lose at least two of those games... After their first "laugher" since Oct. 6 (the Atlanta game), the Packers will face considerable tougher going Sunday in Washington. When Sonny Jurgensen has a big day, he can drive any defense to distraction. It was comforting to see the Packers roll up 17-0 first quarter lead Sunday. That marked the first time in five games that the Bays didn't have to overcome deficits ranging from 10 to 14 points. New Orleans isn't that bad a team either. The Saints beat Minnesota, which is something the 1968 Packers couldn't do. (Admittedly, the Saints weren't quite the same Sunday without quarterback Bill Kilmer). The disturbing facets of Packer play - even in victory - were the continuing place-kicking woes and their failure to cash in on at least two more golden scoring chances.

#### **PACKERS 11-POINT PICK OVER SKINS**

NOV 20 (New York) - The Green Bay Packers Tuesday were installed as 11-point favorites to defeat the Washington Redskins Sunday, according to United Press International.

#### **NO ARTIFICIAL TURF HERE FOR 7 OR 8 YEARS**

NOV 20 (Madison) - There will be no artificial grass in Lambeau Field "for seven or eight more years," according to Green Bay Packer's General Manager Vince Lombardi. Lombardi says that the plastic grass, such as has been installed in Camp Randall stadium at the University of Wisconsin campus here, has not been tested or developed to the point of professional use yet. "It will be seven or eight years yet; it isn't ready," said Lombardi when asked the chances of installing in the Green Bay stadium the product which goes by the name Tartan Turf. He made his comments at an evening reception here given by Public Facilities Associates, Inc., a housing development firm in which the former Green Bay football coach is a partner with David and James Carley of Madison. Never far from football, developer Lombardi found himself spending most of the evening answering football questions. One of those involved the feasibility of installing the plastic grass for Packers use. Many sports writers and officials have suggested that the artificial turf would help to cut down on the rash of injuries being experienced this year among professional players - especially leg and knee injuries. "Tennessee has had five head injuries on the grass, you know," said Lombardi when asked about the reports of decreased injuries. That state's university was the first major college in the country to install the artificial surfacing for full time football use. The UW started playing on the grass this fall, after



having it installed during the summer at a \$285,000 cost. The project involves surfacing the playing field with an asphalt-like substance and installing the carpet of plastic grass over the covering.

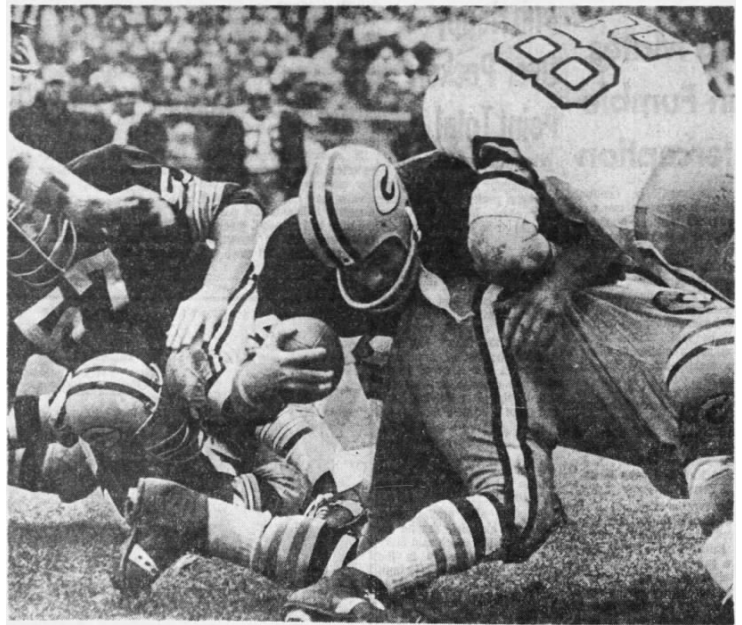
### **WILLIE WOOD TICKLED OVER SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY**

NOV 20 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Willie Wood takes a sentimental journey this weekend. The Packers oft-honored safety, a three-time All-City football selection in his native Washington, returns to the nation's capital Sunday as a performer for the first time in 13 years. Taking note of the world champions' date with the Redskins following Tuesday's brief but invigorating practice, Willie unabashedly admitted, "I'm tickled to death about it really we have a lot of Packer fans back there so I'm pretty sure we'll have good support from the crowd." Willie, who makes his off-season home in Washington, last trod the gridiron there in 1955, when, as quarterback of the Armstrong High School team, he won All-City honors for the third consecutive time...SOME DISTANCE: The 31-year-old veteran, who obviously has come some distance in the interim, has fond memories of that period.

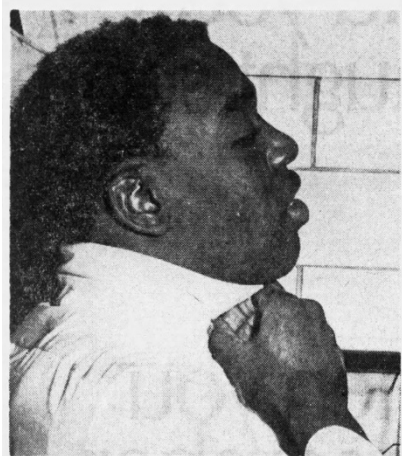
"One year I set a city record of 17 touchdown passes in nine games," he reported in reviewing his prep career. "I don't know if it held up, of course." "We always had pretty good football teams at high school," he added. "In the three years I was there, I think we lost only four football games. The school has always had a reputation for athletics." As most Packerphiles are aware, Willie went on from Armstrong High to quarterback the University of Southern California Trojans for three seasons before forging his storybook affiliation with Green Bay...WROTE TO PACKERS: Passed over in the 1959 draft because he had been hampered by injuries his last two seasons, Wood refused to call it a career. He wrote the Packers for a tryout and they, fortunately, responded with admirable promptitude. "They were out in Los Angeles playing the Rams shortly after I sent them the letter and Jack Vanisi (the late former business manager of the Packers) called me while they were in town," he reported. "I wrote to five or six other ball clubs," Willie said, explaining, "I sort of felt I had a lot of football left in me. It just so happened the Packers were the first ones to call me." "Since then," he added with a faint smile, "I've heard that several other clubs were very much interested and had intended to contact me."...ALL-NFL 5 TIMES: One of the premier bargains in pro football history – Wood was signed as a free agent and since has earned All-NFL honors the last five seasons - he is assured of having a highly vocal rooting section for Sunday's game. "My parents and two sisters live in Washington, plus uncles and aunts and cousins, millions of 'em," he confided. Willie chuckled and added, "I think they're all looking for tickets, too. That's the only reason I hate to go back there." He also expects his daughter, 8-year-old LaJuane, to be in the D.C. Stadium seats, while son, nine-year-old Andre, will view it on television in Green Bay. "And, of course," he laughed, "There's Willie, Junior, too. But he's only five months...I don't think he can watch TV for more than an hour, between eating and sleeping."

### **KOS FINALLY FEELS BETTER**

NOV 20 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – "Finally...it felt a little better." Massive Ron Kostelnik, whose name has been invariably prominent on the Packers weekly casualty report this season, said it with emphasis and eloquence. The youthful veteran-he is in his eighth NFL season although only 28 - was understandably delighted that a long refractory leg had permitted him to go the distance against the New Orleans Saints in the defending world champions' most recent venture. "That was the first game I've gone all the way in for a month," Kostelnik pointed out. "I played all but the last series." His services were not required at that stage, of course, because the Packers were possessed of an unusually comfortable 29-7 lead. As may have been gathered, it has been a long season - from the standpoint of health, at least - for the somewhat cherubic University of Cincinnati alumnus, he admitted. "Something's happened to me periodically – every couple weeks," Kos dryly observed, then began to itemize. "Against Detroit (Oct. 20), I hurt my knee in the first half. Against Dallas (Oct. 28) I hurt my ankle in the first quarter. And against the Bears, I played five or six plays and I hurt my ankle again. "That's all I played," he added in ironic reference to the Bear match. "I was only in there for the first series and on three of those they jumped off side...And, of course, I didn't play at all against Minnesota." Kostelnik's physical problems actually began much earlier than the 14-14 Detroit standoff - with the Packers' opening preseason test of the season against the New York Giants.... HURT IN VOLLEYBALL: The huge Pennsylvanian sprained a knee and sat out the following week against the Bear, but returned to duty for the Pack's annual August invasion of Dallas and managed to stay "whole" for three weeks. "Then," Kos confided, "I hurt my leg again the Saturday before we played our league opener against the Eagles. In our regular Saturday morning volleyball game, I went up to tip the ball and sprained my knee again. I played about half the game against the Eagles, but it bothered me quite a bit because, normally, you have a week to recover from an injury but this was the day after. The leg was so heavily taped up it was hard to move on." Reflecting upon his most significant contribution to last Sunday's cause, his fumble recovery set up the Packers first three points against the Saints, Kostelnik asserted, "I should have had both of 'em – that one and the one that Sweetan (quarterback Karl) fumbled on the next Saint series. It rolled right in front of me. I jumped at it," he said in good-natured disgust, "and rolled right over it..."ROLLED RIGHT TO ME': "On the one I recovered,



