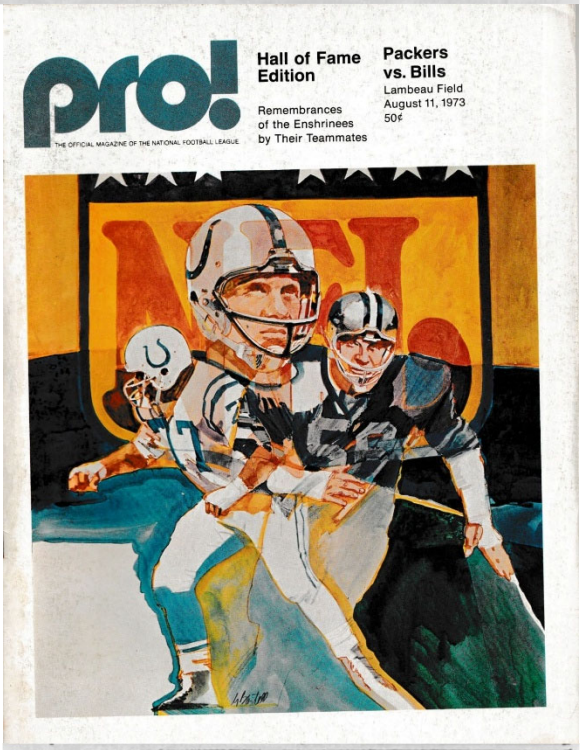
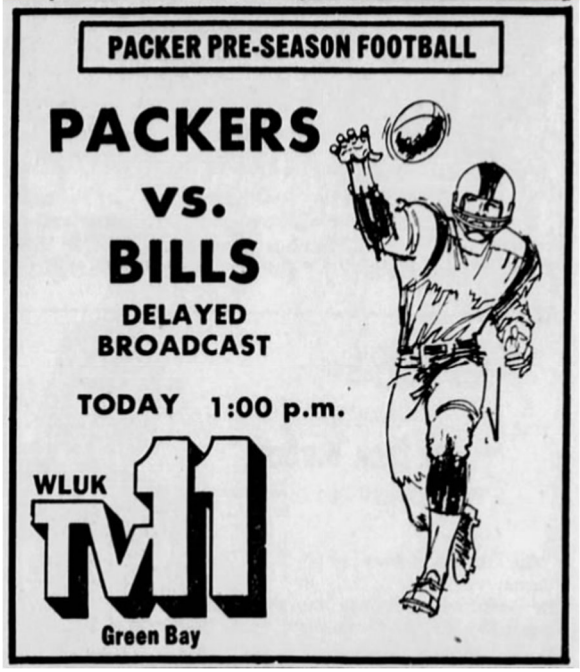
PRE-SEASON
Green Bay Packers (1-0-1) 10, Buffalo Bills 3
Saturday August 11th 1973 (at Green Bay)

Defense Keys Pack Past Bills 10-3

GAME RECAP (GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE)





(GREEN BAY) - Relying on a smothering defense in the absence of a cohesive attack, the Packers stifled the Buffalo Bills in Lambeau Field Saturday night, 10-3. The victory, accomplished before a capacity crowd of 56,267 fans, was the first of the exhibition season for Dan Devine's Green and Gold, who had to settle for a 13-13 tie with the Bears in their opener a week earlier. Despite the presence of O.J. Simpson and J.D. Hill on one side and John Brockington and MacArthur Lane on the other, defense was the name of the game. The Packers sacked Buffalo quarterbacks five times, Clarence Williams and Aaron Brown collecting two apiece and Mike McCoy the other. There also were 17 punts in the low scoring production, 10 by the Bills and seven by the Packers. Despite the defensive pressure, however, Brockington broke loose in the second quarter, breaking three tackles on a 33-yard excursion to the Buffalo end zone that produced the only touchdown of the evening. Chester Marcol provided the other Packer Points with a 34-yard fourth quarter field goal, matching a 22-yard success by Buffalo's John Leypoldt in the first quarter. The Packers, somewhat off their feet offensively in the early going, did not cross midfield until well into the second quarter. But when they finally did, they made up for the oversight in explosive fashion. The breakthrough came when Tagge hit McGeorge up the middle at the Buffalo 33, McGeorge pulling down the ball with Bills' safety John Pitts hanging from his shoulder pads with 3:48 gone in the second period. Brockington, previously on short rations, abruptly took it the rest of the way in a dazzling one-man show. Slanting off tackle, he broke to the outside and ran over linebacker Jim Cheyunski. Encountering Tony Greene as he built up steam, Brockington shrugged off the Bills' right cornerback and burst into the open. Defensive end Bob Kampa, angling over from Brockington's right, grabbed a handful of the Packer fullback's jersey at the Buffalo five but Brockington carried him into the end zone. That burst put the Packers in front for the first time. Buffalo, which won the toss and received the opening kickoff, had led since that initial series. They capped an eight-play drive with a 22-yard field goal by John Leypoldt. The artistry of O.J. Simpson, who amassed 36 yards in four carries enroute and a 43-yard pass from Dennis Shaw to J.D. Hill had maneuvered the Bills into position. Buffalo shortly was presented with another opportunity when Cheyunski waylaid a Tagge pass, intended for MacArthur Lane at the Green Bay 28. A bristling Packer defense and the Bills' own ineptitude combined to foil the invaders, however. Rookie Tom MacLeod felled Simpson for a two-yard loss on first down and O.J. next was held for no gain by Jim Carter and Mike McCoy. Shaw, back to pass, was forced to scramble on third down and settled for a scant yard when he encountered the Packers' Alden Roche at the 29. That brought on ex-Dallas Cowboy Mike Clark to attempt a 36-yard field goal. Holder Bobby Chandler fumbled the snap from center, however, and decided to make a run for it, but had to be content with four yards and the Packers took over. Although they were unable to muster any further sustained offense following the touchdown, as Dan Devine began to substitute freely, the Packers had a chance to pad their 7-3 lead in the final minute of the first half when Bob Kroll fair caught a Buffalo punt at the Green Bay 45. That set up a 55-yard free kick field goal by the heavy-footed Marcol, who has made 63-yard efforts in practice. This one was short, however, coming down at the Buffalo 3-yard-line, where Dwight Harrison pulled it in and very nearly engineered a break-away, returning 39 yards to the Bills' 42. Marcol encountered further difficulties in the third quarter, which saw the combatants struggle scorelessly, despite a spectacular runback of the second half kickoff by Kroll. After Lane got four yards on first down, Brockington was thrown for a one-yard loss and a Hunter-

Brockington pass misfired. The Polish Messiah returned for another shot. This time his 36-yard effort was wide to the right at 1:37 of the third period. The sophomore placekicker shortly was afforded a third opportunity but this one literally did not get off the ground. A low kick into the line, it was blocked by the heart of the Buffalo front four and picked up by the Bills' Halvor Hagen, who returned it four yards to the Packer 42. Marcol finally found the range in the final quarter, however, when presented with a fourth chance, drilling home a 34-yard effort at 7:29. That success, which ended a string of five misses for the 22-year-old Hillsdale alumnus, was preceded by a sustained drive from the Green Bay 10, guided by Scott Hunter. A major item enroute was a 12-yard Hunter pass to Leonard Garrett, a maneuver parlayed with a 15-yard roughing the passer penalty on Bills' Defensive End Louis Ross.

BUFFALO	**-**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0 - 3**
GREEN BAY	**-**	**0**	**7**	**0**	**3 - 10**

	BUFFALO	GREEN BAY
First downs	11	13
Rush-yards-TDs	34-94-0	39-173-1
Comp-Att-Yd-TD-INT	21-12-150-0-0	21-8-62-0-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	5-52	1-7
Net Passing Yards	98	55
Total yards	192	228
Fumbles-lost	4-1	0-0
Turnovers	1	1
Yards Penalized	5-55	5-54

SCORING

1st – BUF – John Leypoldt, 22-yard field goal BUF 3-0
2nd – GB – John Brockington, 33-yard run (Chester Marcol kick) GB 7-3
2nd – GB – Marcol, 34-yard field goal GB 10-3

RUSHING

GREEN BAY – MacArthur Lane 13-60, John Brockington 11-53 1 TD, Dave Kopay 4-22, Jerry Tagge 2-17, Perry Williams 5-14, Les Goodman 3-8, Scott Hunter 1-(-1)
BUFFALO – O.J. Simpson 10-55, Joe Ferguson 1-19, Jim Braxton 10-8, Ted Koy 4-7, Vince O'Neil 3-4, Tom Bougus 2-1, Dennis Shaw 1-1, Bo Cornell 3-(-1)

