



Green Bay Packers (3-4-1) 17, Chicago Bears (5-3) 14
Monday November 8th 1971 (at Chicago)



Packers Won't Let Good Game Go To Waste, Kick Past Bears 17-14

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)

(CHICAGO) - Dave Hampton was unexpectedly somber and thoughtful. Surprisingly so for a man who had just flung open the door to victory with a delightfully opportune kickoff return, a 62-yard canter from which Lou Michaels' decisive field goal had bloomed. But it may have followed too closely upon his late fourth quarter fumble that Chicago's suddenly resurgent Bears had quickly converted into a 14-14 tie, sending most of the 55,049 Soldier Field customers into boisterous rhapsodies. For Hampton, the juices of joy had not yet begun to flow. "It makes you realize how important every play in a football game is," he soberly volunteered. "You can't ever relax."

HAD 'SAFE' LEAD

The fumble, the explosive halfback hinted, had made it incumbent upon him to respond with a big play. And that, clearly, was what was needed. The Packers, after all, were now in jeopardy after taking a "safe" 14-0 lead into the final six minutes. "The offense did a great job, John Brockington played a great game and the defense did a great job," Hampton quietly noted. "I didn't want to let a lot of good ballplaying go to waste," He was unwittingly echoing the words of Coach Dan Devine, who had been asked if the Packers had done "anything special" on that climactic kickoff return. "Nothing more than we normally work on," he said. "We just weren't going to let this game slip away. There was no way...We worked too hard to let it get away from us."

JUMPED OVER

"We really needed it," Hampton ventured. "I wanted to get the kickoff, and I call the shots, but this time it didn't make any difference, the ball was right to me. Perry Williams, Alden Roche and Hugger (Dick Himes) all got good blocks on it. I sort of jumped over the people they knocked down...Once it roke, I just got behind Bill Hayhoe, who knocked Ron Smith out of there, which gave me some extra yardage." Although he had virtually gone the distance down the west sidelines - in front of the stricken Bear bench - the closest official ruled he had stepped out of bounds at the Chicago 39. That prompted Hampton to note, "That artificial turf is so fast, two or three steps and your speed is up. Before I knew it, I was on the sidelines."

ATE UP CLOCK

Brockington, a bruising, abandoned runner this sunny November afternoon, barged to the front at that point. Already well above the coveted 100-yard plateau (he emerged with 142 yards in 30 attempts), the freshman fullback carried six straight times, sledgehammering the ball into kicking position at the Chicago 15 while simultaneously eating up the clock. Michaels, who had seen a 23-yard effort go awry in the third quarter, then found the range from the 22 with only 59 seconds to play and the Packers had won for the first time since Oct. 3...although safety Al Randolph had to waylay a Bobby Douglass "bomb" at the Green Bay 23 following the kickoff to preserve the decision. "I was hoping," Michaels said with a semi-facetious smile, "that we'd go all the way for a touchdown...It was nice to make up for that one I missed, but it's easier on your heart the other way."

HISTORY REPATS

"I've had too many of these to make - I can recall about 12 of these in my life...I did the same thing here when I was with the Colts in 1968 - same score, same everything. "When I saw that ball going between the uprights, I said to myself, 'History repeats itself.'" "I don't know what happened on the one I missed in the third quarter. I don't know if it was tipped, or it was me. If it wasn't tipped, I shanked it. I've never seen a ball act just like that. It sort of hooked out to the right." To Devine, the anatomy of the victory was of much greater import than the victory itself. "A lot of character was shown on the part of our ball club today," he said. "I think it will help us this year and in the future. You've got to turn the corner somewhere. I don't know whether we did today or not, but we may in the future look back on this as the day it all began."

Point Parade



Packers	0	14	0	3-17
Bears	0	0	0	14-14

Packers 7, Bears 0

Hunter passed 32 yards to Dale, ending a 63-yard drive following a Bear punt. The drive took six plays with Brockington picking up 25 yards in three carries. Michaels converted with 5:23 gone in the second.

Packers 14, Bears 0

Brockington ran seven yards, concluding a 60-yard drive in six plays after a Bear punt, the big gainer being a Hunter to Anderson pass for 39 yards. Michaels added the extra point with 11:13 elapsed in the second.

Packers 14, Bears 7

Douglass passed 30 yards to Farmer, climaxing an 80-yard move in seven plays, including four Douglass completions in six attempts. Percival converted with 9:02 gone in the fourth.

Packers 14, Bears 14

Douglass leaped one yard on the fourth play after Butkus recovered a Hampton fumble on the Packer 11. Percival's kick tied the score with only 3:18 remaining in the game.

Packers 17, Bears 14

Michaels kicked a 22-yard field goal with 59 seconds to play after Hampton returned the kickoff from the end zone to the Bear 39 and Brockington gained 23 yards in five carries to the 16.

"I'm extremely proud of our team.. Chicago played well, too, and Douglass proved he's an excellent quarterback. He passed well! and ran well...Bobby reminds me of Greg Landry - he's a dangerous runner. We worked on stopping Dick Gordon, of course, but we were concerned that Bob Wallace and George Farmer would kill us if we tried to keep too close an eye on Gordon. Overall, we stayed in a zone quite a bit...Actually, we played a pretty simple defense. We probably played more zone than the Packers have any time since Johnny Blood," he quipped. "We played a lot of it."

"Offensively, we tried to run where the defense dictated," Devine offered in explanation of a 171-yard rushing net, one of the Packers' best performances of the season. And that, it turned out, was not easy. "Most teams know your tendencies, how many times you run a trap on first down, for example, but the Bears knew our plays by number," Co-Captain Gale Gillingham explained. "They knew our frequencies, everything. Grabo (ex-teammate Jim Grabowski, now the Bears' starting fullback) knows our offense by heart, of course, and he must have given them everything." "We had to change our calls in the huddle. Bow (center Ken Bowman) would say 'odd' or 'even' in the huddle. Then when we got to the line, he'd say 'yes' or 'no,' depending upon whether they were odd or even...We even went to a color code for a while." Curiously, despite all of that rushing success, the Packers had charged into the lead in the second quarter by way of the bomb, this one a 30-yard collaboration with flanker Carroll Dale, who had drifted behind cornerback Joe Taylor. Rookie quarterback Scott Hunter, the author of that pitch, had an entirely logical explanation. "I think we kept 'em off balance with our running game," he said. "They didn't dare come roaring in there with their ears back. If they put a pretty good rush on, we'd run a trap."

"We broke a few of those draws against them - that will always keep a defense cautious...What I liked is that we stayed ahead of 'em - we kept making those first downs...Plus John Spilis was doing a heckuva job. He caught three passes and it was just too bad two of them were called back. Then I underthrew him there in the fourth quarter. He had to stop and wait for the ball, and they knocked it out of his hands...That was six points." Shaken up shortly before halftime, Hunter reported, "I just had the wind knocked out of me. I had my arm up and took a good shot from George Seals. But that was the only time I really got hit - and that was after the ball was gone. They never did get me for a loss. I had good pass protection all day." Another Hunter strike, this one a 39-yard maneuver with Donny Anderson down the sideline, led to the Packers' second touchdown, a 7-yard burst by the runaway ex-Buckeye, Brockington.

"It was a 42-outside, a play which normally goes inside, although the decision is up to the runner," Brockington said. "Dave (Hampton) was in Ross Brupbacher's face, blocking for me. I saw Brupbacher looking around him so I faked going inside, then turned out. "As I went by, either Brupbacher got a piece of the ball or I hit Dave's hip and the ball popped loose. I didn't have it too securely...But by that time I was already crossing the goal line and the official signaled touchdown." That 14-0 lead, Devine noted, could have been expanded to a prohibitive and comfortable point in the second half, thus sparing him and his athletes undue anxiety. "We had a couple of opportunities in the third quarter to pretty well put it away," he said. "But we missed the field goal and Rich McGeorge dropped a touchdown pass in the open. Lou Michaels more than made up for that miss when he made the field goal in the last minute...But a 17-0 lead is much different than a 14-0 lead." Another of those near-misses, Hunter's long pitch which bounced off Spilis's hands in the fourth quarter, spawned the Bears' late surge.

Douglass, starting from his own 20, had the Bruins home in seven plays. The seventh was a 30-yard pass to Farmer in the right corner of the end zone, accomplished with 5:53 remaining in the game. Cornerback Ken Ellis, the Packer victim, explained, "When Douglass started to scramble back there, I came up and Farmer just hooked behind me." The Bruins needed only four plays to make capital of Hampton's first down fumble following the next kickoff, sullyng a Packer "record" in the process. When Douglass sneaked over from the one at 11:42, it marked the first time the enemy had scored on the ground this season. The psychological stage, unquestionably, was set for the Bears...But it was the Packers who responded, prompting Devine to point with pride. "I think we turned the corner a little bit," he said. "We've played like a football team the last two games. And we did against Minnesota, before we went out and laid an egg against Los Angeles...It's got to mean something."

GREEN BAY	-	0	14	0	3	-	17
CHICAGO	-	0	0	0	14	-	14

By The Associated Press

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PTS	OP
Miami	6	1	1	.857	197	82
Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	169	55
New England ...	3	5	0	.375	112	195
New York Jets ...	3	5	0	.375	100	175
Buffalo	0	8	0	.000	94	250

Central Division

Cleveland	4	4	0	.500	142	172
Pittsburgh	4	4	0	.500	160	168
Houston	1	6	1	.143	95	174
Cincinnati	1	7	0	.125	140	155

Western Division

Oakland	5	1	2	.833	207	134
Kansas City	5	2	1	.714	176	119
San Diego	3	5	0	.375	159	179
Denver	2	5	1	.286	125	144

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PTS	OP
Washington	6	1	1	.857	167	97
Dallas	5	3	0	.625	220	158
St. Louis	3	5	0	.375	135	149
New York Giants .	3	5	0	.375	138	198
Philadelphia	2	5	1	.286	81	187

Central Division

Minnesota	6	2	0	.750	125	72
Detroit	5	2	1	.714	211	158
Chicago	5	3	0	.625	140	135
Green Bay	3	4	1	.429	279	135

Western Division

San Francisco	6	2	0	.750	178	96
Los Angeles	4	2	1	.667	145	109
Atlanta	4	3	1	.571	171	154
New Orleans	2	4	2	.333	136	193

Sunday's Results

Washington 7, Philadelphia 7, tie
Miami 34, Buffalo 0
Atlanta 9, Cincinnati 6
New York Giants 35, San Diego 17
New York Jets 13, Kansas City 10
New England 28, Houston 20
Pittsburgh 26, Cleveland 9
Oakland 21, New Orleans 21, tie
Dallas 16, St. Louis 13
San Francisco 13, Minnesota 9
Green Bay 17, Chicago 14
Detroit 24, Denver 20
Only games scheduled

Monday's Game

Los Angeles at Baltimore, 9 p.m., national television
Only game scheduled

Sunday's Games

All times EST

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

Monday, Nov. 15

St. Louis at San Diego, 9 p.m., national television
Only game scheduled

	<u>GREEN BAY</u>	<u>CHICAGO</u>
First downs	13	16
Rush-yards-TDs	43-171-1	22-75-1
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	14-7-133-1-1	38-19-205-1-3
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	0-0
Net Passing Yards	133	205
Total yards	304	280
Fumbles-lost	1-1	1-1
Turnovers	4	1
Yards Penalized	4-43	2-30

SCORING

2nd - GB - Carroll Dale, 31-yard pass from Scott Hunter (Lou Michaels kick) GB 3-0

2nd - GB - John Brockington, 7-yard run (Michaels kick) GB 14-0

4th - CHI - George Farmer, 30-yard pass from Bobby Douglass (Mac Percival kick) GB 14-7

4th - CHI - Douglass, 1-yard run (Percival kick) TIED 14-14

4th - GB - Michaels, 22-yard field goal GB 17-14

RUSHING

GREEN BAY - John Brockington 30-142 1 TD, Donny Anderson 9-26, Perry Williams 1-3, Dave Hampton 1-0, Scott Hunter 1-0

CHICAGO - Jim Grabowski 7-30, Bobby Douglass 5-30 1 TD, Don Shy 10-15

PASSING

GREEN BAY - Scott Hunter 14-7-133 1 TD 1 INT

CHICAGO - Bobby Douglass 37-18-192 1 TD 3 INT, Bobby Joe Green 1-1-13

RECEIVING

GREEN BAY - Donny Anderson 3-50, Rich McGeorge 2-19, Carroll Dale 1-31 1 TD, John Spilis 1-13

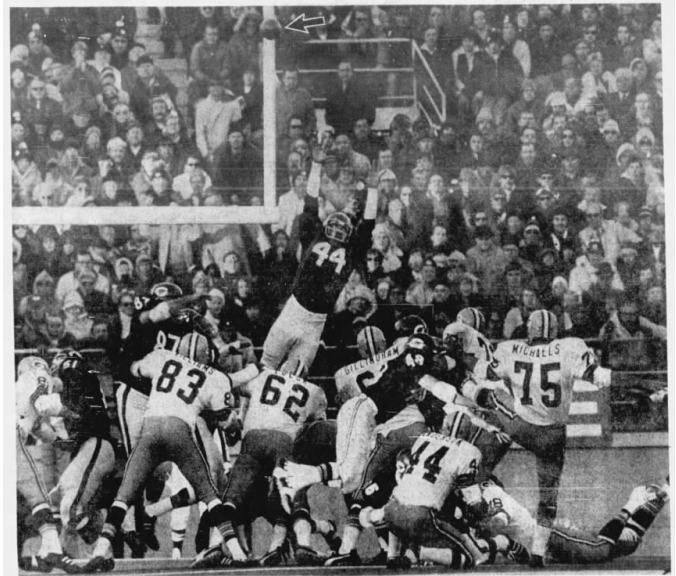
CHICAGO - Bob Wallace 4-48, Don Shy 4-47, Jim Grabowski 4-19, George Farmer 3-42 1 TD, Dick Gordon 2-23, Jim Seymour 1-14, Cecil Turner 1-13