Donny Anderson Scores for Green Bay from the 1- yard line Sunday against New Orleans. Helping provide blocking was Ken Bowman (57). No. 82 is the Saints' John Brewer. The Packers scored a 29-7 win in Milwaukee. (Post-Crescent News Service Photo)



Four Packers Were Caught by the cameraman in post-game pursuits Sunday after Green Bay scored a 29-7 victory over New Orleans. At the top, Ray Nitschke chats with General Manager Vince Lombardi—and the linebacker's ejection from the game undoubtedly was one of the topics of discussion. Flanker Carroll Dale (second from top) and safety Tom Brown (third from top) are shown shaving—not for any TV commercial but for their own comfort. At the bottom, rookie linebacker Fred Carr spruces up after seeing his first extensive action for the Packers. (Post-Crescent News Service Photos)

Lorick (Tony) had gone outside and was coming back. Somebody caught him in the pile and the ball squirted out. I was coming across on pursuit and saw the ball - it rolled right to me" Although he is happy to be hale again, Kos says he is "not as pleased with my play as I could be. I haven't been able to move as well as I'd like to." He is, however, well satisfied with the most recent developments in the Central Division of the NFL, notably the defeats incurred by the Bears and Lions Sunday. "It sure helps," he said. "It was a good Sunday for us ... It'll be an interesting four weeks—a lot can happen."

#### EX-BADGER PAT RICHTER WOULD ENJOY HELPING BEAT PACKERS-AGAIN

NOV 20 (Washington) - Misery loves company, and the Washington Redskins are looking upon the once-mighty Green Bay Packers with a true fondness for their misfortune. "It's about time they learned how the other half lives," Redskins' Coach Otto Graham said without a smile. The Packers, 4-5-1, and the Redskins, 4-6, meet Sunday in a showdown with little at stake except the long shadows of a losing season closing in on the team that stumbles. "It would be nice to have some company," said Redskins' end Pat Richter. "We've been down there too long, and having the Packers there too would be a bit unusual." Unusual? Cataclysmic. The Packers haven't had a losing record since 1958, the year before Vince Lombardi came scowling out of the East to drive Green Bay to five NFL titles in the last seven seasons...NEAR ELIMINATION: But the Packers suddenly are hanging by a thread in the race in the Central Division, where they have yet to win a single game against another member this year under rookie Coach Phil Bengtson. "They have lost their psychological advantage - that invincibility," Richter said. "A couple of teams beat them. And then lesser teams come up with their best effort and beat them, too," he said. Richter is one of the few players with a memory of what it's like to win against the Lombardi-led Packers. The rangy end out of Wisconsin, who still would have liked to play at Green Bay, caught a 78-yard touchdown pass for the College All-Stars to hand the Packers their last loss in the annual preseason classic five years ago. The All-Star coach that summer was Graham...WON STARTING JOB: Richter, top draft choice for the Redskins that year, had faded into obscurity the last few seasons until Washington shifted tight end Jerry Smith to flanker this fall and traded with Minnesota for Marlin McKeever to replace him. Richter beat McKeever out of the job. Now he has already reached his best season high with 29 catches for 400 yards and leads the Redskins with seven touchdowns, a couple more than he had totaled in all five previous seasons here. "It was just a matter of getting the opportunity and making the best of it," said Richter. This is the Redskins' first meeting with Green Bay in 10 years and Richter, who readily admits he would have been pleased to play for the home state team, is looking forward to the reunion Sunday. "I'm anxious," he said. "If you can't play for them, the next best thing is to play against them."

#### TOM BROWN CITED BY AP

NOV 21 (New York) - Tom Brown, the Packers strong side safety, has been named the NFL's defensive player of the week for his contributions to the world champions' 29-7 victory over the New Orleans Saints. His main job is to handle tight ends like Baltimore's John Mackey and the Rams' Bill Traux. If he gets his hands on the ball it's usually an interception or a punt return. In nine Packer games before last Sunday's meeting with the Saints, Brown had picked off only one pass and had scored one touchdown on a punt return. Brown made headlines Sunday, however, when he swept up a New Orleans fumble and ran 22 yards to a touchdown. He also intercepted a pass that set up a touchdown.

#### KISS WORKS ON PUTTING SMACK INTO PACKERS' PLACE KICKING

NOV 21 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Packers have taken another step, if you will pardon the expression, to effect a kicking cure. The latest maneuver has brought a volunteer 'kicking coach' to the ice-covered South Oneida Street practice field in an effort to help Mike Mercer regain the form that made him pro football's pre-eminent placekicker in 1966. He is Bill Kiss, a crew cut, bespectacled Wausau native who has made a life-long study of the art and currently is serving as kicking coach of the Lawrence University Vikings. Kiss, who has been working with Mercer the last two days, "volunteered his services," Coach Phil Bengtson reported following Wednesday's practice, "and we said, 'If there is any way we can get help, we'll take it.'"...KICKS HIMSELF: The 32-year-old Kiss, who is sports director of Appleton radio station WAPL in the workaday world, "has had pretty good success with the kickers at Lawrence," Bengtson added.

"It's a hobby with him - he does a lot of kicking himself." His presence is of practical value, the world champions' field leader also pointed out. "When we're working with other practice," he said, "he can be working with Mercer." Mercer, who missed an extra point and had a



field goal and a conversion attempt blocked in last Sunday's 27-9 victory over the New Orleans Saints, and his observer agree on the cause of these misadventures, Mike reported...**SHORTENS STRIDE:** "I think I know what I've been doing," he said. "The same thing he said - taking too long a stride, which is making me hit the ball high, which gives me a low trajectory. I've shortened my stride and I'm kicking faster...Now I'll just have to wait and see." This last was an obvious reference to Sunday's match with the Redskins in Washington, in which the former Viking next tests his toe. "I've never had a problem before of getting 'em blocked," Mercer added. "I've been kicking well, so it'll come...It's like a golfer with his timing." Delighted to be of possible service, Kiss said he offered to assist because, "watching last Sunday's game on television, I could see what Mike was doing wrong...**THINK SAME WAY:** "One of his problems, of course, has been that he hasn't had anyone who has been a kicker to talk to. We think the same way about kicking, which helps. All he had to do was shorten up his stride. I don't know whether his problem was a carryover from last year at Buffalo or not. He kicked a lot of field goals there, but most of them were long kicks, which may have caused him to get in the habit of standing farther back. At Lawrence, I have all my kickers stand 2 ½ yards back of the ball. I've found, through a lot of experimentation, that this is the ideal distance. I would say from the films, that Mike was 3 to 3 ½ yards back of the ball when he kicked in Milwaukee last Sunday...**HECKUVA LEG:** "It took us about 15 minutes in practice yesterday to find the spot we were looking for," Kiss said. "I'll keep it on Mike's mind this week and I think that's all there is to it. "He's got one heckuva leg - he's too good a kicker to go sour." Kiss, who calls the science of kicking "the most fascinating aspect of the game when you see all the factors come into play," says he first became interested in it when his father brought him to Packer games at old City Stadium during the days Ted Fritsch was Green Bay's toe. It has been a passion with him ever since, the voluble sportscaster informed. "I kick year around," he said. "People think I'm nuts, but I'd rather kick than play golf...**KICKS 100 A DAY:** "When the weather is good, I'll bet I kick 100 footballs a day. Even in cold, windy weather, I kick at least three or four. I keep a duffel bag full of kicking balls in my car all the time. Anytime I see some goal posts, I get out and kick. I've read everything I could on kicking. I've read Summerall's book - every book I could lay my hands on, and every article any coach ever has written on the subject." I think I've finally got one at Lawrence who is going to be a pro kicker," he was happy to report. "He's a Sturgeon Bay boy, Andy Gilbert. He's got it all - he's 6-3 and 210 and has a powerful leg. He doesn't know his own strength. All he needs is to develop consistency. He was 15 for 16 on extra points - which are kicked from about 20 yards in college - this season, but he didn't have a chance to try any field goals."...**JUST A FAN:** How long is he likely to continue his present Packer role? "I'll keep coming every day as long as they want me, you're darn right I will. It's only a half hour drive." Kiss, who reported injuries kept him from pursuing his hobby for Wausau High School's football team, says he volunteered his help to the Pack because "I'm just a fan and it hurts when our guys lose by two and three points...This is an awful heckuva thrill, for me to, be asked to help."