PASSING

GREEN BAY - Scott Hunter 12-5-35, Jerry Tagge 9-3-27 1 INT
BUFFALO – Dennis Shaw 16-7-122, Joe Ferguson 11-5-28

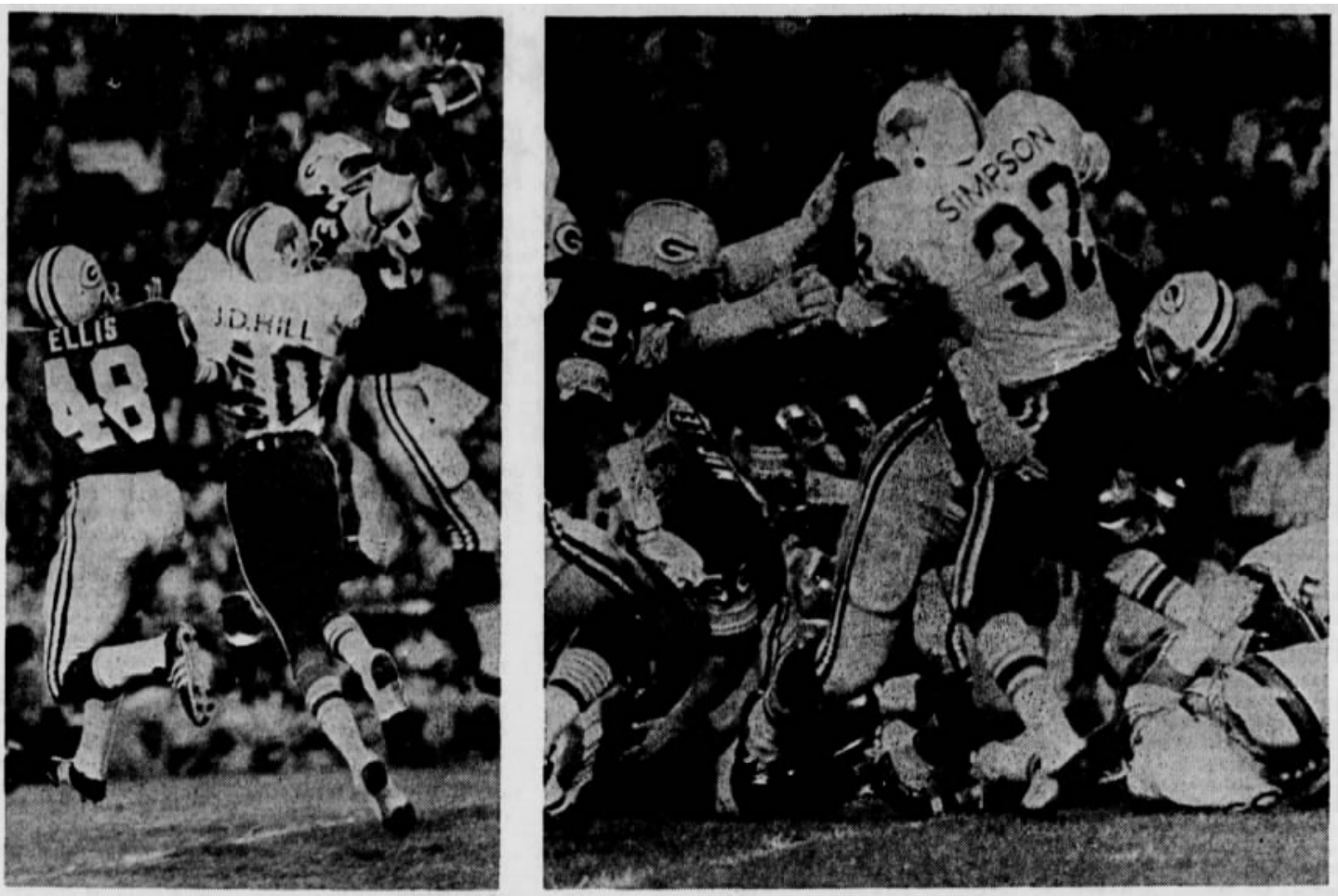
RECEIVING

GREEN BAY – Len Garrett 2-26, MacArthur Lane 2-(-9), Rich McGeorge 1-17, Perry Williams 1-11, Leland Glass 1-10, Dave Kopay 1-7
BUFFALO – J.D. Hill 2-55, Bruce Jarvis 2-20, Bo Cornell 2-11, Cookie Brinkman 1-30, John Mosier 1-19, Vince O'Neil 1-10, Wallace Francis 1-9, Dwight Harrison 1-(-2), Ted Koy 1-(-2)

Devine Declares Performance 'Better'

DEVINE DECLARES PERFORMANCE 'BETTER'

AUG 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Football coaches, individually and as a fraternity, aren't ever supposed to be satisfied. Particularly during the pre-season and in the wake of a performance which couldn't be classified as a work of art. Off their post-game appraisals of Saturday night's 10-3 Packer decision over the Buffalo Bills, rival masterminds Dan Devine and Lou Saban are not likely to be drummed out of the coaches' union. But both, obviously looking at the "big picture," accepted the inevitable early season errors manifest in the Lambeau Field production with a surprising degree of equanimity. "This was a much better performance than we gave in last week's opener with the Bears (a 13-13 tie)," Devine said. "The defense was much, much better and the offense was a little better. The kicking game, though, was not quite as good." Saban, who did not seem too distressed over the Bills' second defeat in as many exhibition starts, apparently drew encouragement from Buffalo's overall play. "In general, I can't see too much to complain about," he said, "When you lose, 10-3, to the Packers when you play just about everybody." Although Packer quarterbacks had to settle for 10 points and eight completions in 21 passing attempts, Devine also could find no serious fault with the combined efforts of Jerry Tagge, making the first start, and Scott Hunter, whom he named to start next Saturday night's game against Houston in Milwaukee. "After seeing the film of our game against the Bears, I said that our quarterbacks had played pretty well," he volunteered, "and I got the feeling tonight that they did again. "I thought their quarterbacks, Joe Ferguson and Dennis Shaw, played well, too. All of them did. I thought Scott did a fine job coming off the bench cold like he did. I think the second half is tougher than the first for a quarterback in that situation. And I thought Scott did a particularly fine job of scrambling and finding Barry in the end zone, even though the pass was not complete." All had not been pleasing to the practiced eye, however, Devine noted. "The thing that bothered me the most," he said, "was our failure to capitalize after Bob Kroll ran that second half kickoff back to Buffalo's 32-yard-line. We get four yards on first down, which means we're second-and-six and we get nothing out of it. When you come out of a situation like that with nothing, you've got plenty of work to do." Devine also admitted to some related concern over the Packers low rate of third-down conversions, although he first parried a question on that subject with one of his own.



Packer Crunching — At left, Packer Jim Hill (39) breaks up Bills' pass attempt to J.D. Hill (40) in the first half of Saturday night's Packer-Bill exhibition game at Lambeau Field. Helping to defend is Ken Ellis (48). At right, massive Mike McCoy stops Bills' O.J. Simpson (32) in his tracks. Other identifiable Packers are (from left) Alden Roche (87), Clarence Williams (83) and Bob Brown (78).
(Press-Gazette Photo By Ken Behrend and John Roemer).

"What was Buffalo's third down record?" he asked. Informed it was 2-for-16 compared to the Packers 4-for-15, Devine said, "Probably I am as concerned as Coach Saban is. We're all concerned about that one - that's a big play. You've got to have a big play. An average play is not going to get it for you and a good play isn't either." Devine also came quickly to the defense' of rookie linebacker Tom MacLeod when a member of the press corps suggested his inexperience had been evident on occasion. "I think Tom MacLeod is doing a fine job," he said. "He makes up in aggressiveness what he may not have in experience. I've seen veteran linebackers on film, time after time, make a wrong drop on a pass. I can't say at this point that the job is his, but I don't want to take any credit away from Tom MacLeod." The Packer leader likewise extended a vote of confidence to another freshman, wide receiver Barry Smith, the No. 1 draftee. "I think Barry's going to be fine," he said, "He's not going to drop the ball like that very often. I think he had his hands on both passes on those two fly patterns in the first half, but I'm not sure. At least the second one, I'm almost positive he did. That was a well-thrown ball by Tagge on the third-and-one situation, and if I were going to be critical, I would say that Barry should have taken a wider split. He let the strong safety man be a factor on the play and he shouldn't have been. He should only have had to face the corner." Devine conceded the Packers had not had signal success against the Bills' surprisingly tightfisted defense with the screen, although he noted. "Our first screen almost went. It was a new one, off a running action, that we had just put in. "The second screen was off a pass action, that we used against the Bears last week. We didn't use it until the fourth quarter and we thought they might have forgotten it but, obviously," DD dryly observed, "they hadn't. I'd like to point out, though, that that team beat San Francisco last year. It also beat Washington soundly and physically, and tied Detroit. That's not a pickup ball club. That's a good hardnosed ball club." Down the hall, Saban summed up the situation from his point of view in two succinct sentences. "We thought we could go outside on them and hoped we could do a little better job of throwing. They beat us with their pass rush and their pass defense. One of the basic reasons we had problems is because we were making mental mistakes - like the backs running into each other. We don't have a lot of experience on this club. I am happy with our defensive play. We had a couple of offensive opportunities in the first period, on the other hand, and didn't take advantage of them."