Michaels Boots Pack by Bears 17-14

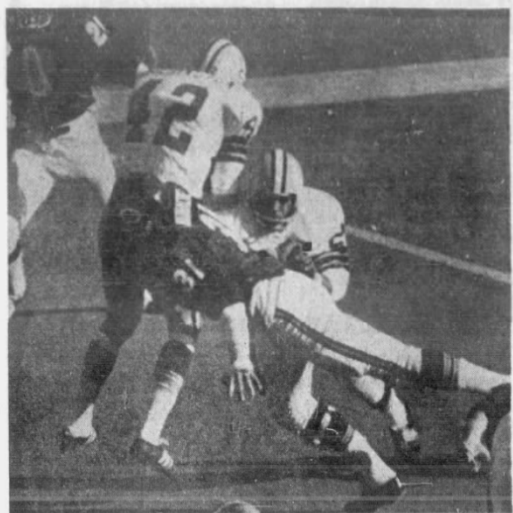
LYLE FLICKED THE KICK

NOV 8 (Chicago Tribune) - One minute remained in the game and Garry Lyle, the Bears' safety, took three quick strides and leaped high above the scrimmage line reaching for Lou Michaels' field goal attempt. "I felt the ball...I felt it...it sort of grazed my fingers but I couldn't get enough of it. I missed it that much," recalled Lyle. Michaels' kick, clearing Lyle's lunge, sailed between the uprights and the Green Bay Packers had a 17-14 triumph, spoiling another of the Bears' miraculous comeback attempts. "Let's face it," observed Linebacker Doug Buffone. "We just ran out of luck, that's all." Jim Dooley, the Bears head coach, said it was more than lack of luck. "We made the mistakes we hadn't been making," Dooley said. "Every time there was a key play involved, some type of penalty or other mistake would stop us. This was the first time this season we've been hurt by penalties. And you've got to realize Green Bay played without a mistake until [Dave] Hampton fumbled in the last five minutes. We failed to establish any pressure on them by not scoring in the first three quarters. The fumble on our last drive in the third quarter [by Don Shy] hurt," Dooley concluded.

The Bears, trailing 14-0, had been putting together what would be their fourth long drive to be stalled by a mistake late in the third quarter, marching from their own 30-yard line. Shy took a handoff at the Green Bay 37, found a gaping hole at right tackle and surged ahead. But Green Bay Tackle Mike McCoy reached around and tipped the ball out of Shy's hands. "All day it had been real tight in there. But that time they really opened up a hole," Shy recalled. "When a back gets in the open he has a tendency to relax so he can put down a move or two on the secondary men. I relaxed and McCoy didn't even touch me, he just reached around with his arm and knocked the ball out. "That lucky son of a gun," Shy moaned. "This was the sort of thing that had been going for us lately, but all during the first half you could tell things weren't going right for us - penalties, mistakes. "I honestly don't think it was lack of concentration. [Guard Glen] Holloway was called for holding that killed our other drive in the third quarter," Shy continued, referring to Holloway's penalty that wiped out a 14-yard pass play from Bobby Douglass to Dick Gordon on the Green Bay 23. "I don't think that was lack of concentration on Glen's part. His man just beat him and he reached around and had to grab him. My fumble sure wasn't lack of concentration, and neither



Lou Michaels of Packers (75) kicking winning field goal over Garry Lyle's (44) outstretched fingertips.



Packer John Brockington [42] eludes Ross Brupbacher [31]...



... on the way to Bears' goal line.



The ball pops loose, but it's too late. He was over.

were the interceptions," Shy maintained. Buffone and other Bears also argued that they were not guilty of a let down or underestimated the Packers. "Football is crazy," Buffone said. "We knew better than to take the Packers lightly. You can't take anybody lightly. Look, the Jets beat Kansas City today. The only thing I like about this game is we kept in there punching away. Maybe it's a blessing we lost. Maybe we've been waiting too long to get going. We've got to start earlier." Buffone said the Packers prevented turnovers which the Bears have thrived upon, using short, sideline passes that are difficult to intercept and utilizing the sure-handed runners, rookie John Brockington and Donny Anderson. "I can't believe how much this game hurts," said Defensive Tackle George Seals. "We had it in our grasp and lost it. I really wanted this one. We had enough breaks, we just didn't take advantage of them. "We wanted it, man. This game was damned important. It hurts," Seals admitted. Defensively, there were two major breakdowns for the Bears - the first being a 31-yard touchdown pass from Scott Hunter to Carroll Dale in the second quarter and Hampton's 62-yard kickoff return that set up the winning field goal. Buffone called the touchdown pass "a cheap one that really hurt." Dale beat Cornerback Joe Taylor badly on the play and Taylor described it thusly: "Dale ran a deep curl-in then headed for the corner [of the end zone]. It was my part of the zone. I was reading the quarterback [watching Hunter's eyes] and he looked the other way. I took the curl-in." On Hampton's kickoff return, Dooley said there was a breakdown "somewhere when he turned up the middle and slid off to the left." Ron Smith, who was the safety on the kickoff return, was playing off blockers and was closing in on Hampton near midfield when he was wiped out by Bill Hayhoe. Cecil Turner was the last pursuing Bear when Hampton inadvertently stepped out of bounds at the Bear 39. "I was about to get him, then 'boom!' out of nowhere came that blocker," Smith said. Analyzed Dooley: "We just waited a little too late to get going and Green Bay played an excellent game. Hunter did an exceptional job and he had excellent blocking. "It was obvious from the beginning that it seemed every time we had a big play there was going to be a penalty to cancel it. Still, I am proud of the team, the way they stayed in there and came back in the fourth quarter." "We're still in the money," Shy concluded. "We just have to keep pounding it out." And Buffone was still telling reporters: "Football is crazy...our luck just ran out."

MRS. BROCKINGTON HOSPITALIZED BRIEFLY SUNDAY

NOV 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Mrs. Jackie Brockington, 23, wife of Packer John Brockington, was examined and dismissed from St. Mary's Hospital Sunday afternoon after she suffered some chest pains while visiting at the Scott Hunter residence, 1210 S. Taylor St., during the game with the Bears in Chicago. Mrs. Brockington was taken to the hospital by the Green Bay Fire Department Rescue Squad about 3:25 p.m.

BIG JOHN'S 142 YARDS JUST MIND OVER MATTER, BLOCKING

NOV 8 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - With John Brockington, a budding superstar, it's a case of mind over matter. "The first thing you have to do when you're a running back is accept the fact you're going to get hit," says the Packers' runaway rookie. "I do and I just have to play above that. If you're running slow, you get hit and if you're running fast, you're going to get hit so you might as well run fast and hard," Brockington asserts with succinct and basic logic. That, a collection of Chicago Bear defenders will groggily attest, is precisely how the bulldozing ex-Buckeye ran here Sunday afternoon in escorting the Packers to a 17-14 victory over the Central Division contenders. Repeatedly bowling over would-be tacklers (including, on occasion, the redoubtable Dick Butkus) and shedding others with one of the more explosive exhibitions of power running in recent Packer history, the Brooklyn-born workhorse amassed 142 yards in 30 carries...602 YARDS IN 8 GAMES: "You've got to play it that way," Brockington explained. "You haven't got the weight to take their blows, but you might drag them a few yards if you're running hard." The 6-foot-2, 225-pound rookie, who now has three 100-yard days to his credit in only seven National Football League regular season appearances, paid tribute to "good, solid blocking" from his offensive teammates. "They were going after people," he said, adding, "You just try to run as hard as you can - you don't want to waste anybody's effort. The linemen worked pretty hard and you want to make the most of their efforts. I just try to get as much out of every play as I can. My first objective is to get a first down - you have to control the ball. After you get the first down, you think about going all the way." Brockington, who now has to be a pre-eminent candidate for NFL rookie



Bobby Douglass [10] goes over from the 1 yard line in the fourth quarter for Bears' second score.

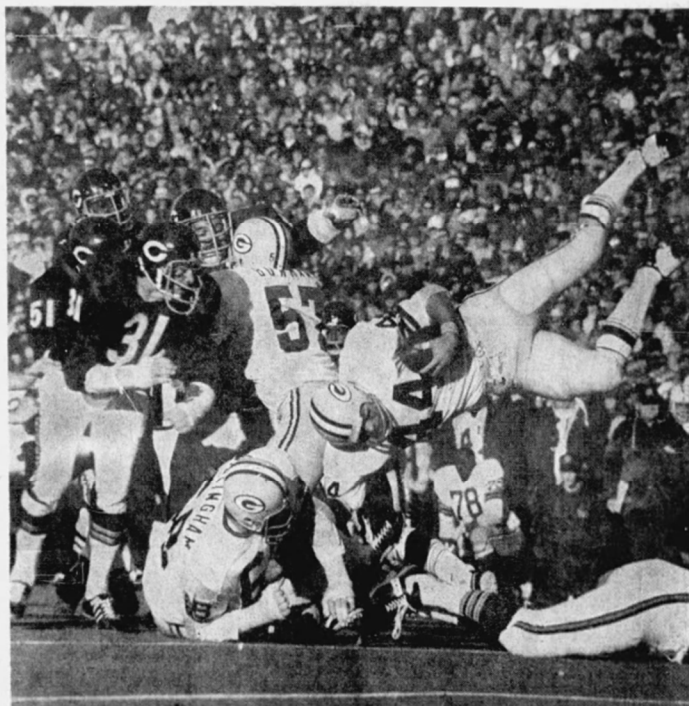
Brockington Is for Real; Packers Win

Packer rookie John Brockington lugged the ball 142 yards in 30 carries as Green Bay thwarted the Bears 17-14 yesterday in Soldier Field.

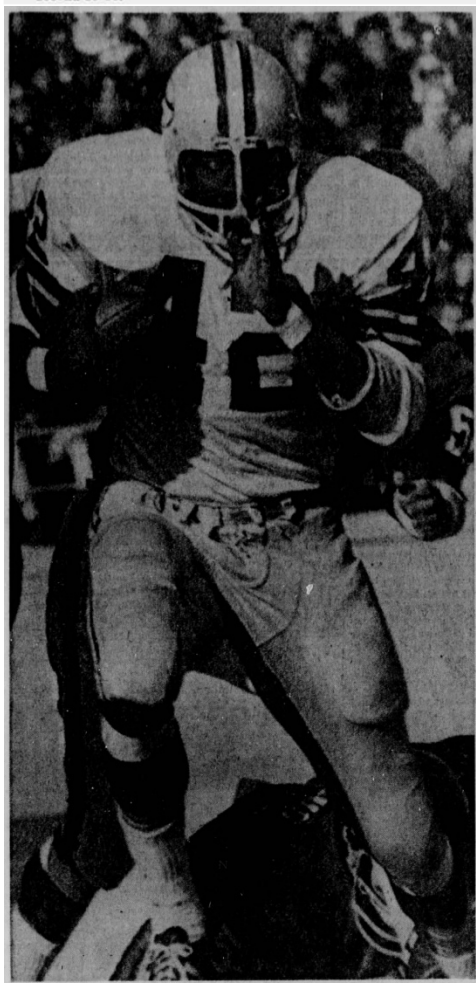
The Packers held the Bears scoreless until the fourth quarter when Bobby Douglass passed 30 yards to George Farmer for the first score. Douglass carried the ball 1 yard on a dive for the Bears' second and final touchdown.

However, in the end it was the toe of veteran Lou Michaels who kicked a 22-yard field goal with 59 seconds left to give the Packers a thrilling victory before 55,049 fans.

(TRIBUNE Staff Photos: By Ray Gora and Ed Feeney)



Packer running back Donny Anderson [44] takes to air route in the fourth quarter.



Look Out! Here Comes John Brockington

—AP Wirephoto

of the year honors, pushed his rushing total to 602 yards in eight games and established himself as a strong contender for membership in the elite 1,000-Yard Club...TWO SHORT OF RECORD: He also fell only two carries short of the Packers' all-time single game record. Jim Grabowski, now a Bear, set the current mark in 1967 when he rushed 32 times for 111 yards - against the Bears. Brockington, who owns a plush 5.28 average per carry, was impressed with the Bruins' defenders despite his Sunday success. "They have a good defensive line," he said. "They hit people...We just blocked well." Brockington, whose signal was called six consecutive times after Dave Hampton had returned a kickoff 62 yards to the Bear 39 in the closing minutes, said he had only two thoughts in that punishing stretch. "All I did is want to hold onto the ball and get as much as I could," he said with fervor. "We had a chance at a field goal and my main concern was not losing any yardage."...JUST AS IMPORTANT: Lacing his dark, high-top boots as he talked in front of his locker, Brockington told a Chicago scribe he was happy the Packers had drafted him. "It turned out real well," he said. "Going early in the draft to a good club is something you don't expect. Usually when you go early in the draft, you don't get a chance to go with a good club." "Brock" left little doubt concerning his sentiments in this regard. "We could win the rest of our games," he declared. "Then we'll see what happens." And Coach Dan Devine? "John works hard and is very coachable," he said. "He's a fine young man and a great citizen." When a Windy City writer raised his eyebrows at this summation and what he obviously considered a significant omission, Devine said, "He's a great runner, yes, but these other things are important, too."