#### **PACKERS TOP NFL IN AERIAL DEFENSE**

NOV 21 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Packers, who limited the New Orleans Saints to a mere 62 air yards last Sunday, continue to boast the stingiest pass defense in the NFL. They have permitted only 1,109 yards in 10 games, an average of 110.9, according to the latest NFL figures. The Packers also lead in two other categories - fewest opponent passes attempted, 213, and fewest opponent completions, 95. Individually, Bart Starr held second place in passing with a 64.1 percentage on the basis of 107 completions in 167 attempts for 1,600 yards and 15 touchdowns. Teammate Donny Anderson has climbed to fourth in punting with a 42.1 average for 39 kicks and also ranks ninth in rushing with 555 yards in 121 carries, a 4.6 average. Herb Adderley is fourth in kickoff returns with a 27.4 average for 10 runbacks, Tom Brown seventh in punt returns with a 6.9 average for 13 returns and Carroll Dale has advanced to 11<sup>th</sup> place among the receivers with 34 catches for 728 yards, a 21.4 average, and 8 touchdowns... **PRO NOTES:** Veteran pass receivers Gary Ballman and Mike Ditka have been reinstated by the Philadelphia Eagles, 24 hours after they were suspended for critical comments about the tactics of General Manager-Coach Joe Kuharich. Kuharich said he lifted the suspensions "after an extensive discussion with both players. It was apparent there was no need for any action of this type after a harmonious conversation." He added "no other comment is necessary."...Elsewhere, New York Jet quarterback Joe Namath said his moustache "comes off when we win the championship." The Jets, leading the Eastern Division of the AFL, are listed as underdogs against the San Diego Chargers Sunday...Rookie Tom Sherman, who directed the Boston Patriots for the last three games, has been hospitalized with a possible concussion and may miss Sunday's game with the Miami Dolphins. If he is unable to play, Mike Taliaferro will start.

#### **STARR STATUS 'UNCERTAIN'**

NOV 21 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Bart Starr's quarterback status for Sunday's game in Washington is "uncertain," Packer Coach Phil Bengtson said Wednesday. Starr, who was injured in the third quarter of last Sunday's 29-7 victory over New Orleans, "hasn't been able to throw yet," Bengtson said. "His ribs are still pretty sore." The 12-year veteran's participation in Wednesday's practice was confined to running along the sidelines while his teammates staged their first major workout in preparation for Sunday's invasion of Washington.

#### **JURGENSEN HAS BEEN NURSING RIB INJURIES**

NOV 21 (Green Bay) – The last time Green Bay tangled with the Washington Redskins was in 1959 - while former President Eisenhower was in the White House. The Packers are going to renew old acquaintances Sunday as they continue their uphill battle for another NFL

| <b>Yardmaster</b>  |         |         |       |  |
|--------------------|---------|---------|-------|--|
| <b>OFFENSE</b>     |         |         |       |  |
|                    | Yards   | Yards   |       |  |
|                    | Rushing | Passing | Total |  |
| Dallas .....       | 1593    | 2235    | 3828  |  |
| Baltimore .....    | 1329    | 2103    | 3432  |  |
| Cleveland .....    | 1380    | 2021    | 3401  |  |
| San Francisco ..   | 1238    | 1975    | 3213  |  |
| Chicago .....      | 1813    | 1300    | 3113  |  |
| New York .....     | 1420    | 1688    | 3108  |  |
| Pittsburgh .....   | 1229    | 1790    | 3019  |  |
| Green Bay .....    | 1287    | 1653    | 2940  |  |
| Los Angeles .....  | 1285    | 1652    | 2937  |  |
| St. Louis .....    | 1198    | 1728    | 2926  |  |
| Detroit .....      | 1255    | 1615    | 2870  |  |
| Minnesota .....    | 1483    | 1240    | 2723  |  |
| Washington .....   | 917     | 1782    | 2699  |  |
| New Orleans .....  | 1093    | 1562    | 2655  |  |
| Atlanta .....      | 966     | 1513    | 2479  |  |
| Philadelphia ..... | 961     | 1493    | 2454  |  |
| <b>DEFENSE</b>     |         |         |       |  |
|                    | Yards   | Yards   |       |  |
|                    | Rushing | Passing | Total |  |
| Los Angeles ....   | 858     | 1401    | 2259  |  |
| Minnesota .....    | 1301    | 1154    | 2455  |  |
| Baltimore .....    | 964     | 1566    | 2530  |  |
| Green Bay .....    | 1435    | 1109    | 2544  |  |
| Dallas .....       | 853     | 1753    | 2606  |  |
| Cleveland .....    | 1363    | 1553    | 2916  |  |
| Detroit .....      | 1198    | 1778    | 2976  |  |
| New York .....     | 1255    | 1726    | 2981  |  |
| San Francisco ...  | 1346    | 1699    | 3045  |  |
| New Orleans ....   | 1505    | 1585    | 3090  |  |
| Chicago .....      | 1309    | 1901    | 3210  |  |
| Washington .....   | 1610    | 1678    | 3288  |  |
| Philadelphia ....  | 1584    | 1728    | 3312  |  |
| St. Louis .....    | 1135    | 2196    | 3331  |  |
| Pittsburgh .....   | 1115    | 2265    | 3380  |  |
| Atlanta .....      | 1616    | 2258    | 3874  |  |

# Packers and Wives Guests At 1000 Yard Club Dance



The Green Bay Packers and their wives were guests at this year's 1000 Yard Club annual formal dance Monday at Ridgeway Country Club. Chatting with Mrs. Tom Miller and her husband, assistant general manager of the team, are club members, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Samuels and Mr. and Mrs. John Maring. At right, Henry Jordan, defensive tackle, and his wife enjoy after-dinner coffee. (Post - Crescent Photos)



Friday, November 22, 1968

The Post-Crescent A 11



Among the Green Bay Packers who attended the 1000 Yard Club's annual formal dance was Don Anderson, offensive half-back.



Enjoying a Leisurely dinner with 1000 Yard Club members are Max

McGee, former Green Bay Packer offensive end, and Sandy Gaertner.

title. Washington, with only four victories, including two close ones over the winless Philadelphia Eagles, wouldn't appear to be too tough an opponent. But the Packers know all about Washington's secret weapon-quarterback Sonny Jurgensen. He led the league in passing last season, but like Green Bay signal caller Bart Starr Jurgensen has been hurting in this campaign...PLASTER CAST: Jurgensen's sore ribs have been protected by a plaster cast around his midsection. But the protection has hindered his passing rhythm. The "concrete corset" came off last week and Jurgensen showed some of the old flash, completing 12 of 25 passes for 228 yards and two touchdowns against Dallas. Scouts claim Jurgensen has the best arm in the league and also admire the way he stays in the pocket when being rushed. Green Bay, which needs to win all of its four remaining games should have Starr ready for action. He was taken out of Sunday's game against New Orleans with rib injuries. The Packers are favored by 13 points to shut off Washington's aerial attack and even their season record at 5-5-1.

## PITTS GUILTY OVER BREACH OF CONTRACT

NOV 22 (Milwaukee) - A Circuit Court jury has ruled that Elijah Pitts, NFL star with the Green Bay Packers, owes \$3,735 to a man with whom he had negotiated for purchase of a home. The jury announced its verdict Thursday after the plaintiff had accused Pitts of backing out of an agreement to buy a dwelling in Muskego in 1966. The plaintiff, accusing Pitts of breach of contract, had told the court he lost more than \$4,000 through Pitts' action.