NERVOUS TAGGE WANTS WORK

AUG 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Jerry Tagge had made his first pro start at quarterback - in his own hometown – and he was quick to admit, "I was a little nervous. I wanted to do well and then," the former Green Bay West field general said in amiable disgust, "I threw an interception right off the bat. The ball was only this high (about four feet) off the ground."

Tagge, quietly dressing in front of his locker following Saturday night's 10-3 victory over Buffalo in Lambeau Field, explained that interception in part by observing, "They had good linebackers, real quick linebackers. Any time you can cover Mac Lane and John Brockington like their linebackers did, you've got to be pretty good. After that interception, I calmed down a little bit. I felt at ease out there. I may not have looked it," Tagge grinned, "but I was." Looking to the future, the ex-Nebraska ace offered, "I have to improve on everything, reading the defenses, for one, and I think I've got to study personnel more. And I've got to get the feel of things, which you can only get by playing. You get a false impression in practice, when you're working against dummies. You've got to play - you've got to be able to react to pressure. Overall, I got a lot of experience tonight. I made a few mistakes, but that's what the pre-season is for. I just hope I don't make 'em again. I'm happy with everything because I got a chance to play. I learned a lot."

DAN PRAISES BROCK RUN

AUG 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Dan Devine called it "as great a run as I've ever seen." But John Brockington, the recipient of this accolade, surprisingly confided, "I could have done the same thing on the previous play." The subject, of course, was Brockington's 33-yard breakaway for the lone touchdown - and, ultimately, the deciding points – in Saturday night's 10-3 Packer victory over the Buffalo Bills in Lambeau Field. "It just formed up as a tackle play down," the footloose fullback explained. "It's our regular '36' slant, on which I can go inside or outside our offensive tackle or outside the linebacker. It depends on how they play it. This one was supposed to go inside, but there was no hole. "Dave Kopay hooked the linebacker and I just went outside. The wide receiver tied up the safety some way and that just left me and the halfback (right cornerback Tony Greene, shortly shaken off by Brockington in the open). I could have done the same thing on the previous play," said Brockington, "but it was third-and-one and I just took the hole that was there. If I'd have gone outside, somebody might have grabbed my leg. I wanted to get that first down. But when I got back to the huddle, I told Kopay I might be coming outside when we ran the same thing on the next play. I saw Mac (Lane) had handled the linebacker on the previous play. And that's how it worked out."

PACKER-BILL QUOTES: SIMPSON 'NEVER HIT ONE HOLE'

AUG 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Quick Packer-Bill quotes: Dan Devine: "I thought Bobby Kroll made a couple of real fine tackles. He's a hustling dude, that guy. Will his special-teams play compensate for any deficiencies he may have as a defensive back? You have to rate his progress on his value to the team. If he's got any weakness as a pass defender, he might make up for them with his other work. His special teams play was good enough to win him a job last year."…Jim Carter: "O. J. Simpson makes that Buffalo team. He's just like Namath - he carries the team. He never hit one hole, one designed hole, all night."…O.J. Simpson: "I bruised my ribs early in the second quarter. It was on a third down play and I was going up the sidelines and some cat hit me. I either fell on a helmet or somebody's shoe. I went back in for two plays, but couldn't move and I had a hard time breathing. I'm going to have x-rays tomorrow. I thought my moves were coming back - I'd only been in camp for 10 days - and then this happens."…Dennis Shaw: "The Packers have a real great rush. They have a real strong defense -the pass rush was just getting to us. J. D. Hill had to come back for that long pass he caught in the first quarter - it was underthrown. But that's what pre-season games are for, to iron those things out."…Jim Hill: "After that first series, when the Bills drove for their field goal, our defense settled down and knocked people around pretty good. Coach Hanner pointed out at halftime that we were grabbing out there on that first series."…Simpson again: "Part of our game plan was to run outside because of the Packers' big tackles. We felt we could tire them out. That was our strategy and it worked pretty well at the start."…Jim Cheyunski: "I got hit right after I made the interception on Tagge, but I don't know if it was my own man or not. I don't believe the ball was tipped. It was a pass over the middle for Lane or Brockington. I think we've got a great defensive team. We just blew one play and that led to the touchdown. We had a certain defense that would block up the middle on them and I don't think they gained much there at all."…Shaw again (semi-facetiously): "Joe Ferguson's only been in camp two weeks. If he stays two more, he's probably going to take my job."…Joe Ferguson: "I played more than I thought I would. We didn't change strategy when O. J. went out. We kept trying to go outside but we didn't have the speed."…J. D. Hill: "The long pass to me was a little short. If Dennis had thrown it like he should have I could have been out in front. It might have been a different story, but you can't really say. Willie Buchanon is the best back they've got in their secondary. If I had to vote for an all-opponent team, he'd be my number one right now."…Devine again: "We're committed to looking at these young people right now. Every player likes to play, particularly the great ones, and I'm sure Ray Nitschke is disappointed that he's not playing. That's why a guy's out there. Ray has been very, very much a part of this ball club this year. The players all like him and so do the coaches."

STAFF STUFF (Cliff Christl)

AUG 12 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - During last week's pre-season opener against Chicago most Packer fans - I think it is safe to assume – boiled with wrath when Gary Kosins, forearms extended and head down, charged after Chester Marcol following a kickoff and pressed his attack long after it seemed necessary. Even some of the Packer coaches, supposedly, outraged by the event screamed their objections to the Bears' bench. Why the anger was displayed is easily explainable and understandable. The coaches' fury, undoubtedly, stemmed from their concern for Marcol's welfare. He is of such value to the team that the coaches justifiably have cause to be overly protective of him, especially against acts they consider uncalled for. The fans were brought to a boil the same way they would be if while standing in front of their living room window they witnessed the neighborhood bully beating on someone across the street a foot smaller and 25 pounds lighter. But looking at it from the other side, I don't think you can condemn Bear Head Coach Abe Gibron, if he ordered the assault, or Kosins for carrying it out. As long as the whistle hadn't blown and Marcol was still on the field of play, and there was no transgression of the rules on Kosins' part, he can't be faulted no matter how vigorously he carried out his assignment and how unnecessary it may have been. If a kicker decides to boot the ball and stand there or head for the sidelines rather than

pursuing the play, that's his choice. But I don't feel any kicker should be given preferential protection because of a disdain for contact…It's that time of the year again when Packer fans are indulging in that unique pastime of guessing who will make up the final 40-man roster. Unable to resist the temptation-to try my own hand at it, I offer my forecast or comparison, for whatever worth that may be. Although injuries and trades will undoubtedly have an altering effect, here are my picks. Offense: WR – Carroll Dale, Leland Glass, Barry Smith, Jon Staggers; T - Dick Himes, Malcolm Snider, Bill Hayhoe; G - Gale Gillingham, Bill Lueck, Keith Wortman; C - Ken Bowman, Larry McCarren; QB – Jerry Tagge, Scott Hunter; RB - MacArthur Lane, John Brockington, Perry Williams, Don Highsmith, Larry Krause. Actually, if the Packers decide to keep the normal offensive allotment there would ap- pear to be only three spots in doubt: wide receiver, backup center and the fifth running back. The Pack is almost certain to retain only four wide receivers, if that many, and Staggers' versatility gives him the edge over Dave Davis for the final spot. Battling for employment behind Bowman are veteran Cal Withrow and McCarren, a rookie. The choice here is McCarren because of his size and youth. Krause's principal challengers for the fifth running back berth are Dave Kopay, Les Goodman and Ward Walsh. Krause is my choice because he is younger than Kopay and more valuable on the special teams than either Goodman or Walsh. My defensive selections are: E – Clarence Williams, Alden Roche, Aaron Brown; T - Bob Browh, Mike McCoy, Carleton Oats, Dave Pureifory; LB - Jim Carter, Fred Carr, Tom MacLeod, Larry Hefner; CB - Willie Buchanon, Ken Ellis, Ike Thomas, Charlie Hall; S - Jim Hill, Al Matthews; K - Chester Marcol, Ron Widby. It is my guess that the final composition of the defense is far more indefinite in the minds of the coaches right now then the offense. Head Coach Dan Devine has said he expects to keep six defensive linemen and five linebackers, but he might have an easier time reaching the 40-man limit - sneaking someone by on waivers - by retaining seven linemen and four linebackers. Then, if he deems it necessary to have five linebackers active he can make the adjustment. It is difficult, however, to envision any of those seven veteran linemen being on the taxi squad rather than the active roster. Carter, Carr, MacLeod and Hefner, are virtually certain of making it at linebacker. If Devine sticks to his plans and keeps a fifth linebacker it will probably be Larry Allen or possibly Tom Toner. Time, it would appear, has run out on Ray Nitschke. Five of the six spots in the defensive secondary are sewed up leaving Hall, Bobby Kroll and Hise Austin battling for the final opening. Hall is potential trade bait, but as long as he's here he has the inside track. Going a step further and trying to predict the makeup of the taxi squad, my choices are: wide receiver Reggie Echols, guard Bill Dulac, quarterback Charlie Napper, linebackers Allen and Toner, and defensive backs Austin and Kroll. However, now that the Packers' depth and talent has been recognized around the league it will be increasingly difficult for them to protect all of the players they hope to put on the taxi squad.