HIMES EVENS RECORD WITH BEARS' HOLMAN

NOV 8 (Chicago-Green Bay Press-Gazette) — It was a day of vindication for Dick Himes, quiet man of the Packers' offensive line. In the Packers' opening preseason game at Milwaukee against the Bears, the four-year veteran had a long evening against the Midway Monsters' talented left end, Willie Holman. Coach Dan Devine later was moved to comment, "We haven't blocked Willie Holman yet." But it was a slightly different story during the Packers' 17-14 victory over the Bears at Soldier Field here Sunday afternoon. Not once did Holman, considered one of the league's premier defensive ends, manage to get around Himes. Although he played down his performance by observing, "I got through

the afternoon," the former Ohio State athlete was patently pleased with the way things had worked. "At least he didn't get to the quarterback. "I wanted to get even," Himes admitted. "We're one-and-one now...We'll see what happens in December." The Packers close out their home season against the Bears in Lambeau Field Dec. 12...Center Cal Withrow:

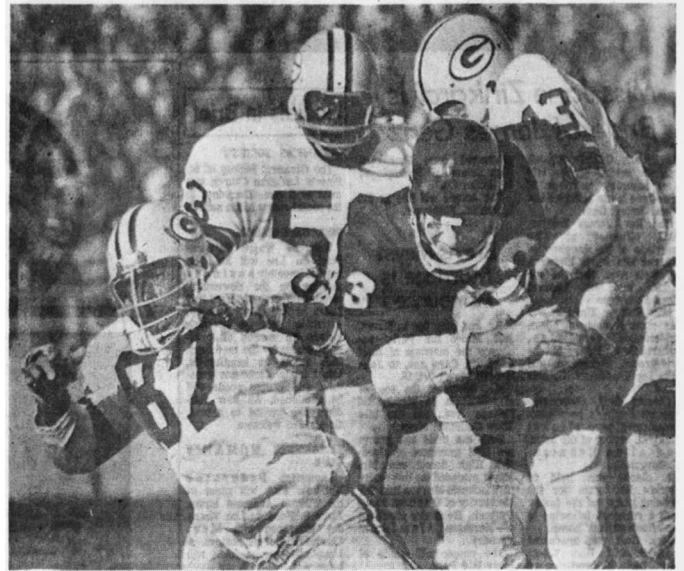
"It isn't often you see pros cry. But when we went out on the field at the end to shake hands, some of the Bear players had tears in their eyes...They really wanted this one - they felt it would have put them on their way to the championship."...Carroll Dale (on his touchdown catch): "I was lucky to adjust and come up with the ball...Scott Hunter had a little pressure on him and it took a while to do the move so he had to hang the ball up there...And he didn't see what happened to the pass because he got hit when he released the ball."...Donny Anderson (on the Packers' running success): "We just adjusted to the defense. We just ran the same plays we've been running all year."...Dave Robinson (on his first quarter interception): "I played the quarterback's eyes. I knew the tight end (Bob Wallace) was back there, so I just moved over in front of him...I left my area little bit, so to speak. I'm not normally over that far."...Dick Butkus (when asked of his opinion on John Brockington) responded only with a shake of the head and would utter no words.

(BLEEP) HAMPTON TURNS DANDY DAVEY

NOV 8 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – The probing eye of the TV camera searched for Packer Coach Dan Devine moments after the last second of Sunday's tingling triumph had ticked away and it found him amid his Packer team, unsmiling but apparently cheek to cheek with Dave Hampton. It was a rather fleeting glimpse but, if indeed it was the gesture it appeared to be, a rather significant scene. Even if it was merely a close conversation between the two at that exciting, satisfying moment, it was still significant. For what this picture worth a thousand words said to me was an exchange of gratitude. Devine, proud of his team's character, its refusal to let down after a few minutes of deep frustration, was thankful for Hampton's big play in bringing the kickoff back to scoring position at the Bear 39. Hampton, on the brink of sprouting goat's horns, thankful for the faith of his coach and the opportunity to redeem himself. Just minutes earlier, a chorus could almost be heard ringing across Packerland: "That bleep Hampton did it again." And whether it was Dave's fault or whether he was merely the victim of a combined slipup on the handoff, the fact is he fumbled deep in his own territory again, a replay that has come to strike fear into Packer Backers. The Bears recovered and promptly tied the score with only about three minutes to play. But the fleet running back zipped the kickoff back in spectacular fashion, thereby arranging for Lou Michaels' eventual winning field goal. All that could be found in the momentary flash of Devine and Hampton on the sidelines, pausing a split second before heading for the warmth and comfort of the dressing rooms...**FOOT NOTES:** The Packer defense, which had moved into the dog house formerly occupied by the offensive line, has served notice that it is about to escape that environment. Against Detroit Monday night, it gave up only one touchdown and against Chicago Sunday it again held the enemy to one touchdown...really. Indeed, the Bears never crashed the Packer 30, except on that one aerial TD and after Hampton's fumble gave the Bruins ownership at the Green Bay 11...For a team that entered the last seven days with a mere 2-4 record, the Packers came out of that stretch smelling like champions of the future, having tied favored Detroit and upset favored Chicago...The Bears did take away Packer ownership of the fourth quarter with those two touchdowns, however. The Packers have now tallied 43 fourth period points and the opponents have 48. But that doesn't detract from the Pack's continuing stubbornness in never bowing its head while the clock is still ticking...This was quite probably the finest overall game the Packers have played. In fact, until Michaels missed that field goal try midway in the third quarter, the Pack was truly beautiful. That miss, however, seemed to signal the beginning of some difficulties, though serious problems were avoided with the help of Alden Roche's fumble recovery and Willie Wood's great interception until well into the fourth quarter. And then it all turned around again as Hampton and Michaels performed their Acts of Redemption...The Bear defense, no batch of Little Lord Fauntleroy's, was keyed to the Packer running game, which is why at times it turned the Pack back apparent ease. But Brockington and that improved offensive line (where were Butkus and Holman all day?) could not be contained consistently and the Big Buckeye charged for 142 yards...It was also about the most impressive performance we have seen by Scott Hunter since the exhibition season. He handled himself and the apparent game plan with the controlled expertness of a real veteran in the face of Butkus and the tricky Bear defense. In fact, his quickie pass over a safety blitz to Donny Anderson and Andy's fine run set up the Pack's second touchdown...The entire Packer team exhibited considerable poise in this game, even during the Bears' surprise moves from field goal and punt formation. The Pack, on the other hand, threw a new defensive wrinkle at the Bears, too, splitting a defensive end occasionally.

'WE WORKED TOO DANG HARD TO LOSE' – DEVINE

NOV 8 (Chicago Tribune) - Face it, the Packers deserved to win. Coach Dan Devine, the cast on his left leg in ice after yesterday's chilly 17-14 victory over the Bears in Soldier Field, summed it up. "We just weren't going to let this game slip away. We worked too dang hard for it," he said. Dave Hampton, who had fumbled at the 11 to enable the Bears to tie the score at 14 with 3:18 left, wanted to get the ensuing kickoff. He returned it 62 yards to set up Lou Michaels' 22-yard field goal with 59 seconds left. Michaels, too, wanted to make up for a missed 23-yarder because "you hate to goof up 39 individuals. When I leave this game I don't want to go out like a jerk," said the 35-year-old Michaels. Hampton didn't exactly say it, but he was upset over having to carry the ball in the first place at the 11. It was his first carry of the day. With the



Former Packer Jim Grabowski Meets 3 Former Teammates



Don Shy [24] of Bears fumbling against Packers . . .

crowd yelling "Let's go Bears" just after the home team had made it 14-7, the Packers were penalized to the 11 for clipping. On second down, Hampton was called on for the first time. "I was leery about getting it at that time," said the man who has been known to fumble before. "I don't know what happened. I don't know whether I had the ball or not." The guy who worked hardest of all for the Packers helping them into a 14-0 three quarter lead, was Fullback John Brockington, who said "I just run, that's all. I just follow the blocks and run as hard and fast as I can. That's all I did. "It's just nice to hear the wind whistling past the ear holes in my helmet," he added with a toothy grin. All the Ohio State rookie did was carry 30 times, far above his norm, for 142 yards, his best game ever-pro or college. "I gained 187 yards once in college against Minnesota," said the 6-1, 225-pounder. "But Minnesota isn't the Chicago Bears, so I'd say this is my best game." Brockington is new to the fabled Packer-Bear rivalry, but he knew what to expect. "You know Butkus and those guys are going to stick you, so you just have to go out and stick them. You have to run away from them." Bear fans had feared that the Packers would pick on the right side of the Bear defense - Ross Brupbacher and Ed O'Bradovich. But that wasn't the case. "We just ran where the defense dictated," said Devine. "No

particular side," said Brockington. That means they picked on Willie Holmen and George Seals, too, and Tackle Dick Himes and Guard Gale Gillingham handled them beautifully. Himes, who graduated from Ohio State before Brockington got there, said he had his best game of the year against Holman, and it wasn't by accident. "He killed me in the exhibition game this year in Milwaukee," admitted Himes. "He just had a field day, and I was kinda shook up about it so I had to go get him. This guy Brockington, tho, he makes you want to block a little harder because you know he's trying harder. Man, I've never seen anybody run like that guy." Scott Hunter, the rookie quarterback who isn't supposed to be able to pass, said he "looked at a lot of films this week" and was able to recognize the Bear defense better. Willie Wood, the great free safety who is the last of the old Packer secondary, said the Packers used zone pass defense "80 per cent of the time. We've got young people back there, and we were worried about Dick Gordon deep," said Wood. "[Bobby] Douglass would look up and see we were in a zone and go to someone else." Michaels said his missed 23-yarder was his "worst kick all year, if it wasn't touched. They say someone got a hand on it, but I don't know. When I go out there I never have any doubts. This is my job. I figure you have to hit the ball square, follow thru and if you make it you do, if not you don't." Brockington's only regret was the artificial turf. "I don't like it at all," he said. "It's hard, man. When you fall, it's hard." He found a cure, tho. He didn't fall much.

HIKERS RAISE \$2,226 FOR CANCER STUDY

NOV 9 (Milwaukee) - Thirty-two men who walked from Milwaukee to Green Bay carrying a barrel of beer between Oct. 13-17 raised \$2,226 for cancer research, it was reported Monday. The funds were raised in memory of Vince Lombardi, former Green Bay Packer football coach who died of cancer 14 months ago. The idea for the marathon march began as a joke among patrons at Ken's Tavern on the West Side and then someone suggested doing it for charity, said Kenneth Osowski, the tavern owner. About \$400 of the total was contributed at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, with each donor given a glass of beer from the barrel.

VIKES' PAUL KASSULKE WILL NOT PLAY AGAINST PACKERS

NOV 9 (Minneapolis) - The knee injury suffered by Karl Kassulke in Sunday's 13-9 loss to San Francisco will keep the Minnesota Vikings' strong safety out of action next Sunday against Green Bay. "The knee is real stiff," Kassulke said Monday. "I could run on it Sunday, but it really ballooned up on me." Kassulke stretched a ligament in his left knee.

DEVINE BEGINS POINTING FOR VIKINGS

NOV 9 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Dan Devine, wearing a sprightly Monday smile for the first time in five weeks, was trying to be clinical and objective. Evaluating the impact of Sunday's 17-14 victory over the Bears upon his infant rebuilding program, he said, "It's just one win...That's one side of the coin. The other side is that it could be a big victory for future years," said he, looking younger somehow in the wake of that Chicago success, which had ended a four-week winless streak relieved only by a 14-14 tie with the Lions. The Packer coach, ever an exponent of the positive approach, left little doubt about his convictions in the matter upon emerging from four long hours in a darkened projection room...TWO DEVELOPMENTS: "I think it's a big win for now...and for two years from now and three years from now," he said. "Unless you're coaching a team, it's pretty hard to describe just what a win like this does for a team." This optimistic observation presumably was predicated upon two notable developments - the overall quality of the Packers' play and their ability to recoil from adversity in the closing minutes after dissipating a 14-0 lead. "It was the best we've played," he said. "I think we made fewer mistakes than we have in previous games...In fact, I know we did. That's why I would call it our best overall game. The interception before the half and Dave Hampton's fumble in the last few minutes were really the only mistakes we had...That's pretty good for a game like this." Obviously heartened by the Pack's late "comeback," he pointed out, "The toughest time to come from behind is when you have been ahead and then lost the lead - when you have to turn the