## BROWN RATES 'SKINS' PASSING BEST IN NFL

NOV 22 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - "I knew when we were scheduled to play them last April that it could be a long afternoon for the defensive backs." So spoke quiet, scholarly Tom Brown, the Packers highly effective strong side safety, in focusing upon the world champions' imminent invasion of Washington. "I think the Redskins have the most dangerous passing attack in the league," said Brown as he awaited Thursday afternoon's defense meeting in the Lambeau Field dressing room. The NFL's reigning Defensive Player of the Week then proceeded to document his point...MCKEEVER BENCHED: "They have four fine receivers - Charlie Taylor, Jerry Smith, Pat Richter and Bobby Mitchell - they can get into the game at one time." He didn't say so but three members of that quartet, Taylor, Smith and Mitchell, finished first, second and fourth in the NFL's individual race last season - the first time in history that three receivers from one club have scaled such heights in the same year. This is not to mention the

presence of Marlin McKeever, the former Minnesota Viking tight end, who has lost the starting assignment to Richter, a University of Wisconsin athletic immortal. "It's kind of ironic," Brown noted in this connection. "The Redskins switched Smith from tight end to split end and traded for McKeever because they felt his blocking would help their running game. And now he's sitting on the bench. Richter beat him out."...BLOCKING IMPROVES: "For a while, they were worried about Richter's blocking ability, but he has come along very well in that department. Last year, he was a split end but he didn't have quite enough speed for the position. He has more than adequate speed as a tight end, though. And he has good hands. I was talking to a couple of Redskin quarterbacks in the off season and they said he has the best hands on the team. He also runs good patterns." Analyzing the hub of the Washington air arm, quarterback Sonny Jurgensen, the former University of Maryland athlete pointed out, "Jurgensen has been hampered by injuries which have hurt the Redskins' passing game, but he's apparently all right now. "He's one of the best - year after year, he rates up among the top four passers in the league...He releases the ball real quick and he doesn't throw many interceptions."...HOMECOMING: Although Richter will be his primary responsibility, Brown also could find himself in an even stickier situation on occasion Sunday, he said. "If they come with the slot formation

as some of the clubs have been doing, they will try to isolate you against some fast receiver." As in the case of Willie Wood, who is a native of Washington, Sunday's session will be in the way of a homecoming for T.B., as he is best known to his Packer colleagues. "I live in Silver Springs, Maryland," he explained, "which is just outside Washington...it's like De Pere is to Green Bay." "I've played in Baltimore, of course, but this will be the first time I've played in D.C. Stadium," Tom said. "I've played baseball there (he was an outfielder-first baseman with the Washington Senators for a time in 1964 before casting his lot with pro football) but not football."...PACKER PATTERN: Bobby Mitchell, who now ranks No. 1 on the list of active NFL receivers with 516 career catches, apparently has fallen from favor with Coach Otto Graham and no longer is a regular. Mitchell and the former Cleveland Brown quarterback apparently do not see eye to eye. Bobby, who caught 60 passes for 866 yards and 6 touchdowns last season when he ranked fourth in the league, has had only nine catches for 82 yards in 10 games this year... Because of a whistling crosswind, Packer placekickers moved into Lambeau Field to practice Thursday. Coach Phil Bengtson spent 15 minutes with the field goal artists following the squad workout, joining Asst. Coach Ray Wietecha and Bill Kiss, the volunteer "kicking coach" from Appleton, scrutinizing the efforts of Mike Mercer, Jerry Kramer and Chuck Mercein.

### OTTO SOFTENS, PRAISES PACK

NOV 22 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Invariably, as the day of decision approaches, there is a marked tendency on the part of the principals in an athletic contest to exercise greater caution in their public utterances. Thus it is no great surprise to find that Otto Graham, the highly forthright coach of Washington's Redskins, is becoming more conciliatory in his pronouncements as Sunday's date with the Packers nears. Earlier in the week, in alluding to the affair, an unsmiling Graham reportedly declared, "It's about time they (the Packers) learned how the other half lives." Thursday, in a telephone interview from the nation's capital, he repeated that observation - but with a softening chuckle - and was extravagantly complimentary to his impending rivals. Graham, who will be sending a team against the Packers for the first time since he directed the College All-Stars to a 20-17 upset of the green and gold in 1963, was asked how he viewed the assignment... 'NOT OVER HILL': "We just know they're a very fine football team - have been and still are," was the bland reply. "We know what unfortunate bounces can do to a football team. We've had more than our share." He did not share, then, the oft-expressed view that Father Time has sabotaged pro football's reigning royalty? "I wish they were over the hill," he laughed, "but I'm afraid they're not." Did he have any theory which might explain the Packers' recent trials? "They're just having the ball bounce the other way," he promptly rejoined, mildly appending, "As I said earlier this week, it's about time they found out how the other half lives. You have to have luck, no matter how good you are." "We know we'll have to play our best game of the season if we hope to win, there's no doubt about that. We have not played good football this year." How about the health of his passing ace, Sonny Jurgensen? "I can't say Jurgensen is completely back to normal, but I would say just about. His arm no longer bothers him and I don't think his ribs are sore any more. The protective corset he was wearing gave him trouble because he couldn't pass when he was off balance, but he's not wearing it now."...FLU EPIDEMIC: Although Jurgensen's well being is no longer a critical matter, Otto has other problems. "We've had an epidemic of the flu," he reported. "We had eight or nine out yesterday and seven or eight today. I don't know if any more are going to come down with it, of course. I'll have to wait and see." "I had it last week and missed four days of practice. I know how sick I was," he ruefully added. "I've been thinking that if you had a whole unit - say five or six men in your offensive line - out with it, how would you play a ball game? It scares you. You might have the bodies, but they wouldn't know what to do." Did he think his team had any special feeling about the game? "No, I don't think so," the former Cleveland Brown field general said. "We're just hoping to put one together - play a good football game for 60 minutes. We played good football for a little better than a half against Dallas last Sunday and then we fell apart." Any personal emotion? "No, I don't have," Otto insisted. "It would be nice to win, but I know it's a pretty tall order this week."

### WINKLER MOVED INTO PACKER DEFENSE SLOT

NOV 23 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Green Bay Packers activated rookie defensive end Francis Winkler Friday to bolster their crippled defensive line. Winkler, a 6-foot-4, 250 pounder, was on the roster the first six games of the season but was deactivated prior to the Dallas game to make room for Kicker Erroll Mann, who subsequently was released and replaced by Mike Mercer. Winkler, the Packers' fifth round choice from Memphis State, replaces Bob Brown who was put on the disabled list two weeks ago after suffering a broken leg.

### PAT RICHTER AMONG NFL TOP TIGHT ENDS

NOV 23 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The 1968 season has not been overly profitable for the Washington Redskins, burdened with a 4-6 record at this point. But personally, it has been a source of deep satisfaction to towering Hugh V. (Pat) Richter, the 27-year-old Madisonian who is one of the University of Wisconsin's all-time athletic greats. Richter, employed almost exclusively as a punter by Coach Otto Graham a year ago, has burst from two years of obscurity to rank among the NFL's premier tight ends. Pat, who caught only seven passes in 1966 and just one last season, currently stands behind only the Baltimore Colts' perennial all-NFL choice, John Mackey, and Cleveland Brown Milt Morin with 29 catches in 10 games for 400 yards and 7 touchdowns. His success has changed his professional life around, Richter admitted Friday as he awaited Sunday's exchange with the Packers in D. C. Stadium...TIGHT END COMPETITION:

| RUSHING             |     |      |      |    |     |
|---------------------|-----|------|------|----|-----|
|                     | No. | Yds. | Ave. | L  | TDs |
| Anderson, Pack ..   | 121 | 555  | 4.6  | 42 | 4   |
| Allen, Redskins ..  | 112 | 382  | 3.4  | 29 | 4   |
| Grabowski, Pack ..  | 81  | 332  | 4.1  | 15 | 1   |
| Pitts, Pack ..      | 57  | 224  | 4.0  | 12 | 1   |
| Thurlow, Redskins   | 51  | 184  | 3.6  | 11 | 0   |
| Whitfield, Redskins | 37  | 125  | 3.4  | 17 | 0   |
| Brunet, Redskins .. | 35  | 117  | 3.3  | 11 | 0   |

| PASSING             |      |     |      |      |    |
|---------------------|------|-----|------|------|----|
|                     | Att. | C.  | Yds. | Int. | TD |
| Starr, Pack ..      | 168  | 107 | 1600 | 8    | 15 |
| Jurgensen, R'kins   | 240  | 137 | 1689 | 8    | 14 |
| Bratkowski, Pack    | 59   | 29  | 345  | 3    | 1  |
| Ninowski, Redskins  | 22   | 11  | 127  | 1    | 0  |
| Theofilides, R'kins | 17   | 9   | 160  | 1    | 1  |

| RECEIVING            |     |      |      |    |     |
|----------------------|-----|------|------|----|-----|
|                      | No. | Yds. | Ave. | L  | TDs |
| Taylor, Redskins ..  | 38  | 496  | 13.1 | 47 | 3   |
| Dale, Pack ..        | 34  | 728  | 21.4 | 63 | 8   |
| Dowler, Pack ..      | 31  | 398  | 12.8 | 55 | 4   |
| Richter, Redskins .. | 29  | 400  | 13.8 | 40 | 7   |
| Smith, Redskins ..   | 29  | 362  | 12.5 | 49 | 4   |
| Anderson, Pack ..    | 21  | 243  | 11.6 | 30 | 0   |
| Fleming, Pack ..     | 20  | 219  | 11.0 | 32 | 3   |
| Allen, Redskins ..   | 17  | 263  | 15.0 | 99 | 1   |
| Pitts, Pack ..       | 15  | 133  | 9.0  | 19 | 0   |