PACK CUTS THREE MORE

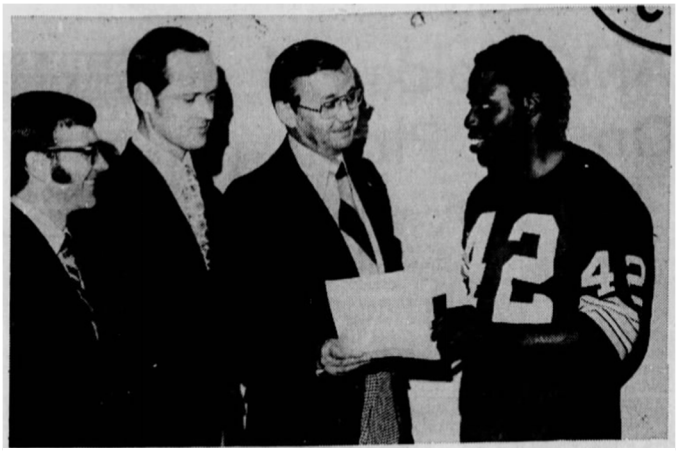
AUG 14 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Rookie free agent Tom Deters and two veterans, Curt Watson and Ward Walsh, have been cut from the Packer roster, it was announced this morning. Deters, a linebacker from St. Norbert, was picked up in this year's supplemental draft. Watson, a running back from Tennessee, came to the Packers as a free agent in 1972 and spent the season on the taxi squad. Walsh, a third year running back from Colorado, was also acquired last year as a free agent.

MACLEOD NO. 1 HERO

AUG 14 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - There was legitimate concern around Packer headquarters when left linebacker Dave Robinson abruptly announced his retirement last January, a decision later recanted after he was traded to Washington. That development left Coach Dan Devine and his staff without an experienced replacement at the position and little hope of remedying the situation in the trade market, where linebackers were and remain at a premium. But there apparently is substantially less concern following rookie Tom MacLeod's performance at Robinson's old stand in Saturday night's 10-3 victory over Buffalo in Lambeau Field. MacLeod, a third round draftee from the University of Minnesota, was sufficiently impressive to be presented with the game ball. "After the game, Capt. Gale Gillingham announced to the squad that Coach Devine would award the game ball after looking at the film," DD reported Monday. "And after looking at the film, the coaches voted unanimously to give it to Tom MacLeod. It's unusual for it to go to a rookie, but the coaches felt he deserved it."

PACKERS' BROCKINGTON RUNS FOR ABC FUNDS

AUG 14 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - John Brockington will be running for more than the Green Bay Packers this football season. For every yard he gains, a student from an underprivileged area in the U.S. will be helped to a better education. Brockington, running back for the Packers has been named honorary chairman of the first ABC (A Better Chance) Packerland scholarship Fund Drive. The amount of money collected for the fund will be directly related to the yardage he gains during the season. The ABC organization of the area has asked people to pledge a certain amount of money for each yard Brockington gains. Pledges will be asked at the beginning of the season and honored at the end of the season. The announcement of the unique fund drive was announced this morning by Gary Van Sistine, public relations director of ABC. This is the first areawide campaign by the affiliate chapters in the Fox Valley. The program, which provides educationally promising but disadvantaged students a better chance at getting a good education, operates in Appleton, Neenah-Menasha, Oshkosh and Green Bay. The theme of the drive is "Watch John Run...Watch ABC Go." "We are asking people to make any kind of pledges they can – a penny, a nickel or a dime - for each yard gained by Brockington," Van Sistine said. Each of the four chapters will operate independently in the fund drive. Local chairmen have been named and committees are in the formative work stages. There also will be some group efforts to secure pledges, especially at the Bishop's Charities Game in Green Bay, set for Sept. 1. Volunteers will be in charge of securing the pledges in the different areas. Through the past school year, ABC has met with a great deal of success. Communities across the country have provided more than 400 students the opportunity to study under the program. About 98 per cent of the participating students have gone on to college since the program began a decade ago. The ABC program in Appleton, the oldest in the Valley, is in its sixth year of



PACKER AIDS ABC - Yardage gained by Green Bay Packer John Brockington will be used in a fund-raising drive for area ABC (A Better Chance) programs. Persons can pledge a specific amount for each yard Brockington gains with the resulting funds going to ABC. Shown here representing area ABC programs are Chuck Hatfield, Green Bay, left; Gene Telin, Neenah-Menasha; Mike Ignat, Oshkosh, and Brockington.

operation. In the last school year, 10 boys and 8 girls at tended Appleton High Schools-West and East and Xavier. They lived in two houses and were supervised by resident house parents and four resident college student tutors. In addition, each student was assigned a host family, as is the requirement of the program, so that he can develop a closer tie with a family situation away from his own family. Appleton will have 17 students this fall. Neenah-Menasha, now in its fourth year of operation, will have 10 students, the same as last school year. The youths will attend high schools in both cities. Oshkosh's ABC is also starting its fourth year. That city will accommodate 12 students, one fewer than last year. They will attend Oshkosh-West, Oshkosh-North and Lourdes high schools.

PACKERS RETURN TO AGGRESSIVE STYLE

AUG 14 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Seldom at a loss for expression, as befits a man of considerable education, Dan Devine has an extensive and colorful vocabulary. But, for matters of practical application, a two-syllable word ranks right near the top of his personal lexicon. The one that consistently recurs in his evaluation of a football player (or a team), it is always part and parcel of the highest accolade he gives. "He," Devine will say appreciatively, "is a hitter." It thus was not surprising when a synonym proved to be dominant Monday in his post-film analysis of Saturday night's 10-3 victory over the Buffalo Bills in Lambeau Field. "Last week against Chicago, we had slipped to a performance like in our pre-season game against St. Louis last year (a 31-30 embarrassment)," he said. "That was a very non-aggressive game. The biggest single improvement we have had since I came here two years ago has been in aggressiveness. That's how I fed my family for more than 20 years - with aggressive teams. So I was really pleased with that in Saturday night's game -our return to an aggressive style of play." in this connection, Devine noted, "Aaron Brown and Killer (Bob) Kroll were the two outstanding members of the special teams in this one." He also observed, on a related subject, "Buffalo's wide receivers are great blockers but I think, overall, that Jon Staggers may have blocked as well as theirs did. They are just exceptional but on consistency, Jon did just as well." Appraising the Packers' second pre-season venture from an artistic standpoint, Devine said, "There was some good football by both teams, although naturally, I'm more concerned about ours than I am about theirs. "Our defense had a good taste of going a long time and, probably in the Houston game at Milwaukee Saturday night or next week's game against Kansas City, we'll give our offense that same taste. Again, a lot of what we did wrong, although not all, can be corrected by hard work and concentration. And the team realizes that I'd have to call this one todav an excellent practice." Discussing the offense's third-down conversion problems, Devine pointed out, "Sometimes your third-down situations reflect on the passer when you have a dropped ball, although I would have to say our pass protection was darned good Saturday night." He subsequently delved into a companion subject with the observation, "Film are a great coaching aid but they don't capture the tempo of the game. For example, John Brockington's touchdown run didn't look nearly as great on film as it looked in person. "What we need is a big play. John's run was one, of course, but that's the only one we've had so far. Now we need a big catch or punt return, or the scoop-up of a fumble. I noticed the Falcons had two interception runbacks for touchdowns in their victory Saturday night. You need those. Outside of John's run, we haven't had one offense, defense or special teams big play. Which, again, I'm not concerned about." Devine also said he was not alarmed over Chester Marcol's placekicking problems, which saw him emerge with a 1-for-4 field goal success ratio, one of the misses coming on a 55-yard free kick attempt in the closing seconds of the first half. "On the one that Chester had blocked, for example, the ball was laying on the ground," the Packer coach noted. "Chester's just like everybody else - he just needs a lot of hard work. But he's not going around blaming the wind or the hold. I'd be concerned if Chester were blaming the hold or giving other reasons for missing. Even though it was a bad hold, he's not going about blaming anybody. The coaches had to find that out from the film. I'm not concerned. Or I should say, I'm concerned but I'm not worried. Now if Chester had missed that last one in the fourth quarter (from 34 yards) I'd have been concerned. But even last year as a rookie, he had a knack of coming back from adversity. Like in the opening game at Cleveland, he had one blocked and returned for a touchdown. He came back out and zeroed in on a long one the next chance he got. Encouraged by the overall progress, Devine volunteered, "Our learning is coming along. We used the double zone defense more than 10 times against the Bills. That's going to send the scouts scurrying," he noted with a sly smile, "because we've never used the double zone before. We're doing a lot of things offensively and defensively that are going to give the other teams something to think about." The experimentation process, evident in both of the Packers' first two exhibitions, will continue against Houston, Devine said. "We're going to play more people next week," he assured. "We'll play the rookie linebackers a little more, for one thing, although we couldn't play Tom MacLeod much more - he played the whole game Saturday night. We'll also play some defensive backs more, like Charlie Hall. He'll get a good shot in there. So will Don Highsmith. We held him out of the Buffalo game because he had a bad foot for a couple of days and missed a couple of practices. But he'll play quite a bit Saturday night."…PACKER PATTER: Monday morning's practice was marked by the transfer of rookie Phil Engle from offensive guard to defensive tackle. Defensive end Alden Roche was wearing a patch over his left eye, injured when Buffalo