momentum around. It's easier to turn the momentum of a game if you've been behind all the way."...GOOD PREPARATION: His athletes' overall artistry was a particular surprise under the circumstances, Devine indicated. "Chicago's not an easy team to prepare for because they play that 5-2, and so many defenses, and we had a short week to get ready because we had just played the Lions on Monday. They also play so many offensive sets. Although they didn't use all of them, you still have to prepare for them. So I thought it was a great job of preparation on the part of our coaches. Mostly, we played with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and zeal...reckless abandon. Just about any term you could use in that context would fit. "The Packer-Bear game," he dryly added in appraising his personal baptismal in pro football's oldest rivalry, "is all it's cracked up to be...There is a tremendous amount of emotion."...CARTER OUTSTANDING: Turning his attention to individuals, he said, "Jim Carter is the only one on defense who was particularly outstanding. Everyone played well but he had such a superior game compared to everyone else...I think he's starting to be more relaxed back there. You have to think all the time out there, of course, but some stuff has to be flowing reaction. When a younger player has to think too much, he sometimes forgets to play...BROCK MUST IMPROVE: "Offensively, those five guys on the offensive line (Gale Gillingham, Bill Lueck, Ken Bowman, Francis Peay and Dick Himes) did a fine job. They made some poor plays, too, but overall they did a good job...Rich McGeorge blocked extremely well, also. "Dave Hampton also blocked well the short time he was in there and Brockington, of course, ran extremely well...John, however, needs a great deal of improvement to be the kind of player he wants to be and we want him to be. Not that he isn't good now, but he needs work on what we're doing that he's never done before. I thought Scott Hunter threw well, although he didn't throw as well in the second half as he did in the first...The one to McGeorge in the third quarter was a perfect pass, however. On the one to John Spilis in the fourth quarter, Scott simply underthrew it. We had a couple of times where we could have put it away...The field goal (missed from the 23 by Lou Michaels) would have made it 17-zip, the pass to McGeorge would have made it 21-zip and the pass to Spilis would have made it 21-zip...But we're just not quite good enough to do that yet...DIFFICULT HANDOFF: "As far as the handoff on the fumble is concerned, it was a question in my mind whether Scott ever got Hampton the ball real clean. His action on the play wasn't real good. That isn't an easy handoff, I might add...My philosophy of coaching is to tell him once and then do it a thousand times. As I said, that wasn't an easy handoff but two years from now, Scott would have made it so many times he could have done it in his sleep...You have to remember he's only been making it for four months. The missed field goal didn't look like it was blocked. I haven't talked to Lou about it yet but it looked like he might have got his cleats caught in the turf." That introduced the subject of Soldier Field's Astroturf, which Devine admitted "has certain advantages...But it has a little bit of an unreal feeling that I can't quite get used to. It's nothing against it, of course, that's just a personal thing." The Packers' forthright leader said he was not surprised the Bears had not attempted an onside kick on the kickoff Hampton returned 62 yards to set up Michaels' deciding field goal. "Not with the kicker they have (Mac Percival) and with the wind at their back," he explained. "We have an onside kickoff prevent team but we didn't put it in. I thought we'd gamble on their kicking it to us. I'm sure they thought, with the wind, Percival would kick it deep into the end zone."...MATTHEWS ON KICKOFF: This prompted Devine to note that Sunday's performance "was the best effort by our special teams to date. Al Matthews moved into that kickoff team, by the way, and he showed a lot of courage. He took on the wedge one time. He got knocked out, but he really went after 'em. I'll tell you what - you can tell about a fellow's courage in a hurry when you put him on the kickoff team," DD observed with a smile. "Al's smart, of course. He knows the best way to get your job back is to do well on the special teams. "I was walking by him in the dressing room the other day and he was looking a little down because he figured he wasn't going to start against the Bears, I said, 'How come you're not on the kickoff team?' He said, 'I'd like to be.' And he meant it. So I said, 'Okay, you're on it.'" "It's not hard," Devine jested, "to get on the kickoff team around here."...BOUNCERS WORK WELL: On the same subject, Devine conceded "That last one by the Bears was a pretty good return. You have to have a big play there, of course...But, overall, I thought we mixed up our kickoffs pretty good. They didn't know whether we were going to really kick it to them or bounce it to 'em. Our bouncers worked out pretty good. They were bringing those out to about the 26...Normally, we've had our opponents starting from the 40 after a kickoff. "The bouncers are better on Astroturf. You don't know where they're going and neither do the other folks...That's because it's just a hard surface." Although Mike McCoy suffered a bruised knee in the second half which forced him to leave the game, Devine said the huge defensive tackle "should be ready for the Vikings Sunday...Everybody should be available." "Now," he added, "we've got to go out and win another one. We've got to get this thing evened up (the Packers are presently 3-4-1)...You can't have a winning season unless you get it evened up."...PACKER PATTERN: That 142-yard explosion by John Brockington is the best rushing performance by a Packer runner in seven years. Jim Taylor, the Packers' all-time rusher, was the last Green Bay ball carrier to gain more than 140 yards in a single game. He rolled up 165 yards in 17 attempts during a 24-24 tie with the Rams in Los Angeles on Dec. 13, 1964...Devine indicated Doug Hart, who made his 1971 debut at right cornerback



NATIONAL CONFERENCE

(Statistics Do Not Include Game of November 8)

PASSING

(Alphabetically Arranged—Minimum of 80 Attempts)

	All.	Comp.	Pct.	Yards	TD.	Int.	Pct.	Avg.	Yd.
			Comp.	Gain	Pass	Long	Int.	Gain	
Arrington, Philadelphia	42	25	59.5	357	5	65	4.3	4.99	
Beathard, St. Louis	112	51	45.5	847	5	64	7	6.3	7.56
Berry, Atlanta	105	64	61.0	1065	7	66	9	8.6	10.14
Bredie, San Francisco	235	117	49.8	1513	10	71	15	6.4	6.44
Coszo, Minnesota	142	66	46.5	779	6	52	6	4.2	5.49
Dooglass, Chicago	80	42	52.5	523	4	54	5	6.3	6.54
Gabriel, Los Angeles	168	86	51.2	1082	5	68	3	1.8	6.44
Hargrett, New Orleans	100	45	45.0	575	2	42	3	3.0	5.75
Hart, St. Louis	92	45	48.9	610	4	51	4	4.3	6.63
Hunter, Green Bay	107	47	43.9	766	5	56	12	11.2	7.16
Kilmer, Washington	181	93	51.4	1307	8	71	9	5.0	7.22
Landry, Detroit	157	77	49.0	1365	13	76	7	4.5	8.69
Liska, Philadelphia	130	60	46.2	814	3	34	12	9.2	6.26
Manning, New Orleans	124	55	44.4	780	5	63	8	6.5	6.29
Morins, Dallas	131	72	55.0	1026	6	76	7	5.3	7.83
Nix, Chicago	96	37	38.5	539	5	41	7	7.3	5.61
Staebach, Dallas	103	63	61.2	832	6	41	3	2.9	8.08
Tarkeston, New York	226	135	59.7	1572	7	81	9	4.0	6.96

SCORING

	TDs.	PAT.	FG.	Pts.
Knight, Washington	0	17	16	65
Gossett, San Francisco	0	19	15	64
Mann, Detroit	0	23	12	59
Clark, Dallas	0	25	9	59
Cox, Minnesota	0	22	13	51
Ray, Los Angeles	0	16	11	49
Balkken, St. Louis	0	15	10	45
Bell, Atlanta	0	9	9	45
McKisick, Green Bay	0	16	8	40
Percival, Chicago	0	16	7	37

PASS RECEIVING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs.
Gordon, Chicago	33	454	13.8	4
Kwalick, San Francisco	30	430	14.3	4
G. Washington, San Fran.	29	516	17.8	3
Tucker, New York	29	504	17.4	1
Garrison, Dallas	29	265	9.1	1
Grim, Minnesota	28	481	17.2	5
Farmer, Chicago	28	435	15.5	4
Jefferson, Washington	26	395	15.2	1
Taylor, Washington	24	370	15.4	4
Abramowitz, New Orleans	22	412	18.7	4
Wallace, Chicago	22	288	13.1	2
Osborn, Minnesota	22	168	7.6	1

RUSHING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs.
Owens, Detroit	144	667	4.6	4
Brown, Washington	151	629	4.2	1
Anderson, Green Bay	114	602	5.3	2
Anderson, Green Bay	116	483	4.2	4
Willard, San Francisco	136	481	3.5	2
Ellison, Los Angeles	111	478	4.3	2
Butler, Atlanta	127	447	3.5	1
Harraway, Washington	101	446	4.4	2
V. Washington, San Fran.	86	439	5.1	1
Taylor, Detroit	110	433	3.9	2

PUNTING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long
Widby, Dallas	30	1319	44.0	59
Fagan, New Orleans	24	1296	53.3	64
Stadstill, Los Angeles	35	1503	42.9	60
H. Weaver, Detroit	24	1030	42.9	63
McNeill, Philadelphia	49	2876	42.4	59

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No.	Avg.	Long	TDs.
Jessie, Detroit	10	36.3	102	2
Belton, Philadelphia	9	31.8	51	0
Hampton, Green Bay	24	31.1	80	0
Thompson, New York	22	30.1	93	1
T. Williams, Los Angeles	8	29.8	73	0
Harris, Dallas	21	29.0	77	0
Smith, Chicago	18	27.6	41	0
Belton, Atlanta	17	27.3	58	0
V. Washington, San Fran.	14	27.2	74	0
Jones, Minnesota	8	26.6	43	0

PUNT RETURNS

	No.	Avg.	Long	TDs.
Barney, Detroit	11	10.5	38	0
Vactor, Washington	15	9.3	51	0
Duncan, Washington	15	9.2	19	0
Williamham, St. Louis	10	8.4	19	0
Ellis, Green Bay	11	8.1	30	0
Dodd, New Orleans	11	6.4	14	0
B. Taylor, San Fran.	23	6.7	38	0
Bradley, Philadelphia	17	6.7	33	0
Smith, Chicago	15	6.7	43	0
Harris, Dallas	11	6.0	20	0
Duhon, New York	9	6.0	15	0

INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	Long	TDs.
Bradley, Philadelphia	7	119	30	0
Ellis, Green Bay	7	10	5	0
Howell, New Orleans	5	120	60	0
Sharrockman, Minnesota	5	76	27	0
Pardon, Washington	5	98	20	1
Pettibon, Washington	4	80	42	0
Williams, New York	4	51	24	0
Robertson, Los Angeles	4	32	20	0
Lebow, Detroit	3	26	23	0
Bass, Washington	4	15	13	0
Reaves, Atlanta	4	12	10	0
Butkus, Chicago	4	9	9	0

against the Bears, also will be starting there against the Vikings. "I think we'll line up the same way on defense tomorrow that we did in Chicago Sunday," he said...Paying tribute to the Bears' already legendary middle linebacker, Dick Butkus, DD said, "Butkus made some plays against us that nobody else could make."...The Packers will follow last week's practice pattern for the Viking game. They will stage their Saturday workout on the road, this time at Metropolitan Stadium in Bloomington, Minn., home of the Vikings.

NOTES AND NOTIONS

NOV 9 (Appleton Post-Crescent) - The Packers, Sunday, gave a vivid demonstration of how good a football team they can be. In cooling off one of the NFL's Hottest teams - the Bears - Green Bay again showed it can match blocks, tackles and touchdowns with any team in the league. The win over the Bears, coming after the encouraging showing six days earlier, in the Detroit game, wipes out the bad taste left by the sub-par Packer performance at Los Angeles. It's the mark of a good team, of course, to shake off adversity (the rallying Bears scored 14 points in a few minutes to tie the game) and come back to triumph in the waning moments. Unquestionably, one of the keys to the satisfying victory (one the Bays really needed after four win-starved weeks) was the reduction of mistakes. About the only first half mistakes made by Green Bay was the interception, shortly before halftime, on which the Bears were unable to capitalize. In the final two quarters, the Hampton fumble was the only serious error. That could have been extremely costly, of course, but Hampton showed the kind of stuff he's made of by his magnificent kickoff return that set up the winning field goal...Defensively, it appears that the Packers may have found the right combination. Al Randolph looked good at safety, and Doug Hart seemed to function better at corner back than he had at safety in the first six games of the year. The linebackers and the front four played it tough, and for the most part - smart. Reserve Jim DeLisle made some vital contributions, also. The Packer defenders

sewed up Dick Gordon better than anyone imagined they could. They gave Gordon a few short ones - preferring to keep the Bear standout in front of them - but shut off the long ones. The Packer offensive unit had another glossy day and quite frequently gave Chicago's defense more than it could handle. That goes especially for John Brockington, who again showed he can't help but become one of the great ones if he can avoid injury. Brockington's power and speed is a combination that comes along maybe once every five years. Hunter did so well at quarterback that it would have been impossible to tell that he is a rookie - if one hadn't known it ahead of time. Ken Bowman and Dick Himes - in fact, the whole offensive line - sparkled once again. Not only did the upfront stalwarts clear the way for Brockington and Donny Anderson, but they gave Hunter excellent protection. It was the fourth time in eight games that the enemy has failed to sack the Packer QB even once. Overall, Green Bay passers have been dumped only five times...The win over the Bears was a landmark achievement, since it's the first success over a National Conference team in the Dan Devine regime. Until Sunday, the 1971 Bays hadn't beaten an NFC team in the regular season or in exhibition play...Sunday in the NFL was another bleak day for the forecaster and the oddsmaker. The injury-hampered Jets' victory over the Chiefs was the top stunner, but the Eagle-Redskin and Saint-Raider ties weren't far behind.