"You lose that year of experience, as I did last season," he pointed out, "and it makes a difference. So I'm pretty happy with the way things have been going." Richter's chance came, he explained, "when they moved Jerry Smith from tight end to split end and made the trade with the Vikings for Marlin McKeever." Pat, a rare nine-letter winner at Wisconsin (he was the first since 1927), says, "That gave us a little competition at tight end. They had to look us both over and make a decision...and I got the job." This last is something of an understatement. So completely has Richter taken over the assignment that McKeever, starter for the Vikings in 1967, has been relegated to the Redskins' special teams and has yet to catch a pass this season. "We tried to put a little more emphasis on our running game this year by making the change at tight end," said Pat, who has made his sterling comeback despite the added distraction of attending night law school at the American International University. "It's improved some, but not a lot." Last season was a long one, Richter admits, "especially when we lost. When you win, it doesn't bother you too much if you're not playing. But when you lose you feel, 'I might have done something.'" They make it up around here that I'm playing because of improvement in my blocking, but I think it's been that way for quite a while. It was just the opportunity to play, to show what I can do." Pat, one of the NFL's more prepossessing tight ends at 6-foot-5 and 230 pounds, concedes he once had hoped to play for the Packers "I think everybody from Wisconsin feels that way, having grown up with the Packers." Looking to Sunday's match with the defending world champions, the former Badger 3-sport star (basketball and baseball in addition to football), Richter observed, "Naturally, we're going to be underdogs. Playing against Green Bay is a real good opportunity to do your best. I think the best brings out the best in you. We'll have to come up and meet their caliber of play - it's a matter of personal pride. Against Dallas last Sunday, another top team, we played good football for better than a half and then fell apart." Commenting on apparently mounting "Otto must go" sentiment in the nation's capital, solidified by an editorial to that effect in one of the Washington newspapers this week, Richter said, "I don't think this bothers the players too much. Nowadays, it's more or less common. If you don't win, this is what happens." "It may affect the team a little," he admitted after further deliberation. "You wonder what might happen. Surprisingly enough, the morale is pretty good. Even though the season hasn't been one of the greatest, we've hung together pretty well."

#### **APPLETON COURT 'TACKLES' MCGEE, BUT PLAY VOIDED**

NOV 23 (Appleton) - Outagamie County authorities "tackled" former Green Bay Packer star end Max McGee Friday, but it was all a mistake and the play was called back. It seems McGee was arrested Oct. 15 on charges of speeding and driving without a license. He posted \$40 bond with city police. At his attorney's advice, McGee didn't appear in court Friday and intended to forfeit his bond. But a

#### **Outbreak of Flu**

## **Redskins' Breathing Could Imperil Packers**

warrant was issued and McGee was hauled in. McGee didn't realize the bond was only for the speeding charge. The bench warrant was issued when he failed to appear on the driving without a license charge. However, McGee's attorney consulted the judge, who said it was a matter of "confusion" and dismissed the warrant.

#### **REDSKINS' BREATHING COULD IMPERIL PACKERS**

NOV 24 (Washington) - The Green Bay Packers struggle for survival today against the Washington Redskins, a team that is already sick. The Packers' desperate catch-up chase in the NFL could be doomed quickly if what Washington has is catching. No fewer than six Redskins starters have been slowed with the flu in the past week-an illness that began with Coach Otto Graham last weekend and has been spreading to the rest of the team. The Packers can afford neither defeat nor disease in their crippled bid to repeat the NFL titles of the past three seasons...TO HAVE ANY CHANCE: Now 4-5-1, Green Bay must win the remainder of its games to have any chance - however slight - of keeping Minnesota from taking the Central Division crown and its accompanying ticket to the playoffs. The Redskins, 4-6, are already assured of going nowhere. The Redskins' roster reads like roll call at an infirmary. Two offensive linemen, tackle Walter Rock and guard Ray Schoenke, and three defensive starters, tackle Dennis Crane and cornerbacks Pat Fischer and Rickie Harris, all have missed practice because of the flu. Part-time starting fullback A. D. Whitfield and reserve end Marlin McKeever also were stricken at midweek. The Redskins could pose as big a threat to the Packers with their breathing as their blocking.

#### **AFTER DECADE ABSENCE, PACK LOOKS FOR HAPPIER DAY AT REDSKIN CAMP**

NOV 24 (Washington-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The last time the Packers were here, Dwight D. Eisenhower was president, and Johnny Olszewski was king. That was on Oct. 19, 1958, the day the rampaging Johnny-O shredded the Packer defense for 165 yards on 21 thrusts as the Redskins cantered to a 37-21 victory. That, of course, was the year before Vince Lombardi arrived upon the Green Bay scene to restore artistic order. Needless to say, the current Green and gold are anticipating somewhat happier denouement in D. C. Stadium this afternoon where they encounter Otto Graham's erratic but ever dangerous Redskins in a 12:15 (WNFL, Channel 2) match. Their assignment could be complicated, however, by the loss of quarterback Bart Starr, who has been hampered by severely bruised ribs...STARR'S ROLE QUESTIONABLE: "We don't know about Bart," Coach Phil Bengtson reported. "We'll probably decide during the warmup before the game whether he'll play. He probably won't know himself if he can or not until he starts throwing." Should Starr be unable to start, the task will fall to 37-year-old Zeke Bratkowski for the third time this season. Certainly, the defending world champions will have more incentive than their hosts. Although their prospects could be brighter, they still have hopes of capturing the NFL's Central Division championship and are mindful another defeat would almost certainly eliminate them from contention...STILL & CHANCE?: The Redskins' 4-6 record admittedly compares favorably with the Packers 4-5-1, but they are a distant 4 games to the rear of the front running Cowboys in the Capitol Division and thus all but mathematically out of the race. With the proper combination of circumstances, a victory here and a Colt triumph over the Minnesota Vikings in neighboring Baltimore, the Packers could vault to within a half game of the Central

lead before dusk settles over the nation's capital...REDSKIN STRATEGY: If the invaders are to do their part, however, they will be called upon to throttle the Redskins' potent passing game, one of the more explosive air arms in recent NFL history with Sonny Jurgensen firing to such as Charlie Taylor, Jerry Smith. Pat Richter and Bobby Mitchell. But Packer Coach Phil Bengtson expects the Redskins first to employ the control approach, the Pack's long time weapon. 'I think they'll try to possess the ball on us," he says, pointing out, "they even tried it against Dallas last Sunday, which is very conservative for them. And they were successful for a while. They confined themselves to runs and short passes and they were leading midway through the third quarter, 17-16. As time progresses in our game, if they get behind, they'll probably start throwing the ball and, of course, they have a dangerous passing attack." The Redskins' ground game rests primarily with Garry Allen and Bob Brunet, neither of whom is of the Gale Sayers or Mel Farr mold, although Allen has been effective enough with 382 yards in 112 attempts to date. In light of Jim Grabowski's recent renaissance, Bengtson has indicated the Packers may essay the possession game themselves, which seems a particularly pertinent approach in view of the Redskin's defensive record...REDSKIN DEFENSE POOR: Graham's braves have yielded 1,610 rushing yards in 10 games, more than any other NFL entry save the Atlanta Falcons, mired in the Coastal Division basement. Grabo, who has been running with his 1967 verve of late, has averaged 7.7 yards per carry in his last two appearances against the Vikings and Saints. There is a possibility Elijah Pitts will be opening opposite Grabowski at halfback in place of Donny Anderson, who has started every game to date, although Bengtson noted a decision is not likely to be made until just before game time. "We've had to play Pitts at halfback the last couple of weeks instead of at fullback," he explained, "and we felt we'd have to play him a little more there. That is why we've been considering starting him."...MERCER WILL KICK: Bengtson suggested he is hopeful the Pack's long-standing kicker crisis is not likely to continue this afternoon. Phil, who personally took a hand in this week's kicking drills, said, "I think we've got Mike (Mercer) speeded up. We worked under almost live conditions Friday - with a live rush - and we think we've got him speeded up." Mercer, who drilled home a 35-yard field goal on his first attempt against the Saints last Sunday, had a field goal attempt and extra point blocked and also missed a conversion.