running back Ted Koy buried a finger in it Saturday night…Quote of the Day: "They ought to Rembrandt that," MacArthur Lane sang out after fellow running back Leslie Goodman had artistically executed an off-tackle run. "That was a picture."…Although Monday's practice was a morning affair, all remaining workouts this week will be in the afternoon, Devine reported.

OUT OF BOUNDS

AUG 14 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Saturday night view from Section 23: Granted I'm not much enthralled by football in August, but I can imagine more excitement at a mattress testers convention than there was on the Lambeau grid. To say it was a stodgy exhibition would be understating the situation. Am I being sarcastic? I doubt it. Before writing this I casually checked with about everybody I met Sunday and the verdict was the same. There was more action on the sideline when three Packerettes tipped over their park bench than there was on the 50. And the Northern Steps displayed considerably more precision than either team…Sitting in the stands once or twice a year is good for a writer, who gets used to the comforts of the press box. For instance, besides needing a new scoreboard, I came to the conclusion that Lambeau Field could also use a public address system that can be heard. But perhaps the most pressing need is to put some backs on the seats. It's a beautiful stadium for watching football but the comfort level never gets higher than your sitter…Best plays of the night were executed by the guys running the parking lot. Their efficiency is magnificent. In fact, next to the Packer offense against the Bills, it was super magnificent…There was this guy behind me who, about 10 minutes into the first half, yelled "Get that Tagge outta there." Ten minutes into the second half, he screamed "C,mon, get Hunter outta there," Wonder if he was any relation to Charlie Napper…The defense looked brilliant, as it should against, the Bills, particularly when O.J. wasn't playing...I like Tom MacLeod at linebacker...And Aaron Brown is already getting to be a fan favorite...Please remember, Chester Marcol isn't going to hit 100 per cent...The K-K boys (Kroll and Krause) are mighty popular with the folks in the stands...Ron Widby must carry a powder keg in his foot...Rumors continue to fly about trading for a veteran quarterback...All Barry Smith needs is a couple catches to straighten him out...I didn't believe all that stuff about the Bills' supposedly great defensive secondary but I came away convinced that it had a lot to do with the Packers' passing troubles ...The loop would seem to be the perfect play for a guy with Mike McCoy's speed, paired with Bob Brown's strength.

COMMISSION SAYS: SCOREBOARD OUT FOR THIS YEAR

AUG 15 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Lambeau Field will not have a new scoreboard this year. That's the word from Stadium Commission Chairman Judge Clarence Nier. Nier told the City Council Finance Committee Tuesday night the commission has a contract with a brewery for this season which will net the city $6,000 and that if the stadium is to have a new board or boards some study must be done. He received permission from the committee - it still needs full council approval – to evaluate the condition of the present scoreboards and seek information on erecting new ones. The present board at the south end of the field was erected when the stadium was built in 1957. The south scoreboard was erected in 1963. Nier also told the committee that large, animated boards similar to those in Milwaukee County Stadium, and other new fields will probably not be possible here. Nier said that advertising revenue to pay for the board is limited because of the small number of games played here, compared with the number of games played in baseball facilities.

DAN PONDERING OILERS' MOVES

AUG 15 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Coach Dan Devine, looking ahead to the Oilers' Saturday night visit following Tuesday's practice, observed, "It's hard to tell what Houston is going to do. They did so many different things against the Bears last week - like man-in-motion and odd formations. "As a result, they had five fumbles, three pass interceptions, a blocked punt and a bad snap from center on a punt. My guess is they might simplify things for this game. I'll tell you what, though. They've got as fine a front four as you'll see. They've got three number one draft choices in that starting defensive line and one on the bench. The No. 1 who isn't starting is Al Cowlings. He isn't good enough to start, they apparently feel, but he's pretty good. I'll tell you that." Devine had just put the Packers through one of their tongest practices to date. "We had a long one," he noted, "two hours and 15 minutes, which is long. Without a Gatorade break, what do you think of that?" Discussing further reductions of the roster, following the release of Ward Walsh, Curt Watson and Tom Deters Tuesday to reach 57, Devine said, "We don't have further cuts planned at this point. We'll just go day to day. We're probably pretty close to our next cutdown limit, anyway. We can have 53 players then (Aug. 27) and we don't have too many more than that. Barry Smith doesn't count right now because he was a College All-Star plus you can deactivate three others." Defensive tackle Carleton Oats missed Tuesday's practice, Devine reported, because he was granted permission to visit his wife in California. "Mrs. Oats is ill and has been hospitalized, so Carleton has gone to Oakland to see her," Devine said. "Carleton," he added, "really has been a great addition to the team." The Bears' success at Houston is beginning to make Jim Carter's analysis of the Bruins, made following the Packers opening, 13-13 tie with the Midway Monsters, look particularly astute. "The Bears are much improved football team," Carter said at that point. "They look a lot better than they did a year ago. Carl Garrett is going to help them and so is Craig Cotton. He's a good tight end."

OILERS BRING ALONG A 'NEW LOOK'

AUG 15 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - The Buffalo Bills safely behind them, the Packers are hastily assembling a new "book" on the Houston Oilers at the moment. They were just getting to know the Texans after two 1972 meetings with the Oilers, their first ever, when swashbuckling Sid Gillman arrived upon the Houston scene as the new general manager in the wake of a disastrous 1-13 season. Since Sidney completed a whirlwind off-season of wheeling and dealing, dotted with no fewer than 19 player trades, the Oilers only faintly resemble their '72 selves. Wally Cruice, the Packers' longtime game scout, can give first hand testimony to the sweeping dimensions of that overhaul, having sat in on the Bears' 31-7 victory over Houston in the Astrodome over the weekend. "They've gone through quite a reorganization, as far as coaching, the players and the system are concerned," said Cruice, here to enlighten the Packers on the Oilers in connection with Saturday night's pre-