CARTER NOT RETIRING

NOV 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Reports of Jim Carter's imminent retirement, Howard Cosell's recent announcement to the contrary notwithstanding, are greatly exaggerated. In fact, Carter is a little incredulous about the whole thing. A source of some embarrassment to the mustachioed Minnesotan, it all began during the nationwide telecast of the Packers' rainswept 14-14 tie with the Detroit Lions earlier this month. Cosell, who has not been known to let the facts interfere with a good story, dramatically intoned, "Jim Cahtah is so depressed following his performance against the Rams last week that he is on the verge of retiring." The Packers' young middle linebacker, who contrarily sees only better days ahead in the wake of a glittering performance against the Bears last Sunday, is frankly puzzled over the story's origin. "I've never even met the guy," he said. "I talked to Chuck Lane [Packer publicity director] about it and he said he didn't know where Cosell had gotten the idea either. He said Cosell had asked him about it before the game and he said, 'No, it isn't true.' Yet he went ahead and said it on the air anyway...WASN'T THAT BAD: "I don't know where Cosell picked it up. I not only never said it, what's more I didn't ever think it. My performance in LA," he added with a dry chuckle, "wasn't quite that bad." True or not, it should have reassured Howard about the "Monday Night Football" ratings. "I got letters all week," Carter says, "and even my mother wrote me wondering what was going on." At the moment, poetically enough, the former University of Minnesota fullback's Packer future couldn't look brighter, particularly after the manner in which he handled his demanding assignment in the 17-14 victory over the Bears. A man of winning candor, he himself was markedly encouraged. "Without a doubt, it was my best game of the season," he said. "You feel that way before seeing the movies, and sometimes you find out you didn't do as well as you thought you had, although sometimes you find out you did better...But I don't think there's

any doubt that this was my best. I thought the whole defense played pretty well."...**'COMBINATION OF THINGS':** Coach Dan Devine concurred with Carter's personal evaluation, describing his play as "particularly outstanding." The St. Paul native attributed his increased artistry to "just a combination of things. For one thing, it's taken me a while to learn the position. While I've been making a lot of mistakes in previous games, I've been learning. I'm getting more of a feel of it, where the blocking is coming from. "Against Detroit and then against Chicago, I just started playing the centers 100 percent better than I had - I've been keeping them off me. "It's concentration, too...If I happened to be keying the fullback, I kept watching him and not looking at the blocker. Now I'm keeping more of an eye on the blocker. My pass drops are getting better, too. It takes away from your recklessness when you don't know whether you're going to the right place or not."...**AWARE OF CHEERS:** "I'm not saying I've got it all put together," the former all-Minnesota high school hockey star said. "But I'm feeling a lot better. Just being there more often I feel more comfortable. "You need to get help from other people, of course. You know how intelligent Robby (left linebacker Dave Robinson) is. He isn't one to hold back - he'll tell you right away what to anticipate. I also talk to Tommy Joe Crutcher when I come to the sidelines. He's a pretty good student of the game, too." Not surprisingly, Carter is keenly aware of the great affection the fans demonstrate for the man he has replaced, veteran Ray Nitschke, every time the 14-year veteran makes an appearance. "I have to admit those cheers don't send my ego soaring way up there," he says. "But I don't think they are against me, but for Ray. I hope that whenever Ray retires and I'm here that there will be no lingering animosity on the fans' part...That's the way I look at it - that's the way I have to look at it."

'BROCK' PLAYER OF WEEK

NOV 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Packer rookie John Brockington reached one of the first milestones of his blooming pro career as he was named Associated Press Offensive Player of the Week for his performance in the Pack's 17-14 victory over the Bears Sunday. Brockington, who picked up 142 yards on 30 carries, lifted his season total to 602 yards and a sparkling 5.28 yards-per-carry average. The totals make him a potential candidate for rookie of the year honors and membership in the 1,000 yard club. It was the third 100-yard plus game for Brockington this year. The Packer rookie won the honor over Tom Matte of Baltimore, Mercury Morris of Miami, Fran Tarkenton and Charlie Evans of the Giants and John Fuque of Pittsburgh. Sharing honors with Brockington as Defensive Player of the Week is linebacker Steve Kiner of the New England Patriots, who intercepted a pass and forced a fumble in the final five minutes of the game as the Pats beat Houston 28-20. Kiner intercepted a deflected pass to set up one touchdown and then jarred the ball away from Dan Pastorini to set up an insurance score. Kiner was also credited with eight tackles in the game. Other defensive nominees were Bill Bradley of Philadelphia, Roosevelt Taylor of San Francisco, Alan Page of Minnesota and Isiah Robertson of Los Angeles.

BART'S HEALING ARM TO SHOW DAN'S HAND

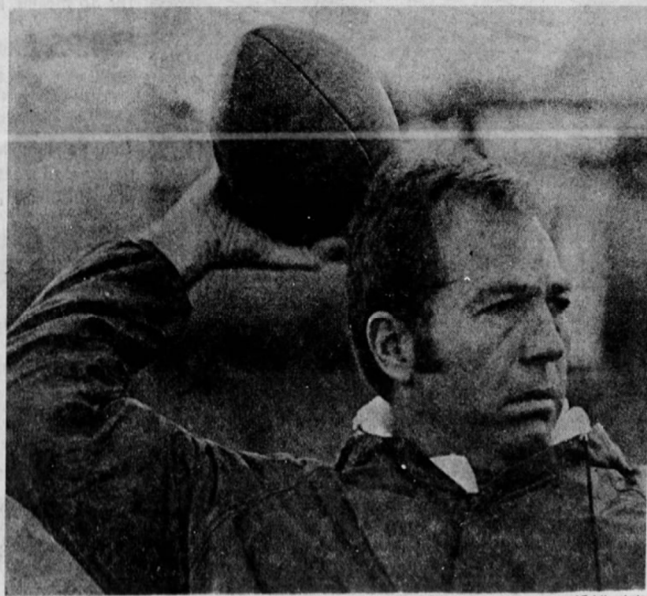
NOV 10 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Football's physical fates, frequently capricious, presented Dan Devine with a pair of problems Tuesday. One of them, fortunately, was of the pleasant variety. The Packer perfectionist first learned that both of his starting defensive tackles, Bob Brown and Mike McCoy, had to be officially listed as doubtful for Sunday's invasion of Minnesota because of knee injuries. That hardly comes under the heading of good news at any time but it has to be particularly unsettling for a coach whose team is girding to face the division leaders. While he was digesting this intelligence, Devine received a report of a more positive nature: Bart Starr, now rapidly recuperating from shoulder surgery, has been given approval by team physicians to proceed at his own pace in returning to active duty. Although this poses a "problem" of less immediacy and greater palatability than the other, Devine conceded he well could be faced with a quarterback decision in the near future, a point Starr had just unwittingly underscored by practicing handoffs for the first time since mid-July. "I don't have any timetable on Bart but it's geared to this month," Devine said. "I hope to find out by tomorrow from our team physicians when he can participate in full scale practice." The defensive line situation, meanwhile, remains uncertain. At the moment, Alden Roche is working at McCoy's left tackle station and rookie Jim DeLisle is filling in for Brown at right tackle. "Listing Mike and Bob as doubtful is significant as far as next Sunday's game is concerned," he said. "It does leave us a little shorthanded." That was in the nature of an understatement, considering there are currently just four able-bodied defensive linemen on the roster. "We have Donnell Smith on the taxi squad, of course," the Packer leader noted. "I don't know yet whether we will activate him or not. That will be a last minute decision." Brown, however, is taking the positive



Kelley Brockington Gives Dad Congratulatory Kiss

—Press-Gazette Photo

'Brock' Player of Week



Bart Starr Throws Again

approach, "I'll be ready Sunday," he insisted. On the subject of Starr's eventual return, Devine suggested that could come quickly, once he is permitted to go all out in practice. "I would think if he were cleared to practice on Monday, he could play the following Sunday," he said. Exhibiting a slight smile, he noted, "I don't know how Scott (Hunter) and Zeke (Bratkowski) feel when they read all this." The observation prompted the inevitable question, to which Devine replied, "We would play whatever quarterback we thought would do the best job...Of course, I'm pleased with the way Scott has been playing." At the same time, he indicated satisfaction with Starr's physical proficiency after the long layoff. "I thought Bart looked good today," he said. "He was quick and smooth with his handoffs...This is the first time he's done handoffs and had people to work with." Starr, standing in behind center Cal Withrow, handed off repeatedly to Dave Hampton, Elijah Pitts and Perry Williams during his special session, the last portion of which Devine personally supervised. Mr. Quarterback also threw to a receiver (other than Trainer Domenic Gentile) for the first time since undergoing shoulder surgery in late July, pitching briefly to his longtime target, Carroll Dale, during a practice break. "It sure seemed like a long, long

time," Starr amiably confessed following practice, "since the last time I handed off. "The big thing about this is that I wanted to see how it felt running off the 'I' the way we're doing it this year," he said. "We weren't running it at the time I had to leave training camp. "As far as the shoulder is concerned, I have to be encouraged," the 16-year veteran said, appending with just a hint of caution, "so far so good...When I have to throw with the velocity it's necessary to throw the ball in a game, I hope it will continue like that. I really don't know just when I might be ready. I intend to throw a few to receivers after practice to start with, then throw against our defense with the unit that simulates our opponents' offense, then later start throwing with our own offensive group. I don't want to step into our bunch too soon," he explained, "because our quarterbacks don't get enough work the way it is. Another quarterback would further cut down on the practice time they get." How long this process is likely to take is problematical at this point, Gentile said. "Bart is just going to have to feel his way and get his confidence...all of a sudden he'll be playing again. But it's hard to say when, whether it will be Thursday, Friday, next Monday, or when it's just going to be a matter of his working in little by little, which is the smartest thing to do, anyway." Starr, needless to say, is eager. "I'm very anxious to proceed just as rapidly as possible," he said. "Dr. (E. S.) Brusky said today I could do just as much as I can as fast as I feel I can."...PACKER PATTERN: Rookie fullback John Brockington was withheld from Tuesday's workout, along with Brown and McCoy, but Devine said, "He'll be all right. It's the same leg he has had a little trouble with, but it's nothing serious." Commenting on the quality of Brockington's running talents, which had just earned him AP "Offensive Player of the Week" honors, Devine announced, "I wouldn't be surprised if he was back next year with Dave Hampton on kickoff returns...I don't think we'll do it any more this year because it just takes practice."

VIKES LOSE FAN WHEN PACKERS PLAY

NOV 11 (Minneapolis Star) - The grumblings among his second-guessing friends following the Viking loss to Chicago six weeks ago finally got to football fan Bob Carter. He offered all the critics even money wagers that the Vikings would win their next game by 20 points. "The bets were snapped up pretty fast," he recalls. The fact that Purple didn't quite meet Carter's victory specifications (beating Buffalo 19-0 and costing Bob a few "sawbucks") is beside the point. The incident shows the kind of loyal Viking supporter Carter is. Only not this Sunday. Then he'll be cheering hard the other way. Bob happens to be the father of Jim Carter, Green Bay linebacker whose No. 50 green uniform will be in prominence much of the time at Metropolitan Stadium. This is remindful what happened when Jim made his first Met appearance with the Packers a year ago. The elder Carter had been given seats by Dr. William Wright of Edina. "I rather forgot where I was," said Bob, "and was expressing my feelings about the game pretty clearly. You know, I want the Vikings to win every game - except the two with the Packers. Finally a lady behind

Packer Stix

Scoring						
	TD	FG	PAT	Pts		
Michaels	8	8-1	16-17	40		
Anderson	4	0	0	24		
McGeorge	3	0	0	18		
Hampton	3	0	0	18		
Hunter	3	0	0	18		
Brockington	3	0	0	18		
Dale	3	0	0	18		
Ellis	1	0	0	6		
Bratkowski	1	0	0	6		
Spilis	1	0	0	6		
Rushing						
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD		
Brockington	114	602	5.3	2		
Anderson	116	483	4.2	4		
Hampton	40	199	5.0	2		
Hunter	15	38	2.5	2		
P. Williams	2	1	.5	0		
Bratkowski	1	1	1.0	1		
Receiving						
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD		
Dale	19	344	18.1	3		
McGeorge	15	275	18.3	3		
Anderson	15	172	11.5	0		
Spilis	10	233	23.3	1		
Brockington	5	11	2.5	1		
Hampton	2	25	12.5	0		
Passing						
	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Pct.	TD	Int.
Hunter	107	47	766	43.9	5	12
Bratkowski	31	16	192	51.6	3	2
Patrick	5	1	39	20.0	0	1
Anderson	3	2	9	66.7	1	0
Punt Returns						
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD	
Ellis	11	78	7.1	30	0	
Wood	4	21	5.2	9	0	
Pitts	3	7	2.3	5	0	
Randolph	1	0	0	0	0	
Kickoff Returns						
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	Td.	
Hampton	24	746	31.1	80	0	
Krause	2	52	26.0	29	0	
Ellis	1	22	22.0	22	0	
P. Williams	2	41	20.5	20	0	
Carter	1	5	5.0	5	0	
Pitts	1	22	22.0	22	0	
Interceptions						
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD	
Ellis	6	10	1.7	5	0	
Robinson	3	44	14.7	23	0	
Hart	2	73	36.5	69	0	
Randolph	1	34	34.0	34	0	
Matthews	1	20	20.0	20	0	
Wood	1	3	3.0	3	0	
Nitschke	1	0	0	0	0	

me got tired of it. "Wouldn't you think Bill Wright would have better sense," she shouted, "than to give his seats to some screwball from Wisconsin?" The "screwball" to whom she referred happens to be from Inver Grove Heights. Right now Bob Carter is among those who are surprised that his son has supplanted the dean of National Football League middle

Packer Offensive Line Does Turnabout



ROLLIE DOTSCHE



FRANCIS PEAY



DICK HIMES

linebackers, Ray Nitschke, in the Packer lineup. "I have thought of Ray as one of the best for so long," said Carter, who was something of a football legend himself during his pre-war days at Macalester College. What will Bob concentrate on Sunday - his son, the ball carriers, the progress of the game or what? "I have to admit I watch Jim every play he's in there," said Bob. "Not over the worry he might get hurt, but for fear he might make a mistake." After years of watching Jim run with the ball at South St. Paul High School and then the University of Minnesota, does he find his duties on defense easier to scrutinize? "No," Bob answered, "because on offense I knew pretty well what his responsibilities were. On defense I don't. He tried to explain what he was supposed to do on one play a few weeks ago, and it took him almost five minutes." Jim had his best Packer game last week against Chicago, according to Coach Dan Devine. When things weren't going so well earlier and rumors started Jim was thinking or quitting, the call home to say it was all "hooley" wasn't even necessary. "Jim quit football? Never," said Bob. "It's his life." Bob will be in the Viking section again Sunday, "and will try to keep quiet for a while." But he won't have the Wright seats this time. Dr. and Mrs. Wright will be watching their own son Jeff who is likely to make his first Viking start at safety in place of injured Karl Kassulke.