#### NOTES AND NOTATIONS

NOV 24 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - The first shutout of the Vince Lombardi coaching era came nine years ago against Washington. (That, incidentally, was also the last time the Bays and the 'Skins have met). Today, Phil Bengtson also has a chance of "his" first shutout against the Redskins. It undoubtedly will be hard to achieve, since the 1959 Redskins didn't have a passer of the caliber of Jurgensen. Washington has averaged 18.7 points a game this season (while the Packers have a 20.3 average). The closest the Packers have come to engineering a whitewash this season have been in the Atlanta and New Orleans games (when each of the foes scored seven points). The top shutout club of the NFL season is Baltimore, with two blankings. The last club to post three shutouts in a single campaign was the power packed 1962 Packers club...The "Heidi vs. Namath" hassle of last Sunday could conceivably prove beneficial for the future. NBC-TV, you'll recall, blacked out the final, touchdown-filled minute of the tense Jets-Raiders game in order to start its 2-hour special, "Heidi," on time. Hundreds of TV fans reacted violently and literally blew out the network switchboard, while countless others merely smoldered in their homes. Perhaps now the pro grid networks (NBC and CBS) and the two major leagues (AFL and NFL) will become a little more time conscious and make constructive efforts to cut down on the overall length of games. There's no reason why a regular-season pro football game (without any provisions for sudden death playoffs) needs to run, 2:45 to three hours in elapsed time. The artificial time-outs, demanded by the networks, are the major reason games are getting longer. Apparently anticipating that future games could go beyond the normal sign-off period (6 p.m. CST), apologetic NBC spokesmen have said that such contests would henceforth be televised to their conclusions. As much as I like TV football, I find it hard to fault the NBC cut-off decision last Sunday. Perhaps if the Packer game had been snuffed out, I would feel more strongly...but the point is that four games of football blanketed two of the three major networks all afternoon, and I believe the children and or non-football fans among the adults should be allowed prime Sunday time for their favorite shows. Channel 5, for example, has about 5 ½ hours of AFL action in the afternoon, plus a morning re-run of the Notre Dame game. "Other" viewers possibly have no objection to this heavy coverage just so regularly-scheduled programs that they've anticipated, aren't pre-empted. If last Sunday's game had been one-sided of course, few fans would have objected to the cutoff, either, but it happened to be one of the most exciting games in the AFL's 9-year history. Perhaps, then, it was unfair to cut off this particular game. But, the "other" viewers had a good case, too, and, I repeat, I don't believe there is any excuse for a football game's running in the 3-hour neighborhood. The time factor is much more predictable and controllable in football than it is in baseball, for example, with its possible extra innings...On the Packer front, this Sunday starts out with great potential promise - as well as danger. In other words, if the form chart is followed in Washington and Baltimore, the Packers, by this evening, will be breathing down the Vikings' necks, just a half-game out of the Central Division lead. But, on the other hand, it's not inconceivable that Minnesota can topple the Colts and the Redskins can upend the Packers. In that case, Packer title chances would precede the Apollo astronauts to the moon. Baltimore has been playing at a remarkable peak ever since the Ram game - and if it maintains that edge, the Vikings will have more problems than they can handle. But should the Colts lose a little of that edge, it would be anybody's game. The Viking defensive front four has been so rugged lately that it could well be the best in the league - Los Angeles' and Baltimore's strong foursomes withstanding. Washington's main hope, of course,

| OFFENSE                           |     |             |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------------|--|
| GREEN BAY                         |     | WASHINGTON  |  |
| Dowler                            | SE  | Taylor      |  |
| Skoronski                         | LT  | Rock        |  |
| Gillingham                        | LG  | Wooten      |  |
| Bowman                            | C   | Haus        |  |
| Kramer                            | RG  | Banks       |  |
| Gregg                             | RT  | Snowden     |  |
| Fleming                           | TE  | Richter     |  |
| Starr                             | QB  | Jurgensen   |  |
| Pitts                             | RB  | Allen       |  |
| Grabowski                         | RB  | Brunet      |  |
| Dale                              | FL  | Jerry Smith |  |
| DEFENSE                           |     |             |  |
| GREEN BAY                         |     | WASHINGTON  |  |
| Davis                             | LE  | Musgrove    |  |
| Kostelnik                         | LT  | Crane       |  |
| Jordan                            | RT  | Bosch       |  |
| Aldridge                          | RE  | Kammerer    |  |
| Robinson                          | LLB | Roussel     |  |
| Nitschke                          | MLB | Carroll     |  |
| Caffey                            | RLB | Hamburger   |  |
| Adderley                          | LH  | Fischer     |  |
| Jeter                             | RH  | Harris      |  |
| T. Brown                          | LS  | Owens       |  |
| Wood                              | RS  | Jim Smith   |  |
| Packer-Redskin Series             |     |             |  |
| Packers won 7, Redskins 5.        |     |             |  |
| Points—Redskins 226, Packers 228. |     |             |  |

is Sonny Jurgensen. When he's right, he can beat any club on a given day. The memory of his TV performance against Dallas a year or so ago remains clear. Jurgensen has had injury problems and hasn't been at top form in too many games. Another factor that could make it tough for the Packers are the reports about Otto Graham's coaching job being in jeopardy. This could key the Redskins up - if they are interested in keeping Graham around, that is. A Packer letdown isn't too likely, either, in view of big strides that could be made in the title race this afternoon.

#### **HARTFORD DRIVES FOR ACFL TITLE DESPITE LACK OF PACKER HELP**

NOV 24 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The Green Bay Packers are envied throughout pro football for their plush quarters. Therefore, it seems only right that the Packers' farm club, the Hartford Knights, should have plush quarters. And they do. They have a new office building that includes a carpeted sidewalk leading from the street to the front door. The Knights also have about a dozen full time, year around employes, including five coaches. They have a 10-1 record right now and already own the northern division championship of the Atlantic Coast Football League. They hope to capture the league crown when they host the southern division champion Virginia Sailors Nov. 30. The only thing the Knights don't have is a first class stadium. They now play in a high school stadium, described by Hartford Times sportswriter Dennis Randall as a "dump." But it holds 10,000 people and the Knights are actually averaging over 10,000 per game. Next year, however, the Knights will have a brand new stadium that seats 20,000. It is slated to be built by Peter Savin, known around Hartford as a construction tycoon and known to the Knights as the boss. He owns the team. And he apparently is making money in the minor pro football league because he has promised that the 60 per cent of the championship game receipts that Hartford gets will be divided up among the players...GIANT FANS: The franchise, according to Randall, is one of the most stable in minor league pro football largely because "The people around here have been Giant fans for a long time and they just love pro football." Randall admits, however, that the Knights' 10-1 record also helps the stability. Actually, he says, there are only two teams in the ACFL that are not on a sound footing...and both are on the bottom of their divisions. Lowell, Mass., which is affiliated with the Patriots, is 2-7-1 and expects to move to Worcester next year. Harrisburg, Pa., tied with the Colts, is 3-7-0 and very shaky. The northern teams and their affiliations are Bridgeport, Conn., Jets, and Westchester, N.Y. Giants. The Sailors are a Redskin farm while Pottstown, Pa., is affiliated with the Eagles and Richmond, V., is tied to the Saints. The "farm" agreements are apparently of varying strengths but Randall notes that Hartford is the only team not receiving considerable direct player help from the parent club. Pat Pepler, Packer director of player personnel, says the agreement is rather loose and informal. Primarily, it consists of the Packers providing the Knights with information on available players and providing them with "taxi squad people under certain conditions."...HAVE OTHER JOBS: As of right now, the Packers do not have a single taxi squadder with Hartford, primarily because the Packers have not been able to clear NFL waivers on any of them. Many of the other parent clubs keep their taxi squadders around all week but send them to the farm team for weekend games. In this connection, it must be noted that football is not a full time occupation for the Knights and others like them in the minor leagues. The 36-man Hartford team, for instance, practices only three nights a week and most of the players spend their days at other jobs...many of them working for Savin. Obviously, however, Hartford has not been hampered by this lack of direct Packer help. The Knights, who wind up their regular schedule at Westchester Saturday night, have won three exhibitions in addition to their 10 league games. And they still can't believe their one loss. Richmond rallied from a 24-6 deficit in the last nine minutes to win with two bombs and an intercepted pass. Due to a quirk in the schedule, Virginia is the only league team the Knights have not met this year, adding a touch of drama to the approaching championship game. But Randall has no doubt Hartford, the center of a 500,000 population area, will hold its own. He is impressed with Head Coach Fred Wallner and the coaching staff, which includes former Chicago Bear kicker Roger LeClerc. And the Knights have the top two rushers in the league in fullback Marv Hubbard, a 6-foot-1, 220 pound rookie from Colgate. Cut by Denver, Hubbard has averaged 5.4 yards a carry for the Knights. His running mate is Mel Weeks, a 10-year veteran of minor league football, who has a 4.4 average and leads the league in scoring 14 touchdowns. Among the other top players are offensive tackles Dennis Fitzgibbons, a 6-2, 250 pound rookie from Syracuse; Nick DeFelice, another tackle who goes 6-4, 255 and spent two years on Jets taxi team. Defensive end Fran Mallock was with the Steelers for a year. He is 6-3, 255. Middle guard Bob Soleau, another ex-Steeler, is 6-2, 230. Two-way tackle John Naponic is a Canadian League veteran who reaches 6-10 and weighs 300 pounds. Tommy Rowland tried out with the Packers this year and was recommended to Hartford by the Pack. He is now the top defensive back in the league with six interceptions. And Hartford also has a kicker. He's Wes Bean and Wallner is convinced he has the strongest leg in pro football. A rookie from Grambling cut by the Bengals this year, Bean has booted 15 field goals, two of them from 55 yards out...but is considered erratic.