Oilers Bring Along a 'New Look'

season match at Milwaukee County stadium. "They present a 'completely different picture from a year ago." Despite Houston's tribulations against the Bears, the veteran Packer private came away impressed with what he saw. "They've improved their personnel considerably," he said, "so they've got something to work with." This intelligence can be of no particular cheer to the Packers who found the Oilers sufficiently competitive in '72, when they surrendered a 20-3 decision to Bill Peterson's athletes in a pre-season game, and then needed an 85-yard punt return by Jon Staggers and a 68-yard fourth-and-2 scoring pass from punter Ron Widby to Dave Davis to pull out the regular season rematch in the Astrodome. One of Gillman's major maneuvers, designed to stabilize one of the NFL's more porous offensive lines, was the acquisition of all-pro center Bill Curry from the Baltimore Colts to lend leadership up front. He also is counting upon comebacks by last year's casualties, among them right tackle Elbert Drungo and guard Richard Cheek, whose absence was particularly noticed by the Oilers' harried quarterbacks. The Oilers' primary problem at this point, Cruice noted, is adjusting to the new offensive system Peterson has installed. "It's the kind that it's going to take them time to get down," he said. "The new offensive system is more of a Dallas type of offense than the one they used before. They come out and send a man-in-motion either way (sometimes out of a full house backfield in the straight T-formation). They jump around a lot. So the players can't master that in one minute, which means you're going to make mistakes. They've also made a big change defensively. The defense they used to play was like what I would call the Cleveland defense - hit you, then read and react. Now they blow all the way - they just go after you. They try to penetrate fast and let the chips fall where they may. And they've got some great personnel in that defensive line, like Elvin Bethea at one end and that big rookie, John Matuszak, at one tackle. He's playing beside Greg Sampson, who was the Oilers' No. 1 draft choice a year ago. And they've got Tody Smith (younger brother of Bubba Smith, acquired in a trade with Dallas) at the other end. They've also got some good veterans behind those guys, like Leo Brooks, who was a starter last year, and was a starter last year, and Al Cowlings (acquired in a trade with Buffalo). So they've got real good size and a lot of quickness in the defensive line. The linebackers are inexperienced (veterans Ron Pritchard and George Webster were dealt away during the '72 season) and that probably is the weakest part of their defense right now, because their deep guys also are pretty good - Zeke Moore, Willie Alexander, John Charles and Bob Atkins." Turning to the other side of the coin, Cruice reported, "Offensively, the Oilers made a lot of mistakes against the Bears. And every time they made a mistake, it was down deep in their own territory (the Bears turned three of them into touchdowns from within Houston's 20-yard-line). Of course, Dan Pastorini didn't play at all and he has to be their best quarterback. They used Lynn Dickey and Edd Hargett (acquired from New Orleans in an off-season trade) and both looked pretty good. They've got good receivers, too. Clifton McNeil (obtained from the Redskins in yet another off-season trade), Ken Burrough and Jim Beirne are all tough. They're a pass-oriented team, of course. They're not going to run the ball unless they can't throw it. Skip Butler (a former Packer) started out doing their placekicking against the Bears, but he doesn't look like the answer for them. They've got a rookie from Rice, Mark Williams, who came in after Butler proved he couldn't do the job and, of what I saw, he looks like he's going to be their kicker. He did a good job. Overall, they've got much better personnel than a year ago, and they've got some great leadership now in Gillman, who is an old hand. They're very optimistic. They think they've really improved themselves, and I do too. They're a lot better ball club than they were last year." Although Gillman was even more active in the off-season trade market than his Baltimore counterpart, Joe Thomas, he assured he is not finished. "I will trade away our draft choices for next year and then I'll start on 1975 - just give them all away," he has said. "I'll do whatever it takes to start winning right now." That kind of statement ought to give Peterson pause, considering Sidney's coaching background with the Rams and Chargers and Oiler owner Bud Adams' penchant for changing coaches. Peterson took note of the latter shortly after leaving Rice a year ago to become Houston's head coach. "My contract is supposed to be for 10 years, but Bud Adams probably will have me declared legally dead," he jested, "after a couple of years."

BARRY FINDS THAT QUICKNESS IS KEY

AUG 15 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Delayed en route by a stopover in the College All-Stars' camp, Barry Smith has been a card-carrying pro for just two weeks, but the Packers No. 1 draftee is a quick study. He already has made several major discoveries which he is confident will accelerate his Packer progress. Chief among them, he was surprised to learn, is that speed is not the be-all and end-all for a wide receiver in the National Football League. "Everybody talks about speed, speed, speed," he says, "but I think the biggest thing is quickness. Fred Biletnikoff is not lightning fast like Bob Hayes, for example, but he has tremendously quick feet. Speed is important, too. The faster you are, the more it's going to help you. But quickness is more important. That's what I discovered in Saturday night's game against Buffalo," the former Florida State star, presumably the answer to the Packers long quest for a speed-burning flanker, earnestly testified. "I discovered I have to lose a few pounds. I'm 191 now and I'd like to get down to 187. I think just those few pounds involved my not being as quick as I'd like to be. Everybody here is quick, and I've got to get down there with them. I'm just going to cut down on the starches and milk for a while. I feel I'm in good shape - I just want to get my quickness." Continuing to document his point, Smith noted, "There are a lot of really fast guys, like those sprinters who try to play pro football. They've got great straightaway speed, but they telegraph their routes. What I'm saying is that if you have to pull up to get under control when you're running a pattern, you're defeating your purpose. When you go to make your break, that's when you want a big change of pace. That's supposedly when you're going one way and you're making the defensive go the other way Timing is important, too," said the sandy-haired Floridian, a clear-eyed, clean cut athlete with impressive dedication to the task at hand. "I'm going to have to start staying after practice and working on my timing. It's pretty hard to do during two-a-days,

but now that they're over, I can get started on it. I'm going to ask Coach Devine if a net can be put up from the crossbar to the ground on the old-fashioned goal posts we have on the practice field. I'd like practice what you may be called upon to do in a game, like making a diving catch along the ground. "Like Saturday night when Scott Hunter scrambled and I dove for the ball in the end zone. That would have been a scoop play, as we practiced it in college. If you just practice that once in a while, I think it'll help a lot. Then, when you do it in a game, it's just a reflex. We don't get the time to do it during our regular practice, so I'm going to have to do it after we finish working out." A wistful smile lighting up his blond features as he reflected on another near-miss in the first half, a 50-yard "bomb" from Jerry Tagge, Smith declared, "It's a game of inches, man. That one, and the one in the end zone, plus the other long one in the first half. I've never seen three that close." Barry, an articulate citizen who was a communications major at Florida State, had one other observation to make. "I'm just impressed with all of these guys up here," he enthused. "In college, you can sometimes relax for a minute, but you can't do it up here. You've got to battle every second. The personnel is too good. This is only my second week in camp, but I now know all the plays. But now I have to know what the tight end is doing, for example. A couple of times Saturday night, I ran a curl pattern and I took it too far inside and was getting too close to the tight end. I should have been further out. In other words, you have to be familiar with the whole concept of the passing game, so you know what everybody else is doing on a given play. Coach Devine has been easy going with me, fortunately, because he knows I have a lot to learn. He hasn't lost his temper with me. He's giving me that chance. My wife, Diane, has helped, too. She's super. It's hard to be the wife of an athlete, because being an athlete is an emotional life. Like I was upset after the Bills game and she has to know that she has to let me alone. And some of the hours you work make it a little difficult. You've always got to be ready," he smiled, "for Coach Devine to call an audible."

PACK TO THROW MORE

AUG 16 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Coach Dan Devine conceded Wednesday that the Packers are likely to "throw more" in Saturday night's exchange than is their custom. "But, basically, we're a run-oriented team. We like to throw more in the pre-season because that's how you improve your passing game." Devine's comment came in answer to a question prompted by the Bears' aerial success (rookie Gary Huff threw three touchdown passes) in last week's 31-7 victory over the Oilers. "There are a couple of things you have to look at when you think about passing more against Houston," he noted. "On the first touchdown the Bears scored against Houston, the Oilers had a blitz on and the guy who was supposed to cover the halfback was on the bench - the Oilers only had 10 men on the field. "And, I might add, last year in the pre-season or in the regular season, we didn't have much success against the Oilers with anything. Of course, that pre-season game was a very poor one on our part. We hit a pretty low ebb about that time in the pre-season. I don't think we'll hit that kind of a low ebb this year. By that, I mean I don't think we're going to throw the number of interceptions we did last year. We also had poor special team play about that time, and rather sloppy defense." Touching upon a related subject which has been prominent in the wake of last Saturday's 10-3 victory over Buffalo, Devine said, "We get a lot of conversation about quarterbacks. And, of course, some teams are having troubles scoring touchdowns and some aren't. "As a matter of fact, after looking at last year's Houston film, I feel pretty good about what we've been doing at quarterback, because that was pretty bad." In this connection, Devine reported that the mechanics of play selection are "about the same" as they were last year. "Sometimes it's a suggestion from the man in the pressbox and sometimes we make the selection from the sidelines. In any case, we will continue to send the plays in from the bench this season." Although the Oilers' Bill Peterson has made no announcement as yet, Dan Pastorini is expected to start at quarterback for Houston Saturday night. He did not play against the Bears, who faced Lynn Dickey and Edd Hargett, Houston's other signal callers. Dickey, incidentally, is believed to be hale once again. "It looks like Lynn is going to be able to play for us this year," Oiler Publicity Director Jim MacLemore reported at Wednesday's Mike and Pen Sports Club meeting. "He was still in a wheelchair and on crutches in January, you know. Dickey played the second half for us against the Bears and though he was rusty and made some mental errors, he didn't have any physical problems because of the dislocated hip he suffered against St. Louis last year." MacLemore also reported, "Bill Curry (acquired in an off-season trade with Baltimore) has helped our offensive line tremendously in stability with his experience." Although there are those who are skeptical about how long it will continue, MacLemore said Peterson and new General Manager Sid GilIman, himself a former Ram and Charger coach, have "a real good working agreement so far. Pete is taking some advice from Sid but Sid isn't going any coaching on the field at all." The Packers will leave for Milwaukee by bus following Friday afternoon's practice. They again will headquarter at the Pfister Hotel. Saturday night's game will be televised locally (Channel 11) but will be blacked out in the Milwaukee area.