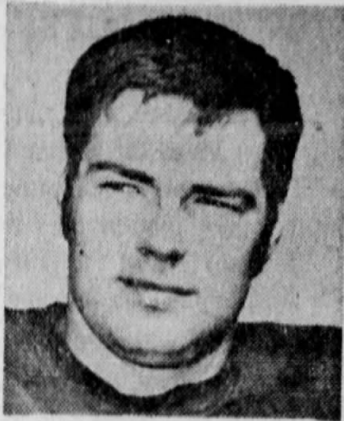
PACKER OFFENSIVE LINE DOES TURNABOUT

NOV 11 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Throughout the long, cold Green Bay winter, coffee shop quarterbacks would nod sagely and pontifically assert, "The first thing Dan Devine will have to do something about is that offensive line." And the Packers' new leader did, with the considerable assistance of line coach Rollie Dotsch, although not quite what the CSQ had in mind. Statistically, of course, there appeared legitimate cause for concern, although Bart Starr's continuing arm problems and the injury loss of Dave Hampton were obviously complicating factors. The Packer offense had finished next to last in the National Football Conference in 1970, just ahead of the then punchless Chicago Bears. Today the faces up front remain unchanged (Francis Peay, Bill Lueck, Ken Bowman, all-pro Gale Gillingham and Dick Himes, reading from left to right) but the results, happily, are vastly different. Each week, the National Football League statistics measure team and individual accomplishment in exhaustive detail. One of the most significant offensive categories is listed as "tackled," indicating how often a team's quarterback has been sacked by the enemy...**FIGURE FIVE:** The figure 5 appears opposite that column in the Packers' report card this week and in addition to the fact that it is the best record in the NFL at this point, it tells an eloquent story. A year ago, for comparative purposes, Packer quarterbacks were felled 43 times in 14 games, an item which suggests how dramatic the improvement has been. San Francisco's Giants, incidentally, are second to the Pack at this point, having allowed only seven quarterback traps. Washington's Redskins and the Denver Broncos have permitted eight...**PROUD BUNCH:** The green and gold also rank a lofty fourth in NFL rushing with 1,323 yards in eight games. Devine, pondering this pleasant subject following Wednesday's practice, ascribed the renaissance to such intangibles as pride and character, plus Dotsch's powers of persuasion and technical acumen. "We're a proud bunch of guys," he said. "We just needed something to be proud of and I think we've given them that...Also, I think Rollie's the kind of a guy who can relate to them and get the best out of them." "They're certainly not a super physical line when you look at some of the others around the league. But all five have high character and they relate well together...I think this is very significant. When you figure two-thirds of those they're operating in front of are rookies (quarterback Scott Hunter and fullback John Brockington), what they've done is even more impressive. When the guys behind them get a little more experience, they should be even more effective. Some of the goofy things we've done haven't been the fault of the offensive line."...**REALISTIC APPROACH:**

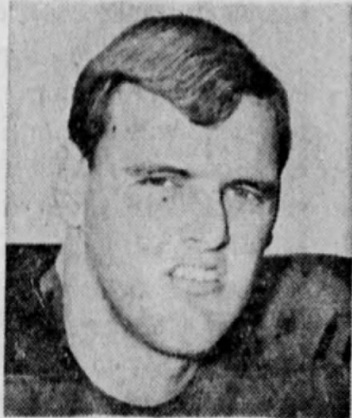
Dotsch, a chunky, cigar-smoking citizen who once toiled at guard for Michigan State, takes a realistic approach to the impressive pass protection record. "This was one of our goals, this was one of the major areas we had pinpointed for improvement when the season started," said the Garden, Mich., native, who left a rewarding role as athletic director and head coach at Northern Michigan University to try his coaching hand in pro football. "I think, too, that we haven't thrown that much," he pointed out, "and a lot of the passes we have thrown have been play-action, which takes some of the pressure off the offensive line. And the way our running game has been going has forced the defensive lines to cut down their rush. I also think Scott Hunter has done a real good job of staying in there facing the rush, and so has Zeke Bratkowski. I think it helps a lineman psychologically to know that they're going to stay in there and not run out. It makes their block easier...**INSPIRES EFFORTS:** "Good, hard running backs, like we have, also make our line's job that much easier. When they know a back is going to be running hard to get as much as he can, this inspires their efforts to spring a runner. I've



KEN BOWMAN



GALE GILLINGHAM



BILL LUECK

been pleased with the effort of all five people...And Bill Hayhoe, when Dick Himes was hurt and he had to go in there against an all-pro like Rich Jackson, responded with a real good performance. We have the type of line which has to give a real good effort, because we're not overpowering physically. We have to rely on our speed and quickness. Bill Lueck, Ken Bowman and Francis Peay are not big by NFL standards. Gillie is, of course, and Himes is probably average at 255 or 256. Individually, I think Dick Himes has made fine improvement...and Gillie has been playing very consistently. Bowman plays as hard as anybody in the league and, even though he gets pretty well banged up every game, he still gets the job done...He's an outstanding competitor...FINE TECHNIQUES: "Lueck has had some outstanding days and some that weren't but he also has been consistent. Bill is especially adept at pulling and trapping, at leading the play. He has fine techniques. Gillie's a very strong drive blocker while Francis has to rely on his speed and quickness." Touching upon the tactical approach, Dotsch explained, "We've worked hard on getting off the ball (a major Devine concern, he discovered in four years as an aide to DD at Missouri) and trying to drive people off the line, instead of position blocking, although you sometimes also have to position block...The theory is even if you make a mistake, make it hard. Admittedly, we've still got a lot of improvements to make but I think we're moving toward those goals...Fortunately, this was an experienced line to begin with. Overall, I'm more pleased with the effort, hustle and determination to get things done that anything."...PREDOMINANT FACTOR: "Like Devine, he indicated artistic integrity has to be the predominant factor here. They have pride," he said. "You have to have a lot of pride to be an offensive lineman because you don't get too many accolades. Not many people see the in-line blocking you do, but if you miss a pass protection block, everybody sees it and you look like a dummy. So, in a sense, it's a kind of a thankless job." The Packers forwards' pride of performance will face the acid test in Minnesota Sunday afternoon, Dotsch conceded. "Life in the trenches is tough with those guys," he said, emitting a dry chuckle from behind an ever-present cigar. "It's like the Battle of the Bulge. You've got to plug up the leaks all the time with that bunch. And, after five tough games in a row - Detroit, the Vikings, LA, Detroit again and Chicago - we're a little beat up. So it's a real test for them to come up again and know they have a great challenge. Defensively, the Vikings are the best we face overall. They have a great defensive line, good linebackers and a good secondary. The big thing is that their line is so quick. We're used to playing big people but their quickness complicates things for you. Fellows like Page and Eller are so quick they can run right around your block. It takes second and third effort to beat them. You not only have to block 'em, you have to keep 'em blocked. But I think our guys are confident. We can do some things against the Vikings and we're going to try to do them well. You have to prepare all week to get as nasty and mean as they're going to be because they're a rough crew - they come at you hard. Something everybody wants to do, of course, is beat the Vikings, especially since they've been so strong in recent years...and not many people have done it. If we could beat 'em, it'll mean a lot to everybody." PACKER PATTERN: Defensive tackles Bob Brown and Mike McCoy, hobbled with knee injuries, were withheld from Wednesday's practice and Devine said, "Both of them have to remain doubtful. When you can't make it to practice on Wednesday, that isn't a very good sign...If I had to venture a guess on who had a better chance to make it Sunday, I would say Brown. As a precaution, we worked Gale Gillingham over there some as a defensive left tackle and Lou Michaels in group work at defensive end...He could play there if needed...Gillie, of course, would be a backup." At this point,

there are only four healthy defensive linemen - Lionel Aldridge, Alden Roche, Clarence Williams and rookie Jim Delisle.

SHAROCKMAN NO LONGER PATSY

NOV 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Ed Sharockman has been described as "the type of player every coach tries to find a replacement for during training camp." That is hardly a glowing testimonial, particularly for a 10-year National Football League veteran...which goes to prove how difficult it can be for an athlete to change his image. Sharockman, who patrols the right corner for the Minnesota Vikings' vaunted defense, has been a regular ever since 1962 but he has found acceptance, both public and professional, hard to come by. Packer great Max McGee used to say, in his casual, languid fashion, "I'd like to play against Sharockman every week." McGee, an elusive citizen who was a master at deceiving a defender, was one of those largely responsible for the "patsy" reputation the Viking cornerback acquired. During Minnesota's early days in the NFL, The Taxi made life consistently miserable for Sharockman, who will be appearing in his 20th Packer-Viking match at Bloomington, Minn. Sunday afternoon...NOT MUCH KINDER: The Viking faithful were not much kinder. "Ed used to get a lot of heat from the fans," Minnesota publicity director Bill McGrane recalls. "He was getting beat regularly - he used to chase a lot of receivers into the end zone - and the fans really got on him. But we didn't have a very good defense in those days. It certainly wasn't all Sharockman's fault. When you don't get a good pass rush, it's pretty hard to cover receivers." Things, McGrane pointed out, are a little different these days. "Ed has learned, and he has a good front

four now...And all of a sudden he's one of the top cornerbacks in the league. "But he's the same guy. He's a little smarter, maybe, and he has better people with him. But he's the same guy." Recent NFL statistics suggest how far Sharrockman, lone survivor of the Vikings' original draft in 1961, has come. A year ago, he tied for second among National Football Conference interceptors with seven and, at this point in '71, he shares third place in NFC figures with five. "Actually, Ed is probably one of the finest athletes on the team," McGrane reports. "In fact, he's probably as clever an open field runner as we have, which is why he gets some long runbacks on his interceptions." Sharrockman's value to the Purple Gang has never been better illustrated than in the Vikings' opening game at Detroit...SAVING TOUCHDOWNS: "We were down 13-0 early against the Lions through offensive errors and it could have been 24-0, very easily," McGrane says. "The defense was trying to keep us in the game until the offense could get moving and Ed was knocking down passes and saving touchdowns. Then, in our Monday night game against Baltimore a few weeks later, he made two interceptions and also tackled Tom Matte at the five on a sweep to save a score...One of the interceptions set up our touchdown (the Vikings won 10-3) and he also may have saved another touchdown when he tackled Norm Bulaich in the open field after a 40-yard run to our 21. Ed has had a long, tough apprenticeship, as do a lot of cornerbacks, but now that our defense has grown up, he's able to make a contribution. Yet, ironically enough, each year the fans say, 'Now that they've got a good young guy in the draft, Sharrockman will probably go'...But he stays there."

REVENGE LEADS PACK INTO VIKING REMATCH

NOV 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – With the distribution of talent largely equitable at this stage, pro football coaches now label emotion the deciding factor of a Sunday afternoon. "The team that is ready to play," they are frequently heard to declare, "is the team that will win." Assuming this to be true, it would seem the psychological edge would lie with the first loser in a home-and-home series, the yen for revenge being the obvious incentive. But Coach Dan Devine suggested Thursday he isn't so sure this will be the case in the Packers' Sunday rematch with the Vikings at Bloomington, Minn., although his athletes have hardly forgotten a 24-13 loss to the three-time Central Division champions in their first 1971 meeting...VIKINGS HIGH: "I know, and I am sure our squad does, too, that the Vikings will be high," Devine said. "We know that they were 6-and-1 prior to last Sunday's loss to San Francisco and that they are not about to want to be 6-and-3. I know our older players know that, and I hope our younger ones also do...The Vikings are going to come after us, there's no doubt about that. So we're going to have to be pretty well steeled to resist." "Steeled," his subsequent observations indicated, may well be the proper term. The Vikings' front four stands out above the others in our league," he said. "One reason is that Alan Page is such a super-star and Carl Eller is not far behind him. In fact, they are two super-stars. And Jim Marshall and Gary Larson, the other guys in that four, probably would be superstars on some other teams...FG PERCENTAGE: "By the way, I would be interested in the field goal percentage other teams have made against them...They really intimidate people." Informed that Viking opponents have converted on but eight of 19 field goal attempts while the Minnesotans have hit on 13 of 17, Devine nodded his head and noted, "That's the difference." His concern about these figures may have been triggered by the memory of an ill-fated kick in the Packers' first encounter with the Vikings. The Purple Gang (or Alan Page, to be more specific) blocked a Lou Michaels extra point attempt to preserve a 14-13 lead and force the Packers to change their strategy...OFFENSIVE TALENT: "I also think people don't realize the tremendous amount of offensive talent there is on that team," Devine said. "Like the running back, Dave Osborn. He gives you a great game when you really need it." Flashing a puckish smile, the Packer leader reported, "When I was talking to Ray Nitschke on the practice field today, I told him the only thing wrong with Page and Osborn is that they're on the wrong team. They are a couple of guys I could relate to...They're my kind of football players." Osborn, who missed last Sunday's game with the 49ers, is expected to be ready for the Pack. Despite sitting out, he continues to lead the Vikings in rushing with 271 yards in 86 carries. He also is their No. 2 receiver with 22 catches for 168 yards and one touchdown...CURRENT CONCERNS: The Vikings' front four is only one of Devine's current concerns. He also is wondering what shape his defensive line will take Sunday, with Bob Brown and Mike McCoy still listed as doubtful Thursday because of knee injuries. Roche presumably will replace McCoy if the former Notre Dame colossus is unable to answer the bell. It would be a repeat performance for the ex-Denver Bronco, who was hastily summoned to combat when McCoy injured his left knee the first time on the opening defensive play against the Giants. He also went the distance against Denver the following week. Whether or not Brown does become available, understudy Jim DeLisle "is likely to be playing quite a bit," Devine said. "He's been playing pretty well in the games and he's also showing a lot of desire in practice."...PACKER PATTERN: John Brockington, withheld earlier in the week while nursing the contusions acquired in a 142-yard rushing effort against the Bears last Sunday, returned to team work in Thursday's practice. Devine capped the workout with a brief session on punt coverage, with Donny Anderson and Zeke Bratkowski sharing the kicking assignment. The Packers, who normally toil in Lambeau Field on Friday, closed out their Green Bay exertions on the South Oneida Street practice field today...They will enplane for the Twin Cities via United Airlines charter at 8:30 Saturday morning and work out in Metropolitan Stadium upon arrival...Karl Kassulke, the Vikings' veteran strong safety, has been officially classified as doubtful for Sunday because of stretched knee ligaments but Stu Voigt, the former Wisconsin Badger, is reported ready to return at tight end...Wide receiver Gene Washington, who started against the 49ers last Sunday for the first time since Sept. 26, also will be available fulltime.