# **Bays Meet Dangerous Redskins**



# The Sporting News

Vol. 166, No. 19

NOVEMBER 23, 1968

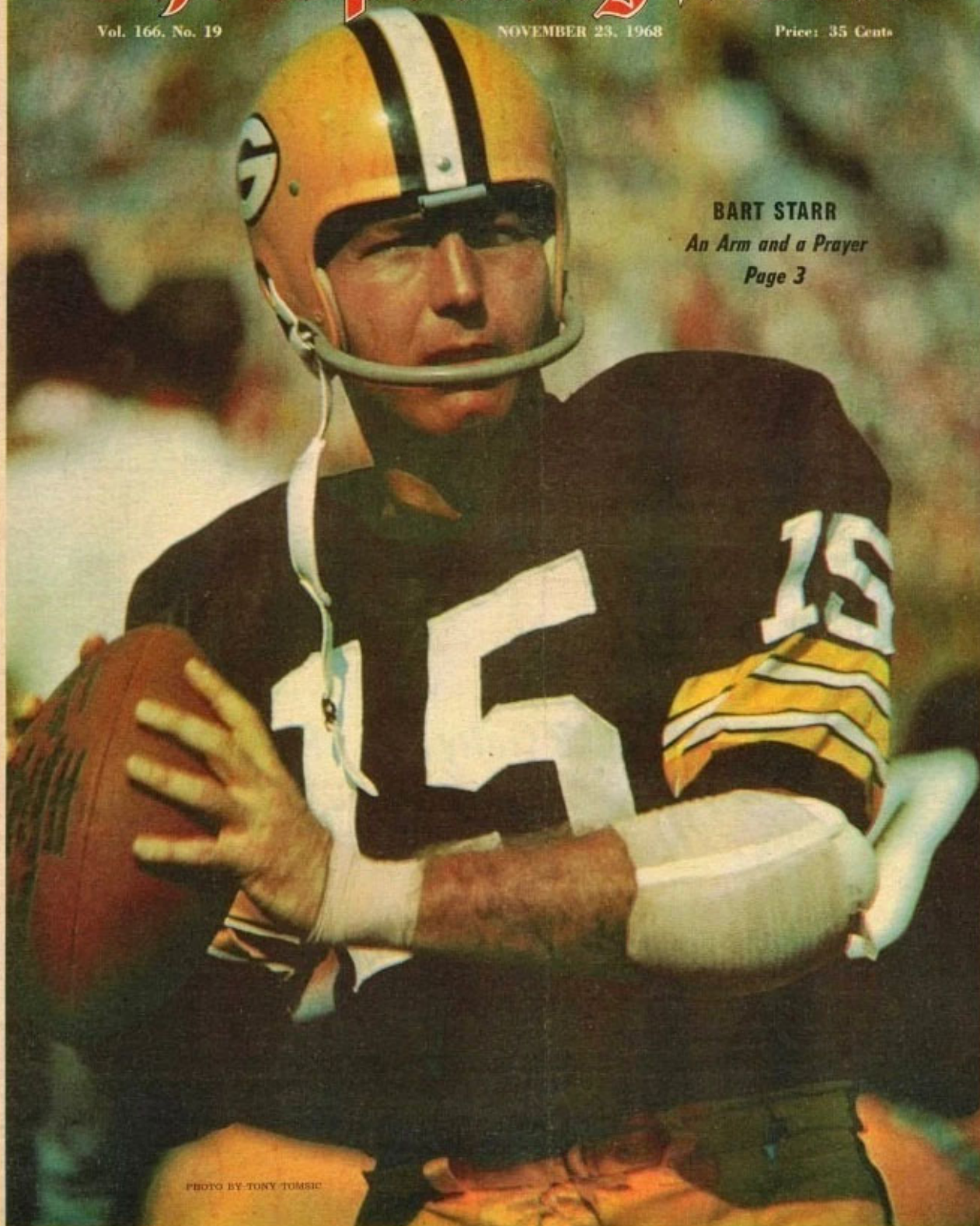
Price: 35 Cents

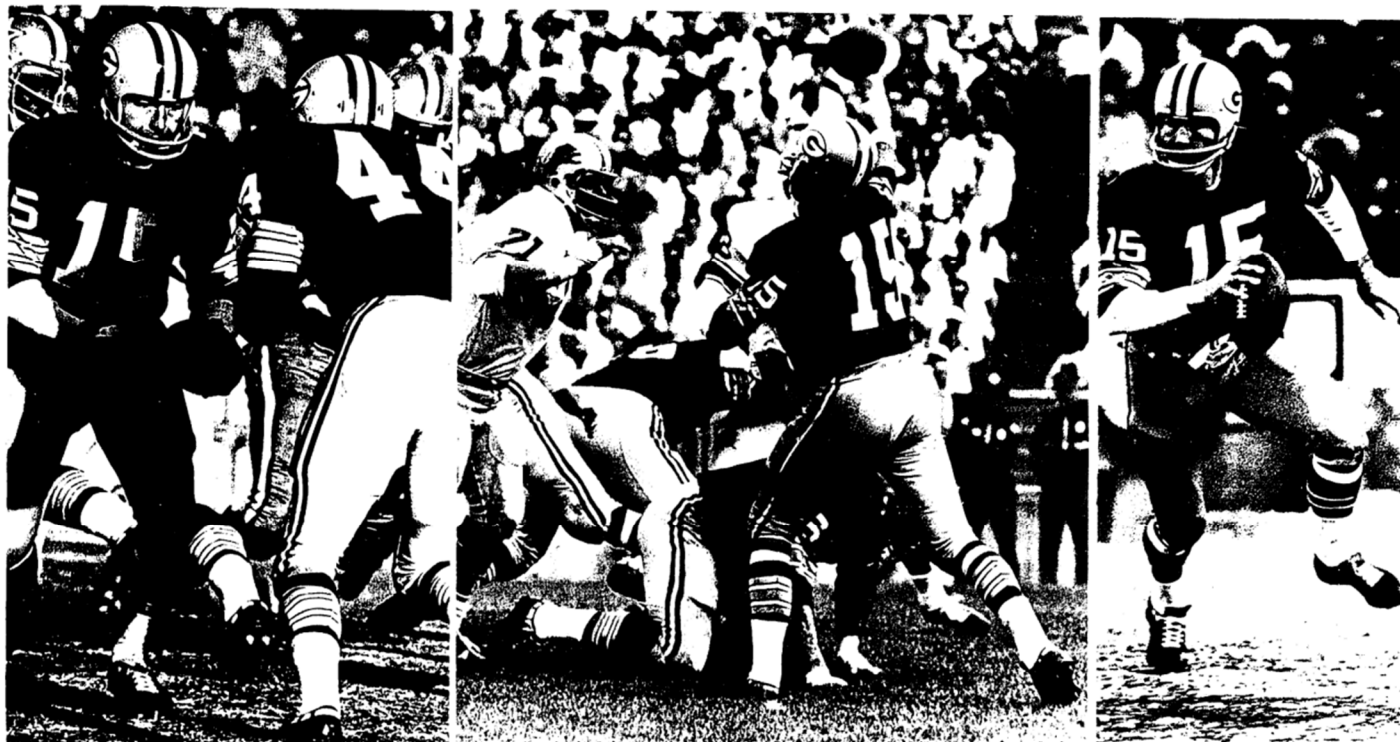
**BART STARR**

*An Arm and a Prayer*

*Page 3*

PHOTO BY TONY TOMSIC





Handing Off, Passing or Carrying the Ball, Bart Starr Is Everything a Pro Quarterback Should Be.