RAVE REVIEWS ALREADY COMING MATUSZAK'S WAY

AUG 16 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Bill Peterson, the Houston Oilers' colorful head coach, still sometimes calls his prize rookie "MAT-uh-zak." But Bill, who has been known to flub even the most ordinary "handle," is getting better. He now is more often heard to pronounce the huge yearling's name correctly ("Muh-TOO-zak"). And, who knows, the day may come when he'll start batting a thousand, particularly if Big John continues to perform as he has in his first two pro appearances. Matuszak, a surprisingly svelte 6-foot-8 and 290 pounds, gives promise of living up to the fanfare he was accorded when the Oilers took advantage of their low 1972 estate (1-13) to make him the very first selection in last January's National Football League draft. In his maiden effort against the Jets, the Wisconsin-grown colossus collected eight tackles and swallowed the quarterback twice. Last week, against the Bears, he was only slightly less impressive, making six tackles and getting to the Bruins' quarterback once. Although they won't get a first hand look at Matuszak until Saturday night in Milwaukee County Stadium, where John will start in front of the home folks for the first time, the Packers already are impressed by what they have seen of the Oak Creek native on film. "He is so big and strong," offensive line coach Rollie Dotsch says. "Once he gets to learn all the other things, he should be a real fine player. He certainly has all the tools! I think

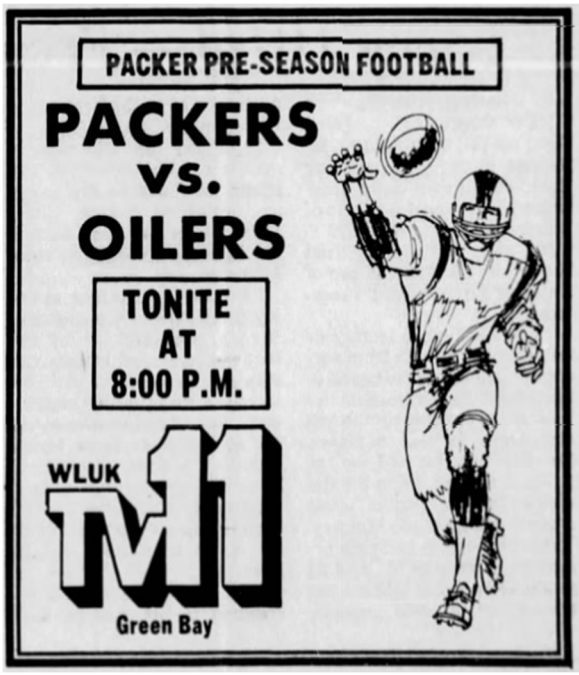
Rave Reviews Already Coming Matuszak's Way

John Matuszak

the main thing about him is that, for a big guy, he has great maneuverability. I would think he would become a great one." Guard Bill Lueck, to whom will fall the primary responsibility for coping with the Houston giant, also was struck by what he has observed in the projection room. He looks real good on film," Lueck confided following Wednesday afternoon's workout. "He's bigger than a house and yet he has speed and quickness for a guy his size. He moves real well - he's real active." Although Matuszak is even more massive than most NFL defensive tackles, customarily substantial, the six-year veteran says he plans to approach Saturday night's assignment in conventional fashion. "I'm just going to use the regular techniques that I normally use," announced the 6-foot-3, 250-pound Lueck, the top technician in the Packer offensive line, "and hope they work. I'm not going to try to trick him because you usually wind up tricking yourself." The former University of Arizona athlete, himself a first round draft choice in 1968, has faced many of the game's finest defensive tackles over an already creditable career. But he admits there is a special, if not unusual, element to the prospect of facing Matuszak. "There's that funny feeling you always have when you play against somebody for the first time," he said. "You can watch a film and see what he does against other people, but you also know that he does something different every game." Flashing an ironic smile, Lueck concluded, "I'll find out Saturday night."

NFL ADDS LEEWAY ON CUTS

AUG 17 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) – For some of the 57 athletes currently on the Packer roster, Saturday night's County Stadium exercise with the Houston Oilers could be the final examination. But for some others, it could be considerably less critical than that, thanks to a new National Football League rule. Although it has a number of facets, Coach Dan Devine summed up Thursday by reporting, "For practical purposes, under the new rule, you can now keep your 43 best players instead of your 40 best, as was formerly the case." Basically, it permits each of the 26 clubs to deactivate three players - over and above the regular season limit of 40 - without exposing them to waivers. Previously, of course, there was no legal way to protect players in the always vexing cutdown to 40. All were required to pass through the waiver process. "The new rule is there for injured players," Devine explained, "but we haven't used it yet because we haven't had anybody injured. You can deactivate a player for any reason, however, as I understand it, and we intend to use the rule to its fullest extent within its framework." He didn't say so but this device clearly will be of particular value to the Packers, who find themselves with a surplus of talent in both the offensive and defensive lines as well as in the secondary. They thus. for example, will be able to protect a Larry McCarren or a Tom Toner or Larry Allen, or a veteran lineman or defensive back, when the final cut comes. You can still have only 47 players on your total roster, including seven on the move list or taxi squad as in the past," Devine noted, "but what this change means is that where you could control only 40 players before, you now can control 43. "And, naturally, I most heartily approve of the change. I think it's a good rule. "It also has another important advantage, I might add, because all clubs now will have unlimited moves as a part of the new roster rule. Say you're playing your second league game with Detroit. You now have until Saturday noon to activate any or all of those seven on the taxi squad. Beyond that point you can add just one player up to one hour before game time on Sunday. That gives you a lot more flexibility," Devine pointed out, "because no taxied player has to sit out two weeks, as was the case previously. If we should get somebody hurt in our opening game against the Jets September 17, for example, and deactivate him for that week, we wouldn't have to wait two weeks to reactivate him if he would be ready to play. This is a big thing, too, because it means you won't ever have to go to war with only 39 players." As is the case with all rules, however, there also are pitfalls. In this instance, care must be exercised with deactivation during the pre-season, particularly with the rookie player. If he is deactivated, that obviously reduces the opportunity to appraise him in this period, for which the exhibition season is in part designed. As a result, all clubs are expected to defer the deactivation process - except where injuries offer no choice - until the last possible moment, probably until a day or two before the final cutdown. This added consideration serves to further complicate the evaluation process, which continues daily on the practice field and nightly in coaching discussions of personnel, both formal and informal. Devine and his staff will be required to make their next major cut by 3 o'clock Monday afternoon, Aug. 27, at which point all NFL teams must be down to 49 players - with exceptions. "When we get to that point, we actually will be able to carry 53 players this year," Devine said, "because of three deactivations you're allowed and because Barry Smith will not count against the total because he was with the College All-Stars." Smith, however, will have to be counted when the next to last reduction - to 44 - must be made. That will be Monday, Sept. 3. The final cut to 40 will be made Monday, Sept. 10. As in the past, waivers may not be recalled on those last four players. Conversely, all claims on players waived after the active roster is reduced to 49 cannot be withdrawn…PACKER PATTER: Defensive lineman Carleton Oats, who has been at the bedside of his ailing wife in Oakland since Sunday, is scheduled to rejoin the team in Milwaukee tonight. Mrs. Oats, who had been pregnant, was injured in an automobile accident and later underwent surgery following the death of her unborn child…Following Thursday's practice, abbreviated to 90 minutes in the wake of two lengthy workouts Tuesday and Wednesday, Devine reported a second change in Saturday night's starting lineup. It will find Jon Staggers opening at split end in place of Leland Glass. He earlier had announced that Scott Hunter would get the nod at



quarterback, where Jerry Tagge started against Buffalo last week. In answer to a question, Devine also said, "There is a good chance Ray Nitschke will play some." "We'll do a lot of substituting," he added, "probably more than in the first two games against the Bears and Buffalo. There's a chance Charlie Napper. will play at quarterback. We'd like to play him, but I don't know if we'll get a chance to or not."…The Packers will leave for Milwaukee by bus at 6:30 this evening, following a closed practice in Lambeau Field and a team dinner at their St. Norbert College training base.