ATTITUDE THE KEY: STARR

NOV 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – Packer quarterback Bart Starr told city high school football players that "the greatest single lesson of athletics is the development of a good positive attitude toward life" at the All-City Football Banquet at Riverside Ballroom Thursday night. Starr, speaking to approximately 700 players, coaches, parents and fans, gave his "subscription to the value of athletics" and reminded the players that they must "sacrifice your ego for the good of the team." All five city high school football teams were honored at the banquet sponsored by the Breakfast Optimists and Green Bay



Bart Starr Congratulates MVPs and East Coach Gene Bray
Players from left are Pat Borzick, Bruce Breecher, Paul Beebe, Joe Hanner and Rick Lemerond

Attitude the Key: Starr

RUSHING					
	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Brockington, Pack	114	602	5.3	52	2
Anderson, Pack	116	483	4.2	29	4
Osborn, Vikings	86	271	3.1	15	4
Jones, Vikings	80	202	2.5	29	0
Hampton, Pack	40	199	5.0	41	2
PASSING					
	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Bratkowski, Pack	31	16	192	3	2
Snead, Vikings	66	33	419	1	3
Hunter, Pack	107	47	766	5	12
Cuzzo, Vikings	142	66	779	6	6
RECEIVING					
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Osborn, Vikings	22	168	7.6	25	1
Grim, Vikings	28	481	17.2	55	5
Dale, Pack	19	344	18.1	56	3
McGeorge, Pack	15	275	11.5	39	0
Voigt, Vikings	14	191	13.6	25	1
Spills, Pack	10	233	23.3	35	1
Denson, Vikings	10	125	12.5	26	0
INTERCEPTIONS					
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Ellis, Pack	6	10	1.7	5	0
Sharrockman, Vik.	5	76	15.2	27	0
Robinson, Pack	3	44	14.7	23	0
Krause, Vikings	3	59	19.6	24	0
KICKOFF RETURNS					
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg.	TD
Hampton, Pack	24	476	31.1	80	0
West, Vikings	10	255	25.5	36	0
Jones, Vikings	8	213	26.6	43	0

49ers last Sunday has placed the Vikings' Central Division lead in peril, the Purple Gang is likely to be even more anti-social than usual. It thus is safe to assume Brockington will be required to earn every yard he gets, although there is one factor that could be operating in his favor. Viking strong safety Karl Kassulke, far and away the best tackler in the Minnesota secondary, is listed as doubtful at this point. Whatever the case, if Brockington has a productive afternoon in the cool of Minnesota his 1,000-yard hopes will be measurably brighter, the theory being it can only get easier. The Brooklyn Bulldozer, whose 5.3-yard average is the best in the NFC among regularly employed ball carriers to date has found running in the NFL simpler than it was at Ohio State - in one respect. "Most of the time you're running at a four-man front," he explains, "so you know where the people are. In college, you run against all kinds of different defenses. So up here, it's easier from the standpoint of finding where to run...But there are bigger people and better people in the NFL. "It's easier to find the hole, but when you get there," Brock dryly noted, "there's somebody waiting for you."...PACKER PATTERN: Coach Dan Devine, discussing the physical status of injured defensive tackles Bob Brown and Mike McCoy, said following Friday's workout, "It will be a last minute decision on both of them." Brown, who took a limited part in the practice, and McCoy are troubled with knee hurts. If McCoy is unable to play, Alden Roche will move in at left tackle and Lionel Aldridge will return to his old right end station, manned by Roche the last two weeks, Devine said. Rookie Jim DeLisle would sit in for Brown, although the latter insists he will be ready to play.

THE KID IS PUSHING NITSCHKE ASIDE

NOV 14 (Minneapolis Star-Tribune) - The scarred but proud veteran on the sidelines, the kid on the field, playing for him...Ray Nitschke has seen it before. It is, in fact, almost identical to the situation when the Green Bay Packers last changed middle linebackers. Then it was young Ray Nitschke, a third-round draft choice, a fullback from a Big Ten school, a second-

East was presented with a special trophy for its championship season. Named most valuable players at the respective schools by vote of the team were Paul Beebe, East; Pat Borzick, Preble, Bruce Breecher, West; Joe Hanner, Southwest; and Rick Lemerond, Premontre.

PACK FANS BUZZ ABOUT BROCK'S CHANCES TO RUSH 1,000 YARDS

NOV 13 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Ever since John Brockington's 142-yard eruption against the Bears last Sunday, titillated Packer buffs have been buzzing about his chances of crashing the elite 1,000-Yard Club. A companion question also has inevitably arisen among the faithful: Has any National Football League rookie ever gained 1,000 yards? The jury, with 398 yards and six games to go, patently is still out on the first consideration. But Packer defensive captain Willie Wood, for one, is confident Brockington will scale that lofty plateau. "There's no doubt in my mind John will gain a thousand yards," the Packers' brilliant all-pro safety said this week. "He'll have a

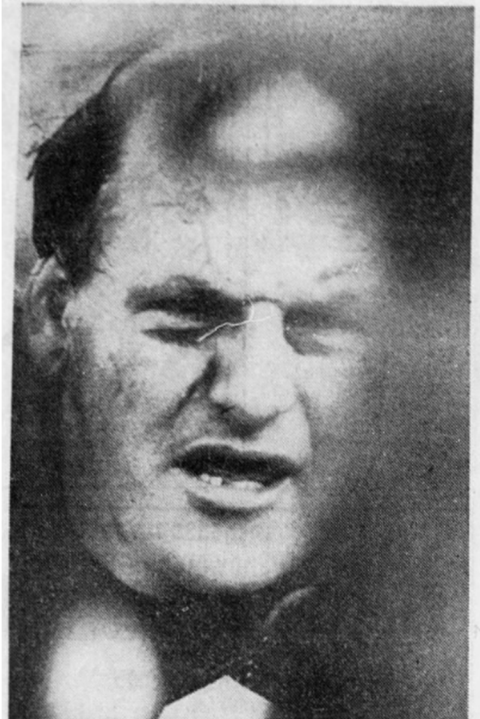
thousand before our last game." Brockington himself says he is not letting the matter concern him. "I haven't given it too much thought," he said as he prepared to take the practice field Friday. "I know there's been a lot of talk but I haven't thought too much about it unless somebody mentions the subject...WANTS BEST EFFORT: "And I don't want to think about it, either, because if I start doing that, things will start going wrong. I just want to concentrate on putting the best games together that I can." Brockington already is a member of the 1,000 Yard Club...Ohio State chapter. In fact the bruising ex-Buckeye set an all-time OSU record last season by rushing for 1,041 yards in 240 attempts for Woody Hayes' Big Ten champions. That accomplishment, he recalls, was not a particularly hot topic on the Columbus campus. "Not too much was made of it any time, when I got near a thousand or when I went over it," said Brock, currently the No. 3 rusher in the National Football Conference behind Detroit's Steve Owens (667) and Washington's Larry Brown (629). In order to surpass the magic figure this season, Brockington will need to average 67 yards per game, or slightly less than his present, 75-yard pace. If he should turn the trick, he would become the first "pure" National Football League rookie ever to accomplish the feat. Two players have eclipsed the 1,000 mark in their first seasons but both were performing in the then American Football League. The sometimes tempestuous Cookie Gilchrist was the first, rolling up 1,096 yards in his rookie season with the Buffalo Bills in 1962. Paul Robinson followed with a 1,023-yard debut for the Cincinnati Bengals in 1968...VIKE'S NO. 2: Brockington's production against the Vikings in Minnesota Sunday afternoon could go a long way toward determining his 1,000-yard chances, on a both short and long range basis. In Alan Page, Carl Eller, et al, he will be running against the No. 2 defense in the NFC. And, since a 13-9 loss to the

The Kid is pushing Nitschke aside

year man, taking the job away from the veteran in the first year of a new coaching regime. Now it is young Jim Carter, a third-round draft choice, a fullback from a Big Ten school, a second-year man, taking the job away from the veteran in the first year of a new coaching regime. But tough, 34-year-old Ray Nitschke isn't giving up his job willingly to 24-year-old Jim Carter. The National Football League tradition of the veteran pitching in to help the younger man take away his job is getting tiresome - and Nitschke isn't buying it. If Carter wants to ask a question about football, he gets an answer. And that's about it. Because despite the similarities in the situations, there are a lot of differences between these two. Nitschke was asked about them Saturday and, his gruff voice almost soft, he haltingly tried to explain. "Well...I really don't know Jimmy that well," he said. "He's a little different than I am in that he had folks, you know. I'm from a different family background. Where he's had things, I'd never had them. "I came from a suburb of Chicago, but it was just next door, so it was like I grew up in the big city. I...well, I had problems. I was lucky I didn't have to go into an orphanage. But I was no different than a lot of guys. But it took me longer to adjust...to mature." Nitschke doesn't care to deal in specifics about his upbringing, although he has said in one of his more tender moments that he probably would have been in jail except for the influence of his high school coach at Maywood (Ill.) Proviso. He went to the University of Illinois, where he was a blocking back for Bobby Mitchell and Abe Woodson and also a linebacker. He was drafted by the Packers and started the first eight games of the 1958 season when regular Tom Bettis was injured. Bettis returned for the final four games and Nitschke spent the 1959 season in the Army. He returned in 1960 to find a new coach, Vince Lombardi, and a new philosophy. He won the starting job from Bettis in mid-season 1960 and kept it - until the arrival of Carter. Jim Carter grew up in South St. Paul, the only son of a prominent automobile dealer. He was the star bruiser as a Minnesota fullback, captain in his senior season (1969). His first season with the Packers was as an outside linebacker. He was shifted to the middle prior to this season and now, in the Packers youth movement under new coach Dan Devine, he will be the starter at 1 p.m. today against the Vikings in Metropolitan Stadium. Carter didn't say it, but he undoubtedly prefers to play on the road. There is less pressure. When the Vikings played in Green Bay Oct. 17, for example, quarterback Gary Cuozzo had to ask the officials to quiet the crowd so his team could hear the signals. The crowd was cheering and foot-stomping because Ray Nitschke had started to warm up on the sidelines, preparing to replace Jim Carter. "I don't know that they're trying to give me trouble," Carter said. "It's just that they like Ray so damn much. You know, they're going to have a Ray Nitschke day Dec. 12. They're selling buttons, bumper stickers. It's all over town. But I try not to take it as a putdown on Jim Carter, although I realize in the minds of some people it is. But if I start worrying about that. I'll be in big trouble. I've been playing a hell of a lot better in the past two weeks. Last week (against Chicago) was the best I've played in the middle. But it takes a while to play that position. You just don't step right in and automatically be a star. It's especially hard for me because I've never played linebacker at all. It's taken quite a while just to be comfortable...just to learn the basic techniques." In that way, Nitschke was better prepared than Carter when he became a starting middle linebacker 10 years ago. "I was primarily a linebacker at Illinois," Nitschke said. "It's an instinctive position, and it takes a special kind of guy, too. Not everybody can play there. It's got to be a guy that really likes to play the game. He has to be real aggressive. He has to be a guy who loves contact. If he's playing his position he's seeking out contact. If he's not playing his position he's not hitting anybody and if he's not hitting anybody then he shouldn't be out there." Nitschke recognizes Carter as a hitter. "He has far more physical ability, more size and strength than I had," Nitschke said. "He's strong and he's fast. But he lacks the background...I know he didn't play linebacker until last year." But Nitschke isn't bitter about being supplanted. "Devine is going to be here a while," he said. "He wants to start right from the beginning building his own team. A 34-year-old player is a pretty old middle linebacker. "I've played 14 years," he said. "Fifteen would be quite an achievement. Like everything else, you have to be motivated. And I've been motivated or I wouldn't have lasted this long. I'm motivated to play 15 years and if it runs out after that, well, that's it. "But they've been great years, with wonderful people. I'm the big city boy in the



Former Gopher fullback Jim Carter, now the starting middle linebacker for Green Bay, awaited the offensive snap.



Ray Nitschke watched from the sidelines as the Packers' defensive unit played without him.