# Starr Sky-High as an Untinseled Hero

## STARR SKY-HIGH AS AN UNTINSELED HERO

NOV 23 (The Sporting News) - "Will everyone here kindly step to the rear and let a winner lead the way?" songbird Marilyn May inquired in the tune she turned into a smash hit. Marilyn may not have had Bart Starr in mind, but until a bigger winner comes along, Bart will fill the bill. Though the Green Bay Packers finally have faltered, it's significant that Starr, their durable and talented quarterback, is cementing his place in the front rank of pro football's field generals. The others must step to the rear. Indeed, with the Baltimore Colts' Johnny Unitas on the shelf with an injury much of this season, Starr may at last be without a peer at quarterback. Starr, incidentally, came up a winner in the political arena this fall, even while the Packers were stumbling. He was an early and enthusiastic supporter of Richard Nixon for President. Bart's part in the Nixon campaign was limited only by his demanding role with the Packers. It would be the final irony if Starr were to complete his climb to the top as the Packers finally drop from it in this, Phil Bengtson's first season as coach. The team won only three of its first eight games, and retained its place in the Central Division race only because of the remarkable disarray in the rest of the division, in which .500 records at midseason were worth a share of the lead. Still, Starr was as effective as ever. His one-man assault against the Dallas Cowboys on national television October 28 catapulted him upward among league passers and gave him the lead. He threw four touchdown passes that night...**BART IS KEY TO SUCCESS:** And gradually, the Packers' image as a team that ran when it could and threw only when it had to has changed, and Starr has become more and more the hub of it all. "Bart Starr - that's where their strength is," Minnesota Vikings' Coach Bud Grant said of the Packers. "It used to be that Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor made the Packers go. That isn't true anymore. The image of the Packers has changed. 'I don't mean their winning image, I mean their style of play. In this game, you have to keep going to your strength, and now Starr is the Packers' strength. He's got Boyd Dowler and Carroll Dale to fire at, too, don't forget. 'Is Starr getting better? Sure, he is. The thing about quarterbacks is that as long as their physical health holds up, they only get better and better,' Grant said. Starr's general health remains good, but the bruises he has absorbed in the name of art are many. He suffered a broken hand in 1963; missed all but the first play of the fabled 1965 sudden-death playoff with Baltimore because of injury; missed four games in 1967 with assorted dents in his shoulder, rib cage and hand, and was out all of one game and all but one play of another this year with a stretched bicep in his throwing arm. "We have 80 biceps on the team," Bengtson said he told Starr, "and you have to hurt the only one that counts." It may not be the only one that counts, but it does count. Starr is already the most efficient quarterback in the history of the NFL - he has completed a greater percentage of his passes, with fewer interceptions, than anyone, including Unitas. With six games to go, Starr had thrown 14 touchdown passes, only two fewer than his professional high. This kind of eminence in his profession is not new for Starr, but he pretends to regard it as something of a fluke, and he has adopted self-effacement as a way of life....**'JUST LUCKY,' SAYS VET QB:** You knew that Tom Mix was going to like his horse better than girls, and you knew Jack Armstrong was going to fight the villains fairly. And you know what Bart Starr is going to say to explain his success, but you ask him anyway, and sure enough, you get your answer: "I was just lucky, I guess." Starr doesn't mean to be an obstructionist on the matter, or

any other, as far as that goes. He is the most courtly of men, unfailingly polite, and as articulate as he is cooperative. It is just that he has a thing about blaming himself. That sometimes takes some doing. He has been the league's leading passer three times, after all. He was its Most Valuable Player once and has an absolute monopoly on being the outstanding player in Super Bowl games. He won the honor both times the game was played. There was no bigger play in the 1967 season, for instance, than Starr's last-minute dive for the touchdown that beat Dallas in the NFL championship game. And what did he have to say after that one? "I took too many losses," he said. "I blame myself. I should have thrown the ball away a few times, instead of eating it." That's what he said, and he meant it. Starr had actually managed to be crestfallen after the greatest individual triumph of his career. "I guess the good Lord takes care of you in things like that," he said... **HARD WORKER FOR CHARITY:** Such disclaimers from many athletes would be regarded with cynicism, but not when they come from Starr. His work for Nixon was only another step in his journey toward deeper and deeper involvement in the affairs of his community and nation. He has served on any number of voluntary committees to benefit charitable groups. He and his pretty wife, Cherry, took on the lengthy and arduous task of running a telethon to help a drive against cerebral palsy, and he went to the extraordinary length of giving away the car he won for being most valuable in the 1967 Super Bowl. He donated the car to be used in a raffle which earned \$45,000 for a camp for underprivileged boys. These contributions are real, and so is Starr, a genuine article in an age of tinsel heroes. He is about as flamboyant as a Sunday school teacher, but he has been and is an athlete of rare talent, a man of rare integrity. And he shows no signs that his 34 years are weighing unduly heavy on his shoulders. So some day soon, Starr is likely to pass for five touchdowns and run for six, and when it is over, he will probably apologize. For something. Anything, almost. There are many athletes who talk a good game, but Bart Starr, the best quarterback the Green Bay Packers have ever had, may be the first to talk a bad one and play a good one.

### **STORYBOOK HERO, STARR FITS ROLE**

NOV 23 (The Sporting News) - On a bright afternoon last fall in Green Bay, a happy crowd watched as the hometown Packers and the Chicago Bears played professional football at Lambeau Field. By the fourth quarter, the fans' disposition no longer matched the sunny sky. Bart Starr, Green Bay's brilliant quarterback, was having an off day. Usually the NFL's most proficient passer, Starr had already thrown five interceptions, two more than he had tossed away all the previous season. High in the stands, a ten-year-old boy watched quietly. Beside him an angry fan had begun a noisy assault on Starr, attacking him viciously on play after play. The boy said nothing, his wide blue eyes never moving from the field below. He knew what 50,000 other fans did not—that Bart Starr was playing with a rib injury which made it difficult for him even to lift his arm. Still, he said nothing. The boy was Bart Starr, Jr... **THE BADGE OF COURAGE:** Later that week, his mother and father received a letter from a minister who had watched nearby. He wrote that they could be proud of their son because it took courage and character for a lad to hear such slurs and remain silent. Such a comment reflects the esteem in which Bart Starr is held by those who know what kind of man the famed quarterback is. At the peak of his profession, a so-called super-star, he remains sincere and unassuming—more concerned with faith than with fame, more interested in morals than in money. It is as though someone cracked open a mold marked "Model Hero" and out he stepped—wholesome, humble. Starr's dedication to old-fashioned virtues may seem strangely misplaced in a cynical age and a savage profession, but his trophy shelf proves that even in a violent game like professional football, nice guys don't have to finish last. The person who knows him best, his attractive wife, Cherry, says of him: "Bart is often disturbed by publicity given the behavior of a few pros. He knows that youngsters will read about all-night gambling sprees and drunken drivers and think that if it's all right for their heroes, it's all right for them. Bart feels that he and all men in the public eye have a great responsibility because they're idolized by boys who set their patterns according to their heroes."... **PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:** Starr's sincere desire to help others stems in part from a strong religious faith. "Bart goes to our chapel alone each week and prays for guidance to be a good leader for his club," Mrs. Starr comments, "and each evening before bed he reads inspiration material based on Bible scriptures." He and two other Packers organized pregame devotions each Sunday morning before out-of-town games when Protestants players cannot always attend church. A conscientious father, Starr is especially aware of the need to stress the right values to his own sons and tries to impress upon them that honors a man receives are less important than the kind of man he is. Bart, Jr., is only now beginning to realize the magnitude of his father's fame. Like most boys his age, he is an ardent sports fan but, though proud of his famous dad, seems unaffected by his status. He has, however, been particularly interested in statistical charts, knowing that Starr ranks at or near the top in passing percentages. But last season, when the injuries which the quarterback refused to disclose caused him to perform poorly in early games, young Bart became temporarily disheartened because his father failed to place among the leaders. "Our younger son, Bret, who is four, was too young to understand," Mrs. Starr recalls, "but Bart knew his daddy was hurt and wasn't playing well. He didn't say much. He's very much like his father - quiet, noncommittal - it's hard to know what either is thinking."... **ONLY THE TEAM COUNTS:** Concerned, Starr told the boy: "The 'stats' aren't important, son, even though they're nice byproducts of winning. But how a player does personally isn't significant. What matters is the kind of team man you are," He was not certain that his son understood. But later, after the boy had sat beside the abusive fan, he told his mother; "It really isn't how many passes you complete or how many touchdown passes you throw. It's the kind of leader you are that counts, isn't it, Mom?" Possibly the tribute that meant the most last year, though, was one Starr found on his pillow after a tough night game in St. Louis midway through the season. Though the Packers had won, Starr, who was still hampered by injuries, felt that he had again performed poorly. The team plane touched down in Green Bay around 2 a.m., and the battered quarterback dragged himself home—tired, bruised, frustrated. There, attached to his pillow, he found a message from Bart, Jr., who gets a dime for each perfect paper he brings home from school. Carefully penciled on tablet paper was this note: "Dear Dad, I thought you played a great game. Love, Bart." Taped to it were two dimes.