PERSONALITY PARADE (BILL CURRY)

AUG 17 (Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Bill Curry, a thinking man's player, has discovered that pro football fates can be both kindly and capricious. As an eager NFL rookie in 1965, he found himself a member of the Packers' National Football League champions, courtesy of a 23-12 victory over the Cleveland Browns in a snowy playoff at Lambeau Field. The following year he played on the Packers' first Super Bowl champions. Although Ken Bowman started at center in the Packers 35-10 conquest of the Kansas City Chiefs at the Los Angeles Coliseum, he also emerged with his second world championship ring. Just one month later, he was dealt to the New Orleans Saints in the expansion draft, a move which had to give him pause. But, just three weeks after that, he was traded to the Baltimore Colts. That proved to be another happy experience for Curry, who was to play on two more Super Bowl teams for the Colts, in a 16-7 losing venture against Joe Namath in 1969 and a 17-16, last second victory over the Dallas Cowboys in '71. Things deteriorated for him in Baltimore last year, however, with the advent of freewheeling Joe Thomas as general manager. There was mutual disenchantment and Curry now finds himself a member of the Houston Oilers, who finished a dismal 1-13 a year ago and obviously have a long way to go competitively despite a major reorganization in the off-season. The ex-Georgia Tech performer, a highly active member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in private life, adopted the philosophical approach while discussing this personal turnabout by telephone Thursday from Houston's Kerrville, Tex., training camp, where the Oilers are priming for Saturday night's pre-season date with the Packers in Milwaukee County Stadium. "That's one of the things that makes pro football so interesting," he said. "Things can change so rapidly. That goes for the players, as well as for the matter of winning and losing. Your own personal development and the variety of experience can change so quickly. For example, old Ken Bowman and two or three others are about the only ones left on the Packer roster than I can remember from my days in Green Bay. It's really totally different being with the Oilers," said the 30-year-old Georgian, who is being counted upon to stabilize Houston's previously porous offensive line. "It's a very different variety of challenge. But it's equally as challenging as it was when I came to the Packers in 1965. In that case, it was the matter of a rookie trying to find a spot in a winning atmosphere. In this case, it's being an old veteran (nine seasons) trying to establish that atmosphere where it has not existed before, and that is a tremendous challenge. You also have to try to help solve the problems that inevitably arise in a situation like ours," confided Curry, who recently was elevated to the presidency of the National Football League Players Association following John Mackey's retirement as an active player. "An awful lot of us on this team were traded here over the winter, so we're trying to build the togetherness and the mutual respect that goes into making a winner, because we have excellent talent." Ever candid, he added, "But to be very honest, it's a little strange, a little disconcerting. It's a new kind of discipline for me. As a team, we have great hopes, though. We've worked awfully hard and we've had our good spots and some very bad spots in our first two pre-season games (against the Jets and Bears.) But we can see improvement. It's coming." In his perpetually positive view, there can be no other way. "If there weren't any hope for us," he said, "I'd just go on home."

Pro grid results

By The Associated Press
Friday's Games
Washington 37, Buffalo 21
Saturday's Games
Baltimore vs. Detroit at Memphis, N
St. Louis at Denver, N
Houston vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee, N
Minnesota at Kansas City, N
Chicago at Miami, N
New England at Atlanta, N
Oakland vs. Los Angeles at Berkeley
New Orleans at Dallas, N
Sunday's Games
Cleveland vs. Cincinnati at Columbus, Ohio
N.Y. Giants vs. N.Y. Jets at New Haven, Conn.
San Diego at San Francisco

MYSTERIOUS ELEMENT TO PACK-OILER CLASH

AUG 18 (Milwaukee-Green Bay Press-Gazette) - Mystery fans should find tonight's County Stadium fare to their taste. The Packers have no idea what to expect from the renovated Houston Oilers in their pre-season match (8 p.m. WLUK-TV) to be viewed by a capacity house of more than 47,000 fans. And neither, quite frankly, do the Oilers. With abundant reasons. No less than three dozen of those who will be in Houston silks were not wearing the Texans' red, white and blue at the close of the '73 season, a 1-13 disaster for the Oilers. All have come during a wholesale shakeup instituted by new general manager Sid Gillman. who reeled off 19 trades in an effort to match Joe Thomas's fast shuffle at Baltimore. It has combined with the installation of a new, Dallas-type offense, to make every pre-season outing a new adventure for the Oilers, who have not made a spectacular adaptation to the complex system. They have, in fact, already been guilty of eight turnovers in two games - five interceptions and three lost fumbles - which have loomed large in 16-13 and 31-7 losses to the Jets and Bears, respectively. This begins to sound a little like a repeat of last season for the Oilers who, by almost any measure,

Mysterious Element to Pack-Oiler Clash

were the worst team in the National Football League. Yet, you could not prove it by the Packers experience with the Texans, which only serves to compound the air of mystery surrounding tonight's exchange. They ran afoul of the Oilers in their very first meeting over, an exhibition at the fabled Astrodome, being embarrassed by a 76-yard Linsey Cole kickoff return and the loss of an onside kick en route to a 20-3 defeat. Then, in a return visit for a regular season match, they needed an 85-yard punt return by Jon Staggers and a fourth down, 68-yard scoring pass from Ron Widby to Dave Davis out of a fake punt formation to pull out a 23-10 victory. Dan Devine suspects the Oilers will reduce the general uncertainty somewhat for this one, solely in the interest of avoiding mass confusion in the ranks, by simplifying their offense. But that may not be of great assistance to the Packers, since Dan Pastorini will be returning to a starting role. Pastorini, who sat out last week's loss to the Bears, easily is the Oilers' most skilled quarterback. The Packers saw him twice in '72 and, to a man, were impressed with the gifted former Santa Clara star, who has a strong arm, quick release and great mobility. His effectiveness should be enhanced by improved pass protection with the return of tackle Elbert Drungo, who missed the entire 1972 season and the addition of all-pro center Bill Curry to the offensive line. To complement Pastorini's long ball potential, the Oilers have a pair of speed-burning wide receivers in Ken (Double Zero) Burrough and Clifton McNeil, the ex-49er, Giant and Redskin. Burrough, possessor of 4.4 speed in the 40, led Houston pass catchers last season with 26 receptions for 521 yards and four touchdowns. McNeil, acquired in one of Gillman's many off-season swaps, did not catch a pass for Washington last season but he pulled down 80 over the previous two seasons with the Redskins and Giants. Although the Oilers customarily live- and die-by the pass, they also have a respectable running game, built around former Cincinnati Bengals Paul Robinson and Fred Willis. All of the mystery in County Stadium will not be confined to the visiting firemen. It also cloaks the Packer offense, which has produced just one touchdown in each of the first two preseason exercises, a 13-13 tie with the Bears and a 10-3 victory over Buffalo. This time the mantle falls upon Scott Hunter, who will be making his second start after yielding that role to sophomore Jerry Tagge against the Bills last week. Tagge is expected to play the second half. Devine, needless to say, is hoping for greater cohesion and consistency from the attack than has been manifest to date, although a high degree of efficiency may not be possible because he plans to substitute liberally as the evaluation process continues. Hunter's primary concern in attempting to master some offense will be avoiding a bristling Houston pass rush, spearheaded by old pro Elvin Bethea and giant rookie John Matuszak, which already has sacked enemy quarterbacks seven times in the two games. Devine also will be looking for a return to form by 1972's placekicking prodigy, Chester Marcol, should he be afforded an opportunity. The Polish Messiah has not been his old effective self thus far. Even taking into account extenuating circumstances like unusual distance and a muffed hold, which caused a 54-yard attempt to be blocked against Buffalo.

Probable Starting Lineups

OFFENSE

HOUSTON		GREEN BAY
McNeil	WR	Staggers
Funchess	LT	Hayhoe
Miller	LG	Lueck
Curry	C	Bowman
Freelon	RG	Gillingham
Drungo	RT	Himes
Alston	TE	McGeorge
Burrough	WR	Dale
Pastorini	QB	Hunter
Robinson	RB	Lane
Willis	RB	Brockington

DEFENSE

T. Smith	LE	C. Williams
Sampson	LT	McCoy
Matuszak	RT	R. Brown
Bethea	RE	Roche
Rice	LLB	MacLeod
Bovette	MLB	Carter
Crovle	RLB	Carr
Alexander	LCB	Buchanon
Johnson	RCB	Ellis
Moore	LS	Matthews
Atkins	RS	Hill