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NFL standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

THROUGH GAMES OF NOVEMBER 8
EASTERN DIVISION

Club	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
Miami	6	1	1	.857	197	82
Baltimore	6	2	0	.750	193	72
New York	3	5	0	.375	100	175
New England	3	5	0	.375	112	195
Buffalo	0	8	0	.000	94	250

CENTRAL DIVISION

Club	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
Pittsburgh	4	4	0	.500	160	168
Cleveland	4	4	0	.500	142	172
Houston	1	6	1	.143	95	174
Cincinnati	1	7	0	.000	140	155

WESTERN DIVISION

Club	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
Oakland	5	1	2	.833	207	134
Kansas City	5	2	1	.714	176	119
San Diego	3	5	0	.375	150	179
Denver	2	5	1	.286	125	144

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

THROUGH GAMES OF NOVEMBER 8
EASTERN DIVISION

Club	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
Washington	6	1	1	.857	167	97
Dallas	5	3	0	.625	220	158
St. Louis	3	5	0	.375	135	149
New York	3	5	0	.375	138	198
Philadelphia	2	5	1	.286	81	187

CENTRAL DIVISION

Club	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
Minnesota	6	2	0	.750	125	72
Detroit	5	2	1	.714	211	158
Chicago	5	3	0	.625	140	135
Green Bay	3	4	1	.429	179	185

WESTERN DIVISION

Club	W.	L.	T.	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
San Francisco	6	2	0	.750	178	96
Los Angeles	4	3	1	.571	162	133
Atlanta	4	3	1	.571	171	154
New Orleans	2	4	2	.333	136	193

small town and I've really grown to love it. The team, the city, the whole state. They've all been good to me. It has been a wonderful career. I have a lot to be thankful for. But sometimes I don't think I've played as long as I have. I can't believe I'm in my 14th year. I don't feel old."

LOMBARDI REMEMBERED

NOV 14 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - VINCE LOMBARDI, His Life and Times, by Robert W. Wells (Wisconsin House, \$7.95) - Milwaukee newspaperman Robert W. Wells has published here in book form a series of stories he wrote for his paper following the death of Vince Lombardi. The book forms a good record of the early days, Packer years and the final season in Washington for the complex coach. Wells writes well, his sources are good and the story is told in a straightforward manner. It is disappointing, though, for it is only another trip over familiar ground. There is nothing particularly new in the story, no insight which will help the reader understand better the man who drove the Packers to all of those championships. The fault is not really that of Wells. Had he had access to Vince Lombardi, had he been a confidant of the man, then the complete story would have rolled off his typewriter. You can wonder, though, if such a story will ever be written by a man close to Lombardi. For it seems unlikely that there were writers who stayed long enough in the Lombardi inner circle to gain the sort of confidence and rapport it takes to do a truly understanding book about a complex figure. The book does make its errors, minor though they be. Wells mentions a famed run-in between Lombardi and Paul Hornung. The coach is supposed to have

found the player standing at the bar of a restaurant - drinking a ginger ale so the tale goes - and fined him \$500 for it. Only problem is - Wells says the run-in took place in a Chicago saloon the night before the Packers beat the Bears 28-13 in a season opening game in which Hornung kicked three field goals. That game was played in Green Bay. Seems strange that Lombardi and Hornung would both have been in Chicago the night before they were to play in Lambeau Field. In another spot, Wells talks about the touchdown which Bart Starr scored in the Ice Bowl game to defeat Dallas. "Kramer and Ken Bowman were to open a hole in the Dallas line big enough for the quarterback to squeeze through," Wells writes. That's fine, but Starr, in recounting that last ditch touchdown drive, explained to a writer that he had told no one he was going to carry the ball on that play. Despite the minor flaws, the book is still a good account of the Lombardi legend and those Green Bay years.

PACKER WIN COULD TRIGGER 4-WAY TITLE SCRAMBLE

NOV 14 (Bloomington, MN-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Just two short weeks ago, the Packers were summarily written off by pro football pundits as contenders in the National Football Conference's Central Division. And it was an entirely reasonable appraisal, at the time. The Pack was then 2-4 and a distant 3 1/2 games to the rear of the machine-like Vikings, then crunching along with a 6-1 record. But the artistic circumstances have been altered ever so slightly in the interim, putting an unexpected premium upon this afternoon's rematching. Metropolitan Stadium (1 o'clock, WNFL, Channel 2). It would be presumptuous to suggest that the Packers are back in the heart of the race, following a 14-14 tie, with the Lions and a last minute, 17-14 decision over the Bears. The Vikings, however, not only proved they are mortal by falling to the 49ers last Sunday (13-9) but their edge has now been trimmed to 2 1/2 games. That is still a comfortable margin with only six games to play. But the Packers - and the Vikings - cannot help but wonder what a Green Bay victory could do to the race...LIONS VS. RAMS: Such a development not only would pare the Minnesota lead over our heroes to a mere 11 games but also could project the Lions, hosts to the Rams this afternoon, into a half-game edge and set off a precipitous, four-way scramble for the title. (The Bears, of course, also are very much in at 6-2). The Minnesotans it can be assured, are well aware of the possibilities. "This is a big ball game," a Viking spokesman soberly observed. "The Packers are in a must win position and we feel we are, too." Packer Coach Dan Devine has avoided making such an assessment, concentrating instead upon the psychological overtones. "We're going into a hornets' nest...more of a hornets' nest than we've been in all year," he said. "It would be quite an accomplishment if we could beat this team...We're playing a team that's kind of fighting for it's life." This knowledge, and memories of a 24-13 loss to the highly

efficient Vikings in the first 1971 meeting at Green Bay, undoubtedly prompted him to append, "Frankly, I'm not as confident as I was before the Detroit and Chicago games the last two weeks. I'm a little apprehensive that our best effort may not be

good enough against their best effort - and I know we're going to get their best effort."...WILLIE CONFIDENT: Defensive Captain Willie Wood, although also realistic about today's assignment, is convinced he and his colleagues have the wherewithal to turn the trick. In fact, he feels the Packers' chances are better than they were the first time. "I feel the same way as I did before our first game against the Vikings," he said. "I felt we stood a good chance, unless the thing that I predicted would happen, did happen. I said mistakes would be fatal against them, and they were. They forced us into mistakes that turned the game around. "Defensively, we're a notch better this time. We're playing much better as a unit. This has to be a plus for us...And who knows, we may be able to force them into the kind of mistakes we made in the first game. That's what we should work on. "Offensively, I've always felt we have the ability to capitalize on this sort of thing, if we can get the ball in good field position. So if the defense can live up to its potential, maybe we can be of some help to the offense." Unfortunately for the Packer defenders, they are likely to be nus at least one started, left tackle Mike McCoy, who is hobbled with a knee injury. Right tackle Bob Brown also has a knee problem but he is expected to play. If McCoy is not available, Alden Roche will move in at his station and Lionel Aldridge will return to right end, where Roche has held forth the last two weeks...HART AT CORNER: The defense will otherwise remain intact, Devine having elected to go with veteran Doug Hart at the right corner and Al Randolph at left safety for a second week.

Its afternoon will be complicated by the anticipated return to fulltime duty of the Vikings' accomplished wide receiver, Gene Washington, who recently has been dogged by foot trouble, and running back Dave Osborn, who sat out last week's game with a muscle pull. Little need be said about the chore which confronts the Pack's offensive line, which goes into action as the NFL's most effective pass protection unit. The names of the Vikings' celebrated front four, Page, Eller, Larsen and Marshall, are all but household words in Packerland. But that awesome foursome may find shutting down the Packers' running game, built around rookie John Brockington, Donny Anderson and Dave Hampton, a bit of a challenge. Coach Bud Grant, who owns a glittering 7-2 record in competition with the Packers during his five-year Viking tenure, obliquely concedes the point. "In my opinion," he observes, "Green Bay has the best trio of running backs in the league." Brockington, the No. 3 rusher in the NFC with 602 yards in 114 attempts, will be in quest of a third straight 100-yard day. He amassed 111 against Detroit and 142 against the Bears in his last two starts. There has been the suggestion in some quarters that the Purple Gang may be on the decline. But there is nothing in the comparative figures to support the theory. To date, the Viking defense has permitted the opposition only 72 points in eight games, just six more than it had yielded during a similar 1970 span. Since they gave up only 133 points over the 1969 route and 143 a year ago, the purple marauders would appear to be right on schedule. Devine was not too pleased at hearing this afternoon's weather forecast includes a 60 per cent chance of rain. He said "I certainly hope we get a dry field. I think we can do a better job on a dry field."

Probable Starting Lineups:			
OFFENSE			
GREEN BAY		MINNESOTA	
Spills	WR	Washington	
Peay	LT	Ainderman	
Lueck	LG	White	
Bowman	C	Tingelhoff	
Gillingham	RG	Sunde	
Himes	RT	Yary	
McGeorge	TE	Brown	
Dale	WR	Grim	
Hunter	QB	Cuozzo	
Anderson	RB	Osborn	
Brockington	RB	Jones	
DEFENSE			
C. Williams	LE	Eller	
Roche	LT	Larsen	
Brown	RT	Page	
Aldridge	RE	Marshall	
Robinson	LLB	Winston	
J. Carler	MLB	Gersbach	
Carr	RLB	Hilgenberg	
Ellis	LCB	Bryant	
Hart	RCB	Sharockman	
Randolph	LS	West	
Wood	RS	Krause	
Packer-Viking Series			
Packers won 12, Vikings 9. Points —			
Packers 483, Vikings 334.			

Packer Win Could Trigger 4-Way Title Scramble

NEGRO COACH COMING

NOV 20 (The Sporting News) – DETROIT - "I think the game is ready right now," said Willie Wood, who as an individual himself is not yet ready. The topic was pro football's first Negro head coach, a happening which could occur before major league baseball gets around to hiring its first Negro manager. Wood, after years of excellent service in the Packers' defensive backfield, would have to be a leading candidate for such a breakthrough in pro football. "I've heard several teams have considered it," said Wood. "A lot of blacks are more than capable of handling the position. The same type of teams that would have problems if they hired a black coach are the ones having troubles with white coaches. The game itself is very integrated and has reached a point where color doesn't matter. The only criteria is: 'Can you do the job?' Some people might have a reaction to a black coach, just like right now there might be people that have a reaction to my present position as captain. A black coach would just have to accept and deal with these difficulties."...WOOD WANTS TO PLAY: But Wood is still a player - and he has no intention to quit playing to become a notable first. "I still have the desire to play," he said. "I feel it would be a mistake to give up an active part in the game before I'm ready." Wood named some others with capabilities of becoming pro football's first Negro head coach – Ernie Green, Kermit Alexander, Em Tunnel, Irv Cross. The first to recognize Wood's coaching potential was Vince Lombardi. Wood rejected an offer to go to the Washington Redskins with the old authoritarian master when he abdicated from Green Bay. "He felt I was in the twilight of my career," Wood said. "And he asked me if I had considered going into coaching. I told him at the time not really. But he asked me to consider it, and that is when I first had serious thoughts about coaching." Another Packer destined to become a head coach is Bart Starr, Wood's teammate on five championship clubs. "He'd make an outstanding coach." Starr said of Wood. "In his capacity as captain, he's received great exposure. If he aspires to become a coach, nothing could hold him back."...BEAR'S SUPER THINKING: CHICAGO - Guess what the Bears, 13-time losers just two years ago, were unabashedly talking about in idle conversation? "Super Bowl," said Doug Buffone, a linebacker on the conquerors of the Vikings, Lions and Cowboys. "I feel like a guy pitching a no-hitter in the sixth inning," continued Buffone. "You're not supposed to talk about it and there's a long way to go. But it's got to be in the back of your mind, that vision, Super Bowl." "There's no way we can get cocky with the schedule we've got," cautioned Dick Butkus, Buffone's neighbor. Green Bay, next up, busted up the no-hitter...MINNESOTA - Norm Snead never has been a backup quarterback until this year. He started as a rookie with the Redskins and was a starter throughout his dismal years with the Eagles. But now with the Vikings, his job is to play when Gary Cuozzo is knocked cockeyed. So it was that Snead beat the Giants in a game the Vikings would have been willing to tie. Snead's 55-yard pass to Bob Grim won it. And afterward, Coach Bud Grant was heard to utter: "If he never does anything else, he's worth what the trade cost (an obscure lineman and two draft choices)...DEPTH IS ESSENTIAL: "This game proved how much it means to have depth at quarterback." And all year the Vikings have proved how much it means to have depth everywhere. Jim Vellone has been ill all year, and Ed White has played guard with distinction. John Beasley is out for the year, and Stu Voight, off the taxi squad, has been able at tight end. Gene Washington has been hobbled and Grim has become one of the league's most dangerous receivers. John Henderson is ailing and Al Denson is catching passes with frequency. Lonnie Warwick, who ran the defense, is missing, but young Carl Gersbach has fit in efficiently. "You go on playing," said Grant. "The schedule doesn't wait because somebody's out. And if you have a strong football team, you gather yourself up and play with greater resolve."...SCHMIDT SETS GOAL: DETROIT - "I think we're going to have to win nine ball games to be in anything," Joe Schmidt said in a midseason projection. Winning the at-large spot in the playoffs with nine victories might be shaving it too fine. The Lions made it with 10 victories last year. Steve Owens wasn't expected to be a starter with the Lions this season. He has been since the second week, when Mel Farr was injured. Ever since, Owens has been contending for the NFC rushing championship. "The best thing about playing more is you develop consistency," said the young man who refused to believe anything about a Heisman Trophy jinx. "In college, I was consistent and I think I'm getting to be consistent here, too. At Oklahoma, it seemed I always ran better in the third and fourth periods, so the more I carry, the better I run. I think you get a feel of the defense if you play the whole game."...GREEN BAY - Russ Thomas, the Lions' general manager, calls John Brockington the best runner in pro football. This was after Thomas had watched Brockington shred the Lions for 111 yards in the goo in the Packers' Monday night tie at Milwaukee. "A tie is just nothing," said Brockington, who doesn't think like a coach. "A tie...it's all negative." It was all positive when Green Bay broke a tie to beat the Bears in the fourth quarter.

